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QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over a high level meeting regarding Provincial Action Plan.

CM chairs meeting on formulation of Provincial Action Plan: High level meeting decides to make steps for prevention of terrorism, crimes, extortion & smuggling effective

Sarfaraz Bugti directs to evolve concrete strategy for elimination of terrorism and crimes without any confusion; calls for inclusion of modern technology in strategy for making PAP more effective; says restoration of peace is first priority as sustainable development conditional with peace

Independent Report

QUETTA: The high-level meeting chaired by Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has decided to make steps for prevention of terrorism, crimes, extortion and smuggling more effective in the province. The meeting attended by the Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Additional Chief Secretary Home, Shahab Shah, Inspector General of Police, Moazzam Jah Ansar and other concerned high ups discussed the formulation of Provincial Action Plan (PAP) here on Wednesday. The Chief Secretary

Balochistan briefed the meeting about PAP and the measures being taken for good governance and restoration of peace in the province. He informed that comprehensive strategy is being prepared for improving governance and restoration of peace in the province. Addressing the meeting, Chief Minister directed to include modern technology in the proposed strategy for making the PAP effective.

He said that increase in professional capacity of the security forces is unavoidable for coping with the challenges of terrorism and crimes.

In addition to this, he also stressed that it is also necessary to get to the depth of the crimes by putting the investigation process on modern lines.

The Chief Minister on the occasion directed to the concerned quarters to prepare concrete strategy for elimination of terrorism and crimes without any confusion. He also directed to keep strict vigil of the profiling of criminal elements. Besides, he also directed to ensure coordinated measures by the security forces for information about the criminals, accused and suspected persons in the province.

4 terrorists, including high value target, killed in Kech operation: ISPR

Says Sana alias Baru was highly wanted by law enforcement agencies

RAWALPINDI (APP): Security Force killed four terrorists including a high value target, terrorist ring leader Sana @ Baru in intelligence based operation (IBO) on Tuesday night in general area Balgatar of Kech District on reported presence of terrorists.

"During conduct of the operation, after an intense fire exchange between own troops and the terrorists, four terrorists including a High Value Target, Terrorist ring leader Sana @ Baru were killed," said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release.

"He was a focal recruitment agent, especially

GoB grants relaxation in upper age limits upto 43 years

Independent Report QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan has granted general relaxation in upper age limits upto 43 years in favour of the fresh candidates and serving government servants.

According to an official notification issued here by Services and General Administration Department on Wednesday, the general relaxation has been granted to the fresh candidates and serving government servants in the upper age limits with effect from June 24, 2024 to June 23, 2025.

COP29 Climate Action Summit Pak calls for grant-based climate finance; fulfillment of earlier pledges

Pakistan needs international support to deliver climate ambitions," says PM Shehbaz, calling for grants, not loans; Stresses some of the countries have already faced calamities and "some will if we do not act"



BAKU (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday sensitizing the global community on the risks posed by climate change and the vulnerabilities of developing countries, called for grant-based climate finance that should not add to the debt burden of the developing nations.

The prime minister, addressing the High-Level Segment of the "World Leaders' Climate Action Summit" of the 29th Con-

ference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29) here, called for fulfilling the pledges of COP27 and COP28 as well as those made in Paris 10 years ago.

"I strongly feel, that climate finance must be grant-based and not add to the debt burden of vulnerable developing countries. Here is the opportunity that the COP29 should make an understanding loud and clear

that we will have to fulfill those financial pledges of COP27 and COP28... Ten years ago in Paris, we had failed to stop the rise in emissions and catastrophic global warming. The Paris pledges made 10 years ago have yet to see the light of the day," the prime minister said.

He viewed that the COP29 would help understand the calamities already faced by some of the countries and others might face if counter-measures were not taken to create a conducive environment to avert calamities like the one faced by Pakistan in the form of 2022 floods which left millions of the people homeless, millions of house and acre of land submerged, standing crops destroyed, and almost 1700 people dead.

Imran has given final call for protest on Nov 24

ISLAMABAD (Online): Alema Khan sister of PTI founder has said Imran Khan has given final call for protest on November 24.

PTI founder has said lawyers should come out for the sake of Supreme Court. Civil society, farmers and students should come out for protest, she said this while talking to media men outside Adiala jail Wednesday. She said people should come out for voicing protest against the stolen mandate, unjust massive arrests and 26th constitutional amendment. Nation has to decide today either they have to live under martial law or in freedom. PTI founder has given final call for protest on November 24, she held.



BAKU: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev on the sidelines of COP29 Climate Action Summit.

Pakistan, Azerbaijan vow to strengthen strategic partnership

BAKU (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday praised the strong ties between Pakistan and Azerbaijan.

He commended President Aliyev's vision and commitment to enhance international cooperation to address challenges posed by climate change, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister assured him that Pakistan being itself among the most affected countries due to climate change despite its negligible contributions, was committed to work with Azerbaijan and the international community on climate change related challenges.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif congratulated President Aliyev on

successful holding of the World Leaders Climate Action Summit in Baku, Azerbaijan.

He commended President Aliyev's vision and commitment to enhance international cooperation to address challenges posed by climate change, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

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ISLAMABAD: Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaher Ahmed Baber Sidhu exchanging views with Major General Mohammed Gadih, Inspector Royal Moroccan Air Force during meeting held at Air Headquarters in Islamabad.

