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dailyindish@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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

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

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

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

He said Pakistan is playing a pivotal role in promoting peace and stability both regionally and globally. A total of 235,000 Pakistani peacekeepers have participated in UN peacekeeping missions for maintenance of global peace and 181 Pakistanis have also sacrificed their lives in this regard, he added.

Regarding challenges faced by the world, Gen Asim Munir highlighted that in recent years, the world was confronted to several challenges including the rapid spread of misinformation and disinformation being one of the major challenges.

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

The COAS said that the world was also witnessing immense transformations in the fields of economy, military, and technology. "Terrorism by violent non-state actors and state-sponsored entities remains a significant global challenge," he said.

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



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

High-level ministerial dialogue in Baku Culture-based solutions can aid climate change adaptation: Tarar

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

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

"Here in Baku, a city that breathes history and radiates cultural vibrancy, we find ourselves surrounded by the reminders of the strengths and resilience that heritage brings to our lives," he said while describing the city as "a testament to what a culture

can achieve. It preserves the past, shape the present and guides us towards more resilient future," he added.

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

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

Highlighting Pakistan's meager contribution to the global carbon emission, he said that his country was

among the top ten countries that was most vulnerable to the climate change which not only posed great threat to the lives and livelihoods but also culture and national heritage.

"In 2022, we were faced with most devastated floods. Thousands of people including indigenous people were displaced, and when we come to calculate loss and damage we were caused a damage of 13 billion USD," he noted.

He said the world is not only facing the risk of losing lives and livelihoods but also "irreplaceable tradition, knowledge and size that define who we are". "If we hope to alter this discourse, we must unite to bring forth our most innovative and inclusive ideas," he remarked. As representatives of culture in our nation, he said all the nations hold the responsibility to advocate for the role of culture in driving climate ac

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

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

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

"We have a shared interest in combating these kinds of threats with Pakistan," he said, adding, "We have a shared commitment to regional security," he said in response to a question from a Pakistani correspondent. "The U.S. itself has designated the BLA as a specially designated global terrorist organization," Patel said.

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



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

Bahrain awards 'Medal-First Class' to ACM Zaheer for enhanced military cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): On behalf of King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Deputy King of Kingdom of Bahrain, conferred Bahrain Medal-First Class upon Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force at Sakhr Air Base, Bahrain.

The medal was awarded to Air Chief in recognition of his distinguished efforts to enhance military cooperation and defence collaboration between the two brotherly

countries, said a press release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) here Friday.

The ceremony was witnessed by senior civil and military leadership of Kingdom of Bahrain.

His Royal Highness conveyed his heartfelt acknowledgement to Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu for the participation of Pakistan Air Force contingent comprising JF-17 Block-III fighter jets alongside air and ground crew in the Bahrain International Airshow.

Salat-e-Istisqa offered across country to seek divine mercy for rain

ISLAMABAD (APP): Responding to an appeal by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the nation collectively turned to Allah in Salat al-Istisqa (prayers for rain) on Friday, with the central congregation held at the iconic Faisal Mosque in the Federal Capital.

A large number of worshippers, including families and community leaders, attended the prayer, demonstrating a united front

against the ongoing dry spell that has exacerbated environmental and health challenges, including smog.

The special prayers were offered immediately after the weekly 'Jummah' (Friday) prayers, with clerics urging people to seek forgiveness and turn towards righteous deeds as a means to invoke Allah's mercy.

Commissioner, Brig. Shakeel start process of provision of free E-passports to locals of Chaman

QUETTA: The process of provision of free E-passports has been started to the local people of Chaman, as per the announcement made by the government.

The Commissioner Quetta Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat and Commander Chaman Scouts, Brigadier Shakeel Ahmed started the distribution of free E-passports among the local citizens of Chaman at the Deputy Commissioner Complex, Assembly Hall.

Earlier, Commissioner Quetta Division, Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat inaugurated the newly constructed Deputy Commissioner Complex in Chaman on Friday.

Also present on the occasion were the district President of PML-N, Attaullah Khan Achakzai, former President of

Chaman of Commerce, Imran Khan Kakar, besides others.

