

Independent

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Ph: 2841470/2841473 Vol: XX No. 129, Jamaadi ul Awwal 25, 1446 AH Thursday November 28, 2024, Pages 04, Price Rs.15

COAS discusses regional security with Chinese general

RAWALPINDI (APP): General Zhang Youxia, Vice Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC) of the People's Republic of China, along with a high-level delegation, visited here Wednesday at General Headquarters (GHQ). The distinguished guest held a one-on-one meeting with General Syed Asim Munir, NI(M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), followed by delegation-level discussions, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release. The engagements focused on matters of mutual interest, regional security dynamics, measures for regional stability, and enhancing bilateral defense cooperation. General Asim Munir underscored the enduring and all-weather nature of Pakistan-China relations, emphasizing their foundation of mutual trust and cooperation. He affirmed that this historic partnership has withstood the test of time and is poised to grow further. The COAS thanked Chinese leadership for standing firmly with Pakistan, irrespective of changes in the international and regional environment. Vice Chairman Zhang Youxia expressed China's deep appreciation for Pakistan's steadfast commitment to their strategic partnership. He commended the Pakistan Army's resolve and professionalism in its ongoing counter-terrorism efforts and reiterated China's determination to further strengthen this enduring relationship. Earlier, upon his arrival at GHQ, General Zhang Youxia laid a floral wreath at the Yadgar-e-Shuhada, paying homage to Pakistan's martyrs. He was accorded a warm reception, including a guard of honor presented by a smartly turned-out contingent of the Pakistan Army.



RAWALPINDI: General Zhang Youxia, Vice Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC) of the People's Republic of China and General Syed Asim Munir, NI(M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) exchanging documents of mutual cooperation, followed by delegation-level discussions during his visit to General Headquarters (GHQ).

Sarfraz Bugti announces to set up Balochistan Bank: Genuine issues of traders and business community to be resolved; illegal trade to be discouraged: CM

Independent Report QUETTA: While announcing establishment of the Balochistan Bank, the Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has stated that the economic prosperity of any country and province is not possible without developing trade and business. He said that all the genuine issues being faced by the traders and business community of the province would be resolved. The issues related to the province would be resolved immediately while the issues related to the federation would be got resolved by approaching the concerned federal quarters. However, adding he asserted that the smuggling or illegal trade would be discouraged as simply the

same can't be described as legal one. He assured the business community of the province that he would become their voice. He also said that the law and order situation in the province is not better, however, we have to improve it. The Chief Minister was speaking to the media persons on occasion of his visit to the Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry (QCCI) here on Wednesday. He on the occasion condemned the situation of anarchy created by a political party and provincial government of KP saying that it is condemnable and matter of concern. He expressed heartfelt condolence with the bereaved families of the

jawans of Rangers martyred in Islamabad. He said that Rs. 13 billion have been approved from the federal government for dualization of N-50 highway. The work on the project would be started soon, he added. He said that it is an alarming to declare Balochistan red zone by the State Bank and others and assured to speak on the matter with concerned quarters. He said that all the genuine issues being faced by the business community of Balochistan would be resolved. Regarding the law and order situation, the Chief Minister said that the issue of law and order was discussed at the level of Prime Minister and Apex committee.



RAWALPINDI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif sees off President of Belarus, Aleksandra Lukashenko at PAF Nur Khan Airbase.

CM vows to bring youth closer, who are away from State because of a propaganda

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister speaking on occasion of the closing of Job Fair at the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUIITEMS) here on Wednesday. The Vice Chancellor of BUIITEMS, Dr. Khalid Hafeez, other concerned high ups, representatives and officials of different departments, companies and industries were also present on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister said that registration of over 4,000 students in Job Fair is matter of satisfaction for him. We would not only hear the issues of these youngsters, but would resolve the same. He said that we had made commitment with our youth that we would not let anyone sell their jobs. So, we are fulfilling our that promise today. It is our topmost endeavour to make all recruitments on merit and no negligence would be acceptable in it.

Belarusian President winds up 3-day Pakistan visit

ISLAMABAD (APP): President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko on Wednesday departed after completing a three-day official visit to Pakistan. Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif saw off the Belarusian president at the airport, a Prime Minister's Office news release said. During the visit, the two leaders comprehensively reviewed the full range of bilateral relations and reaffirmed their mutual commitment to deepening friendly ties between the two countries across political, trade, economic, cultural, social, and other areas. The two sides signed fifteen important agreements and MOUs, including the Roadmap for Comprehensive Cooperation for the period 2025-2027. The road-map focuses on enhancing bilateral economic cooperation between Pakistan and Belarus. A delegation of prominent Belarusian businessmen and investors also visited Pakistan along with the President Lukashenko, who had extensive meetings with Pakistani counterparts.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail inaugurating 7th Job Fair at BUIITEMS.

