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COAS expresses resolve to protect Pakistan's digital borders

Says no matter how difficult the situation may be, if we all stand together, nothing can harm us; Commends active participation of defense manufacturers from friendly nations at IDEAS-2024 at Karachi Expo Centre

KARACHI (APP): Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir says protection of Pakistan's digital borders and the digital security of the people is the responsibility of the state.

Addressing the business community in Karachi today, he said that terrorism is backed by those who do illegal businesses, with certain elements behind them.

The Army Chief emphasized that we must always prioritize the country over personal interests as nothing, including politics, is above Pakistan.

Describing the state as a motherly figure, he said the value of the state should be understood by looking at the people of Libya, Iraq, and Palestine. He reminded the audience, "Remember, we have no identity other than Pakistan."

Talking about challenges facing the nation, General

Syed Asim Munir said no matter how difficult the situation may be, if we all stand together, nothing can harm us.

Encouraging Pakistani expatriates to bring their investments back home, he said through this move, the people will prosper, and the country will develop.

Earlier General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M) Chief of Army Staff (COAS) on Wednesday visited the International Defence Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS-2024) at the Karachi Expo Centre.

During the visit, the COAS commended the active participation of defense manufacturers from friendly nations and observed an impressive display of arms and equipment by both domestic and international exhibitors, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release.



KARACHI: General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M) Chief of Army Staff (COAS), visiting the International Defence Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS-2024) at the Karachi Expo Centre.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Polio Oversight Board meeting with Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif.

PM reaffirms commitment to eradicate polio from Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday reiterated the resolve of the government to make Pakistan a polio-free country and said that the federation along with all the provinces were taking steps at polio eradication.

He said all the provinces had been taken into confidence over the polio eradication measure and together they would efface the disease. A delegation of Polio Oversight Board comprising Christopher Elias, Representative of Bill and Malinda Gates Foundation, Dr Hanan Balkhy, Regional Director World Health Organization, UNICEF Regional Director Sanjay Wijesekera, Deputy Director Center for Disease Control and Prevention Andrea Fristedt, Rotary Foundation Trustee and National

Chair Dr Aziz Memon, Dr. Ziyad bin Ahmed Meemish of King Salman Humanitarian and Relief Center and Health and Environmental Advisor K Srelief Dr. Abdullah bin Saleh called on the prime minister, PM Office Media Wing in a press release said.

The prime minister thanked the delegation for their visit and support to government's efforts to end polio.

He also expressed his gratitude to King Salman Foundation, Bill and Malinda Gates Foundation, Rotary Foundation, UNICEF and CDC that are partners to government in its anti-polio measures.

The prime minister observed that the part played by these organizations showed global efforts in the polio eradication drive and expressed the confidence that they would overcome

the challenge of polio and would not rest till it was banished forever. The meeting was attended by PM Coordinator on National Health Dr Mukhtar Ahmad Bharath, PM's Focal Person on Polio Eradication Ayesha Raza Farooq and other senior officials.

The delegation praised the prime minister and the polio eradication team for their efforts.

The representative of Bill and Gates said that the current strategy of the country against polio disease had effectively been implemented and its effects were being witnessed at the macro-level which hopefully would end the polio cases.

Dr Hanan Balkhy said that for the public health, the regional countries were required to strengthen their contacts and initiate dialogue.

Imran Khan gets bail in new Toshakhana case

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday granted post-arrest bail to the PTI founder in Toshakhana-II case.

The court accepted the bail against surety bonds worth Rs. one million and ordered the authorities to release the accused.

The court, however, said that the bail could be withdrawn if the accused didn't cooperate during the trial process.

Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb announced the verdict on the arrest bail petition of the PTI founder.

During the hearing, the court questioned what action was taken against the three customs officers responsible for the wrong assessment of the Bulgarian Jewelry set.

The FIA's prosecutor

said that it was a mistake on their part but it was not criminal misconduct by the officers. The NAB had not recommended any disciplinary action against these officers, he added.

He said that the jewelry said was never submitted to toshakhana, adding that the accused managed to get a low-value assessment of the set and caused a loss to the national exchequer.

He said that the PTI founder and his wife both took benefit of it. He further said that this court had granted bail to Bushra Bibi but she was not appearing before the trial court which is delaying the indictment process of the accused.

He said that the PTI founder misused his position and threatened the person responsible for assessing the value of the set.

Sarfaraz Bugti meets Maryam Nawaz CM Punjab assures assistance to eliminate terrorism in Balochistan

Independent Report

LAHORE: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti met the Chief Minister Punjab, Ms. Maryam Nawaz in Lahore on Wednesday.