Addressing the ceremony, Commissioner said that the government has set target of provision of 20,000 free E-passports to the people of Chaman. The government is depositing the fees of passports of the people by itself. At the moment, 5,000 passports have been prepared, which are being provided to the citizens free of cost, he added. He announced that the process of visa on passports would also be started soon.

He said that Rs. 900 millions have been distributed among the people which otherwise are facing financial hardships after closure of the border.

The amount has been distributed under the Benazir Income Support Programme.



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

Pakistan, Turkiye to strengthen bilateral ties in diverse sectors

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

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

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

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

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

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PM felicitates Sri Lankan President on his party's victory

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

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

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ISLAMABAD: Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail meeting with Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal. MNA Jamal Shah Kakar is also present.

CJP chairs meeting to view progress regarding jail reforms

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

Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court, Ms. Aalia Neelum, along with Justice Shams Mehmood Mirza, Administrative Judge/Monitoring Judge of Prisons in Punjab represented the LHC, Justice Shabbir Raza Rizvi, former Judge of the LHC, Secretaries of the Home and Prosecution Departments,

Punjab, Inspector Generals of Police and Prisons departments, Punjab, Ms. Aminah Qadir, Constitutional and Human Rights Lawyer, Ahad Khan Cheema, Senator and Ms. Khadija Shah participated in the meeting.

The Chief Justice of Pakistan nominated Ms. Aminah Qadir as coordinator to the sub-committee on Jail Reforms and directed that she along with Ahad Khan Cheema and Ms. Khadija Shah, as per TORs of the committee, to visit the jails in Punjab in order to prepare a comprehensive report in consultation with other stakeholders of the criminal justice system.

PM Shehbaz-led govt making all-out efforts to revive country's economy: Nawaz

LONDON (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Nawaz Sharif said on Friday that the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif-led government was making all-out efforts to boost the country's economy.

Speaking to media in London, the three-time former premier said, "Why people will pour on to the

streets for the PTI founder? The nation does not recognize his [PTI founder's] achievements as his performance is zero."

He recalled his ouster as the premier, saying, "I had been the country's prime minister thrice. I was informed in jail that my wife has passed away. We have suffered the worst persecution."

CTD, intelligence agencies jointly foil terror plot, arrest 3 militant in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) police, Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD), in collaboration with intelligence agencies, carried out a joint intelligence-based operation in the outskirts of Islamabad, arresting three operatives of a banned organization on Friday.

A police spokesperson told APP that the arrested terrorists were found in possession of explosives, hand grenades, and firearms with ammunition.

He added that the operation successfully foiled a potential terror plot that could have posed a significant threat to the security of the federal capital.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Mir Saleem Khosa, Muhammad Khan Lehri and Dr. Nawab Kibzai meeting with Speaker Balochistan Assembly Captain (retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Last call

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Zubeida Mustafa

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

At the crossroads

Imran Sabir

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

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

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

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

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

"These kids think

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Commerce News

Sufficient fertilizer stocks available for Rabi season

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

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

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

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



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



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

Weekly inflation up by 0.55 percent

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

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

as compared to 320.17 points during the past week.

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

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

SBP injects over Rs3 trillion in the market

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

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

Pakistan, Algeria to boost ties in IT, Telecom sector

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

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

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

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

Addressing the 4th Beijing International Engineering Procurement Conference

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

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

Commerce minister pledges support for textiles sector

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

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

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

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

The delegation of APTMA included Aamir

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

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

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

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

PSX continues with bullish trend, gains 571 more points

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

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

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

Punjab senior minister declares smog a national emergency

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

CM reviews progress on 99-point public agenda

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

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

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

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

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

tourist spots.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Speaker PA praises public welfare service of Hina Butt

