

Romina Alam highlights Pakistan's commitment to environmental protection

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam has said Pakistan is focusing on environmental conservation, climate and glaciological research, protected areas management, ecotourism and the socio-economic development of mountain communities.

Addressing a press conference jointly organized by the Ministry of Climate Change and EvK2CNR on the occasion of launching "The new inventory of 13,032 glaciers in Pakistan: the 'glaciers and students' project", the PM's aide lauded the role of the Italian government and the support to Pakistan and particularly in Gilgit-Baltistan and added that the contribution of EvK2CNR and UNDP in carrying out comprehensive studies develop the new glaciers inventory of Pakistan that has revealed the new remarkable number of 13032 gla-

ciers in Pakistan. She highlighted the challenges of climate change faced by Pakistan and underscored the need for international collaboration.

Romina said Pakistan has long been grappling with climate-triggered disasters that have caused significant loss of life and property. In recent years, she said that the frequency and intensity of these events have increased, reminding us of the severe impact of global warming and climate change on our country.

She said that among the most affected regions is Gilgit-Baltistan, which faces particular vulnerabilities and requires urgent, sustained interventions, especially from our trusted international partners such as Italy.

She said the government of Pakistan, through the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, places im-

mense value on initiatives aimed at addressing climate change, advancing environmental research and monitoring, and promoting sustainable practices in ecotourism and protected area management.

"One of the great achievements is the recent glacier inventory conducted in Pakistan, which has revealed that we have a total of 13,032 glaciers across the country.

This is a significant finding, made possible through the collaboration of experts from EvK2CNR, along with universities and government institutions in Gilgit-Baltistan, supported by Italian universities. This project exemplifies the importance of international cooperation in tackling the climate crisis, and I would like to commend the role of UNDP as the executing agency, working in partnership with EvK2CNR", she noted.



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam addressing a press conference on the launch of new inventory of glaciers in Pakistan along with Italian Ambassador, Marilina Armellini.

NA body calls for quick execution of ML-1, strategic projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly's Standing Committee on Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (PD&SI) on Thursday stressed the need for swift and transparent execution of strategic development projects, including the Main Line-1 (ML-1) of Pakistan Railways under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The meeting, chaired by Acting Chairperson Farhan Chishti, focused on ensuring timely progress and transparent reporting on these crucial initiatives, which are vital for national economic growth and infrastructural modernization.

Representatives from the Planning Ministry briefed the committee on previous project recommendations, noting that several key projects remain unfunded while others have

recently been transferred to provincial authorities.

During the meeting, members raised concerns about delays in fund allocation and the evolving role of the Public Works Department (PWD) as it transitions under a new structure.

The committee highlighted the need for clarity on the ministry's operational scope, especially regarding the oversight of federal development schemes and securing budget allocations for high-priority projects.

Officials from the Ministry of Railways presented an updated plan for the ML-1 project, originally designed to enhance freight and passenger connectivity from Karachi to Peshawar.

They emphasized a phased approach to the project, with Phase I prioritizing the Karachi-Hyderabad section, which

would help reduce travel time between these two cities.

The committee sought clarification on funding details, as 85% of the project cost would be financed by China, with the remainder covered by Pakistani equity.

Committee members also questioned the project's operational speed, currently capped at 160 km/h, and Ministry officials explained that achieving higher speeds would require significant realignment and increased costs.

The committee issued several key recommendations to ensure these projects are executed transparently and efficiently. It emphasized the need for an immediate convening of the steering committee to finalize direction and execution timelines for ongoing federal projects.

IGP Islamabad reviews functioning of safe city cameras in federal capital

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: The Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi chaired a meeting with Safe City technical officers at the Central Police Office Islamabad.

During the meeting, the IGP reviewed the functionality of the Safe City cameras, the use of modern technical resources, and public facilities aimed at crime prevention in the fed-

eral capital. He also assessed the overall performance related to the provision of new software and advanced technology in Safe City Islamabad.

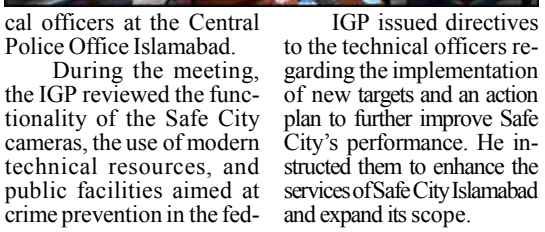
The ambitious infrastructure project is set to transform one of Islamabad's busiest intersections, improving traffic flow and marking a new era in the city's road network development.

According to a CDA spokesperson, the project was prioritized due to the increasing traffic congestion in the area and the need for efficient urban connectivity.

"The Serena Chowk Interchange is a pivotal part of our city's growth strategy. We are committed to completing this project with efficiency and minimal disruption to daily commuters," the spokesperson stated.

On the first day of construction, contractors mobilized quickly, clearing initial pathways and setting up equipment to ensure work began without delay.

The project is designed to ease bottlenecks on the busy Serena Chowk, which connects various major roads in the capital.



IHC summons supdt Adiala jail on contempt of court plea

ISLAMABAD (Online): Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan of Islamabad High Court (IHC) has summoned superintendent Adiala jail today (Friday) on contempt of court plea for not allowing meeting of political leaders with PTI founder despite court orders. The court inquired from state counsel what is reason it happens repeatedly. If petition comes despite our order then we had written fine will be slapped on state. Advocate Faisal Chaudhry counsel for former Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan appeared in the court.

Faisal Chaudhry took the plea orders have been issued by the court already. The court had issued orders as per jail rules.

The court questioned what is situation now.

Counsel Faisal Chaudhry replied meetings with party leaders have been again cancelled. We bother court repeatedly but we have to come here under compulsion. Shibli Faraz, Umar Ayoub and Asad Qaisar were not allowed to meet Imran Khan. This court had constituted commission comprising 3 lawyers but implementation is not being made.



ISLAMABAD: The outgoing Ambassador of Nepal to Pakistan Amb. Tapas Adhikari pays a farewell call to Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Muqam lambasts KP gov't for job terminations, suspensions of teachers on protest

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan, and SAFRON, Engineer Amir Muqam, on Thursday condemned the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government for pressuring and threatening teachers with dismissal or suspension for participating in any form of protest. Addressing a news conference, alongside MNA Mubarak Zeb Khan from Bajaur, the minister expressed disappointment with the KP government's double standards. He criticized the PTI-led administration for claiming to champion people's rights while

pressing teachers and denying their rightful entitlements.

He criticized the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government's treatment with teachers and pledged the federal government's support to educators. He promised to continue advocating for teachers' rights.

Muqam also criticized the PTI government for planning to file an FIR against the Inspector General of Islamabad and others involved in the raid on the KP House last month, following the reported presence of terrorists there.

He criticized the KP

Chief Minister for his irresponsible behavior, claiming that his rhetoric about occupying Islamabad and Lahore undermines his credibility. He accused the CM of misusing provincial resources to reward employees with promotions and privileges, and forcing them to attend protests at D Chowk, Islamabad.