BUIITEMS Job fair an excellent opportunity of formulation of better future for new generation, says Governor

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that the 7th Job Fair being organized in Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUIITEMS) is an excellent opportunity of formulation of a better future for the new generation. He said that the students can meet representatives of different companies and industries through this Job Fair. He can also know how about the job market and can find new prospects of the career. He said that it is clear that our youth are the future of Balochistan and we have to provide necessary guidance and support in finding opportunities of livelihood according to their capabilities. In addition to this, this is also responsibility of the federal and provincial governments to take concrete steps for providing them the opportunities of more livelihood and learning modern skills to youngsters. The Governor was addressing the participants of the opening ceremony of 7th Job Fair organized at the BUIITEMS on Wednesday. Also present on the occasion were Vice Chancellor of BUIITEMS, Professor Dr. Khalid Hafeez, Principal Secretary to Governor, Hashim Khan Ghilzai as well as the representatives of over 50 participating industries, factories, banks and non governmental organizations besides a large number of male and female students.



ISLAMABAD: Police officials showing the weapons recovered from PTI protesters during press conference of Chief Commissioner of Islamabad Muhammad Ali Randhawa and Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Ali Nasir Rizvi at PID Media Center.



LARKANA: Jamiat Ulema e Islam Chief Maulana Fazlur Rahman addressing a press conference at Jamia Islamia Madarsa Ishaatul Quran Wal Hadeeth Dodai Road.

No death of protestor reported so far while 4 personnel from LEAs martyred; Interior Ministry

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Interior on Wednesday clarified that no death of any protestor of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has been reported so far during the successful operation carried out by the law enforcement agencies (LEAs). According to the statement issued by the Ministry, on the other hand, one police official and three personnel from the Rangers have been martyred in Rawalpindi and Islamabad. A total of 223 personnel from law enforcement agencies have got injured including 171 from the Punjab and 52 from Islamabad. The protest organized by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in Islamabad has been peacefully resolved in the last night's operations against the protestors. It is important to note that, as of now, no death has been reported, and the claims circulating regarding any such incidents are baseless and unverified. While the protestors had caused damage to both state and private properties as well as loss of lives from the law enforcing agencies. The law enforcement agencies took swift action to maintain order and ensure public safety. The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Administration, in collaboration with law enforcement agencies, has emphasized its commitment to maintaining peace, order and security in the city.

57th founding day of PPP to be celebrated in Hub; Bilawal to address thru video link

Independent Report QUETTA: The 57th founding day of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) is scheduled to be celebrated on November 30 (Saturday) at the Zehri Farm House, Hub. According to the spokesman of President Asif Ali Zardari and Advisor to Chief Minister for Industries, Mir Ali Hasan Zehri, the chairman of PPP, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari would address the ceremony through video link. The office bearers, workers and councilors of the PPP would participate in the ceremony to be held marking the foundation day of the party.

We'll break hand that wants to sacrifice Pakistan PM Shehbaz for firm decisions to end future mayhems, sit-ins

Says no room for violence; country cannot afford chaotic protests; We have to decide whether we save Pakistan or allow sit-ins to take place; Lauds LEAs in foiling miscreants' nefarious designs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday expressed his zero tolerance for any future violent onslaught and sit-ins by a group of miscreants in Islamabad and resolved to take stern decisions to put an end to repeated string of violent chaos and damages to the country's economy. Addressing a meeting of the federal cabinet, the prime minister without mentioning the name of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) led recent onslaught on the federal capital, said that repeated attacks by a clique of miscreants had forced them to rethink. With the collective deliberations, they had to take strict measures, to quell such scenes in future as they could no longer put all their resources and energies into it, leading to economic destruction, he observed. "They should have only one option before them; that is progress and prosperity of Pakistan. As a Prime Minister, chief executive, as members of the cabinet and parliamentarians, they will not let that coterie of anarchy to inflict further harm on country's economy," he maintained. The prime minister said that once again an assault was mounted on Islamabad, but on previous night, all the law enforcement agencies had collectively and with good strategy dispersed the protest and provided relief to the public. As a result of such riot, Islamabad in particular and the country in general, witnessed huge economic losses as businesses were closed, traders were raising hue and cry, owners of the factories were in distress; daily wagers found it hard to get one time meal while the patients were stranded, he added.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti talking with office bearers of Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Trade during his visit.

