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Committed to regional, global peace Pakistan will not become part of any global conflict: COAS Gen Asim Munir

Fitna al-Khawarij has become a hub for global terror organisations and proxies; Indian brutalities in IIOJK continuation of Hindutva ideology, policy; Minorities unsafe in foreign countries due to India's extremist ideology

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M) on Friday reiterated that Pakistan would not become part of any global conflict rather it would continue to play its role to global peace and stability.

Addressing at a special ceremony of Margalla Dialogue 2024 organized by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI), the COAS spoke on the topic 'Pakistan's Role in Peace and Stability' and highlighted significant contributions in promoting regional harmony and international peace.

He said Pakistan is playing a pivotal role in promoting peace and stability

both regionally and globally. A total of 235,000 Pakistani peacekeepers have participated in UN peacekeeping missions for maintenance of global peace and 181 Pakistanis have also sacrificed their lives in this regard, he added. Regarding challenges faced by the world, Gen Asim Munir highlighted that in recent years, the world was confronted to several challenges including the rapid spread of misinformation and disinformation being one of the major challenges.

The influence of non-state actors has increased significantly due to global changes which was also a key challenge, he added.

The COAS said that the world was also wit-

nessing immense transformations in the fields of economy, military, and technology. "Terrorism by violent non-state actors and state-sponsored entities remains a significant global challenge," he said.

He went on to say that although technology has played a crucial role in disseminating information, but it has also crucial role in rapid spread of misinformation and disinformation.

Stressing the need for comprehensive laws and regulations, Asim Munir said that without comprehensive laws and regulations, misinformation and hate speech would continue to destabilize political and social structures.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Army Staff, General Syed Asim Munir addressing Margalla Dialogue 2024.

CM Murad calls for fostering closer cultural ties between Sindh, UK

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah expressed his delight at attending the birthday reception in honour of His Majesty King Charles III's 76th birthday at the British Deputy High Commission.

He described the event as vibrant and distinctly British, emphasizing its role in fostering unity through music, art, and friendship.

In his address, the Chief Minister highlighted Sindh's rich cultural heritage and its deep-rooted traditions in music, poetry, and the arts. "Sindh is a land of deep cultural roots, where music, poetry, and the arts have thrived for thousands of years," he said, cel-

brating the global impact of Sindh artists.

The Chief Minister reaffirmed Sindh's commitment to preserving its vibrant cultural legacy, mentioning initiatives such as Sindh Culture Day and programs that promote the region's arts and crafts. He noted the similarities between the UK and Sindh, particularly their shared tradition of creativity that has influenced global music and the arts.

Reflecting on the significance of cultural partnerships, he remarked, "Events like this create unique opportunities for British and Pakistani artists to collaborate, learn from each other, and bring new creative ideas to life. This exchange of talent and tradition re-

flects the friendship and mutual respect between us."

The Chief Minister extended warm wishes to King Charles III, expressing hope for a year filled with peace, health, and happiness, while emphasizing the importance of fostering closer cultural ties between Sindh and the UK.

The British event celebrated music, art, and friendship, bringing together audiences from diverse backgrounds in a spirit of collaboration and cultural exchange.

Upon his arrival, the Chief Minister presented a bouquet to the Deputy British High Commissioner, extending best wishes for His Majesty King Charles III's 76th birthday.

Atta Tarar calls for culture driven climate actions at high-level ministerial dialogue in Baku

BAKU (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Friday made a passionate call for taking culture driven climate action to address the global climate crises.

While delivering a speech at a high-level ministerial dialogue on the Cultural Heritage and Climate Change in Baku, the minister began his speech with a heartfelt commendation to Azerbaijan, the UAE and Brazil for bringing all the nations together for the second high-level dialogue on culture based climate action.

"Here in Baku, a city that breathes history and radiates cultural vibrancy, we find ourselves surrounded by the reminders of the strengths and resilience that heritage brings to our lives," he said while describing the city as "a testament to what a culture can achieve. It preserves the past, shape the present and guides us towards more resilient future," he added.

The minister re-

marked, as I reflects upon the legacies like Baku, I reminded of the cultural gems back home in Pakistan where the people of Indus civilization which originated along the banks and tributaries of the mighty river Indus which is also a home to one of the world UNESCO heritage sites Mohenjo Daro which dates back to 2500 BC.

He said, "today, as we convene here to discuss about how we channel these values, our ingenuity, creativity and resilience to address one of the greatest challenges of our times, the global climate crises, the communities, across the world, are feeling the devastating impacts of climate change."

Highlighting Pakistan's meager contribution to the global carbon emission, he said that his country was among the top ten countries that was most vulnerable to the climate change which not only posed great threat to the lives and livelihoods but also culture and national heritage.



BAKU: Mr. Attaullah Tarar, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture delivering a speech at high-level Ministerial Dialogue.

Bilawal hails party's resounding success in recent local govt polls in Sindh

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has expressed his gratitude and appreciation for his party's resounding success in the recent local government by-elections across Sindh, including Karachi.

He celebrated this victory as a testament to the public's trust and unwavering support for the PPP, as well as the dedication and hard work of committed party workers.

In a statement issued by the Media Cell Bilawal House, he extended the heartiest congratulations to all successful PPP candidates, commending the tireless efforts of party workers who transformed the campaign into a decisive triumph.

"Once again, the ar-

row has made its mark across Sindh, including Karachi, where the followers of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto have emerged victorious," he noted.

He emphasized that these results reflect the people's preference for inclusive public service over politics of division and discord.

Addressing the newly elected representatives, Bilawal Bhutto expressed confidence in their dedication to uphold public trust.

"This victory brings with it great responsibilities and challenges," he said. "You will face a landscape of limited resources and numerous issues, but your perseverance and commitment to the party's vision will guide the way forward."



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Deputy King of the Kingdom of Bahrain conferring Bahrain Medal - First Class, upon Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Forces, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu.

Sharjeel felicitates Jiyalas on by-elections victory

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon said, "The success of the Pakistan People's Party candidates in the by-elections is not only a victory for the party but also a triumph for democracy, development, and the enduring values of the Pakistan People's Party."

He said that under the leadership of President Asif Ali Zardari and Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the Pakistan People's Party is striving to uplift marginalized communities and support the underprivileged.

Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics Control, Sharjeel Inam Memon, said, "The success of the Pakistan People's Party candidates in the by-elections is not only a victory for the party but also a triumph for democracy, development, and the enduring values of the Pakistan People's Party."

He said that under the leadership of President Asif Ali Zardari and Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the Pakistan People's Party is striving to uplift marginalized communities and support the underprivileged.



KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori in a group photo with participants of 41st Mid-Career Management Course.

Mistreatment of citizens not to be allowed: Governor

KARACHI (APP): Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori on Friday vowed not to allow any injustice or mistreatment of citizens.

He emphasized that alternative options must be provided to those affected by the encroachments near the New Karachi drain, ensuring that their businesses can continue without disruption.

He expressed these views while speaking to the media during his visit to 7000 feet road, New Karachi, Opposition Leader in the Sindh Assembly, Ali Khurshidi, also accompanied him during the visit.

Kamran Khan Tessori held discussions with the Deputy Commissioner and local residents, attentively listening to their concerns.

The Deputy Commissioner briefed the Governor about the drain, which is clogged and requires cleaning and improvements, a process likely to impact several shops in the area.

Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori stressed that amid economic challenges, no one should lose their livelihood. He called for collaboration among all stakeholders and consultation with the regional committee to find a balanced solution.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with the Interior Minister of Turkey Ali Yerlikaya.

Commissioner Karachi decides to take effective steps to alleviate traffic congestion

KARACHI (APP): Commissioner Karachi Syed Hassan Naqvi on Friday decided to take effective measures to alleviate traffic congestion in the city.

The Commissioner Karachi said this while chairing a meeting here, said a statement. The meeting decided that the district administrations and traffic police will jointly make efforts for better traffic management and better traffic flow.

The meeting was attended among others by DIG Traffic Ahmad Nawaz Cheema, Additional Commissioner Karachi-I Ghulam Mehdi Shah, Secretary Provincial Transport Authority Secretary of Regional Transport Authority and senior officials of

KMC SBCA, Town administrations and cantonment boards.

While the deputy commissioners of all the districts attended the meeting through the video link. The meeting discussed issues related to traffic congestion and decided to take various steps to ensure better traffic flow.

It was decided in the meeting that charged parking being run by civic agencies would be effectively regulated.

The DIG told meeting that 130 charged parking out of 201 is being run at busy roads, causing traffic congestion greatly. It was decided that contractors concerned would be warned to follow the code and rules of charged parking.

PM felicitates Sri Lankan President on his party's victory

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday extended his heartfelt felicitations to President of Sri Lanka Anura Kumara Dissanayake on resounding victory of his party in the parliamentary elections.

"This is a testament to the confidence and trust that the people of Sri Lanka have reposed in his vision and leadership," the prime minister wrote on his X account.

He said Pakistan remained committed to further expanding its close and longstanding relations with Sri Lanka, which were based on mutual respect, shared values, and a long history of cooperation.

CJP chairs meeting to view progress regarding jail reforms

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Justice of Pakistan/Chairman, National Judicial Automation Committee Justice Yahya Afridi on Friday chaired an online meeting to view the progress on the decisions taken regarding jail reforms in a meeting dated 2nd November held in Lahore.

Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court, Ms. Aalia Neelum, along with Justice Shams Mehmood Mirza, Administrative Judge/Monitoring Judge of Prisons in Punjab represented the LHC, Justice Shabbar Raza Rizvi, former Judge of the LHC, Secretaries of the Home and Prosecution Departments, Punjab, Inspector Generals of Police and Prisons departments, Punjab, Ms. Aminah Qadir, Constitutional and Human Rights Lawyer, Ahad Khan Cheema, Senator and Ms. Khadija Shah participated in the meeting.

The Chief Justice of Pakistan nominated Ms. Aminah Qadir as coordinator to the sub-committee on Jail Reforms and directed that she along with Ahad Khan Cheema.



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives (PDS) and Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission Ahsan Iqbal chaired the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) meeting and approved three major development projects worth Rs. 58.857 billion.

Education dept issues guidelines for returning surplus textbooks

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh School Education Department has issued directives to all District Education Officers (DEOs) the guidelines mandate that surplus textbooks, apart from those in use at government schools, must be returned to the Sindh Textbook Board.

The guidelines to this effect are issued on the instructions of Sindh Minister for Education and Mines & Minerals Development, Syed Sardar Ali Shah, said a statement on Friday.

Meanwhile, in a statement, the provincial education minister said the move aims to assess the accurate requirement for books, prevent wastage, and curb potential illegal sales. "Returning extra books is essential to understanding the actual demand and addressing issues like unauthorized sales," he remarked.

The education de-

partment has also instructed officials to submit details of the textbook distribution over the past three years, as provided by the Sindh Textbook Board.

The Minister Shah emphasized the need for self-auditing the book supply process to ensure transparency and accountability.

He further urged the activation of Book Banks in schools, directing DEOs to inspect existing Book Banks and ensure headmasters and headmistresses are responsible for their establishment and maintenance.

The minister also called for monitoring the return of books at the end of the academic year to ensure their availability for students in the following session. "Returning surplus books to the Textbook Board will allow the board to ensure the redistribution of books to other schools as per their needs.



SUKKUR: Sindh Minister Agriculture Department, Muhammad Bux Khan Mahar distributes Benazir Hari Card among participant during distribution ceremony held in Sukkur.

SC still can take suo motu notice, says Justice Mazhar

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) constitutional bench has remarked SC can take suo motu notice now too but its hearing can be conducted only by constitutional bench.

These remarks were expressed by Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar in reply to Munir Paracha plea wherein he had said that SC cannot take suo motu notice after 26th constitutional amendment.

A 6-member constitutional bench presided over by Justice Amin ud Din Khan took up for hearing suo motu notice case in connection with Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) case Friday.

SHC seeks reply from Centre, Sindh in 26th amendment case

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh High Court (SHC) directed the federal and Sindh governments on Friday to submit written replies in response to petitions challenging the 26th constitutional amendment.

The court also dismissed an oral plea from the Additional Attorney General (AAG) to defer the proceedings.

During the hearing, the AAG argued that the matter is currently under consideration in the Supreme Court and should, therefore, not be entertained by the High Court.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Last call

It does not seem prudent for a party of PTI's heft to have issued a 'final call' for a 'final' protest. Politics is, by its very nature, never 'final' — it requires persistence and immense patience to bear fruit.

Yet the PTI, directed by its incarcerated founder, is now ready to risk everything on a single show of force. Of course, the party is well within its rights to protest democratically and to make demands from the government on issues that it feels strongly about. It is also within its rights to hold such a protest anywhere it wishes to in Pakistan — a right that the government would do well to respect.

However, it should hardly be turning it into a 'do or die' occasion. This could create unrealistic expectations and foster unnecessary angst in the minds of the PTI's supporters, which may push them to engage in needless confrontations with the state. It may also motivate the state to clamp down even more forcefully on the protest, as it will consider the 'final' protest as a 'final' opportunity to eliminate the political threat posed to the current regime by the PTI. No side will emerge as a winner from such a situation.

The sense of despondency that has settled over the nation needs to be eliminated, but this will not happen by a party making its final stand. A sustainable settlement can only be achieved by thoughtful deliberation and reflection on what our national priorities must be at this critical juncture in our history. Both sides have already taken matters too far while refusing to sit and talk to each other.

The PTI has remained unyielding in its vitriol and averse to engaging with its rivals to negotiate a way forward.

Its founder's latest message, issued from jail, once again reiterates that the party will only negotiate with the 'handlers' of the current regime. On the other hand, the ruling coalition, led by the PML-N and supported by the PPP, has dealt a blow to Pakistani democracy and judicial independence. This has created a state of anomie and harmed chances of a rules-based negotiation.

It is, therefore, understandable why the PTI feels tempted to make one 'final attempt' to upend the current order. It may not be the right choice. Its founder chose long ago to take the difficult path forward. Such a choice necessarily demands more patience and fortitude than his party has lately displayed.

Indeed, it has seemed quite rudderless and impatient for instant gratification of its demands. Its mercurial support base does not really help: without discipline from within, the PTI cannot expect to achieve much. Perhaps it should focus on setting its own house in order first.