SSGC launches winter safety campaign; cautions customers to use gas wisely

QUETTA (APP): Sui Southern Gas Company launched its 2024-25 Winter Safety Awareness campaign in a session that was attended by religious scholars and media representatives from Balochistan region in large numbers. The event was held at the Quetta Press Club.



In his keynote address, SSGC's Acting Senior General Manager Abdul Waheed Jumani, emphasized that protecting human lives is a noble act. He advised the residents of colder regions in Balochistan to exercise caution while using gas-powered appliances and added that numerous steps have been taken in utility management to minimize difficulties for consumers.

Jumani assured attendees that the gas-related issues highlighted during the session would be addressed and appropriate recommendations will be submitted to the senior management.

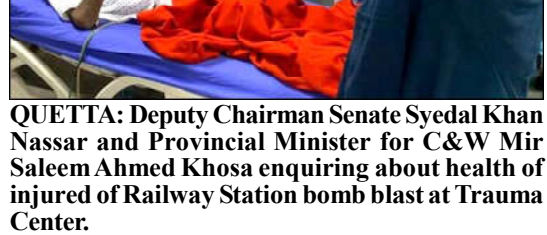
Enforcement of RTI Act to be ensured in Balochistan very soon, assures Governor

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that formation of Information Commission is in final stages in Balochistan on pattern of federation and other provinces, and adding he assured that enforcement of the RTI Act would be ensured very soon.

The Governor was speaking to the delegation of Center for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI), Islamabad who called on him under leadership of its Director General, Shoaib Ahmed Siddiqui here at the Governor House on Wednesday.

Also present in the meeting were included Mehboob Qadir Shah, Monis Kainat, Imran Khan and Principal Secretary to Governor, Muhammad Hashim Khan Ghilzai. Speaking on the occasion, Governor said that it is necessary for policy making, budget making and planning that the common men is not only fully aware of it but their personal opinions are also included in it so as to ensure implementation on the requirements of "Right to Information".

He said that the right to information is a constitutional right of the people, and in this context, formation of the information commission is also in final stages in Balochistan on pattern of the federation and other provinces.



QUETTA: Deputy Chairman Senate Syedal Khan Nassar and Provincial Minister for C&W Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa enquiring about health of injured of Railway Station bomb blast at Trauma Center.

Praises successful operation in Kech: CM appreciates effective role of security forces for elimination of terrorists in Balochistan

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz has appreciated the successful operation of the security forces against terrorists in Kech and said that the forces are playing effective role for elimination of the terrorists.

In an official statement issued here on Wednesday, the Chief Minister said that the terrorists were neutralized during a successful operation in Kech. He said that the successful operation against

terrorists is a firm resolve of the government against terrorism.

He said that we have already told that the terrorists would be taken to task.

He said that the anti state elements faced failure due to the timely action of the security forces in Kech. He said that the critics of law and order should appreciate such successful operations.

He said that the whole nation is standing with its brave forces against terrorism.

Syedaal visits Quetta, condemns Railway Station bomb blast

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Chairman Senate Syedaal Khan Wednesday visited Quetta's Trauma Center to inquire about the health of those injured in the recent railway station incident.

He extended his best wishes for their recovery and expressed sympathy to the families of the martyrs.

Speaking to the media, he said that terrorists deserve no leniency and expressed the government's resolve to bring those who threaten national integrity and sovereignty to justice.

He acknowledged the crucial role of security forces in combating terrorism. It is everyone's shared responsibility to work together to eliminate terrorism and counter hostile elements.

He also highlighted Balochistan's strategic importance as the gateway to Central Asia. He said that the province's progress toward economic development, stressing that cowardly acts, such as the railway station attack, cannot weaken their resolve.

Cop martyred in targeted attack

PESHAWAR (APP): A police official, identified as Qudratullah, was shot dead by unidentified motorcycle riders near his home here on Wednesday.

According to district police spokesman the official was leaving his house for personal errands when the assailants opened fire at him and managed to escape.



QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafqaat briefs media men regarding Quetta campaign. Director General Public Relations Balochistan Muhammad Noor Khetran is also present



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti meeting with Governor Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

President SCBA meets CM Balochistan, both vow: No compromise to be made on independence of judiciary, to work for welfare of lawyers

Independent Report QUETTA: The newly elected President of Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), Mian Rauf Ata Advocate called on the Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti here on Wednesday.

During the course of meeting, they discussed different matters including those related to the welfare of lawyers community.

Both the leaders were of the view that supremacy of parliament and constitution is supreme and that no compromise would be made

on independence of judiciary.

They also expressed their resolve to work for welfare of the lawyers community. The Chief Minister assured cooperation for the Supreme Court Bar Association Housing Project in Quetta.

On this, the President of SCBA, Rauf Ata thanked the Chief Minister.

Earlier, the Chief Minister congratulated Mian Rauf Ata on his election as President SCBA and expressed best wishes for him.

Privatisation board rejects bid for PIA, proposes new plan for airline sale

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Privatisation Commission Board of Pakistan has rejected the latest bid for Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and presented new proposals for the airline's privatisation, which will now be forwarded to the cabinet committee and the federal cabinet for approval.