SCP refuses to take suo moto on use of force against PTI protesters

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Constitutional Bench of the Supreme Court has refused to take suo moto notice of reports of killings in the protest of PTI continued for a couple of days in Islamabad. The five-member Constitutional Bench of the Supreme Court, headed by Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, was hearing miscellaneous petitions regarding climate change and the PTI Chairman's petition regarding the merger of Federally Administered Tribal Areas into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. On the request of the Counsel for Chairman PTI Advocate Babar Awan the Court disposed of the petition. Babar Awan pleaded before the court that FATA is already merged in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and there is no need for any action in this regard.

'Masses have rejected PTI's 'politics of fraud, hypocrisy & violence'; says Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attallah Tarar on Wednesday said that the people of Pakistan had rejected the "Politics of lies, hypocrisy & violence" pursued by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). Talking to media here, he said the narrative of the PTI had failed miserably and its leaders had to run to avoid arrest. He strongly rejected the PTI's claims of killing of their activists in cross firing from the law enforcement agencies, terming it "Totally baseless propaganda". He said the PTI concocted fake story of workers' death after its workers had martyred personnel of the Rangers in a hit and run incident and also martyred the police personnel. He said Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur was accompanied by the provincial police personnel in plain clothes who were armed with modern weapons including guns and tear gas shells. He remarked that the rioters were using slingshot and sharp stones to harm the police and law enforcement agencies. He said since morning the PTI had started propaganda about killing of party workers. The management of Polyclinic Hospital had issued a statement denying claims of dead bodies shifted there.



Federal Minister for Law & Justice and Human Rights, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, represented Pakistan at the OIC Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting in Qatar and signed the historic Makkah Convention in Doha.

MoHR Minister Azam Tarar calls on Ibrahim bin Ali Al Mohannadi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, Minister for Law & Justice and Human Rights held a bilateral meeting with Ibrahim bin Ali Al Mohannadi, Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs of the State of Qatar on the sidelines of the Second Ministerial Meeting of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), being held in Doha. They discussed various avenues for enhancing bilateral cooperation in the areas of legal and judicial reform, combating corruption and promotion of the rule of law. Both Ministers emphasized the importance of further strengthening collaboration to exchange best practices in law enforcement, and share knowledge and expertise in legal domains. The discussions were marked by a shared commitment to advancing regional and global efforts to combat corruption and promote transparency. They acknowledged the growing importance of multilateral cooperation within the OIC and pledged to continue working together toward mutual goals.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Islamabad march

With emotions running high, chaos closes in. As these words were being written, rumours and speculation were all there were to go by as the citizenry wondered what exactly was unfolding in Islamabad.

With the electronic media kept from doing its job, it remained difficult for most to separate fact from fiction. We do know that two extraordinary meetings between PTI leaders and the party's incarcerated founder, Imran Khan, arranged on late Monday night, came to nought. And, defying all predictions and the government's war-like preparations to keep them out of the federal capital, crowds of charged PTI supporters finally managed to enter Islamabad in the early hours of Tuesday. Before the protesters broke through the city's container defences, skirmishes between marchers and security personnel, as well as other incidents, resulted in several deaths. At least three Rangers personnel, several police officers, and two protesters lost their lives. Countless others were injured.

Meanwhile, on social media, partisan 'analysts' and opinion makers competed for attention, with one side portraying the events as nothing short of a revolution while the other celebrated reports that the army had been called in, apparently with orders to shoot on sight. As their war of words accelerated to alarming levels, the authorities failed to keep temperatures down.

While statements from the police chiefs of Punjab and Islamabad had remained needlessly confrontational, the interior minister made matters worse when he declared that "five minutes of firing" by security forces would force the protesters to disperse. Shortly after, there were reports that live rounds had indeed been used at one of the blockades, injuring several protesters. A little later, a fast-moving vehicle ran over several security personnel, causing multiple deaths and injuries. These events may not necessarily have been connected, but they did make such statements look unwise in retrospect.

It was clear by Tuesday afternoon that matters were slipping out of the government's hands. While the interior minister blamed a "hidden force" for the PTI's surprising advances, one wondered what came of the more than 20,000 security personnel and the equipment that had been requisitioned to keep the party out of Islamabad. Rumours swirled of backdoor negotiations in Islamabad, and there was danger that things could spiral out of control when the protesters forced themselves into D-Chowk, though they were subsequently pushed back. It was unclear how much control the PTI leadership had over the crowd that had marched on Islamabad and how far they would exercise that control if their goals remained unmet. Still, one hopes that this stand-off will be resolved through politics and dialogue. Compromises will be necessary to avoid further confrontation and violence; it is up to the PTI leadership and the government to find a way out.

Annual COP-out

Mahir Ali

Even the low expectations that preceded the 29th Conference of Parties (COP29), which concluded in the early hours of Sunday, turned out to have been too high.