During the course of meeting, political situation and the measures about promotion of inter-provincial har-



mony were discussed. Also present in the meeting were the former caretaker Prime Minister, Anwarul Haq Kakar, senior Provincial Minister Punjab, Ms. Maryam Aurangzeb, senior leader of PML-N, Pervez Rasheed.

Speaking to the Chief Minister Punjab, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti said that we are determined to improve governance in Balochistan. He said that the available resources are being utilized for collective welfare of the people.

Besides, we are also taking steps to cope with terrorism in the province, he added.

The Chief Minister Punjab on the occasion said that people living in Balochistan are like brothers. She said that the terrorists want to influence the development of Balochistan. Ms. Maryam Nawaz assured wholehearted assistance to the Chief Minister Balochistan for eliminating terrorism in the province.

CNS inaugurates Pakistan Maritime Science and Technology Park

Independent Report

KARACHI: The groundbreaking ceremony of Pakistan's first Maritime Science and Technology Park (PMSTP) was held at EXPO Centre during IDEAS-2024. Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, graced the event as the Chief Guest.

While addressing the ceremony, the Naval Chief highlighted historic significance of the project, stating that PMSTP will pave the way for much-needed growth in maritime sciences, technologies, businesses, and industries. He emphasized that this initiative will open new avenues for enhancing Pakistan's GDP and advancing the maritime sector.

PMSTP is envisioned as a transformative hub for innovation and advancement, focusing on maritime science and technology to bolster Pakistan's blue economy. The project represents a significant step towards addressing Pakistan's economic challenges, with plans for expansion beyond Karachi to Islamabad, Lahore, and Gwadar.

President, Prime Minister pay tribute to martyred soldiers 12 security personnel martyred in Bannu suicide attack: ISPR

Six terrorists killed in attempt to attack joint check post in Bannu's Mali Khel; 10 personnel from security forces, 2 from FC martyred

RAWALPINDI (APP): Security Forces killed six Khwarij terrorists on Wednesday by effectively thwarting Khwarij attempt to enter the Joint Check Post in general area MaliKhel in Bannu District.

"In ensuing fire exchange, six khwarij were sent to hell. The attempt to enter the post was effectively thwarted by own troops, which forced the khwarij to ram an explosive laden vehicle into the perimeter wall of the post. The suicide blast led to collapse of portion of perimeter wall and damaged the adjoining infrastructure, resulting in Shahadat of 12 brave sons of soil that include 10 soldiers of the security forces and two soldiers of Frontier Constabulary," said a news release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR).

"Sanitization operation is being conducted in the

area and the perpetrators of this heinous act will be brought to justice. Security forces and law enforcement agencies of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave men further strengthen our resolve," it further said.

President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday expressed grief over the martyrdom of 12 security forces personnel in a terrorist attack that took place in Bannu.

In their separately issued statements, both the president and prime minister paid tributes to the armed forces personnel for sacrificing their lives and killing six terrorists while safeguarding the country.

"The whole nation salutes the soldiers for sacrificing their lives for the security of their motherland,"

the president said and reiterated the nation's resolve to wipe out terrorism from the country.

He also prayed to Allah Almighty for the elevation of the martyrs' ranks in paradise and for strength for the bereaved families to bear the loss.

"The sacrifices of the nation's soldiers will never be squandered. The Fitna Al Khawarij (terrorist) posing threats to the lives and properties of the people will have to pay a heavy price for it," Prime Minister Shehbaz said and reiterated that the fight against terrorism will continue till the complete elimination of this scourge.

Meanwhile the funeral prayers of 12 Shaheed personnel of armed forces who fought valiantly against Khwarij terrorists in MaliKhel were offered on Wednesday at Bannu Garrison.

Governor Balochistan says

SBKWU becomes even more stable than before coming out of continuous hardships of several years

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that Sardar Bahadur Khan Women University (SBKWU) has risen rather more stable than before after coming out of the continuous hardships and problems of several years.

He said that it is not mere a statement to get the Women University to the height of educational development and standard and take the score of performance of the University to 80 percent, rather it is his commitment with you all. The Governor was

speaking to the delegation of SBKWU who called on him under leadership of its Vice Chancellor, Professor Rubina Mushtaq here on Wednesday.

The Governor was also briefed about the performance and financial hardships of the University.

Also present during the meeting was Principal Secretary to the Governor, Hashim Khan Ghilzai.