The decision came during a meeting led by Privatisation Minister Aleem Khan, which re-

viewed several privatisation initiatives and approved key recommendations. Addressing the meeting on Wednesday, Khan stressed that all privatisation efforts, including those for PIA, must adhere to legal protocols while prioritising the national interest.

"The final decision on the privatisation of institutions like PIA rests with the cabinet committee," he stated.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

United stance

Beyond rhetoric, unity is rare within the Muslim world. Yet it was reassuring to see Muslim states speak with one voice at the extraordinary OIC-Arab League summit in Riyadh on Monday, specifically concerning the genocidal wars that Israel has unleashed in Palestine and Lebanon.

Trumped again

Mahir Ali

Donkeys are reputed to be stubborn beasts. That possible misinterpretation of their instinct for self-preservation characterises a party that has utilised Equus asinus as a symbol since Andrew Jackson embraced a hostile description of himself as a jack-ass back in 1828.

Finding inspiration

Nadeem Hussain | Jawad Ahmed

In a country where the young have hardly anything to look forward to, where ministers and advisers on youth affairs are not really in their 'youth', and where the state has continuously disappointed the aspirations of some of nation's brightest minds, it is very difficult to find inspiration from within.

Commerce News

Rana for exploiting olive potential to cut edible oil imports

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan currently imports 70-80% of edible oil, which is then processed into unhealthy ghee while in contrast, olive oil offers numerous health benefits.

Pakistan's olive sector is poised to significant growth, with Rana Tanveer outlining ambitious plans to transform the country into a major player in the global market.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan meets with the World Bank team to discuss strategies for boosting Pakistan's export competitiveness and strengthening trade policies, emphasizing a Whole-of-Government approach for export-led growth.

Jam, World Bank advance agenda for export competitiveness

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan and World Bank team on Wednesday met to discuss Pakistan's export reform agenda, focusing on strategies to enhance export competitiveness and streamline enabling policies.

Overseas Pakistani investors meet Punjab industries minister

LAHORE (APP): A delegation of overseas Pakistanis investors from the UAE and Europe met Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhry Shafay Hussain here at Punjab Board of Investment & Trade (PBIT) office on Wednesday.

Gold prices up by Rs.1,400 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of 24 karat per tola gold increased by Rs.1,400 and was sold at Rs.271,900 on Wednesday against its sale at Rs.270,500, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

Gilani calls for creating more social cohesiveness to boost investors' confidence

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate and former Prime Minister, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Wednesday called for creating more social cohesiveness to boost investors' confidence and strengthening democratic credentials.

FBR introduces new payment creation system

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) on Wednesday introduced the New Payment Creation System, namely ePayment 2.0, available within the IRIS 2.0 portal, an advanced platform designed to simplify tax payment processes for taxpayers across Pakistan.

PSX gains 130 points to close at 93,355 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around to bullish trend on Wednesday, gaining 130.86 points, a positive change of 0.14 percent, closing at 93,355.43 points as compared to 93,224.56 points on the last trading day.

Qurrat ul Ain says: Flat electricity tariff relief under winter package should be extended to SMEs

INDEPENDENT REPORT KARACHI: Ms. Qurrat Ul Ain, Acting President, FPCCI, has demanded that - while the apex body



appreciates the announcement of the winter package - the relief in the electricity tariff announced under it should be made available to small & medium enterprises (SMEs) as well through withdrawing the condition of 100,000 units consumption in the corresponding period of last year; and, resultantly, only applying the Rs. 26/kWh tariff to the incremental units consumed after that threshold.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Privatisation, Investment and Communication Abdul Aleem Khan chairing 227th meeting of Privatisation Commission Board.

Number of field hospitals, 'Clinics on Wheels' to be increased: CM Punjab

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz promised on Wednesday that "all resources will be spent on welfare of people and we will provide treatment facilities at the doorstep of every citizen".

While noting that free and best treatment at the doorsteps of more than 5.3 million patients across Punjab had been provided in just 148 days, she added that good treatment, medicines and tests were the right of those living in the villages also.

The CM said that number of field hospitals

and 'Clinics on Wheels' would be further increased to ensure ease and service of people.

Maryam Nawaz said, "We are daily monitoring the performance of Clinic on Wheels and Field Hospitals where an average of more than 30,000 patients benefit from services every day. She underscored, "Medical consultation, tests and ultrasound facilities are also available at the Clinic on Wheels."

The CM said, "202 Clinic on Wheels vans and 42 ultrasound plus vans are providing services in semi-

urban and congested areas across Punjab."

She added, "15 Clinics on Wheels and 3 ultrasound vehicles are busy in semi-urban and congested areas of Lahore, whereas more than 736,000 people received treatment from the field hospital in remote areas of Punjab."

She flagged, "More than 100,000 people in the villages were provided free lab test facility through the field hospitals, and more than 46,000 people from remote villages were given the facility of free X-ray and ultrasound tests."



LAHORE: Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan in a group photo with delegation led by Patron Chief Pakistan Tax Bar, Rana Munir Ahmed and President Lahore Tax Bar Shehbaz Siddique at Governor House.

CM KP participate in ceremony at BISE

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur on Wednesday visited the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) Peshawar Board, accompanied by Provincial Minister for Education, Faisal Khan Tarakai, and other officials.

During the visit, the Chief Minister inaugurated a newly constructed gymnasium at the Peshawar Board, which has been built at a cost of PKR 160 million.