After the gavel came down in Baku on a deal proposing \$300 billion in financial assistance by 2035 to developing nations struggling to decarbonise and cope in other ways with the swiftly mounting consequences of climate change, Indian representative Chandni Raina justifiably decried a "stage-managed" process that had produced "nothing more than an optical illusion".

A week earlier, Pakistan's former climate change minister Sherry Rehman had declared: "We're here for life and death reasons", demanding "internationally determined contributions" from the biggest historical contributors to global heating, and pointing out the pitfalls of leaving too much to the private sector.

Inevitably, given the timing of the conference, the malevolent spectre of Donald Trump hung over the proceedings. Even at the best of times, the US has hardly stood out as a leader in the combat against devastating climate change, with the majority of its legislators — all too many of them addicted to contributions from fossil fuel firms and lobbyists — turning pale at the prospect of a Green New Deal. But Trump and some of his closest associates are seemingly determined to pump up the volume of oil and gas extraction because all the hullabaloo about climate change is, after all, no more than a hoax.

He may well agree with Argentina's Javier Milei, a kindred spirit from the loony right who claims to have been hailed by Trump as his

"favourite president" — and who withdrew his nation's delegation from Baku after the first three days — that the climate crisis is just a "socialist lie".

What is a little more perturbing is that Azerbaijan's leadership appears to be on more or less the same page, with President Ilham Aliyev hailing oil and gas as a "gift from God", with no acknowledgement of the various other natural wonders that are at risk because humans insist on burning fossil fuels for energy. Besides, aren't alternative sources of energy such as sunshine and wind equally gifts from the same source?

There's no dearth of sunlight in Azerbaijan, but 90 per cent of its foreign income comes from fossil fuel exports — which include nearly 40pc of Israel's oil imports, currently facilitating a genocide. The quid pro quo is weapons supplies from Israel, which may well have facilitated the ethnic cleansing of Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh. It certainly might be worthwhile conducting such conferences in oil- and gas-producing nations genuinely interested in reducing their reliance on fossil fuels. But this year's host appeared to be even less interested in investigating that path than last year's previous petrostate venue.

COP28 in Dubai was presided over by the head of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, and swarmed with oil and gas lobbyists. The conference formally acknowledged for the first time the link between fossil fuels and climate change, something that was evident decades earlier. And it did so in the face of staunch resistance from Saudi Arabia, where the crown prince's now diminished Vision 2030 excludes any inclination towards compen-

sating the victims of its incredibly lucrative oil boom. By all accounts, the Saudis were again desperate to achieve the same outcome at Baku. Their ploy flopped again. But does it matter?

The previous \$100bn-a-year finance deal did not add up until well after its 2020 deadline. Its tripling (or doubling, if inflation is taken into account) is likely to meet the same fate. The 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold might be breached as soon as this year, amid an increase in emissions notwithstanding previous COPs, and a near-consensus that 2024 will turn out to be the hottest year on record. Climate scientists are constantly being flabbergasted by what Harold Macmillan might have designated as "events, dear boy, events". Who knows where the world might be in 2035, by when the \$300bn level is supposed to be reached. That's only a fraction of the notionally required resources, and it may even be too late to make much of a difference with the trillions that no one seriously expects to be doled out.

It is hardly necessary to point out that the UN's efforts to tackle the climate emergency have been ineffective. But anyone who suggests that a failing process should be abandoned must present a viable alternative.

That's not easy, short of straying into fantasy world. It's a small mercy that COP30 will take place in Brazil, whose present government is dedicated to thwarting climate change.

Perhaps putting the remarkably astute Greta Thunberg and fellow young activists from around the world in charge of working out the way forward might be the ideal option. But I must be dreaming. -- Courtesy Dawn

Lessons from US

Touqir Hussain

America and Pakistan are two totally different countries, and their democracies are very different breeds. Yet the recent US elections have some relevance, if not lessons, for Pakistan.

The majority of Trump supporters were no doubt concerned about jobs, inflation, and open borders. But more important than that, they felt neglected and marginalised by democracy, more precisely by the politicians.

The shine had long come off the vaunted democratic system of America. Politics had become all about the pursuit of power. The system was largely led by the elites who competed with each other for power, minimally satisfying the needs of their core supporters, without reference to the aspirations of the public at large.

Trump challenged the status quo with his insurgent politics. The majority of his supporters were 'unheard and unseen' little people, working-class folk, many of whose lives revolved around economic hardships and challenges, family breakdowns, and drifting youth in search of purpose. American democracy had left them behind. Trump made them feel important.

Different people voted for Trump for different reasons but one theme was common. They were all supporting him to overthrow a system they felt had let them down. The NBC reported that at the exit polls when voters were asked what quality mattered most to them in a candidate, the majority said they wanted either someone with 'the ability to lead' or one who could 'bring about needed change'.