While appreciating performance of the SBKWU, Governor said that still a lot has to be done. He announced that the meetings of Senate and Syndicate of the University would be

conducted as per the schedule.

He said that complete merit and decision making would be ensured with mutual cooperation. He made it clear that he would keep strict vigil on all matters of the University through his team.

He exhorted the management to pay wholehearted attention on studies of the students and ensure examinations at the scheduled dates. Besides he also directed to ensure transparency, answerability and merit in the administrative and academic affairs of the university.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail being briefed by Vice Chancellor Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University Prof. Dr. Rubina Mushtaq about University.

Tribal elders, scholars call on IGFC (North)

QUETTA (APP): Tribal elders and scholars called on Inspector General Frontier Corps (IGFC) Balochistan (North) in Loralai district.

Civil administration officers and FC officials were also present in the meeting. In the meeting, the law and order situation and other matters were discussed in detail.

The tribal elders and scholars assured full cooperation with all the institutions for the establishment of law and order situation in the area. On this occasion, tribal elders and scholars paid tribute to the key role of law enforcement agencies in establishing peace in the province.

SCP paves way to re-polling in PB-15, Jatak looses cabinet portfolio

ISLAMABAD (APP): Rejecting the appeal of PPP Baluchistan leader Ali Madad Jatak, the Supreme Court of Pakistan has upheld the judgment of the Election Tribunal, paving way to re-polling in 15 polling stations of the Baluchistan Provincial Assembly constituency No.45.

Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarian (PPP-P) leader Ali Madad Jatak was declared winner from PB45 Quetta by securing 5671 votes in general election 2024. Usman Pirkani, Jamiat Ulema Islam (JUI-F), the runner up candidate with 4346 votes challenged

the results and got a judgment in his favor from the Election Tribunal No.1 for re-polling in 15 polling stations.

Ali Madad Jatak, who took oath as Member of the Provincial Assembly and Provincial Minister for Agriculture in the meantime, challenged the judgment of the Election Tribunal for re-polling in 15 polling stations.

The Supreme Court, however, rejected his appeal Wednesday and upheld the judgment of the Election Tribunal paving way to re-polling in 15 polling stations of the said constituency.

No chance of Imran's release despite bail in new Toshakhana case: Tarar

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Information Minister Ataullah Tarar has said that PTI founder Imran Khan is unlikely to walk free despite securing bail in the new Toshakhana case.

"There is no chance of the PTI founder's release," the information minister said while speaking to a private tv channel on Wednesday.

Tarar said that the case regarding the selling of state gifts was being heard in a trial court and that sufficient evidence was available against the PTI founder. "The trial is yet to be concluded," he added.

He further noted that the "bail can be cancelled" in case of non-cooperation on Imran's part, particularly if he emulates his wife, Bushra Bibi, who has a history of such con-

duct. The information minister reiterated that case would continue for a long time.

Addressing the possibilities of Imran Khan's release, Tarar said the PTI founder had not received bail in eight FIRs related to the May 9 mayhem when the party and its members targeted defence structures, including monuments for the martyrs. "Release for him is not possible; there are many other cases he needs to secure bail in," he said.

When asked about negotiations between the federal government and PTI leadership, Tarar questioned, "Even if there were negotiations, who would guarantee that PTI will remain peaceful?" citing the party's history of violating peaceful protest norms.

China reaffirms strong support for Pakistan's fight against terrorism

Monitoring Desk

BEIJING: A Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson reiterated Beijing's strong backing for Pakistan in its ongoing efforts to combat terrorism, particularly in the troubled region of Balochistan.

During a regular press briefing on Wednesday, Lin Jian expressed China's unwavering commitment to supporting Pakistan's fight against the menace of terrorism. "Let me say broadly that China firmly supports Pakistan's effort of fighting terrorism," he stated, responding to a query about Pakistan's comprehensive military operation targeting terrorism in Balochistan.

Joint military exercise between Pakistan, China begins in Pabbi

PABBI (Online): Opening Ceremony of Pak-China Joint Exercise Warrior-VIII between Pakistan Army and Peoples' Liberation Army of China was conducted at National Counter Terrorism Center Pabbi, today. Three weeks long Exercise in Counter Terrorism domain is 8th in the series of bilateral exercise being conducted annually. The exercise is aimed at refining professional skills through joint training besides harnessing the historic military to military relations among the Iron Clad Brothers.

Lieutenant General Shahid Imtiaz, HI (M), Commander Rawalpindi Corps graced the occasion as Chief Guest.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi, Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani and Mir Barkat Rind talking during Balochistan Assembly session.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Islamabad protest

From the scale of preparations, one wonders if the Islamabad Police is preparing for war.