The gymnasium is

equipped with various sports facilities, including boxing, karate, taekwondo, table tennis, bodybuilding, fitness gym, and wrestling.

This state-of-the-art facility will benefit students, teachers, staff, and the local community. It will also host competitions between various colleges and boards.

Furthermore, the Chief Minister attended the prize distribution ceremony for the All Pakistan Inter-Boards Girls Cricket and Tennis Competitions.

ATC extends interim bail of 6 PTI workers in May-9 cases

LAHORE (APP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Wednesday extended the interim bail of six Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers until December 14 in connection with three cases related to the May 9 riots.

The ATC judge conducted proceedings on the pre-arrest bail applications of the accused, who were present in court to mark their attendance.

During the hearing, police requested additional time to complete investigations into the cases.

Veda Bus Service from Nishtar-I to phase-II inaugurated

MULTAN (APP): The Veda Bus Service, a new transit initiative aimed at easing transportation between Nishtar Hospital-I and Nishtar Hospital phase-II, has officially launched in Multan here on Wednesday.

The service was inaugurated by the Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) South Punjab, Fawad Hashim Rabbani, who also took a journey on the bus to experience the service firsthand.

Dire need to take better measures to prevent tax evasion: Governor

Independent Report
LAHORE: A delegation led by Patron Chief Pakistan Tax Bar, Rana Munir Ahmed and President Lahore Tax Bar Shehbaz Siddique met with Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House Lahore. Tax reforms and measures to bring people into the tax net were discussed. Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that no state can provide public welfare, economic development, infrastructure and services without an effective taxation system.

He said that there is a

need to take better measures to prevent tax evasion, for which the scope of the tax net needs to be expanded. Governor Punjab said that payment of tax is the moral and legal responsibility of all of us. He said that the people are ready to pay taxes, but the government has to simplify the system and impose taxes in consultation with the business community.

He said that the implementation of the plan presented by President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari regarding taxation on the agricultural sector will strengthen the country's economy.



KARACHI: Smoke billows as a fire blazes at Plastic Factory site area Ghani Chowrangi in Karachi.

PTI always indulging in protests, sit-ins, chaos: Azma Bokhari

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Information Minister Azma Bokhari has said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has always been indulging in protests, sit-ins, rallies and chaos.

She said that prosperity returning to Pakistan was unacceptable to the 'chaos' party. She said those who incessantly chanted 'thief, thief' had now been caught red-handed in their own family's corruption.

The Punjab information minister said the 'disruptive' group had used the nation's youth for their power lust, while their own children were enjoying a luxurious

life in London.

The minister said that PTI's politics had now been reduced to street-level politics. "Nawaz Sharif had once said, 'We will build roads, and you will just measure them,'" she recalled former premier's statement.

The development in Punjab is not being accepted and tolerated by the PTI, she added.

Azma said that CM Maryam Nawaz had taken historic and revolutionary steps in Punjab. In just a few months, she introduced relief packages and development projects in every sector of the province, she added.

Efforts underway to highlight KP's issues in SIFC: Governor Kundi

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Wednesday said that efforts are underway to highlight the issues of the province especially of southern districts in Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) regarding trade and business.

He expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation from the Kohat Chamber of Commerce and Industry, led by the chamber's president and Vice President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Rashid Ahmad Pracha.

During the discussion,

the Governor emphasized the importance of the business community in fostering trade and industrial growth in the region.

He highlighted that the Federal Government had allocated funds for the establishment of an Expo Center by the Trade Development Authority in Peshawar, which is expected to be completed soon.

Additionally, the Federal Minister for Information has approved the establishment of a hall for cultural activities, which will further promote the province's heritage and activities.

Man killed in Bajaur bomb blast incident

BAJAUR (APP): A man was killed in a bomb blast incident that took place near Tehsil Mamond area of Bajaur district, tv channels quoting police reported on Wednesday.

According to details, a man lost his life when a bomb planted outside of his house blasted with big bang near Tehsil Mamond area.

The police team after receiving reports rushed to the site and shifted the dead to nearby hospital.

Police have started search operation to trace the culprits.

LDA City to launch Business Bay, Education City zones: Bilal Yaseen

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Housing and Urban Development Bilal Yaseen on Wednesday announced introducing new initiatives, saying that the "LDA City will soon launch the Business Bay and Education City zones", aimed at providing modern business and educational infrastructure.

"Four major planned roads, along with a motorway, will also be passing through LDA City and it would become a premier residential hub for Lahore's residents, said by Bilal Yaseen during his

visit to LDA City project site on Wednesday to review the progress of ongoing development work.

The minister was briefed by the Director-General of LDA, Tahir Farooq and Chief Engineer Israr Saeed, regarding the development efforts at the site.

During the visit, DG LDA Tahir Farooq highlighted the rapid pace of construction, particularly the ongoing work on the city's infrastructure, including roads and other key developments.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Health Khawaja Salman Rafique presides over the high level meeting at Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Department.

International News

Israeli forces kill 22 people in Gaza, force new displacement in the north

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: Israeli military strikes killed at least 22 Palestinians across the Gaza Strip on Wednesday, as Israeli forces deepened their incursion into Beit Hanoun town in the north, forcing most remaining residents to leave. Residents said Israeli forces besieged shelters housing displaced families and the remaining population, which some estimated at a few thousand, ordering them to head south through a checkpoint separating two towns and a refugee camp in the north from Gaza City.

