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Apex Committee approves military operation against terrorist outfits in Balochistan

PM stresses need to crush terrorism, addressing sub-nationalism, extremism, crime-terror nexus, disinformation; Wants all stakeholders to lend helping hands in economic, political stability; links it with end to terrorism

ISLAMABAD (APP): The participants of Federal Apex Committee of the National Action Plan on Tuesday approved a comprehensive military operation against terrorist organisations operating in Balochistan including the Majeed Brigade, BLA, BLF and BRAS who were targeting innocent civilians and foreign nationals to scuttle Pakistan's economic progress by creating insecurity at the behest of hostile external powers.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chaired the meeting of the Federal Apex Committee, attended by the federal cabinet, provincial chief ministers, General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), and

senior government officials, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The agenda of the meeting focused on "Reinvigorating Pakistan's Counter Terrorism (CT) Campaign".

The participants were briefed on the evolving security landscape and the measures being taken to counter terrorism and other critical challenges, including general law and order situation, actions against efforts to stoke sub-nationalism, religious extremism, tackling the illegal spectrum & crime-terror nexus, subversion and disinformation campaigns, among other issues.

The committee highlighted the necessity of a unified political voice and a

cohesive national narrative to effectively address these multifaceted challenges.

It was emphasized that political support across party lines and complete national consensus were critical to reinvigorating the national CT campaign under the framework of Vision Azm-e-Istehkam.

Revitalisation of NACTA and the establishment of National and Provincial Intelligence Fusion and Threat Assessment Centre was also agreed upon.

A whole-of-system approach was adopted, incorporating diplomatic, political, informational, intelligence, socio-economic, and military efforts to address these issues comprehensively.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of Federal Apex Committee of National Action Plan.

Technology simplifies life but presents challenges to ensuring children's safety: Murad Shah

KARACHI (APP): Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah emphasized the importance of observing the World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse, which is marked annually on November 19.

"This year's theme, 'Emerging Technologies: Opportunities and Threats to Protecting Children from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse,' highlights the critical need to raise awareness about the risks posed by technology while also exploring its potential to keep children safe," CM said.

Murad Shah said that the day aims to educate children and parents on how to prevent exploitation. "We must eradicate cruelty and brutality from our society through education, awareness, and understanding," he said.

Talking about technological advancements, the CM said that they have simplified many aspects of life, but they also present new challenges to ensuring children's safety. He added

that modern technologies can serve as effective tools for protecting children if appropriate laws and measures are implemented.

Mr Shah urged parents and teachers to educate children on the responsible use of technology. "It is essential to spread awareness to prevent abuse against innocent children," he emphasized and said his government prioritises the protection of children and is utilising all available resources to this end."

Murad Shah said that his government is initiating new measures to safeguard children using advanced technologies and remains committed to protecting them from all forms of exploitation and violence.

"We must provide our children with a safe environment where they can grow with dignity and freedom," the CM said and added that parents and educational institutions have a vital role in shaping the bright future of Pakistan.

Arms for Peace': Khawaja Asif, Governor Tessori inaugurate defense exhibition IDEAS 2024

Independent Report
KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori, along with Federal Defense Minister Khawaja Asif, inaugurated the IDEAS 2024 exhibition. Following the inauguration, the Governor also opened the NRTC Pavilion within the exhibition.

Accompanied by the Federal Defense Minis-

ter, Governor Sindh toured various sections of the exhibition, where officials provided detailed briefings. The Governor visited stalls representing several countries and reviewed the showcased defense equipment.

Governor Sindh praised the advanced defense technology displayed at the stalls of the Pakistan Navy, Air Force,

and Army. Demonstrating his keen interest, he tested modern guns and pistols, further lauding the innovative capabilities of Pakistan's defense sector.

IDEAS 2024 continues to serve as a platform showcasing cutting-edge defense technologies and fostering collaboration among global and local defense industries.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Defense Khawaja Asif along with Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori inaugurating IDEAS 2024 Exhibition at NRTC Pavilion.

Sharjeel briefed Bilawal about efforts to showcase achievements of govt.

Independent Report
KARACHI: PPP Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari called on by Senior Minister of the Sindh Government, Sharjeel Inam Memon, at Bilawal house in Karachi.

During the meeting, Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari emphasized the importance of not only addressing public issues but also reinforcing the perception that the government is consistently supporting the common man.

Senior Minister

Sharjeel Inam Memon briefed Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on the efforts to showcase the achievements of the provincial government. He highlighted that the provincial information department is actively working to promote the continuity of public service in Sindh.

He further explained that a public transport network is being established in Sindh, and any challenges arising from this initiative are being addressed as a priority.

No document from UAE govt on visa restrictions on Pakistanis: Embassy

DUBAI (APP): The Embassy of Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Tuesday rejected the media reports referring to the sharing of a document by the UAE government citing reasons for imposing visa restrictions on Pakistani nationals.

"These claims are factually incorrect. No such document has been shared by UAE authorities," the embassy said in a press release.

It said that Pakistan enjoyed strong and cordial relations with the UAE, and both governments were committed to addressing any issues of mutual concern through official channels and constructive dialogue. The embassy remains fully committed to safeguarding the interests of Pakistani nationals in the UAE and will continue to work closely with UAE authorities to further strengthen the friendly ties between our two countries, it added.

Join Nov 24 protest or leave party: PTI leaders Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Imran Khan has urged Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders and ticket holders to participate in the party's upcoming protest on November 24 or sever ties with the party.

In a recent statement, he stated that those unable to join the planned "power show" should "disassociate themselves" from the PTI, calling it a critical moment in the party's struggle for freedom and justice.

This call follows Imran's announcement on November 13 for nationwide protests, where he denounced what he described as a "stolen mandate," unjust arrests, and the passage of the 26th amendment, which he claimed strengthened a "dictatorial regime."



KARACHI: PPP chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, was called on by Senior Minister of the Sindh Government, Sharjeel Inam Memon, at Bilawal House in Karachi.

Sharjeel inaugurates Command and Control Center of People's Bus Service

Independent Report
KARACHI: The Sindh Senior Minister for Information, Transport, and Mass Transit, Sharjeel Inam Memon on Tuesday inaugurated Command and Control Center of People's Bus Service.

The Command and Control Center has been established at the office D-43 Block 2, Clifton, of the Sindh Mass Transit Authority. The Command and Control Center will monitor, facilitate, and live-track the operations related to the People's Bus Service.

Talking to the media on the occasion of the inauguration ceremony, Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon said that the Command and Control Center will provide proper monitoring and timely necessary instructions to the People's Bus Service running across Sindh.

This command and control system would monitor the convenience of the passengers of the People's Bus Service and their live videos and will monitor the conduct of the

staff. If there is any complaint or the fare is being charged excessively, you can complain. If any item of a passenger gets stolen or missing, it will also be captured on camera, a communique said.