He urged PTI supporters to investigate why CM Gandapur mysteriously left D-Chowk during the protest last month, abandoning party supporters. He also warned the CM against turning the KP House in Islamabad into a hub for terrorists.

NA secretariat urges Parliamentary reporters to refrain from recording videos within Parliament House

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly secretariat has requested all parliamentary reporters to refrain from recording videos within Parliament House.

During the tenth session of the National Assembly, it was observed that some journalists were recording interviews and remarks from member of the parliament in the corridors without prior consent, later sharing these videos on social media.

The members have expressed serious reservations and brought the matter to the attention of the

Speaker of the National Assembly.

In a statement, the secretariat said, "A decision has been made to impose a ban on any kind of video recording within Parliament House."

Penalties for violating this directive may include confiscation of mobile phones, revocation of press gallery access cards, and restricted entry to Parliament House.

The NA Secretariat has urged media personnel to cooperate with this new policy for the smooth functioning of parliamentary proceedings.

QAU achieves 84th position in QS Asia Ranking 2025

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's top-ranked, Quaid-e-Azam University (QAU), Islamabad, has once again shined by securing the 84th position in the QS Asia Rankings 2025, and Ranked 9th in South Asia. This marks further improvement of university from last year, reflecting QAU's dedication to excellence in academia and research.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr Niaz Ahmed Akhtar congratulated all stakeholders on this remarkable achievement. He emphasized the university's commitment to maintaining its reputation and achieving further success in the years ahead.



ISLAMABAD: Baloch stall holders carrying Balochi traditional items for displaying on their stall in connection with Lok Mela title "Focusing on the Youth of Pakistan" start on 8 November at Lok Virsa, in the Federal Capital.

SPARC says: Immediate regulation on emerging tobacco, nicotine products

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC) is urgently calling for immediate regulation on emerging tobacco and nicotine products, which have seen a troubling rise in popularity among children and youth in Pakistan. Health activists warn that these products, often marketed as safer alternatives to traditional cigarettes, pose significant health risks and contribute to the growing tobacco epidemic, particularly among vulnerable populations.

Dr. Khalil Ahmad, Program Manager at SPARC, expressed grave concern over the tobacco industry's tactics.

"The industry is aggressively promoting emerging nicotine products, which are designed to attract young users through appealing marketing strategies that mislead them into believing that these prod-

ucts are less harmful than conventional cigarettes. This deceptive narrative undermines public health efforts and exposes children to addictive substances," he stated. Research indicates that many young people mistakenly believe that using emerging nicotine products is safe, often leading to increased experimentation and addiction. This trend is particularly alarming, as it fosters a new generation of nicotine users and complicates efforts to reduce overall tobacco consumption in the country.

Dr. Khalil further highlighted the urgent need for regulatory measures.

"Pakistan currently lacks a legal framework governing the promotion, sale, and advertisement of these products. The government must act swiftly to restrict emerging tobacco and nicotine products to protect the health of our future generations.

Face masks must for respiratory patients, citizens amid smog

ISLAMABAD (APP): Renowned Critical Care Physician and Pulmonologist Dr. Aftab Akhtar Thursday warned the public about fluctuating weather conditions as smog was causing health hazard to asthma patients, heightening the risk of severe respiratory issues triggered by rising pollen levels.

In an interview with a private news channel he stressed that wearing a face mask outdoors is a simple yet effective way to filter out pollen and reducing the risk of asthma attacks.

Dr. Akhtar warned that the importance of vigilance and preparedness in managing asthma during changing weather conditions.

"Smog contains toxic particles that can exacerbate respiratory issues, such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), he said, adding, face masks act as a barrier, filtering out these pollutants.

Nepal's outgoing ambassador calls on PM Shehbaz Sharif

ISLAMABAD (APP): The outgoing Ambassador of Nepal to Pakistan Tapas Adhikari Thursday paid a farewell call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the PM House.

During the meeting, the prime minister stressed that Pakistan valued its friendly relations with Nepal. While fondly recalling his meeting with Nepalese Prime Minister K. P. Sharma Oli on the margins of the UNGA in New York in September this year, the prime minister underscored the need to expand bilateral cooperation, particularly in trade and investment.

PM Shehbaz Sharif

appreciated Ambassador Adhikari's efforts to strengthen bilateral ties between Pakistan and Nepal, while acknowledging his role in promoting people-to-people contacts and cultural exchange between the two countries.

Ambassador Adhikari praised Pakistan's progress under Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's leadership and expressed gratitude for the support extended to him during his tenure in Pakistan.

The prime minister emphasized the need to enhance regional cooperation for peace and prosperity of the peoples of South Asia.



ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary Ministry of Human Rights Mrs. Saba Sadiq visiting Transgender Protection Centre.

Ambassador Farhadov says: Azerbaijan stands united with full resilience to celebrate Victory Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Khazar Farhadov has said that Azerbaijan is united with full resilience to celebrate November 8, the Victory Day of Azerbaijan.

"We stood by our commitment to peace, but we made it clear: Azerbaijan would never accept the occupation of its lands. The" the Ambassador said.

Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Khazar Farhadov said this while addressing the ceremony on the Victory Day of Azerbaijan here.

He said that this day holds profound significance not only for the honor of our nation but also for the future we are building and it is a symbol of resilience, strength, and the unyielding spirit of Azerbaijan.

"We are deeply grateful to the countries that stood with us, and today I must highlight the steadfast support of our brothers and sisters in Pakistan."

The Ambassador of Azerbaijan said that throughout the second Karabakh War, Pakistan's leaders voiced unequivocal support for Azerbaijan's just cause, strengthening our determination.

He said that Pakistan has consistently honored our friendship, even refusing to establish diplomatic relations with Armenia due to the occupation of our lands. In recent years, several agreements were signed during the high level visits of the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif to Azerbaijan and the President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev to Pakistan.

Interior ministry, others put on notice on Asad petition for details of cases

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has issued notice and sought reply from interior ministry and other respondents on PTI leader Asad Qaisar petition requesting court to issue orders for providing details of cases registered against him.

The court while issuing notice to interior ministry and other respondents sought reply from them.

It is pertinent to mention here interior ministry, IGs of all the four provinces and Islamabad, chief commissioner, NAB and FIA were made respondents in the petition too.

The court while issuing notice to interior ministry and other respondents adjourned the hearing of the petition.

The counsel for petitioner said there was risk of his arrest in any unknown case.

Asad Qaisar said or-

ders be issued for providing detail of inquiries, investigations and cases registered against him in all over the country. Information about cases registered against him in FIA, Police and NAB is also provided to him.

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DIG Raza, SP Pari Gul hold open court to address women's issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police Syed Ali Raza and Superintendent of Police (SP) Sawan Pari Gul Tareen conducted a Khuli Kacheri (open court) at the Women Police Station on Thursday.

A public relation officer told APP that the SP City Khalid Mahmood Awan was also present at the Khuli Kacheri, where a large number of women participated in raising their concerns directly.