There is a certain parallel here with the

situation in Pakistan where a democracy in name gives respectability to the well-entrenched system of elite capture but lacks legitimacy and moral purpose. It is a democracy needed by the elite but unwanted by people.

Pakistan's democracy is just a political tool for the dominant social groups to maintain their wealth and status. The beneficiaries are justifiably seen as the whole panoply of power — the top tier of politicians, bureaucrats, the military and judiciary, business people and the landed, many of whom monopolise the country's economic resources.

Ironically in both countries, neglected people have thought of similar solutions, gravitating towards extremists or populists who they think would fight the system on their behalf. Trump widened his support base by fusing populism with extremist White/Christian nationalism and by fomenting his supporters' belief that the politicians and politics had failed them.

Pakistan's populist had a similar playbook. He saw that there was a large body of disinterested, marginalised people including dispirited and drifting youth looking for desperate solutions; some of them had been lured by the extremist agenda. A range of grievances had been released in Pakistan thanks to the media explosion which the ruling elite had not addressed. He took up their cause.

By stoking long-standing public anger and feelings of injustice at the hands of the country's established political leadership, and a sense of victimhood, incited by the US-led post 9/11 wars, and by supporting the Afghan Taliban, Imran Khan evoked powerful emo-

Commerce News

Economy observing sustained recovery in FY2025: Finance Ministry

ISLAMABAD (APP): The first four months of the current fiscal year showed better than expected improvement marked by receding inflation, a significant increase in remittances and IT exports, sustained external and fiscal sectors and a downward trend in interest rate, finance ministry said in a report released here Wednesday.

According to Monthly Economic Update and Outlook for November, the fiscal sector stability has been evident on the back of prudent fiscal consolidation as during July-September (FY2025), the net federal revenues grew by 186 percent to Rs.4,019 billion from Rs.1,406 billion during the same period of last year.

"The unprecedented increase in revenues was mainly driven by the surplus profit of the State Bank of Pakistan (Rs2,500 billion)," the report said. According to the report, the tax and non-tax revenues increased by 25.5 percent and 566.9 percent to Rs.2,563 billion and Rs.3,022 billion respectively.

On the other hand, total expenditure grew slightly by 1.8 percent to Rs.2,483 billion against Rs.2,438 billion last year while the mark-up expenditure declined by 5.3 percent owing to the gradual decline in the policy rate.

Resultantly, the fiscal balance posted a surplus of Rs.1,896 billion (1.5% of GDP) compared to the deficit of Rs.981 billion



Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, chaired a special meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) at the Finance Division in Islamabad.

US, China and UK top 3 destinations of Pakistani exports during Jul-Oct 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): The United States (US) remained the top export destination of Pakistani products during the first four months of the current financial year 2024-25, followed by China and the United Kingdom (UK).

Total exports to the US during July-October 2024-25 were recorded at US \$2037.270 million against the exports of US \$1862.086 million during July-October 2023-24, showing an increase of 9.40 percent, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

This was followed by China, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth US \$813.441 million against the exports of US \$952.441 million last year, showing a decrease of 14.59 percent.

UK was the third top export destination, where Pakistan exported products worth US

Cattle-owners to get interest free loans

SARGODHA (APP): Deputy Director (DD) Livestock and Dairy Development Sargodha Dr. Muhammad Tanveer Kalyar said on Wednesday that the Punjab government had decided to give interest-free loans up to Rs. 270,000 to the livestock farmers, for which Rs. 11 billion have been allocated.

While talking to APP here on Wednesday, he said that interest-free loan from Rs. 135,000 to Rs. 270,000 for four months would be given to those cattle owners who have valid CNIC card, having their mobile-phone SIM registered and activated in their names and they have five to 10 male calves.

He said that facility desks had been set up in all livestock hospitals to receive applications under the livestock card initiative, where trained staff were helping farmers to file applications through the app.

SCCI demands prompt steps to resolve business community issues

PESHAWAR (Online) Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Fazal Moqem Khan demanded uninterrupted electricity, gas supply to businesses and industries, abolishment of 2 percent provincial cess on export and elimination of double/unjust taxes forthwith.

He made these demands during a meeting with Deputy Commissioner Peshawar Capt (retired) Sarmad Saleem Ikram at the DC office while leading a delegation of an 85-

Rupee sheds 12 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Wednesday depreciated by 12 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 277.96 against the previous day's closing of Rs 277.84.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 277.50 and Rs 279.00 respectively.

The price of Euro increased by 86 paise to close at Rs 291.98 against the last day's closing of Rs 291.12, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen went up by 63 paise and closed at Rs 1.83.