According to recent news reports, thousands of security personnel, 1,200 containers, large quantities of anti-riot gear, thousands of rubber bullets and thousands of teargas guns and shells have been requisitioned by the capital's police in anticipation of the protest announced for this Sunday by the PTI.

Reinforcements in the tens of thousands have also been requested from the FC, Rangers, Sindh and Punjab police, and the authorities have been told that millions of rupees will be required to feed and transport law-enforcement personnel while they are deployed in the city. At the same time, Section 144 has been extended for two more months in the city, and it appears from the security plans that Islamabad will once again be turned into what locals pejoratively describe as 'Containeristan'. Is all of this really necessary? It must be asked.

The city administration may have intended to demonstrate strength by sharing the plans it has made, but instead, it looks like it is panicking. Large protests and sit-ins are part and parcel of Pakistan's political process, and the PTI's announcement of a march on Islamabad is nothing out of the ordinary if past precedents are considered.

It may be true that the party's decision to frame this protest as a 'do or die' moment has raised the stakes, but if the predictions and analyses shared by TV commentators are to be believed, it seems that the security personnel requisitioned for the event will outnumber the protesters many times to one. Instead of broadcasting its preparedness for a 'war' with protesting citizens, perhaps Islamabad Police should direct its energies towards coming up with a plan on how their right to protest will be accommodated while respecting security concerns.

On its part, the PTI leadership needs to tone down the rhetoric and reconsider the pressure it is placing on its cadres to ensure turnout. Demanding that each lawmaker turn up with a prescribed number of supporters or forego their party ticket reflects a lack of confidence in the party's position. Requiring its leaders to prove their 'loyalty' could also push some diehards to take more extreme measures to please their leaders. This could prove counterproductive.

The protesters should not be led to believe they are marching to 'conquer' Islamabad.

The party is within its rights to organise and protest, but at the same time, it must demonstrate that it is conscious of its responsibility to ensure that its activities remain peaceful. As Nov 24 draws nearer, both the PTI and the Islamabad administration must remain wary of how their posturing will be interpreted and keep within the limits of reason and the law.

Past and future

Mahir Ali

This week's column was intended to be a diatribe against the circumstances that are choking the denizens of Delhi and Lahore, and a reflection on the absurdity of the inevitably doomed Conference of the Parties (COP29) in a country determined to thrive on its oil exports.

But then, a sorrowful memory intervened. I was still a relative novice in the newsroom of this paper 40 years ago today when Ghazi Salahuddin, Dawn's energetic news editor, informed me that the nation's foremost poet was on his deathbed in a Lahore hospital.

Shortly afterwards, Ghazi confirmed the inevitable — and persuaded me to write a tribute. I was out of my depth, given my perfunctory knowledge of Urdu literature. I had known him as 'Faiz chacha' since my childhood as a friend of my parents, although I was better acquainted with his warm-hearted partner, Auntie Alys. It wasn't until my mid-teens that I began to appreciate Faiz as an exquisite poet.

My only one-to-one with him occurred in an antechamber at Moscow's Metropol hotel in 1977. I was at the cusp of a fruitless journey to earn a medical degree at the People's Friendship University, and only vaguely aware of the disaster that was unfolding in Pakistan. I can't recall the month, but it was after the March elections and before the July coup. Faiz summoned me out of his crowded living-room salon into a dining room where he offered me one of his Kent cigarettes (and was mildly surprised when I gratefully accepted) before launching into a broad overview of what was transpiring in our homeland.

I was mildly bewildered to begin with, but the primary purpose of the poet's narrative was to as-

suage any concerns I might have about the safety of my parents. Blissfully unaware at the time of their ultimately unsuccessful endeavours to effect a rapprochement between prime minister Z.A. Bhutto and the Baloch leaders he had stupidly incarcerated — amid death threats that persuaded my father to carry his World War II service revolver on train journeys to Hyderabad, where the National Awami Party stalwarts were imprisoned — I wasn't particularly worried. Until that conversation.

Not long afterwards, a fellow student informed me that Pakistan, like Bangladesh, had a Zia at the helm, and reminded me of the inimitable Punjabi poet Ustad Daman's sadly evergreen couplet: 'Pakistan diyaan majaan ee majaan/ Jithay waikho faujan ee faujan' (a loose translation: 'There is no end to Pakistan's joy/ Wherever you look, the military is deployed'). A distraught Daman left his own deathbed to attend Faiz's funeral, where he reputedly wailed, "Don't leave me behind!" Neither of them lived to witness the unexpected demise of Pakistan's most toxic tyrant, or the hybrid horrors that followed.