He said during the session, women expressed their issues openly, with DIG Raza and SP Sawan

Pari Gul Tareen listening attentively and issuing orders for immediate solutions. DIG Raza and SP Pari Gul said that women's police stations and online police stations have been established to address women's issues. Women can also register their complaints online by calling 1815, while additional complaints and grievances can be submitted to the IGP Grievance Cell at 1715, they said. Inspector General (IG) Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi said that the ICT Police are committed to reaching citizens through multiple platforms and resolving their concerns.



Senator Faisal Saleem Rehman, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Interior presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Friday November 08, 2024

Trump 2.0

Come January and Donald Trump will move back into the White House to begin his second presidential term...

A flood of congratulations pouring in from world leaders indicate that global capitals are now preparing to deal with a Trump presidency...

Domestically, high inflation was likely the biggest trigger that prompted Americans to vote for Mr Trump...

On the foreign front, the Biden administration's unyielding support for Israel's genocidal campaigns in occupied Palestine and Lebanon alienated most Arab- and Muslim-Americans...

By January, the surprise in many quarters at Mr Trump's return would have fizzled out, and he will have to deliver on his promise of 'making America great again'...

As for Israel, Donald Trump is an unabashed supporter of Tel Aviv, and the far right in Israel is jubilant at his return. It remains to be seen how his promises to Arab-American voters to bring 'peace' to the Middle East reconcile with his blatantly pro-Israel bias...

As for Pakistan, the last few American administrations have maintained lukewarm ties with this country, and there is little to suggest an improvement in relations under the new Trump set-up.

Ali Tauqeer Sheikh

The history of fossil fuel industry has come full circle. The climate summit begins on Nov 11 in Baku, Azerbaijan, which was one of the first major centres of commercial oil extraction...

A complex agenda awaits Pakistan's delegation at the upcoming climate summit. It is structured around two main pillars, both central to Pakistan's climate resilience and economic development...

Khurram Husain

Nothing is more important for Pakistan now than to learn to stand on its own feet. The triumph of Donald Trump as the next president of the United States underscores this urgency...

The election portends something more though. Increasingly, the US is coming to be consumed by its internal disensions, power struggles, fissures and dysfunctions...

In truth, the vision by which that country has ruled itself and upon which it has built its foreign policy — neoliberalism and the myth of free market fundamentalism — was destroyed in the Great Financial Crisis of 2008...

How many deaths give a single life meaning? In Pakistan, even the massacre of 150 APS students and teachers in Peshawar in 2014 was not enough...

During the conference, Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar dilated for over an hour on Pak-China ties. Deviating from his prepared text, he made some unguarded remarks suggesting that President Xi Jinping, during his meeting with our PM, had told him that China regarded Pakistan as an exception in matters of the security of Chinese nationals...

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Negotiating climate finance

and sustained emission reductions to keep the global temperature rise below 1.5 degrees Celsius...

The NCOG will help create a new financial goal for evolving global financial needs. India and some other countries want an annual mobilisation target of \$1 trillion, compared to a commitment of \$100 billion per year...

The ask from the developing countries is desperate: at least 50 per cent of climate finance should shift from loans to grants to alleviate debt burdens. And for this, they seek balanced funding across the board for adaptation, mitigation, and loss and damage...

period. Without this building block, the targets of NDCs can hardly be enhanced, nor can LDF be scaled up. The submission of the revised NDCs is due in February 2025.

A melting world

wards the world. It's all going, the architecture of the old world along with certitudes.

This is a matter of deep concern for Pakistan, a country that is firmly tethered to the financial architecture of the old world. Since 1988, Pakistan has been in near-continuous IMF programmes, and deeply dependent on the World Bank for its policy advice...

Today, that growth model, the institutional scaffolding built in the 1960s and the liberalisation orthodoxy embraced in the 1980s all are outmoded. Unless another Great Power war comes along in which Pakistan is called upon to play a role, the world in which this country grew up and came of age, dysfunctions and all, is now passing away...

Under Trump, the relationship will likely be handled by the State Department and Pentagon whose Pakistan policy has had four elements. The first has been a derivative of US policies towards China, India and Afghanistan...

A single life

F.S.Aijazuddin

ambassador for violating the diplomatic norms and rebuking our foreign minister" (shades of the demarche sent by the previous government in 2022 over US diplomat Donald Lu's "bad manners and sheer arrogance").

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Touqir Hussain

How will the election of Donald Trump affect US-Pakistan relations? Let's first clear up a myth. It is not true that Pakistan had good relations with the US when Trump was president. He wanted to get out of Afghanistan for which he sought former prime minister Imran Khan's help in talking to the Taliban...

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Trump & Pakistan

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KP Apex Committee meeting held; important decisions taken

PESHAWAR (APP): An important meeting of the Provincial Apex Committee, was held on Thursday with the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Khan Gandapur in the chair.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister on Finance, Muzammil Aslam; Corps Commander Peshawar, Lieutenant General Omar Ahmed Bukhari; Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry; Inspector General of Police (IGP) Akhtar Hayat Khan Gandapur and other senior civil and military officials.

The meeting reviewed the overall law and order situation in detail, with extensive deliberations on improving the security conditions in certain districts of the province and made important decisions to address the challenges.

The participants on this occasion, offered Fataha for the martyrs of security forces and law enforcement agencies, paying rich tribute to those who sacrificed their lives for peace and security.

The meeting emphasized the need for continued joint efforts by all the stakeholders including the civil government, security forces, and the general public to combat terrorism.

It was decided to give the police a leading role in maintaining law and order in certain districts. The participants agreed on enhancing the capacity of the police and civil administration and decided that police force would be provided with bulletproof vehicles on priority basis and immediate recruitment would be carried out to fill vacant positions.

As acknowledgement of the sacrifices of the security forces, the Chief Minister decided to give special package to the heirs of 178 martyrs of Pakistan Army and Frontier Corps (FC) belonging to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa who were martyred over the past six months.

As per the decision, families of martyred soldiers will receive Rs. 1.00 million, while families of martyred officers will receive Rs. 2.00 million. Additionally,



PESHAWAR: Adviser to KP Chief Minister on Information, Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif along with others addresses to media persons during press conference held at Peshawar press club.

Closure of primary schools in KP exposes Education Emergency claims

PESHAWAR (APP): Educational activities in primary schools of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa remained suspended for the third consecutive day on Thursday as teachers continued their protest for acceptance of their demands.

Reiterating their strong stance to continue strike till acceptance of demands for upgradation, President All Primary Teachers Association, Aziz Ullah Khan told media that suspension orders of primary school teachers will not stop them from justful protest.

He said news regarding reopening of schools was baseless adding that Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has invited them to CM House and hoped that the meeting may lead to some solution of the issue. However, he said till the positive outcome of the meeting, the strike will continue.

The protesting teachers also announced to stage a sit-in in front of the Provincial Assembly building on Khyber Road.