WAPDA chairman reviews construction progress on K-IV Project

LAHORE (APP): Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) Chairman Engr. Lt-Gen (ret) Sajjad Ghani visited the Greater Karachi Bulk Water Supply Scheme (K-IV) to review the construction progress at various components, including intake works, pumping stations, and pressurised pipelines.

During the visit, the chairman underscored the critical importance of the K-IV Project for addressing Karachi's growing water needs. He urged the project team to accelerate construction activities and adhere to the project

Pakistan exports seafood worth \$116m in 4 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan earned \$116.115 million by exporting 54,539 metric tonnes of fish and fish preparations during the first four months of fiscal year 2024-25, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

As compared to the exports of \$123.965 million during fiscal year 2023-24, the fish exports during the period under review witnessed a decline of 6.33 percent, according to PBS data.

In terms of quantity, the exports of fish and fish preparations decreased by 0.04 percent during the period when compared to exports of 54,562 metric

Gold Prices surge by Rs1,600 per tola

LAHORE (APP): Gold rates in Pakistan saw another big surge here, as price moved up by Rs. 1600 per tola on Wednesday according to local Sarafa Association sources, the price of gold per tola surged by Rs1,600, reaching Rs275,900, while the price of 10-gram gold rose by Rs1,372, settling at Rs236,540. These hikes were in line international gold market.

47th PBIT Board meeting six-point agenda

LAHORE (APP): Board attended the meeting. PBIT CEO Jalal Hassan gave a detailed briefing on the board's performance, operations, and the strategic plan for the next six months.

During the meeting, the formation of seven committees including the Audit Committee, Risk Management Committee, and Human Resource Committee, was approved. The committee for the hiring of the PBIT CEO and related matters would finalise its recommendations within two weeks.

Terms "final call" as missed call Muqam slams PTI leaders for fleeing protests, abandoning workers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and President PML-N Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Engineer Amir Muqam, has strongly criticized leaders of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for fleeing the scene of violent protest while leaving their supporters behind.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, Muqam stated that "We've said it before this 'final call' will prove to be a missed call". He said there is a clear divide between the PTI and its leaders who wanted to create anarchy in the country. He condemned the actions of PTI leadership, ac-



Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi inquiring about the health of injured ASP Muhammad Aleem at PIMS Hospital.

President SCBA says: Interior minister should step down for issuing barbaric order against people

ISLAMABAD (Online): President Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) Mian Rauf Atta has said the way Interior minister has issued order of barbarity and tyranny, we demand he should step down.

"Interior minister deliberately got taken the action against those who were there for protest for the sake of their constitutional right.

"As interior minister is not elected representative of people and he has been merely selected forthwith. It is our opinion that these matters could be resolved through talks.

It is our demand he should resign from his office as interior minister forthwith and some elected represented be appointed



HUB: Spokesman of President Asif Ali Zardari and Provincial Advisor for Industries issuing directives on applications of citizens at khuli kutchery.

Ahsan Iqbal criticizes CM KP for violating laws through official machinery

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday criticized the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur for violating laws in the public meeting by using official machinery.

Gandapur had utilized official resources to sabotage peace and business environment in the federal capital, he said while talking to a private television channel. The KP chief minister should utilize the

MoU signed to enhance living conditions for women

QUETTA (APP): A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on Wednesday between Aurat Foundation (AF) and Inspector General (IG) Prisons Department at the IG Prisons Office Quetta.

The MoU was signed by Mr. Allauddin Khilji, Resident Director of Aurat Foundation, and Mr. Ishaque Zehri, Superintendent of Central Jail Quetta under the supervision of Malik Shuja Uddin Kasi, Inspector General of Prisons.

Allauddin Khilji and Ishaque Zehri said that the partnership aims to improve the living conditions and welfare of women and juvenile inmates in Quetta District Jail throughout the project period.

They said, this collaboration paves the way for the implementation of the "Enforcement of Technical Training and Rehabilitation Program for Juvenile Inmates in Quetta District Jail 2024-2025," with the financial support of Muslim Charity.



QUETTA: MPA Haji Malik Shah Gorgage, Chairman PAC Asghar Ali Tareen and others meeting with Senator Maulana Abdul Wasay.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti visiting different stalls during concluding ceremony of 7th Job Fair at BUTEMS.

Gilani praises Grand Mufti's contributions to Muslim world

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Wednesday expressed gratitude for the Saudi Arabi Grand Mufti's contributions to the Muslim world and his efforts in promoting Islamic values during challenging times.

During a meeting with the Grand Mufti, he highlighted the deep-rooted ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, founded on shared religious values and mutual respect.