The aftermath might have reinforced their despair. And both the Lahoris (sure, Faiz was a Sialkoti who also lived in Karachi and Beirut, and spent time elsewhere, while Daman never budged from his inner-city bolt-hole) would have been appalled by their hometown's profoundly depressing contest with Delhi as the most polluted city in the world. They would have been familiar with the delightfully crisp air, crunchily frost and morning mist of the Lahore winters that enthralled me as a child, walking or cycling to school.

Faiz might also have

been alarmed by the venue of COP29. I'm not sure if Baku ever figured in his verse, possibly because even during its Soviet phase Azerbaijan's capital tended to be viewed as an oily city. Several of his 1970s poems are datelined Moscow, Tashkent, Samarkand and so on — but never, as far as I can tell, Baku. Luckily for him, Faiz passed away well before the USSR ceased to exist, a mock democracy resurfaced in his beloved Pakistan, and an India where he was widely adored — a sentiment he heartily reciprocated — lapsed into Hindutva.

Faiz would have been disappointed but perhaps not surprised by what has occurred in the past 40 years. I don't have a copy of the tribute I speedily churned out in 1984 — just three weeks after an unexpected morning phone call from Ghazi at my YMCA lodgings, minutes away from the coalface, had alerted me to Indira Gandhi's assassination — but I do recall focusing in part on Faiz's consistent internationalism, and notably the drumbeat of rebellion that echoed throughout Aajao Afreeka (Come Back, Africa).

A couple of years later, his poem Hum Dekhain Geentereed the stratosphere courtesy of Iqbal Bano's brilliant rendition. It envisaged a future that remains suspended between now and a possible tomorrow. His record as a journalist, literary critic and trade unionist testifies to the fact that Faiz was always more than just a poet. Yet it is primarily his verse that will forever remain a guiding torchlight towards a brighter tomorrow in which today's younger generations might revel across the subcontinent. -- Courtesy Dawn

Self-radicalisation

Mohammad Ali Babakhel

Radicalisation is a human tendency that is as old as humanity itself. However, in the modern age, instant connectivity has increased the possibility of self-radicalisation. Technology, particularly the internet and social media, has enabled individuals to connect globally, share their ideologies, recruit and train others, make appeals for funding, and propagate, communicate, and coordinate their activities. The anonymity of the internet aids these activities and allows individuals to self-radicalise without active and face-to-face support.

The radicalisation process can vary, but generally involves four stages: pre-radicalisation (the lifestyle of an individual prior to radicalisation), self-identification, indoctrination, and acceptance of a role as a warrior. During radicalisation, an individual adopts extreme political, social, or religious thoughts, rejects the status quo, or undermines contemporary values. Extreme websites, direct interactions with violent extremists, community support for violence, and anger against certain political decisions regarding foreign and internal policies may provide 'justification' for radicalisation.

Historical factors, such as the involvement of family or friends in violence, an individual's previous criminal record and previous exposure to violence, history of training imparted by militant groups, and foreign travel, particularly to a conflict area, are important factors that may lead to radicalisation. Radicalisation can also be inspired by experiences while travelling abroad, research, or human rights violations, particularly in areas occupied by foreign forces.

Home-grown terrorist cells are generally semi-autonomous or consist of isolated individuals. These individuals may be 'self-starters' and may not have a criminal record. There is an impression that home-grown recruits are usually second-generation immigrants facing an identity crisis. Narratives of unresolved conflicts in history may provide them motive for action and lead to self-radicalisation. Personal experiences of victimisation, political grievances, and feelings of exclusion are also instrumental in self-radicalisation.

During the self-radicalisation process, the person may experience a crisis caused by personal or social disruption. Relationships, rituals, and roles may change during the radicalisation period. In this time, individuals may be on a slippery slope where they engage with a radical group or individuals propagating a radical ideology. External factors like polarisation within society and social isolation faced by an individual may contribute to self-radicalisation, as isolation reinforces radicalism. Poverty is also often seen as one of the prime reasons for radicalisation, but it seems to be a myth as many militants come from middle-class backgrounds and have a university education.

Self-radicalisation can be tackled through partnerships between law-enforcement agencies and citizens.