Aziz Ullah Khan said issuing suspension orders to the protesting teachers was totally unjustified, adding that the KP government has no other option but to accept our demands. He said upgradation for primary school teachers was announced by the former KP Chief Minister, Mahmood Khan but still no further step was taken towards this end.

The protest for the demand of fair wages to primary school teachers, resulted in the unprecedented closure of 26,000 schools in the province. This action affected millions of students, underlining the dire situation within KP's education system.

Breast cancer awareness seminar held at KMU

Independent Report

PESHAWAR: In a remarkable gathering to promote awareness and solidarity, KMU Institute of Public Mental Health & Behavioral Sciences successfully hosted the Breast Cancer Awareness Seminar. The event focused on the theme: "We are stronger when we stand together whether as survivors, supporters, or advocates for change."

Guest Speakers Dr. Zainab Jan and Dr. Asad Zamir from IRNUM Peshawar, provided an impactful session on the urgency of breast cancer awareness.

They presented global statistics on breast cancer, emphasizing that early detection is life-saving.

Covering symptoms, detection challenges, and barriers faced in low- and middle-income countries like Pakistan, they highlighted the urgent need to address these issues to improve health outcomes.

The speakers discussed risk factors such as lifestyle habits, obesity, and family history, and encouraged attendees to adopt protective practices including regular exercise, maintaining a healthy weight, and breastfeeding.

They also discussed the significance of annual screenings—such as mammograms and clinical breast exams—as essential tools for early detection.

A particular focus was placed on debunking myths and misconceptions around breast cancer, equipping attendees with reliable information for informed health choices.

Further more, treatment options like chemotherapy and surgery were explored.

Kundi greets Trump on election victory

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Thursday extended his congratulations to Donald Trump on his success in the U.S. presidential elections.

In a statement, Governor Kundi offered his best wishes to the American people and the newly elected President, Donald Trump, saying that the election results reflect the priorities and trust of the American public.

Kundi expressed hope that under Trump's leadership, the relationship between the United States and Pakistan would grow stronger. He emphasized that there are numerous opportunities for closer cooperation between the two countries across various sectors and that Pakistan anticipates a positive relationship with the new U.S. administration.

ANF seizes 418 kg drugs in eight operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting eight operations across the country managed to recover 418 kg drugs worth over Rs 75 million and arrested five accused including a woman, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman.

He informed that during an operation in Mansehra, 900 grams hashish was recovered from an accused.

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

In another operation, 630 grams weed was recovered from a parcel at a courier office in Islamabad.

296 grams heroin was recovered from the shoes of a Bahrain-bound woman passenger arrested at Islamabad International Airport.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan, addressing a press conference regarding the problems of farmers at the Governor House Lahore along with General Secretary of Pakistan Peoples' Party Central Punjab, Syed Hassan Murtaza.

Govt encourages investment opportunities with New SEZ, incentives: CM Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah during his meeting with Australian High Commissioner Neil Hawkins said that his government has launched various initiatives to attract both local and foreign investment.

The meeting was held at CM House and was attended by Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh.

The CM and the Australian High Commissioner discussed matters of mutual interest, including investment, climate change, the Indus Delta, Archaeology and others.

Hawkins said that the Indus Delta was historic and most importantly needed to be protected. At this, the CM said that Pakistan was a water-starved country. "Sindh being the lower riparian province is faced with water shortage, therefore the water required to be released to [downstream Kotri] sea has been an invincible job," he said and added as a result, sea intrusion has become a big threat.

Shah said that apart from Dhabeji SEZ, other key zones are ready for investment including the Bin Qasim Industrial Park (BQIP) and Korangi Creek Industrial Park (KCIP), where utilities and land are readily available.

Additionally, following the Sole Enterprise Special Economic Regulations, 2020, single enterprises investing at least USD 50 million can attain SEZ status, with two such zones already operational in Sindh.

The Sindh Enterprise Development Fund (SED) has mobilized private investments amounting to Rs 7 billion in sectors such as agriculture, mining, and mineral processing, offering a subsidy scheme to boost productivity, the CM said and added this initiative has generated an economic impact worth 10 times the invested amount.

During the discussion, Murad Shah told the visiting Australian top diplomat that the provincial Investment Department has also conducted pre-feasibility studies in key areas such as Stones & Granite, Livestock, Agriculture, Food Processing, Fisheries.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for health presides over the high level meeting at Home Department.

Continuous efforts being made to promote tourism

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Tourism Secretary Farid Ahmad Tarar has said that continuous efforts are being made to promote cultural and tourism development of South Punjab in line with the vision of Punjab Chief Minister.

He said this at the launch of the 9th TDCP Thal Desert Rally being held in three districts of Punjab: Muzaffargarh, Kot Addu, and Layyah, said a handout issued here.

The government was focused on providing equal opportunities for entertainment to the citizens of Punjab, he added.

Farid Ahmad Tarar emphasized that the Thal Desert Rally not only aimed at promoting automobile tourism but to showcase Pakistan's positive image to the world.

He said that following the directions of Punjab Chief Minister excellent arrangements had been made for the event.

The Secretary Tourism also highlighted the inclusion of female drivers in the event, terming it a welcome development.

He said that such automobile tourism events provide opportunities to youngsters to showcase their skills.

The rally would feature a variety of events in Kot Addu and Chobara, including dirt bike and quad bike races as well as traditional sports such as spear throwing and Kabaddi, he added.



RAWALPINDI: PIA Employees Union protesting outside the press club against the privatization of national airline.

Punjab Governor says: Attention should be paid on agriculture sector as it would boost economy of country

LAHORE (APP): Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan, while addressing a press conference regarding the problems of farmers, today at the Governor House Lahore along with General Secretary of Pakistan Peoples' Party Central Punjab, Syed Hassan Murtaza said that Pakistan is an agricultural country.

He said that attention should be paid on agriculture sector as it would boost the economy of the country. He said that the government should fix a good support price for sugarcane for the farmers and ensure payment.

Governor Punjab said that he will send the demands of the farmers to the Punjab government in writing.

Governor Punjab said that the PML-N and the PPP are coalition partners, adding that this is an alliance of compulsion for the sake of the country's interest.

He said that the PPP will stand with the PML-N where the country's institutions are damaged and the system is unstable.

He said that the government should complete five years as it will bring economic and political stability in the country.

In response to a question, the Governor of Punjab said that as the Governor of Punjab, it is his responsibility to identify the areas where there is a deficiency and room for improvement.

Governor Punjab further said that the government should solve the problem of smog on war footing.

He said that the work done by the Caretaker Chief Minister of Punjab Mohsin Naqvi to handle the issue of smog during his tenure was commendable.

Minister warns of health emergency if people show negligence

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Khawaja Imran Nazir issued a strong warning on Thursday, stating that the government might declare a health emergency if citizens fail to take the necessary precautions against smog.

Talking to the media during an anti-smog campaign at Liberty Market, he highlighted that Lahore had been particularly affected due to eastern winds, which have worsened the air quality. He assured that actions are underway to address sources of pollution.