He said that, for the very first time in Sindh, such a modern command and control system has been established that would monitor all the operations of the People's Bus Service. Along with this, complaint numbers have also been given on which any complaint related to the service can be made. If anyone has any complaint, it can also be redressed in a timely manner.

Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon has said that this facility was in developed countries. The Sindh government is providing facilities like that to developed countries in Sindh.

Earlier, a card system was introduced for purchasing tickets for the People's Bus Service. The Sindh government will soon bring more facilities for its



KARACHI: A view of IDEAS 2024 exhibition at Expo center.

Maulana Fazl always puts interests of Pak first: Naqvi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi called on Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman at his residence in Islamabad on Tuesday and discussed a variety of issues with him.

On the occasion, Interior Minister Naqvi expressed his best wishes for Maulana Fazl. Mohsin Naqvi and Maulana Fazl discussed matters of mutual interest, the prevailing political scenario and country's overall situation during their meeting.

Mohsin Naqvi thanked Maulana Fazlur Rehman for his historical role and support for the approval of 26th constitutional amendment.

Chinese, Pakistani militaries to hold joint anti-terrorism exercise

BEIJING (APP): The Western Theater Command of the Chinese People's Liberation Army will send troops to Pakistan to participate in a joint anti-terrorism exercise from late November to mid-December, the Ministry of National Defense announced Tuesday.

Coded "Warrior-VIII," the exercise will focus on joint counter-terrorism clean-up and strike operations. The two sides will engage in multi-level and mixed training across various specialties, and organize live troop drills in accordance with the actual combat process, the ministry said.

After Islamabad, public gatherings banned in Karachi too

KARACHI (INP): After Islamabad, the government on Monday imposed Section 144 in Karachi too as part of its efforts to contain Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's November 24 protests. Section 144 will remain effective for seven days.

Also, authorities in Karachi have banned entry of the general public to the Karachi Airport and the surrounding areas. The decision has been taken due to security threats.

Malir SSP Kashif Abbasi said access to the areas near the Karachi airport too has been restricted. Only people with travel documents will be allowed to enter the airport. Police and Rangers personnel have been deployed at five points around the airport at five places.

Sindh govt, UNICEF launched 'Child Protection Management Information System

Independent Report
KARACHI: The Sindh government's Department of Social Welfare, UNICEF, and other key stakeholders have officially launched 'Child Protection Management Information System (CPIMS)' here on Tuesday.

This significant milestone was celebrated in conjunction with World Children's Day, aiming to initiate a new movement for the protection and promotion of children's rights and welfare.

The launching ceremony was graced by the Minister for Social Welfare, Mir Tariq Ali Talpur, Secretary of Social Welfare Pervez Ahmed Sehar, Deputy Head of Mission at the British Deputy High Commission Martin Dawson, and UNICEF Islamabad's Chief of Child Protection Ms. Susan Andrew.

While addressing the event, Mir Tariq Ali Talpur

highlighted the importance of children's rights, stating, "Children are the future of our society, and protecting their rights is our top priority."

Emphasizing the significance of CPIMS, the Minister said: "This system will not only streamline the management of child protection cases but will also strengthen decision-making processes. It will help us identify areas and children requiring more focused attention."

He further added, "The Sindh government has always taken serious steps to protect children's rights. We are ensuring not only effective legislation but also its proper implementation. CPIMS will guarantee that no child is left without support."

The Minister appealed to parents, teachers, and civil society, saying: "Child protection is a collective responsibility."



KARACHI: Ambassador of Turkey Irfan Neziroglu to Pakistan meeting with Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House. Consul General of Turkey also present.

All issues of Karachi Metropolitan University to be resolved: Mayor

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi, Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that the dream of Karachi Metropolitan University was envisioned by the people of Karachi, and the Pakistan People's Party promised to make it a reality and now we have fulfilled this promise by granting Karachi Medical and Dental College university status and all issues of this university will be resolved.

He made these remarks while speaking as the chief guest at a ceremony held on Tuesday at Karachi Metropolitan University, where scholarships were distributed to fifty students.

The Vice Chancellor of Karachi Metropolitan University, Professor Wasim Qazi, Registrar Mahmood Khan, and faculty members were also present at the event.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab further stated that today's event was dedicated to Iqbal Day. Allama Iqbal had dreamed of an independent nation, but dreams do

not materialize without hard work. When Allah blessed him with the opportunity to lead the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation for the first time, the students of this college came to him and asked for help to get university status for their institution.

He said that the dream of making this college a university was not conceived in 2021; the administration had been working towards it for a long time, and it was the PPP that granted Karachi Medical and Dental College university status.

He added that institutions are established, but they often fail to function properly. Former Prime Minister Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto had established Abbasi Shaheed Hospital, but we have not been able to operate it effectively. It is the responsibility of the teachers, staff, and students at Karachi Metropolitan University to take ownership of this institution and work towards improving it.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Tribunals' failure

The election tribunals have let the nation down. Following one of the most contested general elections in recent memory — elections so controversial that, more than nine months later, they still cast a long shadow over the incumbent government — these tribunals were tasked with adjudicating the results of 350 National Assembly and provincial assembly seats that had been disputed by the candidates.

It was expected that the tribunals would work in an expeditious manner and do justice where there was compelling evidence of misdoing, as alleged by many candidates and supported by the findings of various independent observers. By acting transparently and with purpose, they could have helped the nation move forward. Instead, with the year almost out, only 17pc of the cases before them have been decided; the legitimacy of the ruling set-up remains in doubt, while yet another protest has been called this coming weekend to protest the 'theft' of the people's mandate.

Meanwhile, the ruling coalition has been able to use its numbers to pass a highly controversial constitutional amendment and a slew of widely criticised laws to consolidate its strength. The Election Commission of Pakistan, which is responsible for appointing the tribunals, has seemed least interested in their progress, even though legal deadlines for the conclusion of tribunal proceedings have long lapsed.

Indeed, the ECP was itself responsible for delaying the formation of election tribunals for Punjab, where the bulk of the disputes were registered, over a petty turf war with the Lahore High Court. Though it eventually managed to appoint retired judges of its choice — thanks to some timely changes to the law — it has now emerged that four out of the eight tribunals for Punjab had not heard a single petition by Nov 15, while the remaining four had decided only 10 out of the 155 disputes lodged. The Balochistan tribunals fared better, having resolved 30 out of the 51 disputes before them. On the other hand, the KP and Sindh tribunals had respectively decided only eight and 12 of the disputes before them.

With the election tribunals having thus failed to fulfil the purpose for which they were created, it is not surprising that Pakistan has not been able to stabilise. In the absence of the legitimacy conferred by a free and fair election, the authorities continue to resort to repressive means to enforce 'order'. However, these will not bear long-term results and are only hollowing out the country's already crumbling political structure. It is imperative, therefore, for the election tribunals to conclude all proceedings as soon as possible while delivering justice. Too much time has already been lost in dilly-dallying — all further proceedings must now be completed transparently so that faith in the electoral process can be restored.