Zubeida Mustafa

Time flies, and we fail to realise that someone who had departed has been gone for over a year. Then an event shakes us out of our reverie to remind us of our loss. That is how it felt when Dr Kamleshwer Lohana called to inform me that he was organising a memorial lecture in honour of his father, Vali Ram Vallabh (1941-2023), who enriched our culture and society with his translations.

He perceived his contribution as the bonds he had created between communities. For him, love was the most fundamental essence of being. Unsurprisingly, he chose 'Vallabh', meaning 'lover', as his pen name. In fact, he was a writer and poet of merit.

The lecture was held under the aegis of the newly formed Vali Ram Vallabh Literary Society, with City Press founder Ajmal Kamal presiding over the event and HRCP's secretary general Harris Khalique being the keynote speaker. The two gentlemen are themselves eminent litterateurs, and did justice to the great scholar translator and, more than that, the superb embodiment of the humanism that Vali Ram Sahib was.

The lecture was basically on the genre of translation. Multiple dimensions of the subject came under discussion. The translation of literary works enables people speaking different languages to understand each other's culture and fosters peace between them. I feel Pakistan has really not benefited from its Vali Rams because we do not have a reading culture, with only a minuscule minority of our 241m population reading books for pleasure. Of course, the

high rate of illiteracy contributes to this degrading feature of life.

The lecture and discussion that followed reminded me of what Vali Ram Sahib had once told me: "The higher the moral and spiritual values of a society, the more it cherishes books. When creative literature is at its peak, translation also flourishes." Here I would like to add that all literary activity is not a solitary act, as many believe. Even reading — the ultimate culmination of literary creation — involves collective work. To initiate reading, one needs motivation. That comes from another reader — maybe a sibling, friend, teacher, parent or a book group. The post-reading exchange of views on a book is the most stimulating outcome of the reading exercise. Our schools do not 'waste' their space and resources on libraries. Can we then expect the reading culture to thrive?

Similarly, writing is also an activity to which many contribute by reading some chapters or discussing a book with the author at the pre-publication stage. The lengthy acknowledgments in books vindicate my point that writing is not a solitary activity either. Of course, the final responsibility is that of the author, as they alone decide what they would like to write when brainstorming opens the floodgates of ideas. The readers' feedback is always of utmost importance for the author.

For Vali Ram Sahib, such literary activities, which he enjoyed, were a part of the process we call translation. This ultimately led to the bonding of people. In his interview with me, he dwelt considerably on the preliminaries, such as the teachers who taught him in early childhood and helped him discover his

talent. There was Rai Chand Rathore, the headmaster of his school in Chelhar (Thar-parkar), who inspired his young student by giving him a copy of his own book titled Tarikh-i-Registan.

It would appear that learning and enlightenment became his passion and drove him on. Three Master's degrees in Urdu, sociology and mass communications, and an LLB, along with his love for languages (Dhatki, Sin-dhi, Urdu, Sanskrit, Punjabi, Persian and English), paved the way for the bonding process that Vali Ram Sahib la-unched. It was singularly his own effort.

Even selecting the book he would translate was a part of this process. He would not compromise on his values. Hence he never translated a book as a professional assignment that had to be done.

The books he translated were always his own choice. It had to be a book with values that he shared.

What were these values? Egalitarianism, progressivism, feminism, respect for people's dignity, peace and love. It was not simply a mission to promote understanding of the culture and lifestyle of communities speaking other languages by translating their literature to create bonds between them.

He was, in this way, also propagating the ideals mentioned above, which permeate his own short stories and poetry. A poem he wrote for his daughter Ghauri on her birthday reflects his liberal views on the empowerment and autonomy of women. "The kite you are flying/ is perfectly positioned/ Now remain focused on it/ As you let your children hold it/ Keep the string firmly in your hand." -- Courtesy Dawn

At the crossroads

Imran Sabir

The girl never existed. The rape never happened. But thousands marched. Even the HRCP couldn't find 'forensic evidence and credible testimonies' to back the allegations, but the damage had already been done.

Welcome to Pakistan's new reality, where truth is whatever trends on social media, and our youth wage wars with hashtags and 'shares' instead of guns. Those protests over a fabricated campus assault weren't just about a fake story — they were a mirror reflecting our broken relationship with the truth itself.

I've spent several years studying and teaching human behaviour, but nothing had prepared me for what I witnessed at the Lahore protest. "We know this case might be fake," a young undergrad told me, "but how many real cases go unreported? That's why we were there to protest."

It's this raw anger, this deep-seated distrust, that our lawmakers seem to miss completely. While the Punjab Assembly busies itself drafting yet another law against 'fake news', they're missing the forest for the trees. Speaker Malik Ahmad Khan's recent announcement of impending legislation felt like putting a band-aid on a bullet wound.

Truth is, we're losing our kids to cyberspace. Not in the way anxious gossip aunts complain at family dinners, but in a far more insidious way. Every morning, millions of young Pakistanis wake up and dive straight into a cesspool of manipulation. TikTok and YouTube conspiracies about political rivals get more views than election policies. WhatsApp forwards about foreign conspiracies spread faster than Covid did.

"These kids think

they're immune to propaganda," says Dr Zaman, a sociologist specialising in youth behavior at Quaid-i-Azam University. "They laugh at their parents falling for fake WhatsApp forwards, then share unverified tweets because it feels right to them." He shows me a viral post about Pakistan's economy that's completely fabricated but has been shared 50,000 times. "They trust random anonymous accounts more than conventional credible sources of information now."

Meanwhile, the government's response oscillates between panic and paralysis. The recently announced 'crackdown on rumour-mongers' was just another headline in a long list of reactive measures that tackle symptoms while the disease spreads. You can't fight digital wildfires with paperwork and press releases. A junior officer at the FIA's cybercrime wing (speaking off the record) puts it bluntly: "We're fighting a fifth-generation war with first-generation thinking. By the time we trace one fake news source, 50 new ones have popped up."

The term 'fifth-generation warfare' gets thrown around a lot in Pakistan these days, usually by people in uniform or politicians looking for scapegoats. But what's happening on social media isn't warfare; it's worse. It's the systematic dismantling of our youth's ability to separate fact from fiction.

Visit any university campus today. The ethnic, religious, and ideological divisions aren't just visible — they're carved in digital stone. Students live in algorithmic bubbles so thick, two people can witness the same event and walk away with completely opposite versions of reality. The fake rape case proved this perfectly: even after police de-

bunked it, hashtags and shares de-manding justice kept trending. The truth had become irrelevant to the narrative.

"It's like we're living in parallel universes," said a student activist. "My newsfeed on Facebook shows me one Pakistan, my classmate's shows him another. We're not even arguing about the same facts anymore." And therein lies our real crisis. It's not just about fake news — it's about the death of shared reality. When a society can't even agree on basic facts, progress becomes impossible. Justice becomes a pipe dream.

The solution does not lie in another law or crackdown — not even in better fact-checking (though we need that). The solution lies in rebuilding trust — between generations, between institutions and citizens, between the state and its youth.

But trust is earned, not legislated. While the worthy Speaker of the Punjab Assembly announces new laws and federal agencies plan crackdowns, they're missing the whole point. Our youth aren't sharing fake news because they're foolish or malicious; they're sharing it because they've lost faith in official narratives. The protests should be a wake-up call. Young Pakistanis aren't just fighting imaginary battles online; they're screaming to be heard, to be trusted, to be taken seriously.