Men were held for questioning, while women and children were allowed to continue towards Gaza City, residents and Palestinian medics said.

Israel's campaign in the north of Gaza, and the evacuation of tens of thousands of Palestinians from the area, has fueled claims from Palestinians that it is clearing the

area for use as a buffer zone and potentially for a return of Jewish settlers.

"The scenes of the 1948 catastrophe are being repeated. Israel is repeating its massacres, displacement and destruction," said Saed, 48, a resident of Beit Lahiya, who arrived in Gaza City on Wednesday. "North Gaza is being turned into a large buffer zone. Israel is carrying out ethnic cleansing under the sight and hearing of the impatient world," he told Reuters via a chat app.

Saed was referring to the 1948 Middle East Arab-Israeli war which gave birth to the state of Israel and saw the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their home towns and villages in what is now Israel.

As funeral prayers were held on Wednesday in central Gaza, for Palestinians killed in Israeli airstrikes the day before, the

United States' top diplomat said it's time to end the war.

The Israeli military has denied any such intention, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said he does not want to reverse the 2005 withdrawal of settlers from Gaza. Hardliners in his government have talked openly about going back.

It said forces have killed hundreds of Hamas militants in Jabalia, Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanoun during its new military offensive, which began more than a month ago. Hamas and the Islamic Jihad armed wing claimed killing several Israeli soldiers during ambushes and anti-tank rocket fire.

Efforts by Arab mediators, Qatar and Egypt, backed by the United States, have so far failed to end the war in Gaza, with Hamas and Israel trading the blame for the lack of progress.



U.S. President Joe Biden meets with President-elect Donald Trump in the Oval Office at the White House in Washington, U.S.

Lebanon says 11 killed in Israel strikes across the country

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Lebanon said Israeli strikes killed 11 people across the country Tuesday, including five in a rare attack on a house east of Beirut, where a security official said displaced people lived.

The Iran-backed Hezbollah group also said it fired missiles at an air base near Tel Aviv, following a wave of Israeli air strikes on the group's south Beirut bastion.

Since September 23, Israel has stepped up its bombing campaign in Lebanon, mainly targeting Hezbollah strongholds in

south Beirut and in the east and south of the country. On September 30, it sent in ground troops.

"The Israeli enemy strike on Baalshmay killed five people," the health ministry said in an initial report, referring to a mountain village east of Beirut, outside Hezbollah's traditional strongholds.

The security official, speaking on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter, said the "Israeli strike targeted a house where displaced people lived, including women and children".

US opens missile base in Poland as Trump presidency looms over NATO

Monitoring Desk
WARSAW: The United States will officially open a new air defence base in northern Poland on Wednesday, as Warsaw seeks to reassure citizens that NATO guarantees their security amid jitters after Donald Trump's presidential election victory.

Situated in the town of Redzikowo near the Baltic coast, the base has been in the works since the 2000s

and Warsaw says it shows Poland's military alliance with Washington remains solid, whoever is in the White House. "It took a while, but this construction proves the geopolitical resolve of the United States," Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski said in a video posted to X on Tuesday. Polish President Andrzej Duda, a conservative who has stressed his warm ties with Trump.

US says it intends to shore up support for Ukraine until Trump takes office

Monitoring Desk
BRUSSELS: President Joe Biden intends to bolster U.S. military support to Ukraine in the final months of his administration, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Wednesday, after Russia launched a sophisticated missile and drone attack on Kyiv.

The U.S. will "continue to shore up everything we're doing for Ukraine to make sure that it can effectively defend itself against this Russian aggression."

US imposes sanctions on Sudanese paramilitary commander

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The US on Tuesday imposed sanctions on a commander of Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, accusing him of being involved in human rights abuses in West Darfur, as Washington increases pressure over the war in the African nation.

The US Treasury Department in a statement said Abdel Rahman Juma Barkalla led the RSF's campaign in West Darfur.

Triumphant Trump returns to White House to meet Biden

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Donald Trump will make a triumphant return to the White House to meet President Joe Biden on Wednesday, in the Republican's first visit since departing amid a cloud of scandal nearly four years ago.

Trump's meeting with Biden comes as he moves swiftly to name his top team, including the world's richest man Elon Musk as head of a new group aimed at slashing government waste. Democrat Biden invited his sworn rival to meet in the Oval Office—despite the fact that Trump, who has consistently refused to admit his 2020 election loss, never afforded Biden the same courtesy.

Biden, 81, is expected to urge a smooth transition of power in the encounter

at 11am (1600 GMT) and push for continued support for Ukraine.

"He believes in the norms. He believes in our institutions," White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said on Tuesday when asked why Biden was inviting Trump.

"The American people deserve this. They deserve a peaceful transfer of power," US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said Biden would go over top foreign policy issues when he meets Trump—

including US support for Kyiv against Russia, which Trump has criticised. "The president will have the chance to explain to President Trump how he sees things, where they stand, and talk to President Trump about how President Trump is thinking."

Israel's West Bank settlers hope Trump's return will pave the way for major settlement expansion

Monitoring Desk
BEIT EL: As Donald Trump's victory became apparent in last week's U.S. elections, Jewish West Bank settlement advocates popped bottles of champagne and danced to the Bee Gees at a winery in the heart of the occupied territory, according to a post on Instagram.