He underscored the importance of unity within the Muslim Ummah and reiterated the commitment of both nations to jointly address modern challenges.

"Pakistan seeks collaboration with Saudi Arabia in educational and religious sectors," Gilani said, adding that such cooperation would help highlight Islam's message of peace.

He emphasized that fostering peace and stability in the region is a shared responsibility of the Muslim leadership.

The Chairman also praised the Grand Mufti's efforts in promoting tolerance and harmony, advocating for increased exchange of scholars and religious experts to strengthen mutual understanding.

He further commended the Grand Mufti's exemplary role in resolving conflicts and addressing contemporary issues, acknowledging his vital contribution to the unity and guidance of the Muslim Ummah.

Gilani proposed accelerating religious education initiatives and facilitating expert delegation exchanges between the two countries.

He also extended an invitation to the Grand Mufti to visit Pakistan, praising the deep connection between the people of Pakistan and the religious leadership of Saudi Arabia.

"The fatwas issued by the Grand Mufti serve as guidance not only for Saudi Arabia but for the entire Islamic world," Gilani said adding that the Grand Mufti has consistently provided direction on issues of unity and modern challenges facing the Muslim Ummah.

He acknowledged the Grand Mufti's exemplary role in resolving conflicts and addressing pressing issues, stressing that the government and people of Pakistan greatly value his positive contributions.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over a meeting to review performance of Health Department.

149 out of 678 schools in Quetta found non-functional: 48 teachers found absent in 140 schools of Quetta; committee to take action against 25 chronic absentees

QUETTA: In all 48 teachers were found absent during visit to some 140 schools by the monitoring team in Quetta district. Out of them, 25 have been absent for last one or two years. About the absentee teachers, a committee has been formed, which would take action against them.

The necessary orders would be issued for dismissal of the chronic absentee teachers after necessary scrutiny.

This information was shared during a review meeting of District Education Group chaired by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Muhammad Anwar Kakar here the other day.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Sariat, District Treasury Officer, District Education Officers (Male and Female) Quetta, representatives of the RTCM and UNICEF besides other concerned officials.

The detailed report about the functional and non-functional schools as well as absentee teachers and other staff of Education department was presented in the meeting.

It was informed that the RTCM visited some 140 middle and primary schools last month. Similarly, the report about 678 schools of Quetta was also presented in the meeting. These included 149 non-functional schools, it was informed further.

The names of these schools were submitted to the department for further action.

It was decided to deduct salary of the teachers found absent during visit of the RTCM.



QUETTA: Provincial President Jamaat-e-Islami Maulana Hidayatur Rehman talking with media men at protest camp for Baloch missing persons.

0.6 mln acres of land to be cultivated from Kachhi Canal: Umrani

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Minister for Irrigation Mir Sadiq Umrani on Wednesday said that 0.6 million acres of land would be cultivated with the completion of the Kachhi Canal to bring development and prosperity in green belt of Balochistan.

He expressed these views while talking to the media here. Provincial Irrigation Minister Mir Sadiq Umrani said that the federal government has been working on the Kachhi Canal for 24 years saying that 57,000 acres of land would be irrigated in Dera Bugti.

He said that he had met Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in this regard to address issues of farmers for enhancing of agriculture sector.

He said that the provincial government is trying to increase the funds for the Kachhi Canal in the next financial year. The Minister noted that if this project is handed over to the provincial government and it would complete this project in two years.

He said that the livelihood of the people of Balochistan is depended on agriculture sector and thousands of farmers and landowners would be benefited from the completion of Kachhi Canal.

He said that the government is working to eliminate unemployment saying that in this regard, 30,000 skilled youth are being sent to Saudi Arabia, Dubai, Turkey and other countries.



QUETTA: MPA Haji Malik Shah Gorgage, Chairman PAC Asghar Ali Tareen and others meeting with Senator Maulana Abdul Wasay.

Service delivery system is not satisfactory even despite posting of 250,000 "babus" in Balochistan, says Chief Minister

Mir Sarfaraz Bugti asserts hurdles are intolerable in affairs of public interest under garb of protest; directs to complete process of recruitments in Health Department

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has directed to the concerned authorities to complete the process of recruitments in the health department. He warned that stern action would be taken against those making recruitments or those being appointed against the merit.

He regretfully pointed out that some 250,000 government babus (clerks) are posted in the province, but the system of service delivery is not satisfactory.

He said that the hurdles in the affairs of public interest are intolerable at all under the garb of protest. He said that those have reservations on the reforms in the health sector may come and talk to us as our doors are open for them.

The Chief Minister was chairing a review meeting about performance of the Health department here at the CM's secretariat on Tuesday.