Until we understand this, and address the deep rot in our information ecosystem, we'll keep fighting shadows while the real war for our youth's minds is lost in the digital darkness.

The truth may be damaged, but it's not dead yet. The question is: are we brave enough to face it? -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Sufficient fertilizer stocks available for Rabi season

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Fertilizer Review Committee (FRC) on Friday expressed complete satisfaction with the country's current fertilizer reserves, ensuring adequate supplies of both DAP and urea for the upcoming Rabi season. The committee met under the chairmanship of Federal Minister for Industries, Production, and National Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain to assess the stock position of DAP and urea fertilizers for the Rabi season 2024-25, said a news release. The minister highlighted

the increasing demand for DAP fertilizer in the country, with a 44% surge in DAP off take. This rise in demand is attributed to the Punjab government's Kisan Card initiative. The DAP offtake estimate for October 2024 was 215,000 tonnes, which has increased by 44% to 309,000 tonnes. This increase is mainly due to the disbursement of Rs 75 billion by the government of Punjab as an interest-free loan through the Kisan Card (Rs 30,000 per acre for seeds, phosphorus, and nitrogen) for 500,000

farmers, each with up to 5 acres (Rs 150,000 per farmer). So far, farmers have drawn Rs 18 billion to procure fertilizer. This initiative by the Punjab government is expected to encourage the farming community to apply more DAP for balanced fertilizer use. The trend of increased DAP off-take in October is expected to continue through November and December 2024. Rana Tanveer assured that additional fertilizer stocks are available to meet farmers' needs, helping them achieve higher yields during the

Rabi season. He emphasized that farmers' prosperity is crucial for the country's progress and urged provinces to take stern action against hoarding and price manipulation. The meeting was also attended by the Secretary Ministry of Industries Saif Anjum, the Secretary Ministry of National Food Security Ali Tahir, senior officials from the Ministry of Finance, Commerce, Food Security, Industries, and representatives of provincial governments and other stakeholders.



ISLAMABAD: The Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain chairs meeting of the Fertilizer Review Committee (FRC).



ISLAMABAD: Sardar Dr Rashid Ilyas Kahn President the Centaurus Group Ayesha event organizer and Senior Management of the Group jointly inaugurated Three Day Gems and Minerals exhibition at Centaurus Mall.

Weekly inflation up by 0.55 percent

ISLAMABAD (APP): The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), went up by 0.55 percent for the combined consumption groups during the week ended on November 14, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday.

According to the PBS data, the SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 321.94 points

as compared to 320.17 points during the past week.

As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 13.89 per cent.

The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 =100 covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups.

SBP injects over Rs3 trillion in the market

KARACHI (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) injected Rs3,089.9 billion in the market through reverse repo purchase and Shariah Compliant Mudarabah based Open Market Operation (OMO) on Friday.

According to OMO results issued here, the SBP conducted Open Market Operation, Reverse Repo Purchase (Injection) on November 15, 2024.

Pakistan, Algeria to boost ties in IT, Telecom sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Friday said that Algeria can benefit from Pakistan's experiences in the field of technology.

During a meeting with the Algerian Ambassador to Pakistan, Brahim Romani, Shaza Fatima said that Pakistan greatly values its relations with Algeria, as the ties in the IT and telecom sector between the two countries are vital.

Pakistan's solar & EV sectors open up with unique perks for China

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan is set to attract Chinese investors with exclusive incentives in the booming solar and electric vehicle (EV) sectors, said Pakistan's Trade and Investment Counsellor to China Ghulam Qadir.

Addressing the 4th Beijing International Engineering Procurement Conference

Matters of mutual interest, such as IT and telecommunications, startups, and cybersecurity, were discussed in the meeting. The two sides agreed to enhance ties in the IT and telecommunication sectors.

Shaza Fatima said the exchange of students, startups and entrepreneurs will be beneficial for both countries, adding that Pakistan can organise IT training programs for the youth of Algeria.

Commerce minister pledges support for textiles sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Friday pledged support for textiles and apparel industry amid mounting challenges.

During a meeting with the delegation of All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA), he reiterated the government's commitment to facilitate textiles and apparel sector to promote value-addition

and product/market diversification and boost exports, said a press release issued here Friday.

In a meeting with the APTMA representatives, led by its Chairman, Kamran Arshad, the minister emphasized the importance of the textiles and apparel industry vis-a-vis socio-economic development and growth.

The delegation of APTMA included Aamir

Fayyaz Sheikh, Chairperson Textile Council (Kohinoor Mills), Anees Khawaja (Mahmood Group), Rahim Nasir (Ayesha Group), Naveed Ahmad (Indus Dyeing), Naveed Gulzar (Crescent Mills), Asad Shafi (Cross Stitch), Ali Ahsan (Ashiana Cotton), Shahid Sattar (Executive Director, APTMA), and Raza Baqir (Secretary General, APTMA North).

Gold prices up by Rs.1,300 to Rs.267,700 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of 24 karat per tola gold increased by Rs.1,300 and was sold at Rs.267,700 on Friday against its sale at Rs.266,400, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also went up by Rs.1,115 to Rs.229,510 from Rs.228,395 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat gold increased to Rs.210,384 from Rs.209,362.

PSX continues with bullish trend, gains 571 more points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Friday, gaining 571.75 points, a positive change of 0.61 percent, closing at 94,763.64 points as compared to 94,191.89 points on the last trading day.

A total of 893,170,249 shares were traded during the day as compared to 1,084,344,207 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 30.811 billion

against Rs. 32.680 billion on the last trading day. As many as 473 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 204 of them recorded gains and 204 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 65 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 77,999,077 shares at Rs 1.34 per share, Fauji Foods Limited with 70,721,702 shares at Rs 11.61 per share and Hascol Petrol with 55,501,231 shares at Rs 8.24 per share.

Punjab senior minister declares smog a national emergency

LAHORE (APP): Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, at a press conference on smog, said smog had escalated to the status of a national disaster and it was adversely affecting other districts in Punjab also.

She noted that fog had also merged with smog this season, causing health hazards. The absence of fog during other times of the year often conceals smog. Referring to 10-year anti-smog plan initiated in March by the Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Marriyum Aurangzeb said that all departments had been given specific targets to combat the menace. She

recently met members of the Supreme Court's Smog Commission to discuss ongoing efforts, expressing her intention to personally brief the judiciary.

Marriyum Aurangzeb highlighted the health issues posed by smog, citing the World Health Organization's recommendations, which the government has been implementing for the past eight months. Additional gaps will be addressed so as to ensure that sectoral targets are achieved.

Agricultural interventions: For the first time, the agriculture department has provided 1,000 super seeders to the farmers at a 60pc subsidy.



MULTAN: Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani attended the "Rasm-e-Chehnum" of the late Syed Jamshaid Abbas Shah, the brother of noted personalities Syed Qaswar Abbas Shah and Syed Iftikhar Hussain Shah.

First installment of 64 crores released for construction of 800 homes: Minister

LAHORE (APP): December. Chairman of Akhuwat Foundation Dr. Amjad Saqib met with Provincial Minister for Housing and Urban Development Bilal Yasin to discuss the progress of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's "Apni Chhat Apna Ghar" scheme.