LAHORE (APP): Speaker

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

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

14 dead, 1,387 injured in Punjab road accidents

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

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

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

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

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

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

The program was organised by the Public

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

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

1 injured in grenade attack in Kohat

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

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

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

International News

Sri Lankan president's coalition wins majority in snap election

Monitoring Desk

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

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

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

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

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

"The president has a huge mandate now to carry

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

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

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

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

Trump's divisive picks show he prefers loyalty to expertise

Monitoring Desk

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

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

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



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

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

Monitoring Desk

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

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

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

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

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

Monitoring Desk

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

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

Fire kills at least ten elderly people in Spanish retirement home

Monitoring Desk

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

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

Trump says Russia-Ukraine war has 'gotta stop'

Monitoring Desk

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

"We're going to work on the Middle East, and we're going to work very hard on Russia and Ukraine. It's gotta stop." Russia and Ukraine's "gotta stop," Trump said at a gala for the America First Policy Institute at the Mar-a-Lago Club in Florida.

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

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

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

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



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

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

Monitoring Desk

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

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

Trump reenters the White House for a second term.

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

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



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

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

Monitoring Desk

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

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

AJK President says: Modi's communal policies to bring India on verge of disintegration soon

MIRPUR (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry Friday said that India would disintegrate soon because of the Modi government's communal policies, which have an abysmal track record of persecuting religious minorities.

He expressed these views while addressing a reception meeting in Dhirkot town of Poonch Division of AJK. He said, "The Modi regime, while pursuing its Hindutva agenda, is committing serious crimes not only against Kashmiris in Occupied Kashmir but also persecuting people elsewhere in India on the basis of faith." The AJK President said that India, under the BJP role, has emerged

as a terror-sponsoring nation in the world.

"I salute Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau for exposing India's ugly face before the world by presenting evidence of Indian involvement in terrorist activities in Canada," Barrister Chaudhry said, adding that Indian spy agencies were also involved in terror activities in Pakistan and other countries. The president also reiterated his commitment to expose the Modi government's nefarious designs. Referring to continued bloodshed and violence in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), Barrister Sultan said that after August 5, 2019, India has broken all records of barbarism.



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

SC still can take suo motu notice, says Justice Mazhar

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

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

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

Munir Paracha counsel for the petitioner appeared in the court and took the plea no further proceedings is needed in this case as SC cannot take suo motu notice after 26th constitutional amendment.

Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar remarked wakil sahab only procedure has changed after 26th constitutional amendment. SC can still take suo motu notice. The difference is only that now suo motu notice will run in constitutional bench. It should be kept in mind too that constitutional bench too can take suo motu notice. Justice Jamal Mandokhel remarked we will hear this issue in some other case when it comes.

The court wrapped up the case.

Marri accuses Govt. functionaries of favoritism in bye-elections of PB-8

Independent Report QUETTA: The leader of Sibi Ittehad, Mir Asghar Marri has charged that the



people from different tribes were also present.

Mir Asghar Marri said that we thought that our

provincial government including the ministers as well as the divisional and district officers are running election campaign of our opponent candidate in the bye-election of PB-8, Sibi cum Lehri, scheduled to be held on November 17.

Mir Asghar Marri was addressing a crowded press conference in his election camp in Sibi on Friday.

The leaders of Sibi Ittehad, Maulana Muhammad Idrees, Sardar Ibrahim Barozai, Malik Asfand Silachi, Mir Aslam Gishkori, Yar Muhammad Bangulzai, Saeed Khan Khajak, Mir Abdul Ghaffar Domki, Mir Saleem Marghazani, Mir Zafar Baghrani, Mir Inayatullah, Talal Luni and others were also present.

Besides, President of All Pakistan Marri Ittehad, Mehr Din Marri, Mir Shafiqat Marri, Mir Mazhar Jabbar and large number of

divisional and district administrative officers would have learnt some lesson after the February 8 elections, but the government machinery is being used by the ruling coalition to the detriment of the provincial government.

He appealed to the Chief Justice of Pakistan, Chief Election Commissioner, Chief Justice Balochistan High Court, Corps Commander, Sector Commander Frontier Corps and other concerned high ups to take notice of the situation and play their role for ensuring transparency in the bye election.

He alleged that despite the written applications, the provincial government are involved in running election campaign of the opponent candidate, which is unfair. He stressed that let people decide and elect their favorite candidate in the election.