Promotion criteria

Parvez Rahim

During my years at an American multinational, my boss told me that I had to be ambitious to be promoted. However, just having ambition was not enough; the candidates for promotion had to demonstrate their ability to consistently go beyond what was expected.

There was no place for mediocrity, where workers would just say 'yes' to their bosses. Dissent by subordinates was encouraged provided it was prudent, in the right direction, and helped resolve the issue under discussion. Employees, who would work in the same job for many years and had no chance of promotion, were asked to leave.

The company had a robust, competitive annual performance evaluation of every employee. The appraisal was done by assessing an employee's performance against yearly goals, which were specific and measurable, and given and agreed with him at the beginning of the year. The respective supervisors would discuss the performance evaluation of the subordinate staff with a group of senior managers, who would critically review the assessment and agree to a rating through consensus.

Those with consistently high ratings were considered for promotion, subject to the availability of vacant positions. Merit, and not seniority, was the sole criterion for promotion.

There was great emphasis on the performance of every employee. Supervisors were required to conduct periodic reviews of their subordinate's performance within the year so that the latter was not taken by surprise at year-end. In the event of a vacant position at a higher level, the senior management would try to find a suitable candidate from within the organisation, instead of hiring from outside. It was believed that a manager hired at a senior position might disrupt the organisation's prevailing systems through a rash action, without adequate knowledge of its culture and traditions.

The factors described for eligibility and criteria for promotion include "tenure, performance metrics, skill acquisition, and adherence to company values. By setting specific criteria, the promotion process becomes transparent".

In contrast, the criterion for promotions in our government departments is seniority; not much weightage is given to employees' performance, and there is an uproar if seniority is ignored in promotions. The annual confidential report (ACR) has always been a feature of government service. The head of department gathers information related to the performance and behaviour of the subordinates and finalises the report. What is reported is not communicated to the employee unless there are negative comments, which he is required to explain.

It is reported that over the last few years, employees have been bringing ACR forms to their department heads to fill. Once filled, the forms are handed back to the employees, so that they can submit the same themselves. Such practices make a mockery of the system of performance evaluation. Consequently, employees don't find any motivation to improve their performance and people interacting with them find their behaviour frustrating and non-caring.

In the corporate world, success of companies depends on an effective and credible performance evaluation system, based on which the employees are promoted. According to LeapSome, a platform for performance management and employee engagement, "A well-made promotion decision has the potential to boost morale and inspire trust in employees. A poorly made promotion decision ... can lead to disengagement and resentment among team members."

LeapSome mentions the key criteria observed by progressive companies in promoting employees. Curiosity is a trait that supervisors should look for in candidates. "When an employee asks questions, that's a sign that they're engaged and trusting."

Second, a candidate for promotion to a management role must possess managerial and leadership skills. He should be ambitious about managing people and building his leadership skills.

Third, the "ideal candidate should know that more responsibility could bring more challenges. They must be ready to handle these and know when to ask for support", which is never discouraged in professionally managed companies.

Fourth, the time an employee spends with the organisation — or more categorically, "employee achievements made against the time served" — and his experience in a certain role is a useful yardstick. And last, "Giving feedback to employees builds trust, motivates them to improve, and shows that you care about their growth". Candidates value genuine and realistic feedback. Deserving promotions will help companies retain their best talent, besides cutting down on costs, and will impact other team members in a positive way. — Courtesy Dawn

Valuing educators

Gaitee Ara Siddiqi

As an educationist who has worked in multiple schools, I have observed the majority of teachers in private schools struggling to cope with excessive work-related demands. Although a number of high-end schools have employed mental health counsellors for students, very few encourage teachers to approach them, and the educationists themselves do not do so for fear of being stigmatised.

Some schools have counsellors, which both students and teachers, can approach but nothing concrete is achieved as students are primarily 'clients' of the schools and every effort is made to hold on to them. In fact, today, there are multiple cases of students harassing teachers and making their lives miserable, but very little is done to address these issues. Until we learn to value the well-being of our teachers, the future looks very bleak.

Educational institutions are meant to instil values in the student body but since this client mentality has become the trend, teachers are not allowed to say anything to the students. If the teacher feels pressured or overburdened by the excessive workload as well as the mental torture she is subjected to by both the students and the management, she is told to just get on with the job. Most private educational institutions know that teachers are available a dime a dozen and that supply exceeds demand, so that the services of those who do not conform can be easily dispensed with.

In addressing mental health concerns, it is very important that a

congenial environment is fostered not only for the student but also the teaching body because after all, the teaching staff is on the front line. If their mental well-being is looked after, the change will automatically be transmitted to the student body. However, the so-called counsellors can only function in a limited capacity. Their hands are tied and the senior management dictates work policies. Mental health is, unfortunately, very low on their list of priorities, which is why the turnover in the education sector is very high. The environment for teachers is, for the most part, toxic which translates into high absenteeism levels and a high turnover.

Teaching is a noble profession and it is essential for individuals associated with it to be well looked after and given the care they deserve. Think about it: teachers as front-line workers are expected to take an average five to six periods a day, check copies, plan lessons, and carry out all manner of administrative tasks — often at the last minute. With deadlines looming, most are taking work home and working late into the night, although teachers are expected to have a healthier work-life balance than most other professions.

A number of women enter this profession because most of them do not have a choice in the matter as they receive a substantial rebate on the fee of their child who is studying at the school where they teach. Most working women are fighting on a lot of fronts and burning the midnight oil at both ends. Hence, looking after their well-being is of paramount importance.

As individuals

tend to spend most of their day at work, an excessive workload and constant deadlines can lead to stress, anxiety, and depression, and ultimately, burn-out. Teachers must be given time to relax and unwind and be looked after. In fact, it is becoming increasingly stressful for them with each passing day; they are also held accountable for everything that goes amiss as they are soft targets and convenient scapegoats whose services can be easily dispensed with. Very few work out of a passion for the profession or because they have time on their hands; the majority of women in this profession are teaching out of economic necessity which is why it is very important for schools to give them the time, space and mental and emotional care which they need and to be more accommodating of their needs.

Educational institutions should pledge to take care of their teaching staff and ensure a healthy and congenial working environment, which will also benefit them by increasing teacher productivity and resourcefulness. It will be a win-win situation because teachers would then be motivated to deliver, and confident, happy teachers mean confident, self-assured students, which, in turn, will translate to better academic performances.

As a policy, school managements should prioritise the mental health of teachers and encourage, motivate and support them to do their work well.

We should not treat teachers as a means to an end, giving short shrift to their mental and emotional welfare and well-being. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

PM directs strict action to curb hoarding, tax evasion in sugar sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed the Federal Board of Revenue, Federal Investigation Agency and the Intelligence Bureau to carry out joint action to curb the undocumented sale of sugar, tax evasion and price hikes of the commodity.