DG PHATA Saif Anwar Jappa briefed on received applications. He said that over 300,000 applications have been received, which would likely be double by

Provincial Minister Bilal Yasin said that first installment of Rs. 64 crores has been released for construction of 800 houses, adding that loans will be provided based on 100% merit, ensuring transparency. Interest-Free Loan Scheme offers affordable monthly installments. People received the checks of the first installments successfully, all the installments will be paid, he added.



KARACHI: A delegation of Khidmat-e-Khalq Foundation Trustees led by MNA Dr. Feroq Sattar meeting with Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori.

CM reviews progress on 99-point public agenda

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur on Friday chaired a high-level meeting to assess the progress of his government's 99-point public agenda, aimed at improving governance and public services.

During the meeting, officials provided updates on various initiatives, highlighting significant achievements: Under the CM's Open Door Policy, 429 public forums (khuli kutcheries) have been held, including 27 for women,

17 for minorities, and others targeting farmers, persons with disabilities, and traders.

Over 7,000 waste dumps were cleared, 843 public toilets cleaned, and 590 canals, 1,066 roads, and 287 recreational areas cleaned. The province repaired 4,682 manholes and 6,300 streetlights, while 293 illegal parking stands and 4,500 speed bumps were removed.

Drinking water was provided in 114 public parks, seating benches installed in 169 parks, and 300 trash bins placed at

tourist spots.

Officials inspected 108 bus stands, cleaned 497 washrooms, and upgraded 100 waiting rooms. Fare charts were displayed at 93 bus stands.

The chief minister urged strict monitoring of ongoing projects and directed monthly public forums by divisional and deputy commissioners to engage with citizens.

He also ordered the completion of patwar khana mapping within 51 days and immediate relocation of offices operating outside their jurisdictions. "This agenda

focuses on public service and good governance. Any negligence in its implementation will not be tolerated," Ali Amin Gandapur said, reaffirming his commitment to the welfare of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's citizens.

Moreover, 439 sewer lines were cleaned, and 101 were repaired. During the campaign against illegal dumping sites, 368 such spots were cleared, and 226 designated sites for waste disposal were notified. A total of 4359 trash bins have been installed for public use.

LHC directs Punjab govt to formulate long-term policy to combat smog

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Friday directed the Punjab government to formulate a comprehensive and long-term environmental policy to combat smog.

The court also stressed the need for strict regulation of housing societies and directed that wastewater treatment plants be made mandatory for houses of 10 marlas and above, as well as all commercial buildings.

Justice Shahid Karim issued these directions while hearing a set of petitions filed by Haroon Farooq and others against ineffective measures to control smog. During the proceedings, the court

directed Advocate General Punjab Khalid Ishaq to discuss the long-term policy matter with the chief minister upon her return from abroad. The court further noted that significant work remains to be done on groundwater conservation, though it commended the current government's efforts to revive projects that had been stalled over the last five years.

The court highlighted a recent study by the Punjab government, conducted in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank, to restore the Ravi River, and suggested that this research should be effectively utilized.



LAHORE: Chairman Islamic Ideological Council of Pakistan, Allama Dr. Raghib Hussain Naemi, offers prayers for rain and mercy at Jamia Masjid Dalgiran Chowk.

Speaker PA praises public welfare service of Hina Butt

LAHORE (APP): Speaker

of the Punjab Assembly Malik Ahmad Khan praised MPA Hina Parvez Butt's public service, stating that she is fulfilling her duties diligently. Other members of the Punjab Assembly also acknowledged her initiatives with applause. The speaker highlighted that her active role in the Punjab Women Protection Authority reflected her commitment to enhancing the authority's role in safeguarding women's

rights, in line with the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif. He appreciated the steps taken within the Authority to prevent incidents of violence and harassment against women, acknowledging Hina Butt's efforts as a positive step toward women's rights protection in the province. The speaker said, "Your direct engagement with the public and personal meetings with affected girls and their families is commendable."

14 dead, 1,387 injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE (APP): At least 14 people were killed and 1,378 others injured in 1,311 road accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours.

As many as 610 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 777 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams.

The data analysis showed that 800 drivers, 57 underage drivers, 159 pedestrians, and 442 passengers were among the victims of road crashes. The statistics showed that 224 accidents were reported in Lahore.

Zulfiqar Cheema says: Qualities of Iqbal's 'Shaheen' must be instilled in youths

FAISALABAD (APP): Qualities of Iqbal's "Shaheen" should be instilled in the young generation so that they can overcome obstacles in the path of progress with belief, action and high character.

This was stated by Chairman Allama Iqbal Council and former IG Police Punjab Zulfiqar Ahmed Cheema while addressing the students during a public lecture at University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF).

The program was organised by the Public

Relations and Publications Department and the Senior Tutor Office, while CPO Faisalabad Kamran Adil and Principal Officer Public Relations & Publications Dr Muhammad Jalal Arif also spoke.

Zulfiqar Ahmad Cheema called for promoting Iqbal's thoughts and poetry among the youths and said that today's youth were facing disappointments. If they benefit from Iqbal's thought of living a dignified life, they can achieve their unique place in the world.

1 injured in grenade attack in Kohat

KOHAT (APP): A policeman was injured on Friday in a grenade attack by unknown persons on the Mills area police post in Kohat.

According to police, the incident occurred when unidentified individuals hurled a grenade at the police post, leaving one policeman injured. Deputy Commissioner Kohat, Mr. Abdul Akram, swiftly responded to the incident by visiting the injured policeman at DHQ Hospital Kohat.

Akram strongly condemned the attack, labeling it a "cowardly act" by miscreants.

International News

Sri Lankan president's coalition wins majority in snap election

Monitoring Desk

COLOMBO: Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake's leftist coalition won a thumping victory in a snap general election, gaining the power to push through his plans to fight poverty and graft in the island nation recovering from a financial meltdown. The sweeping mandate, which included surprise backing from the north and east of the country which is home to the minority Tamil people, is an unprecedented vote for change and indicates that Sri Lanka is in sync on moving ahead, analysts said.

While the strong showing will strengthen political stability in the South Asian country, some uncertainty on policy direction remains due to Dissanayake's promises to try and tweak terms of the

International Monetary Fund (IMF) rescue programme that bailed the country out of its economic crisis, they said.

The new government is also expected to face a talent challenge as the coalition has few leaders with governance and policy-making experience. Dissanayake, a political outsider in a country dominated by family parties for decades, comfortably won the island's presidential election in September.

But his coalition had just three seats in parliament, prompting him to dissolve it and seek a fresh mandate in Thursday's snap election. Sri Lanka typically backs the president's party in general elections, especially if voting is held soon after a presidential vote.

"The president has a huge mandate now to carry

through the reforms but also huge expectations from the people," said Bhavani Fonseka, a researcher at Colombo think tank Centre for Policy Alternatives.

"People are looking beyond the issues of the past people want to see a direct impact on the cost of living," she said.

Dissanayake's Marxist-leaning National People's Power (NPP) coalition won 159 seats in the 225-member parliament, the election commission said on Friday, a massive two-thirds majority and one of the biggest in the country's history.

NPP secured almost 62 per cent or almost 7 million votes, up from the 42pc Dissanayake won in September, indicating that he had drawn more widespread support including from minorities.

Trump's divisive picks show he prefers loyalty to expertise

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: All eyes were on Donald Trump's transition team on Thursday, after a series of provocative and startling cabinet choices that showed the president-elect's preference for absolute loyalty above experience or expertise.