To address the menace of radicalisation, LEAs have implemented various programmes, including 'neighbourhood policing', which seeks to establish trust within a community by establishing an information exchange mechanism. The Turkish police have developed a 'community partnership

program--me to gather information from community members about suspicious activities. Similarly, in 2010, the US Department of Homeland Security announced the 'See Something, Say Something' programme.

Disengagement and de-radicalisation are well-thought-out psychological and social processes. Disengagement involves behavioural changes in the affected person, including leaving a radicalised group or limiting one's role within the group. De-radicalisation involves cognitive change, such as relinquishing an ideology. Deradicalisation programmes can be evaluated and monitored to understand the economic, psychological, and social motivations for joining an extremist group.

What financial incentives did the radicalised person or their family derive from engagement in violence? How can family members be engaged in the deradicalisation process?

Governments and LEAs must adopt measures to address terrorists' use of the internet. This includes removing radical content from the web, filtering and restricting users' access, controlling the exchange of information, and investing in countering extremism in cyberspace. Blocking certain websites may seem like the easiest solution, but simply blocking them may only be a technical fix. An alternative, more effective option is to counter extremist narratives.

There is a dire need to shift the focus from the 'war on terrorism' to the battle of ideas. Killing terrorists may be easy, but defeating ideology can prove rather difficult. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja in a meeting with TikTok delegation.

Ahsan proposes GSP-Plus, 5Es framework alignment to get export-led economic growth

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday proposed a multi-pronged strategy, aligning the GSP-Plus programme with the 5Es framework to get export-led economic growth secure a prosperous future for Pakistan. "The GSP-plus programme represents more than just trade preferences. It is a roadmap for sustainable development and good governance. By aligning it with the 5Es framework,

we can unlock the true potential of export-led growth, empower our citizens and secure a prosperous future for Pakistan," he said.

The minister was speaking as the guest speaker at a conference titled "Promoting Good Governance through Trade - Leveraging through GSP+," organized by Fredrick Naumann Foundation. Addressing the gathering, Ahsan Iqbal called for seizing the opportunity to strengthen governance and build resilience and position

E-Pakistan, Environment and Climate Change, Energy and Infrastructure, Equity and Empowerment.

Elaborating his proposed strategy, the minister suggested establishing export diversification centers with incentives for green technologies and high-value products.

He asked for setting up a National Compliance Task Force to oversee GSP-plus implementation and address gaps in governance on permanent/quarterly basis.

Rana unveils plan to shift 30% of transport to EVs by 2030

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain unveiled the government's ambitious plan here on Wednesday, aiming at shifting 30 percent of transportation to electric vehicles (EVs) by 2030 to promote an environmentally friendly transport system.

Addressing a press conference, the minister said that the plan includes shifting of two-wheelers, three-wheelers and four-wheelers to electric vehicles, adding the plan was aimed at reducing the environmental impact of

transportation and alleviating the financial burden of import bills associated with traditional fuel costs.

The minister said that many countries are currently using electric vehicles, and the demand is increasing due to new technology, which offers manifold advantages and benefits. Rana Tanveer highlighted the commitment and hard work of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to launch a new electric vehicle policy (2025-30) to control air pollution and reduce oil imports. He said, PM has

directed that the policy focus must be on incentives and affordable prices for consumers.

The minister highlighted that currently, two licenses have been issued for the manufacturing of electric vehicles, and around 31 people have applied for licenses.

The government has given many incentives to foreign companies to build their plants in Pakistan. Currently, Dewan, an electric vehicle company, is operating in the country and launched a car this year.

Commerce Minister chairs high-level meeting on OIC trade fair

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan on Wednesday chaired high-level meeting on Wexnet and OIC Trade Fair Progress.

The Minister of Commerce today visited the National Insurance Corporation Limited (NICL) to preside over a meeting on the progress of the highly anticipated Wexnet 2024 and the 18th OIC Trade Fair, scheduled to be held from November 29 to December 1, 2024, at the Expo Centre Lahore, said a press release issued here. The meeting was

attended by Secretary TDAP Sheryar Taj, Chief Executive TDAP Zubair Motiwala, and senior officials from the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP). During the session, TDAP officials provided the Minister with a comprehensive briefing on the planning and execution of the upcoming events. The Minister emphasized the significance of Wexnet 2024 as a platform to promote women entrepreneurs and directed TDAP to intensify efforts in showcasing their achievements.



ISLAMABAD: A Delegation from China Geological Survey (CGS) Calls on Secretary Petroleum to Bolster Geoscientific Collaboration.