5 hawkers given motorcycles through lucky draw under Hawkers Welfare Fund

Independent Report QUETTA: The draw of motorcycles was held for the hawkers under the Hawkers Welfare Fund here on Friday.

The draw of motorcycles was arranged under the auspices of Information Department.

The Director General of Public Relations Balochistan, Muhammad Noor Khetran conducted the draw.

Under the Hawkers Welfare Fund, five lucky hawkers are provided the motorcycles every year so

as to create easiness in their daily lives.

Speaking on the occasion, Director General Public Relations said that the basic objective of Hawkers Welfare Fund is to help out the labourers who play important role in timely dissemination of news and information.

He also said that the present government is determined for welfare of the people associated with the journalism under leadership of the Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti.



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

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

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

"The demonization of UNRWA must be halted and we must take concrete measures to ensure that UNRWA remains operational and carries out its humanitarian work in accordance with its mandate," Pakistani delegate Anwar Shah said during a debate in the General Assembly's Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization) on Thursday.

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

"The international community must uphold the principles of justice, human rights, and international law to restore hope and dignity to the Palestinian people," Anwar Shah, a first secretary in the Pakistani Mission to the UN, said. Pakistan had strongly condemned the Israeli attempts to dismantle the operations of the UNRWA as "flagrant violation of the UN Charter, international law, provisional measures: set by the ICJ (International Court of Justice) and the Court's Advisory Opinion of 19 July.

Shah highlighted the grave concerns of millions of Palestinians' that the Israeli move would cutoff essential public services on which their lives depend such as education, health,

and social support.

"The entire population of Gaza fears that their only remaining lifeline will be cut. Without the intervention by Member States, UNRWA will collapse, plunging millions of Palestinians into chaos.

"We have to answer the call of Palestinian people," the Pakistani delegate added.

He warned that the international order built on the basis of the UN Charter could collapse if the international community did not take concrete actions to uphold the Charter and the international law.

Reaffirming Pakistan's steadfast support for Palestinians and their inalienable right to self-determination, he said, "The international community must uphold the principles of justice, human rights, and international law to restore hope and dignity to the Palestinian people.

Shah highlighted the grave concerns of millions of Palestinians' that the Israeli move would cutoff essential public services on which their lives depend such as education, health,

IHC set aside dismissal of PTI founder's acquittal plea

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday set aside the verdict for dismissal of acquittal pleas of PTI founder and Bushra Bibi in 190 million pounds reference and instructed the trial court to decide the matter again.

A two-judge bench comprising Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb heard the appeals of two accused against the verdict of trial court.

The court said that the NAB prosecutor has adopted the stance that at this stage acquittal pleas couldn't be heard. The IHC issued instructions to the accountability court on the appeals.

Bakht displeased with absence of doctors, medical staff at DHQ Killa Saifullah

Independent Report QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Health, Bakht Muhammad Kakar has expressed displeasure over absence of doctors and other medical staff and poor cleanliness situation at the District Headquarter Hospital (DHQ), Killa Saifullah.

The Minister Health was on surprise visit to the DHQ Hospital Killa Saifullah on Friday.

During the visit, he found some 16 doctors and other health staff absent from their duties in the hospital. Of them, seven doctors were absent for long time, as informed to the Provincial Minister.

Bakht Kakar expressing his displeasure over poor cleanliness situation in the hospital directed to Medical Superintendent to improve its state of affairs within a week. Meanwhile, he went round of different sections of the hospital and met the patients there. The patients complained to the Minister Health about poor health services at the hospital.

Ruling coalition becomes symbol of hatred: Rashid

ISLAMABAD (INP): Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said on Friday that ruling coalition had become a symbol of hatred in the country.

Speaking to media outside court, Ahmed claimed that the establishment had used these parties and the ruling coalition was of no more use to them.

He criticised the government for being subservient to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), adding that the IMF loan had made the life of a common man miserable in Pakistan.