To support anti-smog efforts, the minister stated that the government has coordinated with pharmaceutical manufacturers to maintain adequate stocks of essential medicines for smog-related illnesses. He also announced the formation of a daily monitoring group, consisting of representatives from both the pharmaceutical industry and the health department, to ensure a steady supply of these medicines. "All government hospitals are well-stocked with medicines to treat smog-induced ailments," Nazir affirmed. He further urged the public to buy medicines only as needed, to allow equal access for all.

During the campaign, the minister and Deputy Commissioner Lahore Moosa Raza distributed masks to citizens and informed them of the necessary safety measures against smog.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanges views with Peoples Party (PPP) MPA Farooq Awan during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

Sindh govt excels in public service: Memon claims

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon, Thursday, said that the Sindh government attaches priority to health and education and billions of rupees were invested to make revolutionary strides in both the sectors.

Sindh government excels in various areas but a negative propaganda campaign was maliciously launched against the People's Party, attributing inaction and negativity to its governance, the senior minister, who holds portfolios of Information, Transport, Mass Transit, Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics Control, stated while talking to a delegation of Islamabad based journalists here, said a statement issued here.

Terming lives and health of the people as top priorities of the PPP and Punjab require help for similar projects.

He said that the government was investing billions of rupees in various sectors, including health.

The healthcare facilities introduced by the Sindh government serve not only the people of Sindh but also citizens from across the country and even people from neighboring countries were benefiting from these services, he claimed adding that people previously had to travel abroad for transplants but now these facilities were available in Pakistan free of charge.

"Chairman Bilawal Bhutto and President Asif Ali Zardari are eager to establish an NICVD (National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases) in Balochistan," he said and added that the Sindh government is ready to assist wherever KP and Punjab require help for similar projects.



MULTAN: Pakistan Airports Authority Rescue and medical teams provide aid to injured passengers during the Pakistan Airports Authority's emergency exercise at Multan International Airport.

LHC imposes ban on smoke emitting generators in green lock down areas

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has imposed ban on running smoke emitting generators in Green lock down area. The court also ordered to install pollution control device in commercial generators in next seven days.

Justice Shahid Karim of LHC issued written order on the petitions filed by citizen Haroon Farooq and others Thursday.

The court maintained in the written order encroachments be removed from hot spot areas so that pollution is not generated due to traffic flow.

The government appreciated the steps taken by the incumbent government and DG environment. The court wrote in order state counsel told super seeds have been distributed among the farming community under the orders of court.

PITB partners with GGCW, University

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) has signed two separate contracts with the Government Graduate College for Women (GGCW), Lahore, and the University of South Asia (USA) to implement the PITB's digital payment solution, PayZen, at both institutions. This initiative aims at streamlining the payment processes at these institutes, ensuring greater efficiency, transparency, and security, says a press release, issued here on Thursday.

The contract with Government Graduate College for Women, Lahore, was signed by PITB Joint Director PayZen Ijlal Hussain and GGCW Principal Prof. Dr. Nighat Naeed Zafar.

The contract with the University of South Asia was signed by PITB Joint Director PayZen Ijlal Hussain and USA Vice Chancellor Mian Imran Masood. As part of the contract, PayZen will act as the primary interface for handling all kinds of payments.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Communication and Works Malik Sohaib Ahmed Berth inspecting the revamping work of Services and Mayo Hospitals.

FM Aurangzeb calls for strengthening Pak-Japan ties thru trade, culture

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb said here on Thursday that Pakistan and Japan have significant potential to strengthen their ties through increased exchanges in trade, culture, education, and people-to-people interaction.

The minister was talking to the outgoing Japanese Ambassador to Pakistan, Mitsuhiro Wada who called on him here, according to a press release issued by the finance ministry.

During the meeting, views on issues of mutual interest, particularly longstanding bilateral cooperation and shared values and perspectives on regional and global matters

between Pakistan and Japan, were exchanged. Aurangzeb acknowledged and appreciated the longstanding bilateral cooperation and highlighted the significance of Japan's developmental and economic assistance and its vital role in helping Pakistan overcome economic challenges and strengthen its economy.

The Minister also shared with the Ambassador an update on the state of the economy and the significant improvement in various macroeconomic indicators.

He said the government was determined to pursue its reform agenda as staying the course without any complacency was key to ensuring permanence to the

macroeconomic stability achieved during the last 14 months.

On the occasion, Mitsuhiro Wada, who has completed his three-year tour of duty in Pakistan, reflected on the steady growth of bilateral economic and diplomatic relations since the two countries established their diplomatic relations in 1952. He also highlighted the positive trajectory of ongoing bilateral ties characterised by a steady promotion of trade and commerce, growing cultural, sports, youth, and educational exchanges, and re-affirmed Japan's unwavering commitment to supporting Pakistan in mutually agreed priority sectors such as health, education, environment, water, and governance.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Industries and Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain presided over a meeting of the Sugar Advisory Board (SAB).

SAB meets to review overall sugar stock across the country

ISLAMABAD (APP): A meeting of the Sugar Advisory Board was held on Thursday to review the overall situation of sugar stocks across the country.

The meeting was chaired by Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain, and was also attended by Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, said a news release.

The board reviewed the estimates for the sugarcane crop and the overall stock position of sugar for the upcoming crushing season.

The board expressed satisfaction with the current sugar prices in the local market.

Rana Tanveer

highlighted the declining trend of sugar prices in the local market.

It was decided that all sugar mills will begin crushing from November 21, and action will be taken against mills that fail to start crushing by the 21st.

The minister said that all payments to farmers will be made before the start of the crushing season. He added that if mills do not pay the dues to farmers, their export licenses will be revoked.

The Pakistan Sugar Mills Association (PSMA) has requested permission to export additional sugar.

The minister said that the government cannot grant further permission until the first export quota is completed.

Punjab Governor says: Pakistan is best country in the world in terms of agricultural products

LAHORE (Online): A delegation of the Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan led by Chairman Faisal Jahangir Malik and Chief Patron Punjab Pir Syed Nazim Hussain Shah met with Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at the Governor House Lahore. During the meeting, the delegation presented proposals to the Governor Punjab regarding improving rice exports.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem

Haider Khan said that Pakistan is the best country in the world in terms of agricultural products and its products have a special recognition all over the world. He said that it is a matter of great joy that our rice exports are increasing every year, which is not only increasing the country's foreign exchange but also making the country's name famous at the global level.

Governor Punjab said that our basmati rice is an example for the world. He said that by focusing on other crops along with rice, further improvement can be brought to the country's economy. Governor Punjab said that everyone should work together to make the country better and stronger. He said that stability in the country's economy and increasing business opportunities are the promise of a bright Pakistan. Governor Punjab further said that the doors of the Governor House are always open for you people.



KARACHI: Renowned economist and former SBP governor, Dr. Ishrat Hussain giving away souvenirs to panelists at the Eighth Edition of Future Summit.

PSX turns around to bullish trend, gains 499 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around to bullish trend on Thursday, gaining 499.05 points, a positive change of 0.54 percent, closing at 92,520.49 points as compared to 92,021.44 points on the last trading day.