The winery said it was rolling out a special edition red named for the president-elect.

Settlement supporters believe they have plenty of reasons to celebrate. Not only did the expansion of housing for Jews in the West Bank soar past previous records during Trump's first term, but his administration took unprecedented steps to support Israel's territorial claims, including recognizing Jerusalem as its capital and moving the U.S. Embassy there, and recognizing Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights.

This time around, as Israel is embroiled in a multifront war, settlement advocates believe Trump's

history of fervent support could translate into their supreme goal: Israeli annexation of the West Bank—a move that critics say would smother any remaining hopes for Palestinian statehood. Some are even gunning for resettling Gaza under a Trump administration.

"God willing, the year 2025 will be the year of sovereignty in Judea and Samaria," Israeli Finance Minister and settlement firebrand Bezalel Smotrich said Monday, referring to the West Bank by its biblical name, in comments that sparked international uproar. He said he would make sure the government lobbies the Trump administration on the idea. Israel captured the West Bank, along with east Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip in the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians want those territories for their hoped-for future state. Israel annexed east Jerusalem in a move most of the international community.

PM reiterates resolve to ensure safety of Chinese nationals

BAKU (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday met with Chinese Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang on the sidelines of the Climate Action Summit of COP-29 and discussed the bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and China.

Referring to the recent visit of the Chinese Premier to Pakistan, the prime minister said that China was a long-standing friend of Pakistan and a new era of strengthening relations between the two countries had begun.

Highlighting the steps taken by the government for the security of the Chinese nationals in Pakistan,

he said that the government of Pakistan was taking all possible steps to ensure the security of Chinese nationals.

He also highlighted the steps taken by the government to completely eradicate the menace of terrorism and reiterated that the government was committed to root out terrorism from the country.

The Chinese vice premier expressed his desire to work with Pakistan to overcome security challenges and further expand Pak-China cooperation for the development and prosperity of the peoples of the two countries.



BAKU: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif met Chinese Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang, on the sidelines of COP29 Climate Action Summit in Baku.

451 out of 1021 registered complaints at complaint cell redressed: Chief Minister directs authorities to resolve issues of general public by redressing grievances

Mir Sarfraz Bugti warns action would be taken against departments showing irresponsibility on not attending public complaints

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has directed to the concerned authorities to resolve the issues of general public by redressing their grievances.

He warned that action would be taken against

those departments showing irresponsibility on not attending the public complaints.

The Chief Minister was chairing a meeting in the CM's complaint cell here on Wednesday. He reviewed the public complaints registered at the CM's complaint cell besides progress made for their redressal.

He also reviewed different areas of Quetta on the video link and got verified the complaints redressed through the complaint cell.

The Chief Minister on the occasion also got him acquainted about the

progress of redressal of the grievances by directing contacting the citizens over telephone. He also issued directives to the complaint cell to resolve certain complaints.

Meanwhile, the concerned officers of CM complaint cell briefed the Chief Minister about overall functioning of the cell.

It was informed that a total of 1021 complaints were registered in the CM's complaint cell established in the CM's secretariat. While 451 complaints were addressed, 88 were found unsubstantiated. Similarly, action is being taken on 482 complaints.

People of Palestine consider Pak their second home: Envoy

ISLAMABAD (Online): JI Amir Hafiz Naem ur Rehman has met Palestinian ambassador in Islamabad.

He welcomed newly appointed ambassador of Palestine in Islamabad. JI Amir said we stand shoulder to shoulder with people of Palestine in their struggle for independence of Palestine.

Our Palestine policy is what was of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and was announced by Indian Muslims while presenting resolution of Pakistan in 1940.

The independence of Baitul Maqdas is part of faith of every Muslim, he added.

Palestinian ambassador paid tribute to efforts by people of Pakistan and JI for Palestine cause saying people of Palestine consider Pakistan their second home.

PTA blocks blasphemous, porn websites

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has blocked websites spreading blasphemous and porn material.

According to PTA spokesperson PTA is taking different steps to block blasphemous and immoral material. PTA has blocked 100183 blasphemous URL and 844008 obscene websites so far.

PTA is launching stern action against the websites spreading blasphemous and immoral material. PTA is too blocking such websites about which information is received from citizens and government organizations.

It is noted with sorrow attempts are made to seek access to 20 million obscene websites daily from across the country which are blocked on international gateway.

People use VPNs to seek access to these blocked websites on international gateway.

CTD eliminates three terrorists in Malakand

PESHAWAR (APP): In a joint operation of Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Mardan and Malakand, three terrorists were eliminated

in Palai area of Malakand district, CTD Spokesman informed on Wednesday.

The action taken on intelligence-based information in Shahkot Khugdar area of Palai in the vicinity of Baizai police station in Malakand district.

During the action, the CTD officials conducted a raid on the hideout of terrorists in Palai where an encounter took place between the terrorists and police.

During crossfire the CTD police shot dead all the three terrorists, identified as Zikriya, Abdullah and Rizwan.

UNFPA, Population Council report give direction for future challenges: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives on Wednesday stated that the report launched by UNFPA and Population Council gave future direction along with the tools needed to solve forthcoming challenges related to the growing population of Pakistan.