Responding to a question regarding India's refusal to play Champions Trophy 2025 matches in Pakistan, Ahmed said Pakistan should also avoid inviting India here. He said former premier Nawaz Sharif wanted to ingratiate with India.

Education Minister launches next generation 'Pakistan Learning Festival'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui on Friday inaugurated the Next Generation Pakistan Learning Festival.

Besides the Education Minister, the inauguration ceremony was also attended by the Federal Minister of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, Supreme Court Judge Justice Athar Minallah, and Education Secretary Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Federal Education Secretary Mohyuddin Wani hoped that 2 to 3 lakh children will participate in the three-day learning festival.

Wani further said that



such learning festivals will also be organized at the national level in collaboration with the provinces.

The mega learning festival in the history of country, have multiple learning activities like knowledge sharing, storytelling, documentaries, movies, books fair, books reviews, Ed-tech and skills activities, he mentioned.

He said that thousands of students of federal public and private educational institutions and specially from the Gilgit-Baltistan and Karachi are also participating in the three-day academic fair organized by the Federal Ministry of Education.

Addressing the learning festival, Justice Athar Minallah said that the youth of today has a lot of potential.

He said that the limit of the development is sky, adding such a festival increases the learning of children.

During his address, Ahsan Iqbal emphasized the importance of organizing such festivals across all districts of Pakistan. He highlighted how these events provide students with opportunities to meet successful individuals and learn from their experiences.

Ahsan Iqbal reflected on Pakistan's history, calling it a "precious nation built through immense sacrifices."

He noted that skeptics at the time of Pakistan's creation doubted its survival.

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

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

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

The committee considered the first project namely "Power Distribution Strengthening Project (SEPCO)" worth Rs 9,014.360 million and recommended to ECNEC for further consideration.

The project is proposed to be financed through Asian Development Bank (ADB). The project envisages conversion of 4 No 66 kV Grid Station into 132 kV Grid Station, installation of 50,000 No. of AMR meter on 3-phase meters having load more than 5 kW, installation of APMS on 1200 No. general duty DTs in SEPCO and bifurcation of 40 No. feeders having load above 300 Amps and high technical & administration loss. The forum forwarded the second project namely "Power Distribution Strengthening Project (LESCO)" worth Rs 27,613.00 million to ECNEC. The project is proposed to be financed through ADB (Rs. 20,317 million) & LESCO Own Resources (Rs. 7,296 million).

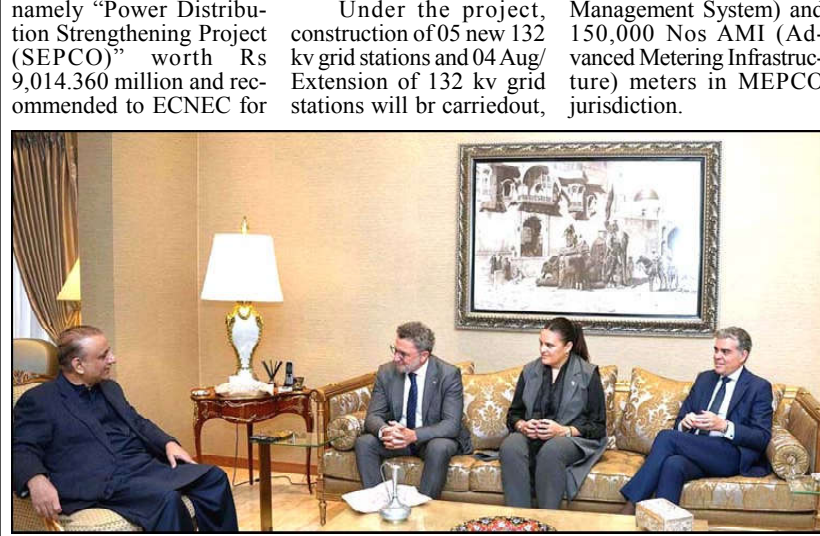
Under the project, construction of 05 new 132 kv grid stations and 04 Aug/ Extension of 132 kv grid stations will be carried out,

besides installation of 1600 APMS, 1328 km AB cable and 131901 Nos AMI/ AMR meters in LESCO to improve electricity supply, operational efficiencies and modernize operations and management of the LESCO.