A total of 678,788,064 shares were traded during the day as compared to 889,166,479 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 24.827 billion against Rs. 30.474 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 449 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 257 of them recorded gains and 145 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 47 companies remained unchanged.

Pakistan's total liquid foreign reserves \$ 15.93bln

KARACHI (APP): The total liquid foreign reserves of Pakistan stood at US\$ 15,931.8 million as of November 01, 2024 while the forex reserves held by the State Bank of Pakistan increased to \$ 11,174.6 million.

The State Bank of Pakistan, in a statement issued on Thursday, informed that total liquid foreign reserves held by the central bank increased by \$ 18 million to \$ 11,174.6 million during the week ended on November 01, 2024.

Meanwhile, net foreign reserves held by commercial banks were recorded as \$ 4,757.2 million during the week under review, it added.

Total liquid foreign reserves held by the country, in the previous week ended on October 25, 2024, were \$ 16,049 million.

Among them foreign reserves held by the central bank were recorded as \$ 11,156.4 million while \$ 4,892.6 million were held by commercial banks.

Pakistan now on track of economic growth: Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Petroleum and Water Resources Musadik Masood Malik on Thursday said Pakistan was heading in the right direction as it had successfully controlled inflation, achieved substantial growth in agriculture sector and witnessed a raise increase in forex reserves.

He was speaking at the concluding plenary of the four-day Sustainable Development Conference organised by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), said press release.

He said the current government had three key priorities, and these were decreasing inflation, ensuring better public life and reducing poverty.

"The government aspires to take the GDP growth rate from 2.4 per cent to 3 per cent as its agriculture sector was growing at a rate of 6.3 per cent, ensuring better economic activity in the rural areas," he said.

Rupee sheds 05 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Thursday depreciated by 05 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 277.94 against the previous day's closing of Rs 277.89.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 277.50 and Rs 279 respectively.

The price of Euro decreased by 18 paise to close at Rs 298.91 against the last day's closing of Rs 299.09, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs 1.80, whereas an increase of 82 paise.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, Mitsuhiro Wada pays a farewell call to the Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, at the Finance Division.

Ejaz advises students to develop future ready skills

ISLAMABAD (APP): President of Digital Platforms of Jazz Aamer Ejaz has urged students to stay adaptable, technologically fluent, and resilient to succeed in an evolving job market.

Speaking at the Institute of Space Technology (IST) on the theme Campus to Corporate - Steps to be Ready, he outlined how AI and emerging technologies are reshaping industries, advising students to leverage these advancements to maintain a competitive edge.

The audience included final-year computer science students, IST faculty, and management.

Describing AI as a collaborative tool he said, "AI isn't artificial intelligence; it's augmented intelligence. It complements your abilities while keeping you in the driver's seat." Citing Jazz's AI-driven products, like the SIMOSA chatbot, he emphasized how such technologies are enhancing user experiences.

He warned that staying static in a rapidly advancing world is akin to falling behind.

He also shared practical advice for bridging the gap between academia and industry, emphasizing skills like adaptability, resilience, and a business-oriented mindset as essential for professional growth.

"There are no guaranteed jobs, job security, pensions, or seniority in the corporate world; success requires continuous learning and a proactive approach to career development," he stated. He further highlighted the challenge of retaining tech talent in Pakistan, noting that while skilled professionals often find better opportunities abroad.



GUJRANWALA: Honorary Consul of Malta along with other taking keen interest in made in Gujranwala Products during his visit in Gujranwala Business Center.

CDNS decreases Savings Certificate, rates from Nov. 04

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has decreased the rates of return for its National Savings Certificates, marking amendments across different instruments from November 04, 2024.

Return rates for Special Savings Certificates (SSC) have been adjusted down by 12.26 %, and Defense Savings certificates by 12.12 %, the senior official of CDNS told APP here on Thursday.

He said that the new decreases were also applied to Bahbood Savings Certificates (BSC) 13.92 %, Special Savings Account 11.77 %, and Shuhadas Family Welfare Account (SFWA) 13.92 %.

The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has accomplished a target of Rs 210 billion in fresh bonds and achieved 11 percent of the annual target in the first quarter of the current fiscal year, from July 1 to October 06, he

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Four ships, Marathopolis, APL Southampton, AU Taurus and Venus carrying Container, Palm oil and LPG, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Liquid Cargo Terminal and Engro Vopak Terminal respectively on Wednesday.

Meanwhile four more ships, Atlantic Ibis, Southern Unicorn, Bow Endeavor and Aristarchos are carrying Container, Palm oil, Chemicals and Gas oil are also arrived at outer anchorage on today morning.

Eleven ships were engaged at POA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships, Da Qing Xia and African Finfoot are left the port on today morning, while eight more ships, APL Southampton, Marathopolis, Atlantic Ibis, Jaru Bhum, Morning, PH Giang Minh.

Machinery imports up by 21.68% in Q1 of FY 2024-25

ISLAMABAD (APP): The imports of the overall machinery group experienced a substantial increase of 21.68 percent during the first quarter of the current fiscal year (July -September) compared to 2023-24.

The growth in machinery imports would help elevate productivity and spur technological advancements in essential sectors, leading to economic expansion and progress in infrastructure development.

The total imports of the machinery group during the first three months of the FY 2024-25 stood at \$2,014.339 million against the imports of \$1,655.55 million of the corresponding period the last year, according to official data of the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

The import of agriculture sector machinery and equipment surged by 115.88 percent from \$13.757 million to \$29,699 million; textile machinery 39.82 percent from \$ 35.867 million to \$ 50.151 million; power-generating machinery 27.13 percent from \$ 106.624 million to \$ 135.551 million; construction and mining machinery 51.78 percent from \$19.532 million to \$ 29.645 million; electrical machinery and apparatus 77.85 percent from \$488.696 million to \$869.136 million; other apparatus 34.64 percent from \$22.475 million to \$ 38.083 million.

However, during the period under review, the import of office machinery including data processing equipment declined by 21.44 percent from \$135.534 million to \$106.480 million; mobile phones 18.93 percent from \$304.029 million to \$246.472 million; telecommunications-related equipment by 6.17 percent from \$399.048 million.

Gold prices decrease by Rs.5,400 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of 24 karat per tola gold decreased by Rs.5,400 and was sold at Rs.276,800 on Thursday compared to its sale at Rs.282,200 on last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.4,630 to Rs.237,311 from Rs. 241,941 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs. 217,535 from Rs. 221,780, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola decreased by Rs.130 to Rs.3,300 whereas that of ten gram silver went down by Rs.111.46 to Rs.2,829.21.



ISLAMABAD: Newly elected General Secretary Malik Mumtaz OGDCL Employees Union is addressing while OGDCL Sada Zahid Hussain Bhutto, senior PPP leader Chaudhry Manzoor and other office bearers are present on the stage.

Minister Ch Shafay meets Chinese investors

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhry Shafay Hussain here Thursday met Chinese investors' delegation, led by Madam Scarlett Xiang, Head of China Government Investment.