Those who were in attendance were included the Provincial Minister for Health, Bakht Muhammad Kakar, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Secretary Health, Mujebeur Rehman, Director General Health Services, Dr. Amin Khan Mandokhail.

The Chief Minister asserted that the results of comprehensive reforms should be seen on ground.

He said that 80 percent issues of people would be resolved with solution of the health and education related problems.

He stressed that the common men must benefit from the resources allocated for health sector. He on the occasion warned that stern action would be taken against those creating hurdles in way of reforms in the province.



MOSCOW: Speaker National Assembly along with delegation at near Wall of Kremlin Moscow after laying wreath at the tomb of Unknown Soldier.

Aimal Wali criticizes PTI leadership for exploiting workers

PESHAWAR (APP): Awami National Party (ANP) President Aimal Wali Khan held the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership accused of deliberately keeping it's leader in jail to maintain their grip on power.

Speaking at a press conference here Aimal, criticized PTI leaders for risking workers' lives for their ulterior motives and political ambitions.

He deplored that PTI leaders left workers in danger during protests, but abandon them when the situation escalates.

The ANP chief further stated that no harm has come to any PTI's member of Parliament during protests, as the leadership strategically uses ordinary workers to confront police.

He urged the KP government to focus on improving security in the province rather than engaging in adventures.

Chairman PCP flays attack on media houses, journalists by PTI protesters

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Press Council of Pakistan (PCP), M Arshad Khan Jadoon, has strongly condemned the violent actions of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protesters against media houses and journalists, including the National Press Club (NPC), in Islamabad on Tuesday.

Expressing grave concern over the incidents, the chairman termed the attacks on media institutions and personnel as a blatant violation of press freedom and journalistic integrity. "No one will be allowed to intimidate or harm media professionals or institutions under any circumstances," he stated.

The attack saw a group of 50 to 60 protesters attempting to forcibly enter the National Press Club. Reports indicate that they tried to breach one of the gates, harassed staff, and even scaled the walls of the premises.

An initiative for empowerment of women: Government of Balochistan decides to provide pink scooties to female employees, students of province

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Balochistan government has decided to provide pink scooties to the female employees and students, as an initiative to empower women of the province.

As part of the decision, the Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti gifted the pink scooties to a female student of Federal Government (FG) Degree Girls College namely Tahira Arif and a lady police constable.

Speaking on the occasion of handing over the pink scooties to the female student and lady constable, Chief Minister said that the scooties would be provided to the female students of universities, colleges and secondary schools in the province. He said that the implementation of the policy regarding pink scooties scheme would be started soon after its formulation.

He said that we want to make the women and students of province self-reliant and confident. He also said that we are determined to provide wholehearted opportunities to the women of Balochistan in all sectors of life.

Referring the appointment of women on the administrative positions in the province, Chief Minister said that at present five female Deputy Commissioners are posted in different districts of the province.

He said that the female Deputy Commissioners have been performing excellent administrative service in the province.

Normalcy returns to Islamabad: roads, shops reopen

ISLAMABAD (APP): Following a large-scale operation against protestors, all life in the capital returned to normal on Wednesday with all major roads, highways reopened and business activities were resumed.

The Srinagar Highway and 26 number bridge and Fateh Jang Road, are now fully accessible. Commuters can also use Peshawar Road and Sangjani Toll Plaza without disruptions, he added.

In addition, the containers from Kati Pahari, Margalla avenue, and GT Road have been removed and old Margalla Road has been completely reopened following the removal of containers. Barriers at various interchange points and other routes in the city have



RAWALPINDI: GOP/NDMA dispatched 21st consignment in collaboration with Pakistan Air Force, comprised of 17 tons of supplies via chartered aircraft from Chaklala, Rawalpindi to Damascus, Syria.

Ayaz Sadiq meets Deputy Chairman of Council of Muftis

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Wednesday met with Deputy Chairman of the Council of Muftis, Professor Damir Mukhetdinov, during his official visit to the Cathedral Mosque in Moscow, Russia.

According to a news release received here, the Speaker expressed content over the expanding friendly relations between the Muslim World and Russia.

He lauded Russia's principled stance against Islamophobia and expressed gratitude on behalf of the Parliament of Pakistan.

He also praised President Putin's statement regarding upholding the utmost respect for the religious personalities of all faiths.

The Speaker extolled the promotion of interfaith harmony and religious pluralism in Russia. Moreover, it was mutually agreed to enhance religious and cultural cooperation between both countries.

Furthermore, Ayaz Sadiq lamented the ongoing brutality and senseless violence in Palestine. Both sides expressed solidarity with the Palestinian People.

The parliamentary delegation led by Speaker Ayaz Sadiq is on an official visit to Moscow from 27th to 29th November 2024.