The prime minister, in a major decision about the sugar mills and sugar-dealers, asked the said these agencies to ensure full

recovery of General Sales Tax as the crushing season was about to start, according to a PM Office press release.

He instructed the authorities concerned to install cameras at the sugar mills to check sugar hoarding to help maintain the prices.

It will also help recover the sales tax by monitoring the mills' production process and checking the hoarding. The prime minister

warned of strict action against the owners of sugar mill founds involved in sugar hoarding and tax evasion.

"No increase in the sugar price will be tolerated," the prime minister said and called for strict action against the "satta mafia."

He also instructed the government agencies to take similar actions in steel, cigarettes, cement, beverages and other sectors.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Pakistan, Mrs. Henny de Vries calls on the Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, at the Finance Division.

Tanveer reiterates govt resolve for uplift of women entrepreneurs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain on Tuesday reaffirmed the government's strong commitment to uplifting women entrepreneurs in Pakistan by addressing the challenges they faced.

He expressed this resolve during a meeting with the Chief Executive Officer of Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority

(SMEDA) Socrat Aman Rana on the occasion of International Women's Entrepreneurship Day.

Secretary Industries and Production Saif Anjum also attended the meeting, which exhibited a commitment to create a conducive business environment for women entrepreneurs in the country, said a news release.

Rana Tanveer said

patronage of the ministry, was poised to introduce a transformative Women Entrepreneurship Policy, aimed at fostering growth, enhancing financial inclusion, and increasing market access for women entrepreneurs across the country.

Currently, only 10% of women entrepreneurs have access to formal markets, and just 2% utilize online marketplaces, he said.

Pakistan, Qatar discuss cooperation in field of IT, Telecom

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Qatar on Tuesday discussed matters of mutual interest, increasing cooperation in field of IT and Telecommunication, startups and cybersecurity.

During a meeting with the ambassador of Qatar to Pakistan Ali Mubarak Ali Essa Al-Khater, Shaza Fatima Khawaja said that Pakistan and Qatar have deep friendly relations, adding that the two countries can jointly work in the field of IT and Telecommunication.

She said Pakistan wanted to further enhance ties with Qatar in the field of IT and Telecommunication, according to a news release.

Shaza Fatima said Pakistan aspired to work with Qatar in the cybersecurity field. The signing of MoUs between the institutes of two countries in the field of technology is vital, she said, adding that IT companies of both countries can do joint ventures.

Gold prices increase further by Rs.3,600 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of 24 karat per tola gold increased further by Rs.3,600 and was sold at Rs.273,500 on Tuesday against its sale at Rs.269,900, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also went up by Rs.3,086 to Rs.234,482 from Rs.231,396 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat gold increased to Rs.214,942 from Rs.212,113. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs.3250 and Rs.2,786 respectively.

Dutch Ambassador, finance minister discuss ways to strengthen ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Pakistan on Tuesday called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb to discuss matters of mutual interest and explore ways for further strengthening the existing ties between Pakistan and The Netherlands. According to press release issued by finance ministry, during the meeting, various aspects of the longstanding friendship and bilateral cooperation

between the two countries were discussed.

They identified priority areas like mining, IT, oil and gas, agriculture, dairy, and farm production for further business collaborations. On the occasion, the minister highlighted the government's economic plan and reform agenda for promoting economic growth and ensuring fiscal sustainability. He mentioned the economic gains achieved over the last 14 months and reiterated the government's resolve to stay the course.

PTCL Group Partners with Atlas Honda Ltd. to champion road safety

LAHORE: PTCL Group, Pakistan's leading telecommunication services provider, has taken a step forward towards road safety with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Atlas Honda Ltd. This collaboration underscores PTCL's commitment to promoting safe commuting practices for motorcyclists and aligns with the Group's

certified trainers from Atlas Honda, aimed at instilling essential safety skills amongst PTCL's field staff, who rely on motorcycles for their daily commute.

The training sessions will cover a comprehensive range of topics, from essential bike handling techniques to advanced road safety protocols. Moreover, the collaboration aims to cultivate a proactive safety mindset amongst PTCL employees, enhancing their awareness and reducing on-road risks.

Furthermore, the MOU with Atlas Honda also exemplifies PTCL Group's commitment to its ever-growing employee well-being program by fostering sustainable activities that benefit employees and contribute to community welfare at large.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja in a meeting with Ambassador of Qatar to Pakistan H.E. Ali Mubarak Ali Essa Al-Khater.

Pak, Germany agree to strengthen collaboration in renewable energy

ISLAMABAD (APP): German Ambassador Alfred Grannas called on Federal Minister for Power, Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari on Tuesday and both sides agreed to strengthen their collaboration in renewable energy and other development projects to ensure continued cooperation moving forward, Ambassador Grannas expressed Germany's commitment to supporting Pakistan's energy sector reforms, said a press release issued here.

He stated that financial and technological assistance would be provided to address key

challenges in the sector, where possible. The ambassador noted that innovations in artificial intelligence and battery storage facilities were helping reduce electricity costs. He acknowledged the important role of Germany's private sector in Pakistan's energy projects.

He assured that cooperation would continue in the future to help Pakistan transition to clean energy.

The minister shared Pakistan's target of having 88% renewable energy in the national mix by 2034.

Remittances surge by 24% due to SIFC's efforts

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan's remittances have witnessed a significant rise of 24 percent due to efforts of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC). According to latest statistics, the annual remittances were registered at three billion dollars by last month.

During the last month, over 766 million dollars were received from Saudi Arabia, 620.9 million dollars from the UAE and 429.5 million dollars were received from the United Kingdom in terms of remittances.

Rupee sheds 10 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Tuesday depreciated 10 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 277.95 against the previous day's closing of Rs 277.85.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 277.40 and Rs 278.90 respectively.

The price of Euro increased by Rs 1.16 to close at Rs 294.17 against the last day's closing of Rs 293.01.

Azma Bokhari says: 300 electric buses for Lahore by year-end

ISLAMABAD (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari Tuesday announced that electric buses would roll out in the province by December's end, a major step to combat smog and boost eco-friendly transportation.

The government's long-term plan, led by the Chief Minister, would further reduce pollution and switch to environmentally friendly transportation solutions.

Azma Bokhari, in an exclusive talk with a private news channel, unveiled Punjab's ambitious plan to

revolutionize public transportation in Lahore, adding, "We are committed to providing eco-friendly transportation solutions to our citizens."

"The 300 electric buses will not only reduce environmental pollution but also provide a comfortable and efficient commute experience," Bokhari explained.

She also expressed her gratitude to Allah and praised the environment department for effectively managing the smog situation in Punjab and revealed, "The Punjab government is planning to transition to green technology soon."

LAHORE: Participants hold a banner during smog awareness campaign walk at Liberty chowk, in the Provincial Capital.



LAHORE: Participants hold a banner during smog awareness campaign walk at Liberty chowk, in the Provincial Capital.