Trump has been rapidly rolling out his foreign policy and national security picks, but he is expected to shift focus over the coming days to key figures to enact his domestic agenda.

The Republican leader has yet to select treasury and commerce chiefs to help set tax and trade policy, a health secretary to oversee abortion, transgender care and a host of other potential flashpoints, or someone for education — a department Trump wants to abolish.



Sri Lanka's President and National People's Power (NPP) party leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake meets his party supporters after casting his vote on the day of the parliamentary election in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Fragile countries make \$20bn climate finance push at COP29, letter says

Monitoring Desk

BAKU: A group of conflict-affected countries is pushing at COP29 to double financial aid to more than \$20 billion a year and combat the natural disaster and security crises facing their populations, a letter seen by Reuters showed. The group is one of several pitching at the climate talks in Azerbaijan this week for funds to better prepare for the impacts of extreme weather as countries seek to agree to a new annual target on financing.

Island nations, for example, argue climate change threatens their very existence as seas rise, while

rainforest nations say they need more money to protect their vast carbon sinks.

Countries mired in conflict and its aftermath say they have struggled to access private investment, as they are seen as too risky. That means UN funds are even more critical to their populations, many of whom have been displaced by war and weather. In response, the COP29 Azerbaijan Presidency on Friday will launch a new "Network of Climate-vulnerable Countries", including a number of countries that belong to the G7+, an intergovernmental group of fragile countries.

Israel says it hits military sites in Damascus, Syrian media says 15 killed

Monitoring Desk

DUBAI: Fifteen people were killed in Israeli strikes on residential buildings in Damascus on Thursday, Syrian state media reported, and Israel claimed the attacks targeted military sites and the headquarters of the Islamic Jihad group.

The buildings targeted were located in the suburbs of Mazzeh and Qudsaya, both in the west of the Syrian capital, SANA news agency reported, citing a Syrian military source.

Fire kills at least ten elderly people in Spanish retirement home

Monitoring Desk

MADRID: At least 10 elderly people were killed when fire ripped through a retirement home in the northern Spanish town of Villafranca del Ebro early on Friday, authorities said.

The blaze started in one of the rooms, Fernando Beltran, the national government's top official in the region, told reporters. All the victims were elderly people living in the "Jardines de Villafranca" residence, he added.

Trump says Russia-Ukraine war has 'gotta stop'

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: US President-elect Donald Trump said on Thursday that his administration will work hard to end the Russia-Ukraine war, adding that the conflict needs to come to an end.

"We're going to work on the Middle East, and we're going to work very hard on Russia and Ukraine. It's gotta stop."

Russia and Ukraine's "gotta stop," Trump said at a gala for the America First Policy Institute at the Mar-a-Lago Club in Florida.

"I saw a report today. Thousands of people over the last three days were killed. Thousands and thousands were killed. They happened to be soldiers, but whether they're soldiers or

they're people sitting in towns, we're going to work it," he added.

Turning to his election victory last week, Trump said the American people delivered "something very, very amazing".

"The biggest political victory in 129 years... We swept all swing states. We won the popular vote," he said. He stressed that the country is "doing good" since he was elected on November 5. "Now the only thing is, Mr. Speaker, I think it's important, maybe you should pass a bill — you have to start my term from November 5, OK? Or November 6 if you want. November 5, because the market's gone through the roof, enthusiasm's doubled in the last short while," he said.



South Korea's main opposition Democratic Party leader Lee Jae-myung arrives at a court in Seoul, South Korea.

Xi inaugurates South America's first Chinese funded port in Peru

Monitoring Desk

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Thursday inaugurated Latin America's first Beijing-funded port in Chancay, Peru — a symbol of the Asian superpower's growing influence on the continent as it prepares to face off with a new Donald Trump administration.

The \$3.5 billion complex, about 50 miles (80 kilometres) north of Lima, is meant to serve as a hub for Chinese trade as the country is under threat of major tariff hikes once

Trump reenters the White House for a second term.

The port was officially opened in a ceremony overseen virtually by Xi and Peruvian counterpart Dina Boluarte from Lima, where they will attend an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit on Friday and Saturday.

"China plays a major role in the growth of our economy," Boluarte said at the event, even as a US official warned Latin American nations should be vigilant on Chinese investment.



Global environmental activists protest against the gas industry during the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29), in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Indonesia's VP visits area hit by Mount Lewotobi Laki-laki volcano eruptions

Monitoring Desk

INDONESIA: Indonesia's vice president visited areas hit by multiple eruptions of the Mount Lewotobi Laki-laki volcano on Thursday, as some international airlines resumed flights to the resort island of Bali, officials said.

The first eruption of Mount Lewotobi Laki-laki

in East Nusa Tenggara province on Nov 3 killed at least nine people, damaged more than 2,000 houses and forced the evacuation of 13,000 residents. It has since erupted repeatedly, belching ash up to 10 km (16 miles) into the air. East Nusa Tenggara is located about 800 km (497 miles) from Bali.

CDWP recommends three energy sector projects worth Rs 58.857b to ECNEC

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (PDSI) and Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Friday chaired a meeting of the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) that okayed and recommended three major development projects in the energy sector worth Rs58.857 billion to ECNEC for final approval.

The meeting was attended by Awas Manzur Sumra, Secretary and Additional Secretary Planning, Joint Chief Economist (Operations), members of the Planning Commission and representatives from the Ministry of Energy and the Power Division, a news release said.

The committee considered the first project namely "Power Distribu-

tion Strengthening Project (SEPCO)" worth Rs 9,014.360 million and recommended to ECNEC for further consideration. The project is proposed to be financed through Asian Development Bank (ADB). The project envisages conversion of 4 No 66 kV Grid Station into 132 kV Grid Station, installation of 50,000 No. of AMR meter on 3-phase meters having load more than 5 kW, installation of APMS on 1200 No. general duty DTs in SEPCO and bifurcation of 40 No. feeders having load above 300 Amps and high technical & administration loss. The forum forwarded the second project namely "Power Distribution Strengthening Project (LESCO)" worth Rs 27,613.00 million to ECNEC. The project is proposed to be financed through ADB (Rs. 20,317

million) & LESCO Own Resources (Rs. 7,296 million).

Under the project, construction of 05 new 132 kv grid stations and 04 Aug/ Extension of 132 kv grid stations will be carried out, besides installation of 1600 APMS, 1328 km AB cable and 131901 Nos AMI/ AMR meters in LESCO to improve electricity supply, operational efficiencies and modernize operations and management of the LESCO.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Spanish Senators called on Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Privatization & Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan.

Sindh assembly speaker lauded for launching Provincial Women's Parliamentary Caucus

ISLAMABAD (APP): Dr. Shahida Rehmani, Member of the National Assembly and Secretary of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC), has warmly congratulated Syed Awas Qadir Shah, Speaker of the Sindh Provincial Assembly, on the successful formation of the Provincial Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC).

Dr. Rehmani has been a strong advocate for creating a Provincial Women's Parliamentary Caucus. She undertook several consultative visits to the Sindh Assembly, both during her current tenure and her previous term as Secretary of the WPC.

Dr. Rehmani proactively engaged with stakeholders, conducting discussions and sending letters to the Speaker of the

Sindh Assembly, urging the formation of the caucus to advance women's representation and legislative empowerment at the provincial level.