It was agreed upon in the meeting to increase investment and cooperation in health, technical education, agriculture, manufacturing of electric vehicles and other sectors. Chinese investors have shown interest in setting up an electric car assembling plant in Punjab.

The head of Chinese investors' delegation said that China's Huawei Group would start a programme to provide online training to 300,000 people in Pakistan, asserting that an agreement would be made with federal government and TEVTA in this regard.

The training program would be launched from Punjab. Under the Huawei ICT Talent Programme 2024, 260,000 students will be given ICT skill training. Under this program, 30,000 people will be provided professional and 10,000 government officials with online training in digital economy. A Chinese investor group has expressed interest in setting up an electric vehicle assembling and chemical plant in Punjab.

The China Group will also launch Pakistan Digital Primary Healthcare Improvement Programme worth US \$ 300 million.



SINGAPORE: High Commissioner Rabia Shafiq inaugurating the Pakistan Pavilion at Singapore Fintech Festival 2024 in Singapore.

Lays foundation stone of Ramday University PM terms development of Gilgit-Baltistan as top priority

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday laid the foundation stone of Ramday University to be constructed in Thagos, district Ghanche of Gilgit-Baltistan. The ground breaking ceremony was held in Islamabad.

Ramday University is being built under a Trust, with construction set to be completed through the donations of the overseas Pakistanis.

Addressing the ceremony, the prime minister extended his heartfelt felicitations to Justice (ret'd) Khalil ur Rehman Ramday and his all friends on the establishment of Ramday University.

"The efforts of all individuals and the institutions who contributed to the establishment of Ramday University are appreciable," he added.

The prime minister said today the foundation had been laid down collectively for a bright future for the children here.

He said, "The establishment of an institution of higher learning in a remote area like Ghanche in Gilgit-Baltistan is highly encouraging."

He expressed his confidence that this university, located at an altitude of 11,000 feet in Thagos, will reach the peak of modern knowledge and research standards.

"The role of the private sector in the promotion of education in Pakistan is extremely important", he said adding that graduates from private educational institutions had made Pakistan proud in every field.

PM Shehbaz Sharif emphasized that the development of Gilgit-Baltistan and the welfare of its people were among the government's top priorities adding that yesterday, during his visit to Gilgit-Baltistan, 62 affected families from the floods were handed over homes.

Furthermore, he said that a 100-megawatt solar energy project had been launched in Gilgit-Baltistan, which would help meet the region's electricity needs.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addresses a ceremony of laying a foundation stone of Ramday University, Thagos, Ghanche.

Graduation ceremony of 150th GD (P), 96th Engineer, 106th Air Defence held

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Graduation Ceremony of 150th GD(P), 96th Engineering, 106th Air Defence, 26th A&SD, 9th Logistics and 132nd Combat Support Courses was held at PAF Academy Asghar Khan, Risalpur.

Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force was also in presence.

A total of 139 aviation cadets, 08 gentleman cadets and 02 naval cadets graduated during the ceremony.



PAF Academy Asghar Khan, Risalpur. Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Trophy for the overall best performance in General Service Training was awarded to Aviation Cadet Sports Sergeant Imran Raza, whereas, Trophy for the overall best performance in Combat Support Course was won by Aviation Cadet Usman Rasheed.

Sergeant Hafiz Ali Asad, was awarded the coveted Sword of Honour for the overall best performance at the College of Aeronautical Engineering. Sword of Honour for overall best performance in College of Flying Training was received by Aviation Cadet, Academy Under Officer Abdullah Saad Ali.



ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Jiang Zaidong, called on the Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal.

CM announces to provide buses, scientific equipment for Girls College Turbat

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has announced to provide buses for the Girls College and scientific equipment for the science laboratories in Turbat.

The very announcement was made by Chief Minister on demand of the girl students during Grand tribal Jirgah held in Turbat.

Four school teachers killed, six injured in accident

DG KHAN (APP): Four private school teachers, including a principal, were killed while six others sustained injuries in an accident near here on Thursday. According to the Rescue 1122, a van of the private school carrying teachers was going to Sakhi Sarwar from DG Khan when it collided with a truck coming from the opposite side near Quetta Road Tommi Morr Toll plaza. As a result, four people, including the principal of the school and three teachers, died on the spot while six others received

Political & social activist demands action against clerk of P&D Department

Independent Report
QUETTA: The political and social leader, Ghulam Hussain has appealed to the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti and Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan to take stern action against the clerk of Planning and Development Department, who is allegedly involved in issuance of fake orders of jobs to people taking bribe of hundreds of thousands rupees.

In a statement issued here on Thursday, Ghulam Hussain pointed out a large number of educated youngsters are unemployed. He alleged that a clerk of P&D Department demanded the bribe of Rs. 2 to 3 millions from jobless youngsters for giving jobs to them.

On that, youngsters arranged the amount after selling the ornaments of their mothers and sisters and their other valuables. The amount was paid to the clerk belonging to Bhag Nari area, who gave away fake orders of appointments to the concerned for jobs in Directorate of Manpower Training, Irrigation Department and other departments.

However, they found out that the appointment orders were fake when they went for joining in the concerned offices, Ghulam Hussain mentioned.

He appealed to the Chief Minister and Chief Secretary to take notice of the fraudulent act of the P&D Department clerk.

PHC grants protective bail to Umar for one month

PESHAWAR (Online): Peshawar High Court (PHC) while granting protective bail to PTI leader and opposition leader in National Assembly (NA) Umar Ayub for one month has ordered not to arrest him in any case.

The petition filed by Umar Ayub seeking details of cases registered against him came up for hearing before a division bench of PHC comprising Chief Justice Ishaq Ibrahim and Justice Waqar Ahmad Thursday. The court directed the petitioner to resort to respective court in connection with the details of cases.

Khetran emphasizes need for realistic dev. strategy in light of current financial situation

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Member Provincial Assembly, Mir Zaid Reki called on the Provincial Minister for Public Health Engineering, Sardar Abdul Rahman Khetran here on Thursday.

During the meeting, they discussed various matters of mutual interests.

The Provincial Minister emphasized the need for a realistic development strategy in light of the province's current financial situation.

He directed the relevant authorities to focus on completing the ongoing priority projects, which are crucial for the public's welfare and development.

The meeting also discussed the provincial government's development strategy, ongoing development schemes in various sectors, and future development goals. Sardar Khetran stressed that completing the ongoing development projects is a priority of the government. He instructed the relevant authorities to take steps to complete all development projects where 80% physical progress has been made.

Additionally, he directed them to focus on completing projects in sectors like tourism, energy, livestock, and other productive sectors, which can help create jobs and support the government in resolving financial issues.



QUETTA: MPA Mir Zaid Ali Reki meeting with Provincial Minister for Education Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani.

Japan, KP Police, UNDP jointly inaugurate newly model police stations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police, the Government of Japan and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Pakistan jointly inaugurated newly constructed model police stations in the merged districts of Bajaur, Kurram, Mohmand, North Waziristan, and Orakzai.