PHC dismisses NAB notice against KP CM

PESHAWAR (APP): A two-member bench of the Peshawar High Court (PHC) on Tuesday dismissed a notice issued by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur.

The bench comprising Chief Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim and Justice Waqar Ahmed conducted a hearing on the petition of Ali Amin. During the proceedings, the petitioner's lawyer argued that NAB could only investigate cases involving amounts exceeding Rs 500 million, while the case in question concerned Rs 304 million. The NAB prosecutor informed the

court that the inquiry against Gandapur was still ongoing and that the notice issued to him had now expired. The prosecutor also clarified that no new notice had been issued to the petitioner and stated that the amount under investigation might exceed Rs 500 million.

Chief Justice PHC Ishtiaq Ibrahim questioned NAB's jurisdiction under the revised laws, noting that only cases involving amounts above Rs 500 million fall within its purview. The court concluded that since no new NAB notice was pending against the petitioner, therefore there was no basis to continue the case.



LAHORE: A delegation of Punjab University students in a group photo with Governor Punjab/Chancellor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House.

CM Punjab launches dialysis program card 1st in history of Pak

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has approved the first 'Chief Minister Dialysis Program Card' in the history of Pakistan and funds for the treatment of each dialysis patient have been increased up to Rs 1 million.

Over Rs. 8.5 million for dialysis and Rs. 1.5 million for tests are being allocated for each patient suffering from kidney disease.

The CM while presiding over a special meeting to review progress

on health programs and other projects, here on Tuesday, directed to ensure free tests and medicines for dialysis patients. She also directed to continue dialysis procedure of patients under any circumstance. It was agreed in principle to establish more dialysis units in Punjab.

The CM directed the Punjab Healthcare Commission to ensure implementation of SOPs in dialysis centres. She directed the Punjab Healthcare Commission to

closely monitor dialysis centres across the province. The CM expressed strong indignation over the spread of AIDS in Multan and sought a report within 24 hours. She said, "Spreading of AIDS among dialysis patients is not only regrettable but also shameful. Halting dialysis procedure due to non-availability of funds is regrettable and it should continue." It was apprised during the briefing that patients from other provinces are also

benefiting from free dialysis facility. Free medicines from Punjab are being provided to Sindh, Balochistan and other areas. It was agreed to set KPIs to determine performance of the health department. A progress report on the Nawaz Sharif Cancer Hospital was presented.

The CM directed to appoint the head of the Nawaz Sharif Cancer Hospital. A report on the ongoing projects of PIC-2 and Nawaz Sharif Institute of Cardiology, Sargodha.

Punjab Governor says: Concrete steps being taken to improve the quality of education in universities

Independent Report
LAHORE: A delegation of Punjab University students called on Governor Punjab/Chancellor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House Lahore. Office bearers of various student societies of Punjab University were included in the delegation. During the meeting, People's Party Punjab Leader, Faisal Mir, PSF Punjab Information Secretary, Sibte Hasan, Member Punjab Executive, Ahsan Rizvi and former President PSF Lahore Mansoor Kataria were also present. Speaking on the

occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that the youth are the future of the country.

He said that the most important purpose of education is to develop tolerance in oneself. Governor Punjab said that concrete steps are being taken to improve the quality of education in universities. Governor Punjab emphasized that students should pay special attention to research and innovation. Governor Punjab said he has always been in favor of union elections.



KARTARPUR: Sikh pilgrims pay their respect during celebrations marking the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak, founder of Sikhism, at the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur near the India-Pakistan border.

Bushra Bibi will not lead protest: Shibli

PESHAWAR (Online): PTI leader Senator Shibli Faraz has said Bushra Bibi will not lead protest as she does not want to come in the politics.

There is no tussle between Bushra Bibi and Ali Amin Gandapur, he said this while talking to media men here Tuesday.

He held all the cases being made against us are fake and they are aimed at pressurizing us. The difference between political worker and terrorist has been ended.

Law and order situation in KP is worse, he said adding police and all forces are after PTI. In this situation who will

control law and order situation.

We are political people and not the terrorists. They are suppressing PTI since the last and two years but we cannot be coerced.

Imposing section 144 in Islamabad is not job of political government, he said adding it is job of cowards.

The petitions regarding details of cases against Shibli Faraz came up for hearing before Peshawar High Court (PHC).

Hearing was conducted by Chief Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim and Justice Waqar Ahmad.

ANF recovers over 210 kg drugs in nine operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting nine operations across the country managed to recover over 210 kg drugs worth Rs 140 million and arrested 11 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman on Tuesday.

He informed that in an operation, 800 grams hashish and 200 grams ice were recovered from an accused arrested near a university in Sialkot.

The arrested accused confessed to selling drugs to the students of educational institutions.

CM KP reviews progress of public complaints portal

PESHAWAR (APP): An important meeting was held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (CM-KP) Ali Amin Gandapur to review the status of public complaints resolution through the public complaints portal (lkhtiyar Awam Ka).

The CM was briefed by the relevant officials on the progress made so far in addressing the complaints registered on the portal.

The meeting was informed that a total of 6,242 complaints have been registered on the

portal so far.

Out of these, 2,559 complaints have been resolved, while 3,683 complaints are still being processed. As many as 1,200 citizens have received relief through the portal, and 757 citizens have received partial relief.

The participants were informed that 13,384 citizens have registered on the portal, with nearly 300 women actively using the service. District Peshawar has reported the highest number of complaints, with 1,458 complaints, followed by Mardan 405, Bannu 363, Dera Ismail

Khan 335, and Abbottabad 344. Complaints related to municipal services topped the list with 1,966 complaints, followed by issues in education 1,040, public agenda implementation 876, corruption 602, and law and order 539.

The CM emphasized that complaints must be resolved within three to seven days.

He expressed dissatisfaction over delays in resolving certain complaints and warned the relevant authorities of strict action against any negligence.

International News

Ukraine hits Russia with US ATACMS missiles for first time on war's 1,000th day

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Ukraine used US ATACMS missiles to strike Russian territory on Tuesday, taking advantage of newly granted permission from the outgoing Biden administration on the war's 1,000th day.

Russia said its forces shot down five of six of the missiles, which were fired at a military facility in the Bryansk region. Debris of one hit the facility, starting a fire that was swiftly put out and caused no casualties or damage, it said.

Ukraine said it had struck a Russian arms depot around 110 kilometres inside Russia in an attack that caused secondary explosions. The Ukrainian military did not publicly specify what weapons it had used, but a Ukrainian official source and a US official later confirmed it had used ATACMS.

President Joe Biden gave approval just this

week for Ukraine to use the ATACMS, the longest-range missiles Washington has supplied, for such attacks inside Russia. Moscow has de-

Putin issues warning to United States with new nuclear doctrine

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin issued a warning to the United States on Tuesday, lowering the threshold for a nuclear strike just days after the administration of Joe Biden reportedly allowed Ukraine to fire American missiles deep into Russia.