The CDWP recommended the third project namely "Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Asset Performance Monitoring Systems (APMS) for 100kVA & 200kVA General Duty Distribution Transformers and deployment of AMI Meters in MEPCO" worth Rs. 22,229.810 million to ECNEC for further consideration.

The project is proposed to be financed through Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The project envisages installation of 13,323 Nos APMS (Asset Performance Management System) and 150,000 Nos AMI (Advanced Metering Infrastructure) meters in MEPCO jurisdiction.



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

Cabinet's privatisation body rejects Blue World's Rs10bln bid for PIA

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Cabinet Committee on Privatisation (CCOP) rejected the bid of Rs10 billion submitted by the Blue World City for the divestment of 60% shares of Pakistan International Airlines, accepting the recommendations of the Privatisation Commission Board.

The CCOP met here under the chair of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar on Thursday which considered the proposal of the PC Board whereby it had recommended rejection of the bid.

At COP29 Pakistan highlights proactive climate resilience strategies

BAKU, AZERBAIJAN (APP): National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Lt. General Inam Haider Malik on Friday highlighted Pakistan's commitment to climate resilience at COP29, emphasizing the country's efforts to tackle escalating global climate challenges.

Recognized as one of the most climate-vulnerable countries, Pakistan has pioneered initiatives like the Loss and Damages Fund since COP27, advocating for nations facing similar environmental risks.

In his interview with Baku TV regarding COP29, Chairman NDMA highlighted Pakistan's longstanding vulnerability to climate change impacts, including floods, earthquakes, heatwaves, and droughts. Despite limited resources, Pakistan has developed a responsive and resilient disaster management approach, in alignment with global frameworks.

The Chairman highlighted NDMA's shift to a proactive approach, with advancements including a new early warning system predicting disasters up to 10 months in advance, and collaborations with academia to build disaster management strategies tailored to Pakistan's diverse landscapes. COP29 saw Pakistan deepening its engagement with regional and global disaster management counterparts, promoting unified resilience efforts.

NDMA's participation at COP29 underscores Pakistan's commitment to addressing climate change and enhancing resilience through international cooperation and support.

PTA continues crackdown on illegal issuance of SIMs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) Zonal Office Peshawar, in collaboration with the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Cyber Crime Wing Peshawar conducted successful raids on telecom franchisees in Barakahu, Islamabad, and Shinkari, District Mansehra.

According to news release both franchisees were involved in the illegal issuance of SIMs by deceitfully obtaining fingerprints of underprivileged women from various villages in Orakzai Agency.



QUETTA: Activists of Jamat-e-Islami (JI) are holding protest demonstration for demanding peace in Balochistan, at Quetta press club.

Romina lauded for bringing together global judicial fraternity for climate justice

BAKU (APP): Coordinator to the Prime Minister for Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam has emphasized the need for vulnerable countries to come together and unite in the fight for climate justice.

She made these remarks in the context of a high-level 'Judicial Pathways Towards Climate Justice: Judicial Approaches for Addressing Climate Change Through Global Analysis' held on Friday at the Pakistan Pavilion on the sidelines of the UN-led global climate summit.

The Prime Minister's climate aide revealed that it was basically her initiative to establish a platform for international judges dedicated to climate justice as a part of Pakistan's push for climate finance for global south and today's event was an step towards that objective.

Alam explained, "I am pleased to have successfully organised a panel discussion that brought together judges to explore the crucial and expanding role of courts in tackling climate change in the Asia-Pacific region." She further highlighted the growing importance of judicial systems in the face of escalating climate impacts, noting that courts have become vital spaces for addressing climate justice. These judicial bodies are tasked with balancing the urgent environmental challenges with the socio-economic and developmental needs, particularly in the Global South, where such issues are especially pressing.



QUETTA: Director General Public Relations Balochistan Muhammad Noor Khetran balloting of motor cycles for hawkers under Hawkers Welfare Fund.