During her visit to the Provincial Assembly of Sindh on September 19, 2024, Dr. Shahida Rehmani held a meeting with Speaker Syed Awas Qadir Shah and initiated formal correspondence to bolster the establishment of the Provincial Women's Parliamentary Caucus.

She emphasized the achievements of the WPC at the federal level, including significant constitutional amendments, policy advocacy, and legislative measures designed to promote and protect the rights of women and children across the country.

DC stresses to enforce official price lists in Sukkur

SUKKUR (INP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Sukkur, Dr. Raja MB Dharejo on Friday chaired a meeting of the price control committee aimed at addressing inflationary pressures and enforcing official price lists across the district.

The meeting held at DC's Office specifically focusing on the enforcement of government-fixed prices and ensuring relief for the public, highlighted strict measures to combat price inflation, particularly for

essential items. To enhance transparency and efficiency, he directed that price control magistrates must personally be present in the field for inspections.

He emphasized that no representatives would be acceptable, and every magistrate must personally issue fines for violations. The deputy commissioner warned that any negligence or failure in duty would lead to strict punitive action against the responsible officials.



KARACHI: Workers of Jamaat-e-Islami sitting on dharna against the alleged rigging in the by-elections on Shahrah Faisal.

Walk held to mark World Diabetes Day

SUKKUR (APP): In connection with the World Diabetes Day, the Ghulam Muhammad Mahar Medical College in collaboration with Inter Global Human Development Society (IGHDS), on Friday organized a public awareness walk from its main gate to Sukkur district hospital.

Addressing the participants, Secretary Diabetic Association of Pakistan Dr Farhan Baloch said that diabetes was a chronic, debilitating and costly disease adding the World Diabetes Day provides us the opportunity to improve healthcare facilities for millions of people living with the disease in the country. He said that the government should do more to prevent

the disease as more people are at the risk of developing the disease.

Dr Baloch said that currently, there were 415 million people living with the disease worldwide.

By 2040, the number will increase to 642 million, he said and added that every six seconds, a person dies from diabetes or its related complications. Dr Shabana Solangi said that half million people in Sukkur division alone suffer from diabetes and the urban population has a higher ratio of disease than the rural population.

A number of para medical staff, students and civil society members participated in the walk.

Engr Aijaz assumes charge as CEO SEPCO

SUKKUR (APP): Engineer Aijaz Ahmed Chhna on Friday assumed the charge as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Sukkur Electric Power Company (SEPCO), following approval from the Board of Directors.

This appointment marks a significant milestone in Chhna's illustrious career, having served in various capacities at SEPCO, including SE, XEN and CTO.

Engr Chhna's dedication and expertise have earned him accolades from Chairman Board of Directors Agha Lal Bux, member Khurshed Meerani, and other members, officers, and well-wishers, who congratulated him on his new role.

Dead body of Rajesh Rohra sent by Punjab govt

LARKANA (APP) A few days ago, Rajesh Rohra, a Hindu businessman from Larkana, father of four children, went to Nankana Sahib in Punjab to participate in the 55th birth anniversary celebrations of Sikh spiritual leader Baba Guru Nanak with his family.

Rajesh Rohra was shot and killed by armed men during a robbery at Nankana Sahib toll plaza, whose body was brought from Nankana Sahib Punjab to Dari Mohalla in Larkana city through an ambulance, where the last rites of the Hindu businessman were performed. Relatives and civil society persons participated in a large number.

In this regard, the relatives of the deceased Hinda Tajir said that the case of Rajesh Rohra incident has been registered by the Punjab Police and a high-level investigation has been started, while the SHO of the concerned police station.

7th Digital Agricultural Census to Begin in Shaheed Benazirabad

HYDERABAD (APP): The 7th Digital Agricultural Census will commence in Shaheed Benazirabad district on December 2, aligning with the nationwide initiative.

Deputy Commissioner Shahryar Gul Memon inaugurated a three-day training program for census supervisors and enumerators at the DC Office's Darbar Hall.

Memon stated that the census aims to collect data on agricultural resources, land, crops, livestock, and agricultural machinery.

Training program master trainer and District Coordinator Statistics Nooruddin Jamali said the census will run from December 2 to January 15.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori talking with media men after visiting 7000 ft road New Karachi.

Pakistan warns of 'chaos' in war-hit Palestine following Israel's ban on UNRWA

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan has told a UN panel that the Israeli legislation to shut down UNRWA, the main lifeline for Palestinian refugees in Gaza, will plunge millions of Palestinians into chaos, and called on the international community to throw its weight behind the U.N. agency.

"The demonization and delegitimization of UNRWA must be halted and we must take concrete measures to ensure that UNRWA remains operational and carries out its humanitarian work in accordance with its mandate," Pakistani delegate Ansar Shah said during a debate in the General Assembly's

Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization) on Thursday.

The Israeli Parliament, known as the Knesset, adopted two bills earlier this month banning the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) from operating in its territory and prohibiting authorities from having any contact with it.

"The international community must uphold the principles of justice, human rights, and international law to restore hope and dignity to the Palestinian people," Ansar Shah, a first secretary in the Pakistani Mission to the UN, said.

Pakistan, Turkey's Interior ministers discuss cooperation, repatriation of prisoners

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a significant diplomatic meeting, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Friday met with Turkish Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya and discussed matters of mutual interests, focusing on enhancing the historic relationship between the two nations.

The meeting, held during Minister Naqvi's visit to Turkey, covered a wide range of topics, including regional security, economic partnerships, and the repatriation of Pakistani prisoners currently held in Turkey.

The discussion revolved around strengthening Pakistan-Turkey relations, which both leaders described as deeply rooted in shared history, culture, and religion.

praised the enduring brotherhood between the two countries, noting that their collaboration is steadily evolving into a sustainable strategic partnership.

During the meeting, Minister Naqvi raised the issue of three Pakistani prisoners detained in Turkey and urged swift action for their repatriation.

Minister Yerlikaya assured his Pakistani counterpart of full cooperation and proposed sending a delegation of experts from Pakistan to Turkey to expedite the matter.

"This issue will be reviewed with compassion and care," he added. Minister Naqvi extended a formal invitation to Minister Yerlikaya to visit Pakistan, which was graciously accepted.



KARACHI: Additional Inspector General of Police (AIG-P), Javed Akhtar Odho reviews the security arrangements for the upcoming 12th Edition International Defence Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS) 2024 start from 19 to 22 November organized by Defence Export Promotion Organization under the patronage of Ministry of Defence Production, at Airport road in Karachi.

Shaheed Benazir University holds entry test for BBA, BS, and MBA Programs

HYDERABAD (APP): Shaheed Benazir University (SBU) conducted its computer-based entry test for the new academic session 2025 on Friday.

Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Muddad Ali Shah visited various examination centers set up at the main campus.

The pre-entry test, being held from November 15 to 18, will commence daily at 9:00 AM. Director Admissions Muhammad Tufail Memon stated that around 2,000 eligible candidates are participating in the test.

Students are competing for admission to various programs, including Information Technology, Computer Science, Education, Media Studies, Chem-

istry, Genetics and Molecular Biology, English, Sindhi, Economics, Business Administration, Statistics, Fine Arts, and Microbiology.

Additionally, entry tests will be held at the Sanghar Campus on November 22 and at the Naushahro Feroze Campus on November 29. During the three-day entry test, the university administration has prohibited electronic devices, including mobile phones and calculators, inside examination halls.

Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Muddad Ali Shah emphasized SBU's commitment to transparency and merit, ensuring that deserving students face no difficulties in pursuing higher education.



MOHENJO DARO: A tourist delegation from Italy are visiting and expressed keen interest in the historical ruins of the World Heritage Monuments of Mohenjo Daro.

PA Opposition leader calls on Sindh Governor

KARACHI (APP): The Opposition Leader in Sindh Assembly Ali Khurshedi called on the Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House here on Friday.

They discussed the legislation related to public welfare, and other issues of mutual interests.

The Governor Tessori said that the Opposition Leader had an important position in the Assembly. He said that the suggestions of the Opposition proved to be important in the legislation process.

The Opposition Leader Ali Khurshedi said that they were trying to ensure the legislation in favour of the people and for their welfare.

SSP for improving night patrolling & snap checking

SUKKUR (APP): Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Sukkur, Amjad Ahmed Shaikh on Friday has instructed police to improve night patrolling, focus on snap checking and keep a vigil eye on criminals in the district.

Presiding over a meeting at his office, he said that better law and order in the district should be the first priority.

He directed the arrest of proclaimed offenders, other criminals and complete the investigations into pending cases.

He also took briefing from officers about murders, dacoities, dacoities-cum-murder, house robbery and other heinous crimes and directed them to close circles around the neck of drug traffickers.

He further directed to conduct search operations in all police stations' limits and to make the district peaceful.

Met Office forecast dry weather in Sukkur division

SUKKUR (INP): Mainly dry weather is expected in the Sukkur division including other districts of northern Sindh during the next 24 hours.

On Friday the Local MET office forecast mainly dry weather in most parts of northern Sindh.

Fog is likely to persist in Sukkur, Larkana, Kashmore, Khairpur, and surrounding areas, particularly during the night and morning hours, affecting visibility and travel.

Overall, dry and sunny conditions are expected in most parts of the province, with cooler temperatures in the mornings and evenings, said officials.

Awareness seminar organized by SMBBMU, DG NAB participated

Independent Report LARKANA: Under the supervision of Shaheed Ms. Benazir Bhutto Medical University (SMBBMU), the second awareness seminar was held in Chandka Medical College with the support of NAB (National Accountability Bureau). In particular, Director General of NAB Sukkur Fayyaz Ahmed Qureshi participated, this second awareness seminar of its kind was held in Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Medical University in collaboration with NAB and the seminar was organized under the supervision of Dr. Masood Qureshi, the focal person appointed by the university.

Addressing the seminar on this occasion, NAB Director General Sukkur Fayyaz Ahmad Qureshi said that NAB values the support of the martyred Benazir Bhutto Medical University, the end of

US says it stands by Pakistan in combating terrorism, slams Quetta train station bombing

WASHINGTON (APP): The United States stand shoulder-to-shoulder with Pakistan in its fight against terrorism, the State Department said Thursday, while condemning last week's deadly bombing on the railway station in Quetta.

"We strongly condemn the BLA (Balochistan Liberation Army) Majeed Brigade's November 9th bombing at a railway station and we extend our deepest condolences to the victims and their families," Principal Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel told the daily press briefing.

"We have a shared interest in combating these kinds of threats with Pakistan," he said, adding, "We have a shared commitment to regional security," he said in response to a question from a Pakistani correspondent.

"The U.S. itself has designated the BLA as a specially designated global terrorist organization," Patel said.

"We did that back in 2019. And at the end of the day, we're going to continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with Pakistan in its fight against terrorism and violent extremism."

In response to a question about Taliban leaders congratulating the American people for not handing the leadership of their country to a woman, Patel said, "I can't imagine the Taliban are experts when it comes to leadership under a woman or not... but the Taliban are hardly credible voices when it comes to the role women play in their society and the role that women leaders play."

He went on to say, "And what you've heard us say time and time again is that for as long as the Taliban continues to essentially hold back 50 percent of its population from fully integrating in society, fully participating in society, it certainly is not going to be able to reach the international recognition that we know that they - that they're seeking."

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ISLAMABAD: Manuel Frederico Pinheiro Da Silva Ambassador of Portugal called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf at Naval Headquarters.

Commissioner visits laboratory that produce anti snake, rabies vaccines

HYDERABAD (APP): Senior Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Division Syed Muhammad Sajjad Hyder visited the laboratory in Sakrand that produces anti-snake and anti-rabies vaccines today.

On this occasion, Commissioner Syed Muhammad Sajjad Hyder said that the laboratory producing anti-snake and anti-rabies vaccines should be made operational immediately so that precious human lives can be saved. In this regard, the divisional administration will provide

all possible cooperation. The laboratory's in-charge, Deputy Director Livestock Dr Aijaz Hussain Laghari, informed the Commissioner that this laboratory was handed over to the Livestock Department some time ago but due to lack of funds, there are difficulties in producing vaccines.

He further said that efforts are being made to prepare anti-snake and anti-rabies vaccines as soon as possible, and all possible measures are being taken in this regard.

DC reviews polio campaign targets

SUKKUR (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Khairpur, Syed Ahmed Fawad on Friday has said that all resources should be utilized to ensure the achievement of 100 percent targets during the upcoming anti-polio campaign.

He issued these instructions while chairing a review meeting held at his office regarding the arrangements for the upcoming anti-polio campaign and achievements of the previous campaign. The meeting was attended by Revenue officers, representatives of health department, police,

EPI, WHO, and other concerned departments.

During the meeting, a detailed briefing was given on the arrangements, micro plan, and security plan for the campaign.

The deputy commissioner emphasized the need to ensure target achievement during the campaign and to pay special attention to refusal cases. He ensured that all children under five years of age are administered anti-polio drops during every campaign to protect them from the crippling polio virus and prevent lifelong disability.



HYDERABAD: Quami Awami Tehreek (QAT) Central President, Ayaz Latif Palijo cutting his 56th birthday cake during ceremony held at Hyderabad press club.

Awareness seminar organized by SMBBMU, DG NAB participated

Independent Report LARKANA: Under the supervision of Shaheed Ms. Benazir Bhutto Medical University (SMBBMU), the second awareness seminar was held in Chandka Medical College with the support of NAB (National Accountability Bureau). In particular, Director General of NAB Sukkur Fayyaz Ahmed Qureshi participated, this second awareness seminar of its kind was held in Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Medical University in collaboration with NAB and the seminar was organized under the supervision of Dr. Masood Qureshi, the focal person appointed by the university.

Addressing the seminar on this occasion, NAB Director General Sukkur Fayyaz Ahmad Qureshi said that NAB values the support of the martyred Benazir Bhutto Medical University, the end of

which will start from our own self, our religion and our society have become negated by corruption, he added that we have recorded twenty billion rupees of corruption this year.

They said that our previous generation will recover from corruption, Principal Chandka Medical College Prof. Zamir Ahmed Soomro said in his address that corruption is not only about money, corruption is also about misuse of one's authority, not fulfilling one's responsibilities properly. Dealing with corruption is also a big obstacle in the country's development. Renowned educationist Prof. Mukhtiar Ahmed Samo said that the eradication of corruption is possible only with better education and training, if a teacher or an educational institution does not perform its duty correctly, it is responsible for the destruction of the entire generation.