The updated doctrine, formally known as "The basics of state policy in the field of nuclear deterrence", outlines the threats that would make Russia, the world's biggest nuclear power, contemplate using such weapons.

Russia would consider a nuclear strike if it, or its ally Belarus, faced aggression "with the use of conventional weapons that created a critical threat to their sovereignty and [or] their territorial integrity", the new doctrine said.

The previous doctrine, set out in a 2020 decree, said Russia may use nuclear weapons in case of a nuclear attack by an enemy or a conventional attack that threatened the existence of the state.

Trump plans to use military for mass deportation

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: President-elect Donald Trump confirmed on Monday that he plans to declare a national emergency on border security and use the US military to carry out a mass deportation of undocumented migrants.

Immigration was a top issue in the election campaign, and Trump has promised to deport millions and stabilise the border with Mexico after record numbers of migrants crossed illegally during President Joe Biden's administration. On his social media platform Truth Social, Trump amplified a recent post by a conservative activist that said the president-elect was "prepared to declare a national emergency and will use military assets to reverse the Biden invasion through a mass deportation programme."



US President Joe Biden delivers remarks during an event launching the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty at the G20 Summit at the Museum of Modern Art in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

China's Xi urges G20 to help 'cool' Ukraine crisis

Monitoring Desk
RIO DE JANEIRO: Chinese President Xi Jinping urged G20 leaders to support efforts to de-escalate the war in Ukraine and reach a "political solution," state media reported.

His remarks at the G20 summit in Brazil come shortly after Ukraine received a US green light to launch long-range missiles provided by Washington against targets inside Russia.

"The G20 should support the United Nations and its Security Council in playing a greater role, and support all efforts conducive to the peaceful settlement of crises," Xi said,

according to Chinese state broadcaster CCTV.

He called for leaders to avoid "spillovers" from battlefields and escalation of fighting, and to help "cool the Ukraine crisis and seek a political solution."

War in Ukraine continues to rage since Russia's invasion in 2022.

China presents itself as a neutral party in the war and says it is not sending lethal assistance to either side, unlike the United States and other Western nations.

But it remains a close political and economic ally of Russia. NATO members have branded Beijing a "decisive enabler" of the war,

Lebanon says Israeli strike on central Beirut kills five

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Lebanon's health ministry said Israel struck a densely packed Beirut neighbourhood on Monday, killing five people, in the third attack in two days on the city's central districts.

"The Israeli enemy strike on Zaqaq al-Blat in Beirut killed five people and injured 24," a ministry statement said, giving an updated death toll.

The official National News Agency (NNA) said an apartment near a Shiite Muslim place of worship had been targeted.

Iran offers to cap sensitive uranium stock to avoid IAEA resolution

Monitoring Desk
VIENNA: Iran has offered not to expand its stock of uranium enriched to up to 60% purity, near the roughly 90% of weapons grade, and made preparations to do that, the UN nuclear watchdog said in confidential reports to member states on Tuesday.

During International Atomic Energy Agency chief Rafael Grossi's trip to Iran last week.

Biden pledges record \$4bn to World Bank fund for poorest countries

Monitoring Desk
RIO DE JANEIRO: US President Joe Biden pledged a \$4 billion US contribution to the World Bank's International Development Association fund for the world's poorest countries, a senior Biden administration official said on Monday.

Biden announced the three-year US pledge during a closed session of the Group of 20 summit in Rio de Janeiro, the official told reporters, adding that the US Treasury was leading negotiations at the World Bank for the IDA replenishment.

The new US pledge is a record and substantially exceeds the \$3.5bn Washington committed in the previous IDA fund replenishment round in December 2021.

It is unclear if US President-elect Donald Trump, who has proposed cutting foreign aid in the past, will honour Biden's pledge as he and billionaire Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk seek to slash US spending through a new government efficiency panel.

An appropriation by the US Congress to fund the commitment would not likely take place until after Trump takes office in January.



Palestinians gather to receive food cooked by a charity kitchen, amid a hunger crisis, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip.

Jailing of 45 Hong Kong democrats in landmark trial draws criticism

Monitoring Desk
HONG KONG: Hong Kong's High Court on Tuesday jailed 45 pro-democracy activists for up to 10 years following a landmark national security trial that has damaged the city's once feisty democracy movement and drawn criticism from the US and other countries.

Benny Tai, a former legal scholar identified in the judgement as a "mastermind" of the activists' plans, was sentenced to 10 years in jail, the longest sentence so far under the 2020 national security law.

The charges related to the organising of an unofficial "primary election" in 2020 to select the best candidates for an upcoming legislative election.

The activists were accused by prosecutors of plotting to paralyse the government by engaging in potentially disruptive acts had they been elected.

PM expresses satisfaction over implementation of MoUs on \$2.8 bln Saudi Investment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday, emphasizing the significance of cooperation between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia in different sectors, expressed satisfaction over the implementation of recently signed bilateral MoUs for Saudi investment worth \$2.8 billion in Pakistan.

The bilateral ties were discussed as Deputy Interior Minister of Saudi Arabia, who is on an official visit to Pakistan, paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, according to a PM Office press release.

Recalling the historic and fraternal relations between the two countries, the prime minister thanked the Saudi leadership and government for always supporting Pakistan and said both sides were working together to further

strengthen Pakistan-Saudi Arabia ties into mutually beneficial economic and investment cooperation.

The prime minister welcomed the Saudi Deputy Interior Minister to Pakistan and wished him a successful visit.

He also conveyed his greetings and best wishes to The Custodian of Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud and Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud.

Discussing the situation in Gaza and the broader Middle East, the prime minister recalled the recent Arab-Islamic Summit held in Riyadh, and appreciated the leadership of Saudi Arabia for holding the event and also the stance of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman over the issue of Palestine.

Prime Minister Shehbaz lauded the leadership role of Saudi Arabia and the efforts of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in unifying the Ummah to collectively seek an end to violence in Gaza due to Israel's genocidal actions.

Emphasizing the significance of bilateral cooperation in defence and security sectors, he said that the visit of the Saudi deputy interior minister and his delegation would help bring both sides closer in terms of cooperation in these specific areas.

Prime Minister Shehbaz also reiterated his invitation to Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to undertake an official visit to Pakistan at his earliest convenience as the people of Pakistan were waiting to accord him a very warm welcome.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Interior Minister of Saudi Arabia H.E. Dr. Nasser bin Abdul Aziz Al Dawood calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Safe City project accelerated to step up public safety

KARACHI (APP): Chief Minister Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that work on the first phase of the Karachi Safe City project has been accelerated to enhance public safety and security, which is a top priority of his government.

In a detailed report presented to him by Asif Ajaz Shaikh, the Director General of the Sindh Safe Cities Authority (SSCA), the Chief Minister learnt that the project is progressing rapidly, with significant milestones already achieved. Key areas, including the Expo Centre and its surroundings, are now under improved surveillance.