DISCOs suffers Rs 591 bln loss in FY 2023-24

ISLAMABAD (APP): Power Distribution Companies (DISCOs) suffered a loss of Rs 591 billion on accounts of line losses and less recovery during last fiscal year 2023-24.

However, the losses stood at Rs 239 billion in first quarter of the current fiscal year 2024-24 as compared to Rs 308 billion during the corresponding period of last year, showing an improvement of Rs 69 billion, said a statement issued by Ministry of Power Division here Wednesday.

The recovery of DISCOs also witnessed a visible upward trend and it was recorded as 91 per cent as compared to 84 per cent during the said periods.

Shaza urges TikTok to use its platform for educational purposes

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunications Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Wednesday urged TikTok to use its platform for educational purposes.

"Various skills and basic education can be imparted through TikTok, and the Ministry of IT will fully support TikTok in achieving this objective," she said during a meeting with a TikTok delegation led by its Director of Public Policy, Mr. Emir Gelen.

According to a news release, the meeting focused on matters of mutual interest, including the availability of quality and productive content on social media platforms.

Secretary IT, Zarrar Hasham Khan, was also present during the discussion. The TikTok delegation briefed the Minister on the platform's initiatives in Pakistan and outlined upcoming programmes.

Shaza Fatima emphasized the importance of ensuring that quality content is accessible, noting that TikTok has a vast user base in Pakistan.

The delegation assured the Minister that TikTok would prioritize meaningful and educational content.

They also expressed the platform's willingness to collaborate with the Ministry of IT & Telecom and its associated departments to achieve these goals.

CDNS achieves Rs 550b mark in annual savings target

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has achieved a target of Rs 550 billion in fresh bonds and achieved 15 percent of the annual target for the current fiscal year, from July 1 to November 15th.

The CDNS has set an annual target of Rs 1650 billion for the current Fiscal Year, 2024-25, which will promote the saving culture in the country, the senior official of CDNS told APP on

Shenzhen to reduce tax on larger house transactions

SHENZHEN 20 (Xinhua/APP): Shenzhen in south China's Guangdong Province on Tuesday became the latest major Chinese city to reduce taxes for transactions involving larger houses.

The city said in a notice that it will scrap the distinction between ordinary and non-ordinary housing starting on Dec. 1, which will unify favorable tax policies for the two categories.

Railways CEO holds public e-court

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan Railways is committed to providing facilities to passengers while ensuring their safety, utilising all available resources to the best of its capacity. This was stated by Pakistan Railways CEO Amir Ali Baloch during an e-Kutchehy on Wednesday, where he addressed public queries. He said that while trains were currently facing delays due to smog and adverse weather conditions, Pakistan Railways continues its operations

even when airports and motorways are closed. "Our priority is the safety of passengers over addressing delays," he stated.

The CEO further assured that he is personally overseeing train schedules and that efforts are being made to resolve issues impacting punctuality. To enhance convenience, the names and phone numbers of train managers will soon be prominently displayed in all trains.

CM Punjab message on World Children's Day

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has said that it is foremost responsibility for everyone to ensure the provision of education, health, and protection to innocent children for their bright and excellent future. In her message on World Children's Day, the CM said, "Children are a special gift of Allah Almighty, there is nothing more beautiful in the world than their smile." The CM added that the state is like a mother, and there can be no compromise on the health,

education, protection, and development of children. She mentioned that the Punjab government has launched the 'School Nutrition Program' to protect children from stunted growth and malnutrition. The 'Early Childhood School System' will focus on the mental and intellectual development of children. Additionally, the 'Virtual Centre for Child Safety' has been launched for their protection, she added. She further stated that children with diabetes will receive free insulin at home through the Chief

Minister Insulin Program, and children will be safeguarded from fatal diseases through the vaccination program. Pakistan's first government autism school is being built to cater to the special needs of differently-abled children. She emphasized that a zero-tolerance policy is in place regarding any form of cruelty, abuse, or child labor. She pledged that every child should remain safe, healthy, and educated, and that the Punjab government would ensure the protection of children's rights at any cost.

Punjab govt accelerates efforts to make Nawaz Cancer Institute operational

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique has directed the Infrastructure Development Authority Punjab (IDAP) to expedite the completion of the Nawaz Sharif Institute of Cancer Treatment and Research project to make it functional as soon as possible.