The minister said the report provides a detailed analysis of the recent census results and it gives future direction along with the tools needed to solve forthcoming challenges related to the growing population, said a press release issued.

"Pakistan 2025" study launched by UNFPA and Population Council presents challenges and suggestions related to overpopulation.

Federal Minister for Minister Ahsan Iqbal was the chief guest at the launch of "Pakistan 2025" study by Population Council and UNFPA held.

Citing his Vision 2010 which he presented in 1997, he said that he had prepared the vision after getting inspired from the vision of Malaysia and China. "Unfortunately, two years later martial law was imposed and Pakistan became dependent on foreign aid." The path to progress got broken due to many hurdles, the minister said. "However it is a proud achievement for the country that Pakistan became the first country in South Asia to conduct a digital census."

QUETTA: Head of Federal Mohtasib Balochistan Region Tahira Parveen Baloch meeting with Speaker Balochistan Assembly Captain (retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai. Deputy Speaker Ghazala Gola is also present.

ARI Balochistan promotes saffron, broccoli cultivation

QUETTA: The Agriculture Research Institute (ARI) Balochistan recently hosted a seminar to highlight the potential of saffron and broccoli cultivation in the region. The event was graced by the presence of Mr. Ali Akber, the esteemed Secretary of the Agriculture & Cooperatives Department, as the chief guest, Special Secretary Mr. Jahangir Khan Kakar and other distinguished guests from different renowned organizations, Departments and Universities.

Renowned researchers from Agriculture Research, Agriculture Extension, the University of Balochistan, Women's University, and other prominent institutions were also invited. Director General Agriculture Research, Mr. Abdul Raouf Kakar, emphasized the significance of saffron cultivation in the province and its global production. Dr. Muhammad Shakeel, Director of Special Crops, provided detailed insights into the cultivation techniques, benefits, and medicinal properties of both saffron and broccoli. Following the presentations, participants had the opportunity to visit saffron and broccoli fields. Saffron collection and storage briefed by the concerned Director. Its potential of cultivation in Balochistan Province were also highlighted before the participants. A collaborative research work between ARI and the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) were also visited by the Worthy Secretary Agriculture & Cooperatives and Special Secretary Mr. Jahangir Khan Kakar. The Pistachio, Apple, Fodder, Wheat, Grapes experiments of collaborative work were appreciated by the Worthy Secretary Agriculture.

CPEC upgraded version to expand cooperation in various fields: Chinese ambassador

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Jiang Zaidong on Wednesday said that China will continue to work with Pakistan to focus on building an upgraded version of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to further consolidate and expand practical cooperation in various fields between the two countries.

During question and answer session with students at National University of Modern Language (NUML), the ambassador said that the upgraded version of CPEC will continuously further improve the all-weather strategic cooperation level between China and Pakistan, and better help Pakistan develop its economy and improve people's livelihood.

He said that the Chinese President Xi Jinping and the leaders of Pakistan have led the development of bilateral relations, set the positioning of China-Paki-

stan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, and carried forward the construction of the CPEC from basic layout to a new stage of building an 'upgraded version'.

Jiang Zaidong said, "We are willing to work with Pakistan to better implement the consensus, and speed up the building of a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era."

He said that in international and regional affairs, China and Pakistan have always maintained close coordination and cooperation to effectively safeguard international fairness and justice and the common interests of developing countries.

He added both countries are members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the 'Global South'. "We are ready to strengthen unity and cooperation with Pakistan, usher in a new era of

joint self-reliance in the 'Global South', to respond to the unprecedented changes in a century for a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization." The ambassador said that Pakistan has successfully hosted meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) of the SCO Member States. He added, Chinese Premier Li Qiang personally led a delegation to attend the meeting and officially visited Pakistan. "It reflects China's firm support for Pakistan and also highlights the huge potential for both parties to strengthen cooperation."

Jiang Zaidong said that in July this year, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed at the SCO Astana Summit to build a common home of unity and mutual trust, peace and tranquility, prosperity and development, good neighborhoodliness and friendship, fairness and justice.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of China, Mr. Jiang Zaidong, giving a gift hamper to the winner of the Chinese Speech Contest 2024 at National University of Modern Languages (NUML) in federal capital.

Naqvi seeks global cooperation to combat human trafficking

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi says human trafficking has become a complex and a multi-faceted challenge and requires global response as no country can tackle it single-handedly.

He said this while holding meetings with Swiss Migration Minister Christine Schraner Burner, EU Migration and Home Affairs Chief Johannes Luchner, International Centre for Migration Policy Development Head Michael Spindelegger in Hungary today.

The issues of mutual interest, including combating irregular migration and human trafficking were focused in these meetings. The leaders emphasized the need for joint actions to address these challenges.

Mohsin Naqvi welcomed cooperation from the European Union and migration policy development organizations, noting that sustainable actions today can create a better future for upcoming generations.

He also stressed the importance of enhanced collaboration between delegations and institutions, specialized training for officers from relevant institutions in Hungary today.

Jam Kamal bids farewell to Japanese Envoy, discusses trade, industry collaboration

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Wednesday met with Mr. WADA Mitsuhiro, the Japanese Ambassador to Pakistan, as he prepares to conclude his tenure in Pakistan.