Mr Shah was told that 157 out of 300 planned pole sites have been successfully installed, with 20 poles currently powered and operational. Furthermore, 100 cameras are actively monitored from the CPO Control Room and the SSCA Headquarters.

Five Emergency Response Vehicles (ERVs) have been equipped and are currently deployed, while the installation of command centre equipment is ongoing. A dedicated monitoring room has also been established at the SSCA Headquarters. The CM was told that on his instructions, comprehensive security for IDEAS 2024 had been ensured by activating all poles in strategic locations.

This includes areas such as Shahrah-e-Faisal, the vicinity of the Expo Centre, the surroundings of the airport, and the Civic Centre, all of which are now equipped with robust surveillance capabilities.

The chief minister praised the progress and emphasised the importance of completing the project on schedule to enhance public safety and security in Karachi.

Marri stresses importance of dialogue in addressing national challenges

KARACHI (APP): A prominent leader of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Shazia Marri Tuesday urged the government and opposition to resolve their differences through dialogue, criticizing PTT's destructive politics that has disturbed citizens and damaged state property.

The Bilawal House spokesperson said that the KP governor had informed Bhutto-Zardari about the "unfair attitude" by the federal government. Few days back, Bhutto-Zardari reacted to the VPN shutdown and slow speed of the internet.

Expressing his thoughts in Karachi, the former foreign minister stated, "We have not been taken on board regarding the outages of the VPN and internet. Those who have made the decision not to know anything about the VPN."

"We would have given suggestions to the government if it had taken us on board regarding the shutdown of the VPN," he said.

Bhutto-Zardari said, "Now the world is all about the fast internet speed. They say that the government is providing the 4G service. Lies are being made regarding the 4G speed. Now the internet speed is further being slowed."

"Not only are the Chinese people our guests, but they are also friends. China has an objective to steer Pakistan's economy toward prosperity and ensure the uplift of the masses," he added.

He said: "If I were part of the judicial commission, then I would raise the point pertaining to the difference in the constitutional bench." Bhutto-Zardari said, "The government has backtracked from its promises made during the time of the legislation."

Bilawal directs KP governor to convene APC on law and order situation

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KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister for Information, Transport, and Mass Transit, Sharjeel Inam talking to media after inaugurating monitoring cell of people's bus service kay at Clifton.



KARACHI: Six member delegation of Oman led by H.E. Engr. Sami Abdullah Salim Al Khanjari, Consul General of Oman meeting with Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House.

Ethiopian ambassador lauds Governor Sindh for youth empowerment initiatives

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Envoy and Ambassador Extraordinary of Ethiopia to Pakistan, Dr. Jemal Bekir Abdula on Tuesday met with Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori and discussed different means to enhance bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation between the two countries.

Both sides discussed matters of common interest including needful initiatives to increase bilateral cooperation in aviation, economic, education, health, science and technology sectors. The meeting was also attended by Ibrahim Tawab, Honorary Consul of Ethiopia in Karachi, said

A press release, issued here.

Ambassador Jemal Bekir Abdula visited the Governor Sindh about the second phase of Home Grown Economic Reforms Programme of Ethiopia, which is aimed at addressing macroeconomic imbalances, increasing productivity, creating ease of doing business, and also a conducive environment for Foreign Direct Investment through domestically designed policies.

The ambassador also highlighted enormous business, trade and investment opportunities in its major economic sectors including agriculture, agro-processing, manufacturing, mining, tourism and ICT.

Jl moves ECP against rigged by-polls results

KARACHI (INP): Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) candidates have moved the Election Commission of Pakistan against the pre-poll and post-poll rigging in the recent local government by-polls in the mega city.

Ansarullah and Kamran Solangi—the JI candidates respectively from Union Council 7 of Model Town and UC 7 of Korangi—submitted form 11 and 12 as well as other proves of rigging before the ECP in Islamabad.

The petitioners submitted that the Pakistan People Party government and the provincial election commission rigged the by-polls.

The two submitted their respective form 11 and 12 duly signed by the relevant officials, according to which they won the polls with a significant majority.

Sindh Governor, Oman CG discuss matters of importance, IDEAS 2024

KARACHI (APP): A six-member delegation led by the Consul General of Oman Eng. Sami Abdullah Khanjari called on Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House on Tuesday.

The Consul General of Oman said that Oman was willing to invest in various sectors of the province.

He said that Oman always prioritized Pakistan's strong economy and defense. He said that IDEAS 2024 was a clear expression of Pakistan's capability.

He said that the attractive sectors of the province were excellent for investment.

Tessori said that he was keen to increase trade with Oman.

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Pakistan, ADB sign \$500 mln for climate resilience

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Tuesday signed a US\$500 million loan agreement for the Climate and Disaster Resilience Enhancement Program (CDREP).

The agreement was signed after the approval of Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahmad Cheema, according to a press release issued by the Economic Affairs Division (EAD).

Secretary of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Dr. Kazim Niaz and ADB Country Director, Ms. Emma Fan signed the Loan Agreement. The ceremony was attended by senior officials from the government and ADB.

SFA, WFP sign MoU to implement Fortification of Whole Wheat Flour through Small-Scale Mills

KARACHI: Sindh Food Authority (SFA) and the World Food Programme (WFP) have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to implement the "Fortification of Whole Wheat Flour through Small-Scale Mills (Chakkis)" project in Sindh.

This initiative aims to enhance the nutritional health of vulnerable populations by ensuring access to wheat flour fortified with essential micronutrients, said a statement on Tuesday.

The project, part of WFP's Pakistan Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2023–2027, will initially be rolled out in eight districts of Sindh: Karachi Central, Karachi East, Malir, Mirpurkhas, Sukkur, Khairpur, Shaheed Benazirabad, and Naushero Feroz.

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Director General, SFA, Muzammil Hussain Halepoto, and Ms. Coco Ushiyama, Representative and Country Director, WFP Pakistan, reaffirming their shared commitment to improving nutritional health in Sindh.

FTO vows to address ABAD's tax concerns on priority basis

KARACHI (INP): Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) Dr. Asif Mahmood Jah has stated that tax-related issues of the Association of Builders and Developers (ABAD) will be resolved on a priority basis.

Eliminating irregularities in the tax system is part of the FTO's responsibilities, he added. He also assured that a representative appointed by ABAD will be made an advisor to the FTO to address the tax issues facing builders and developers.

Meanwhile, ABAD Chairman Hassan Bakhshi highlighted the problems of tax issues faced by builders and developers inflicted by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR).

To address the concerns of the construction sector and taxpayers, FTO Dr. Asif Mahmood visited ABAD House, Senior Vice Chairman Syed Afzal Hamid, Vice Chairman Tariq Aziz, Chairman Southern Region Ahmed Owais Thanvi, FTO Advisor (Legal) Almas Ali Jowanda, Advisor Incharge Faiz Elahi Memon, Income Tax Advisor Fazal Muhammad Abrejo, Customs Advisor Gul-ur-Rehman, Director Abid Mahmood, Sales Tax Advisor Badaruddin Ahmed Qureshi, Assistant Director Protocol Shahid Nawaz, and several ABAD members were present during the meeting.