This marked the successful completion of a project funded by the Government of Japan and implemented by UNDP in partnership with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police, for improved policing services in the merged districts, said a press release issued on Thursday.

Established by UNDP Pakistan's flagship Rule of Law Programme, these Model Police Stations provide a range of new facilities to better serve the people of merged districts, including well-equipped and furnished working spaces and reception areas to accommodate women and men police officers and visitors, a gender-responsive desk to address cases of gender-based violence, a hall to convene joint community and police meetings, residential facilities for 50 police officers with separate living quarters for 10 women police officers, security posts, and separate holding rooms for men and women.

Additional Inspector General of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police, Awal Khan thanked UNDP Pakistan and the Government of Japan for their support in improving police infrastructure facilities to serve the people of the merged districts. "The Government of Japan and UNDP provided invaluable support in advancing the Rule of Law Roadmap, which strengthens justice and democracy in our region. The initiatives, including Gender Desks and Model Police Stations, play a crucial role in enhancing public safety and empowering marginalized communities", he said. The project also developed a pool of 22 master trainers on basic and specialised police functions, including gender-responsive and community-based policing, and supported KP Police to train 305 police officers.



KARACHI: Participants of Balochistan Civil Services Academy in a group during their visit to State Bank of Pakistan.

Planning Minister, Chinese envoy discuss bilateral ties, CPEC progress

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chinese ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong Thursday called on Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal and discussed matters related to bilateral interests and progress of CPEC projects.

The meeting was attended by senior officials, including the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs, Tariq Fatemi; the Secretaries of Communications, Railways, and Interior; as well as senior officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Planning, a news release said. Ahsan Iqbal, in his opening remarks, condemned the recent attack on Chinese nationals in Karachi, emphasizing that Pakistan would take all necessary measures to bring the perpetrators to justice.

He stated "This heinous act, clearly aimed at damaging Pakistan-China relations, will not be tolerated." The government and people of Pakistan, the minister, stood shoulder-to-shoulder with Chinese friends during this challenging time and extended sincere condolences to the families of the victims.

He assured the ambassador that the safety of Chinese nationals in Pakistan remained a top priority, and Pakistan would continue working closely with China to ensure the security of Chinese citizens, projects and institutions.

Highlighting the robust bilateral ties, Ahsan Iqbal appreciated the recent visit of the Chinese Premier to Pakistan, emphasizing the need for concrete mechanisms to ensure smooth and effective implementation of bilateral projects. "Concerned ministries are developing their roadmap/action plan for effective implementation of consensus reached by the leadership of both countries during the recent visit to make CPEC Phase-II successful and to implement recommendations by the Chinese experts," the minister remarked. Both sides deliberated on advancing key projects, including the Karachi-Hyderabad section of Main Line-1 (ML-1) and Karakoram Highway (Thakot-Raikot Section) project, and agreed to accelerate the projects' timely execution.



QUETTA: German Honorary Consul General Murad Baloch presents Cheque to Quetta Press Club Abdul Khaliq Rind and Banaras Khan during ceremony held at Quetta press club.

CJP initiates diagnostic study to deal backlog, transparency

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Chief Justice of Pakistan has initiated diagnostic study for design and execution of short and medium-term strategic interventions following his commitment to improve delivery and access to justice.

A dedicated team of professionals from various fields, with passion to work pro bono, has undertaken functional assessment of the available resources, effectiveness of existing court processes and systems and the challenges and opportunities.

This exercise will be followed by finalization of a workable reform plan with time-lines and impact assessment mechanism, said a press release.

The proposed reform interventions focus on reduction of cases backlog, improved accessibility and transparency through simplification of processes, technological integration and public centric approach, by exploiting the available resources and the existing legal framework. Prioritization of cases involving marginalized segments of the society and high impact cases would be the key feature of the reform interventions.

Stakeholders' engagement, throughout the design and implementation process is being taken care of. Initially, professionals from diverse backgrounds, court staff and other key players of justice sector, including Bar, are being involved for meaningful input. The draft strategic plan would be put to public debate and feedback before its finalization.



QUETTA: Commander Chiltan Rifles, Brig. Muhammad Kokab visiting Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University.

Efforts afoot for development of agric sector: DG Rauf

QUETTA (APP): Director General Balochistan Agriculture Research Abdul Rauf Kakar on Thursday said that effort afoot for the development of agriculture sector to enhance the agro production and the revenue for the farmers of the province.

Talking to APP, he said that agriculture is the backbone of the country's economy, development and prosperity, adding that the issues related to agriculture sector would be resolved on priority basis.

Abdul Rauf Kakar said that any kind of negligence and omission will not be tolerated to facilitate the farmers.

He said that the livelihood of most people in Balochistan is related to the agriculture sector, so that the development of agriculture is important and the officials of agriculture sector should perform their duties honestly and help the people related to the agriculture sector.

He urged the officers to play a positive role in providing technical skills to the farmers to boost the production of the province.

DG Research Abdul Rauf Kakar said that emphasized the officers and staff to always be ready to serve the farmers.

He said that the availability of chemical fertilizers in marketing will be ensured, he said that the agricultural information system will be strengthened to provide timely and effective information to the farmers.

Abdul Rauf Kakar said that comprehensive measures will be taken to resolve the problems of the employees of the directorate.

The DG said that the development of the country is possible only with the development of agriculture.

He added that in order to increase the production of crops, modern technology would be introduced among the farmers so that by using this new technology they would prosper but also contribute to the development of the country.



A delegation of elites of Ziarat meeting with Provincial Minister Noor Muhammad Durrani regarding development works and solution of issues.

World Bank Mission visits NADRA Hqs to discuss digital Pak Dev. Initiatives

ISLAMABAD (APP): A high-level delegation from the World Bank, led by Ms. Vyjayanti T. Desai, Practice Manager for Digital Development in the South Asia Region, visited the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) Headquarters on Thursday. The visit was aimed to hold discussion about Pakistan's progress on critical digital initiatives, particularly in the areas of digital identity and economic development, as part of the nation's push toward a more digitally inclusive society.

Chairman NADRA provided a detailed update on the Digital Economy Enhancement Project (DEEP), a significant initiative funded by the World Bank.

The DEEP focuses on strengthening Pakistan's economy through digitization and includes efforts to establish comprehensive digital identity systems and promote their adoption nationwide. The project supports Pakistan's broader Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) strategy, which aims to enhance sustainable development and provide citizens with better access to essential services.

Eighth batch of Palestinian students departs for Pakistan

CAIRO (APP): The 8th batch of eight Palestinian students from Gaza departed on Thursday for Pakistan to complete their medical studies. Pakistan embassy in Egypt facilitated their departure under directions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and significant efforts of Global Relief Trust, Doctors of Rahman and Alkhidmat Foundation Pakistan, Pakistan embassy in Cairo wrote on its official X account. In July, the Government of Pakistan had announced to allow medical students from Gaza to complete their medical education in Pakistan on humanitarian grounds.