During the meeting, Minister Jam extended his best wishes for the Ambassador's upcoming assignment and recognized his contributions toward strengthening bilateral relations and enhancing trade between Japan and Pakistan, said a press release issued here.

Ambassador WADA expressed gratitude for the warmth and hospitality he experienced throughout his time in Pakistan, describing his stay as an enriching and memorable period. He praised Pakistan's vibrant culture and highlighted the country's potential for continued economic growth, noting the productive collaboration between the two nations across diverse sectors, from technology to trade.

The Osaka Expo 2025, set to take place in Japan, was a key topic of discussion.

Jam Kamal Khan proposed organizing Business-to-Business (B2B) meetings during the event in April 2025, creating opportunities for trade collaboration between Pakistani and Japanese businesses.

Dar calls upon developed nations to honour climate finance pledges

BAKU (APP): Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday called on the developed nations to honour their climate finance pledges to provide accessible and grants-based climate financing to achieve developing countries' climate goals.

The deputy prime minister/foreign minister attended a high-level event convened by the United Secretary-General on "Delivering Early Warnings for All (EW4All) and Addressing Extreme Heat" on the sidelines of the 29th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29).

Addressing the high-level event, the deputy prime minister/foreign minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to safeguarding lives and protecting communities from the unpredictable and severe impacts of climate change.



QUETTA: Balochistan Education Minister, Raheela Hameed Durrani in a group photo along with participants during the Dissemination Seminar of Grade-VIII Report of 2023-24 held in Quetta.

Satisfied with performance of BEEF, orders right sizing: CM Bugti emphasizes on improving performance of public sector companies to increase revenue of provincial govt.

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has emphasized on improving performance of the public sector companies, which have formed for income generation.

He said that the very objective behind formation of the companies is to increase the revenue of government.

However, performance of the companies made purely for increasing revenue, has not been much satisfactory so far.

Therefore, it is necessary to make their performance more effective by utilizing the professional human resource.

He directed to advertise the posts of new Chief Executive Officers of the companies at the earliest and include such persons in

the boards who may become source of improving performance of the companies with a clear strategy having technical expertise.

The Chief Minister was chairing the meeting held to review performance of the public sector universities here on Wednesday.

Those who were present in the meeting were: Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Secretary Mines and Minerals, Saidal Khan Luni, Secretary Energy, Dawood Khan Bazai, Secretary Industries, Durra Baloch, Chief Executive Officers of the public sector companies, and other concerned high ups.

The Chief Secretary briefed about overall performance of the public sector companies including Balochistan Mineral Resource Limited, Balochistan

Mineral Exploration Limited, Balochistan Energy Company Limited, Balochistan Special Economic Zones Industrial Estates Development and Management Company and Balochistan Education Endowment Fund.

The meeting decided to reform the boards of public sector companies and appoint the Chief Executive Officers from the corporate sector, in order to improve their performance.

The Chief Minister expressed satisfaction over the performance of BEEF and ordered right sizing in it. Addressing the meeting, the Chief Minister said that some companies are formed for the service delivery under the government patronage while some are established for the purpose of profit.

West African nations delegation visits NADRA Headquarters

ISLAMABAD (APP): A high-level 12-member delegation from Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali, and Senegal visited the headquarters of Pakistan's National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) here on Wednesday.

The West African nations delegation is on an official visit to explore Pakistan's models of social protection, focusing on institutions such as the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and NADRA's pioneering data management infrastructure.

During the visit, NADRA officials provided an in-depth briefing on their role as the custodian of Pakistan's national data repository.

Asad asserts Khan's imminent release, vows to continue protest

SWAT (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior leader Asad Qaiser has expressed hope that PTI founder Imran Khan will be released soon, claiming that he cannot be kept in jail for much longer despite court orders. Speaking to a private TV Channel program, Qaiser criticized the current government, which he described as a product of Form 47, and accused it of operating in a manner that disregards the will of the people. Qaiser, who was part of a PTI delegation attempting to meet Khan in jail, revealed that the group had received an order from the Islamabad High Court allowing them to meet the former Prime Minister.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti enquiring from a citizen on progress on complaint through video link at Complaint Cell.

Gas production from Dera Bugti well begins with 5MMSCFD

QUETTA (INP): The Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) has commenced gas production from a newly drilled well located in Dera Bugti, Balochistan, says in media reports.

This development marks a significant contribution to Pakistan's natural gas output.

According to a letter from OGDCL to the Pakistan Stock Exchange, the Uch-35 well is producing an impressive five million standard cubic feet of gas per day (MMSCFD).

The gas output has been successfully integrated into the Uch Gas Processing Plant, which will aid in streamlining and distribut-

ing the additional gas supply. OGDCL, the country's largest exploration and production company, holds complete ownership of the Dera Bugti well, as confirmed in its letter to the PSX. On Nov 12, Pakistan decided to stop the purchase of imported liquefied natural gas (LNG) and redirect it to domestic consumers, following a reduction in electricity consumption.

According to documents from the Ministry of Petroleum, providing LNG to domestic consumers will require an investment of Rs163 billion. Sources said that the imported LNG is increasing pressure on pipelines on a daily basis.



QUETTA: Participants are enlightened candles to pay homage in the memory of Baloch Martyrs on the occasion of Baloch Martyrs Day organized by Voice for Baloch Missing Persons, in Quetta.