Whole story will come to open within 72 hours: Faisal Vawda

ISLAMABAD (Online): Senator Faisal Vawda has said water is going to turn into bubble on November 24 and no release is going to be made.

PTI leaders are enjoying perks by bargaining over PTI founder. Inside the talks are running. The whole story will come to open within 72 hours, he said this while talking to media men here Tuesday.

He held PTI walas give call of protest every other day. They have also given call for protest on November 24 and now we have to see they selected this day for what purpose. Their all drama is meant for the release of PTI founder.

Ali Amin Gandapur himself is sitting in the feet after asking the people to wear shroud.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in a meeting with Minister/Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at Foreign, Commonwealth & Development, United Kingdom Mr. Hamish Falconer along with delegation at Parliament House.

Standing committee on livestock and fisheries Cattle colonies should be transferred from local government to livestock department: Owais

Independent Report KARACHI: The introductory meeting of the Standing Committee on Livestock and Fisheries of the Sindh Assembly was held today in the committee room of Sindh Assembly. Members discussed various suggestions to make the department profitable and decided to raise the issue of transferring cattle colonies from the Local Government Department to the Livestock Department in the Assembly. The meeting was attended by Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Muhammad Ali Malkani, Standing Committee Chairman MPA Muhammad Owais, Assembly Members Muhammad Shabbir, Sajid Hussain, Sajjad Ali, Wajid Hussain Khan, Syed Amir Ali Shah, Secretary Livestock Dr. Kazim Hussain Jatoti, Dr. Nazir Kalhoro, and other relevant officials.

Secretary Dr. Kazim Hussain Jatoti briefed the participants about the department's performance and resources. He stated that the livestock sector contributes 14.36% to Pakistan's GDP and 62.68% to the agricultural GDP, making it a crucial pillar of the economy. Sindh is home to 23% of the country's livestock population, providing employment to more than 8 million rural families.

Dr. Jatoti further shared that the department currently operates 1,153 veterinary hospitals, 33 mobile units, 8 breeding farms, and 15 laboratories, where facilities for disease diagnosis and treatment are provided. He highlighted that the management of cattle colonies under the Local Government Department creates administrative challenges. Chairman MPA Muhammad Owais recommended transferring these colonies to the Livestock Department to ensure better management.

Police arrests drug peddler, recover marijuana

HYDERABAD (APP): On the directives of the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), the crackdown against narcotics was continued.

In this connection, Station House Officer (SHO) of Sakhi Pir police station Tufail Ahmed Bhutto acting on a tip-off with his staff conducted a raid near goods naka sattu shah road and arrested drug peddler Rehan alias Haqla Qureshi and recovered 1166 kg marijuana from his possession.

Police have registered a case against the accused under the substance of the narcotics control act.

DC Matiari launches 7th Agricultural Census 2024

HYDERABAD (APP): The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) has officially launched the 7th Agricultural Census 2024 in District Matiari, which was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Yousuf Shaikh.

District Coordinator Liaquat Ali Ghangro and other relevant officials were also present at the event.

According to a hand-out issued on Tuesday, this census was the first of its kind in Pakistan and the seventh most significant initiative globally. The program will run from December 2 to January 15, during which a detailed survey of 59 blocks in Matiari district will be conducted.

To complete this process, a team of 42 individuals has been formed, who will undergo three days of training from November 19 to November 21. Expert trainers from the National Institute of Banking and Finance (NIBAF) in Islamabad will provide the training.

The main objective of the agricultural census was to gather essential data on agriculture, livestock, dairy farming, and machinery, which will serve as a foundation for improving agricultural policies, increasing production and ensuring resource allocation in the future.



HYDERABAD: Activists of Sindhiyani Tahreek stage a protest against proposed construction of six canals over Indus river outside HPC.



HYDERABAD: Relatives of the patients are sitting in the civil hospital premises.

PPP leader Chan lashes out at Sharif family for linking bankruptcy to Bhutto era

HAFIZABAD (INP): Pakistan People's Party leader Nadeem Afzal Chan has criticized the Sharif family for dragging the era of former prime minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto into the discussion about their financial troubles.

In a message posted on the social media platform X, Nadeem Afzal Chan said, "You are going bankrupt today, and that too in the UK—how is Bhutto's era relevant? The same actions taking place here are happening there as well. Have some shame."

He further stated that the Sharif family should tell the nation the truth—that they have claimed bankruptcy to avoid paying

taxes in the UK.

Chan added, "If the leadership doesn't stop us, we will reveal all the hidden facts." This came after a London High Court ruling that declared the company owned by Hassan Nawaz, son of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, bankrupt. In response, the Sharif family issued a statement, claiming that the process of bankruptcy began in 1972, when Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto nationalised industries, affecting the Sharif family as well.

The Sharif family's spokesperson also claimed that General Pervez Musharraf's regime had seized their factories and homes.

Court awarded 12 years imprisonment to drug pusher with 2 lac fine

LARKANA (APP): District Sessions and Drug Prevention Special Court of Larkana sentenced the accused to 12 years imprisonment and a fine of 2 lac rupees after being found guilty in the drug case on Tuesday. According to the judgement of the court, in the court of Judge Samkan Hussain Mughal of Larkana District and Sessions and Special Narcotics Prevention Court, a drug case was filed at Walid Police Station was heard seven months ago, where the accused, Sajjad Makol, was sentenced to 12 years in prison after being found guilty and he has been sentenced to a fine of two lac rupees.

He was arrested during the police patrolling of Walid police station on April 28, 2024, accused Sajjad Makol from Arjia Road and a similar case was also filed claiming to have recovered two kg of hashish from him.



KARACHI: A view of massive traffic jam at Liaqatabad area in day hours, in the Provincial Capital.

Workshop on "World Boxing" to be beneficial for players: Maryam

HYDERABAD (APP): A Workshop on "World Boxing Competition Rules, Doping and Fitness" was held at Sindh Sports Board Hostel Hall Hyderabad under the auspices of Sindh Boxing Association.

Maryam Keerio, DSO Hyderabad, Muhammad Asghar Baloch, President Sindh Boxing Association, Perwaiz Ahmad Shaikh Associate Secretary Sindh Olympic Association, Ahmed Nawaz, President PDP Foundation Pakistan, Sardar Atta Muhammad Baloch, President Hyderabad Divisional Boxing Association and Rameez Raja Coordinator Hyderabad Olympic Sports Committee participated.

After the recitation of the Holy Quran, President Sindh Boxing Association Perwaiz Ahmad Shaikh welcomed the participants and informed them about the significance, usefulness and necessity of this workshop. Muhammad Asghar Baloch gave awareness about world boxing affairs and rules and conducted practical exercises later.

Ahmad Nawaz informed about important points related to doping & its control.