Chairing a meeting at King Edward Medical University on Wednesday, the minister reviewed progress on the project and set a target of twelve months for the completion of the first phase. He reiterated that initiatives

improving public health are a top priority for the Punjab government. The hospital will be expanded in phases and equipped with modern, state-of-the-art facilities. The meeting discussed various aspects, including the construction progress, modifications to the master plan, procurement of advanced medical equipment, and other operational arrangements. It also emphasized the importance of establishing a premier bone marrow transplant facility and suggested increasing the number of beds.

Kundicondemns attack on Mali Khel check post Bannu

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Wednesday strongly condemned tragic suicide attack on Mali Khel security forces check post in Bannu district, resulting in the martyrdom of 12 security personnel.

The governor expressed heartfelt condolences to the families of the martyred heroes. In a statement, the governor paid tribute to the brave security forces, saying, "The sacrifices of these martyrs will never be forgotten."



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanges views with Special Assistant to Public Private Partnership and Investment, Qasim Naveed Qamarduring meeting, held at CM House in Karachi.

Policy Dialogue on "Energy Crisis: Problem, Impact & Solutions" concludes

LAHORE (APP): The two-day Policy Dialogue on "Energy Crisis: Problem, Impact & Solutions" jointly organized by Executive Development Institute (EDI) of the National School of Public Policy (NSPP) concluded here Wednesday.

The Executive Development Institute (EDI) is working for the continuous professional development of officers and executives of the public and private sectors

by organizing multiple activities such as trainings, policy dialogues and webinars etc.

On behalf of Dr. Ijaz Munir, Rector, National School of Public Policy, Ahmad Nazir Warraich, Dean EDI, officially inaugurated the session and provided an overview of NSPP and EDI. He emphasized Pakistan's energy sector challenges, such as debt, high energy imports, power shortages affecting the economy, and reliance on fossil fuels.

Marriyum Aurangzeb says: Anti smog drive to be continued in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb has stated that despite an improvement in the smog situation, the anti-smog campaign will continue with full vigor. She commended the efforts of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Punjab government institutions, and the police, emphasizing that public cooperation is key to improving environment and eradicating smog.

She further mentioned that while schools have reopened, strict adherence to

precautionary measures has been instructed. Teachers and students must ensure use of masks, while parents and students are encouraged to adopt carpooling to reduce traffic congestion. Additionally, 15 brick-kilns operating without zigzag technology have been dismantled, and three industrial units in Gujranwala, Rahim Yar Khan, and Sheikhupura have been sealed. Crackdowns on vehicles, trucks, and buses with faulty engines or excessive smoke emissions are ongoing.

Nine dead, 1,424 injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE (APP): At least nine people were killed and 1,424 others injured in 1,375 road accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours. As many as 626 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 798 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams.

The data analysis showed that 806 drivers, 55 underage drivers, 183 pedestrians, and 444 passengers were among the victims of road crashes.

26 children fall victim to diphtheria in KP: Health Dept

PESHAWAR (APP): The diphtheria infection among children in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has turned into a dangerous epidemic, wherein at least 26 children have died during the current year, reported the provincial health department here on Wednesday. It said that 380 children in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have been reported infected with Diphtheria. Among the most affected districts, Peshawar remained at the top where the most 12 children lost their lives to the disease.

Kundi lauds Bilawal to form committee to tackle issues

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Wednesday lauded Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to form a committee to raise issues with the federal government.

The nine-member committee includes prominent figures such as Raja Pervez Ashraf, Naveed Qamar, Sherry Rehman, Chief Minister Sindh Murad Ali Shah, Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Safaraz Bugti, Makhdoom Ahmad Mahmood,

Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, and Haider Gillani. The committee will maintain communication with the federal government and highlight key concerns.

A report will be presented at the upcoming Central Executive Committee (CEC) meeting next month.

A notification regarding the formation of the committee was issued by PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's political secretary, Jameel Ahmad Soomro.



PESHAWAR: Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Central Information Secretary and Member National Assembly (MNA), Sheikh Waqas Akram, addressing media persons during press conference, at Peshawar press club.

KP judicial academy holds workshop on gender-responsive human resource management

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Judicial Academy (KPJA), in collaboration with ROZAN Pakistan, organized a two-day training workshop on "Gender-Responsive Human Resource Management" for D&SJs/ Zilla Qazis, Senior Civil Judges/A'ala Ilaqa Qazis.

Twenty-three (23) Judges/Qazis of various districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa participated in the training workshop. The workshop was designed to arm the Judges/Qazis with essential skills and knowledge for

promoting gender-responsive practices. The inaugural ceremony was graced by Barrister Ikhtiar Khan, Registrar, Peshawar High Court, as the chief guest. Mr. Jehanzeb Shinwari, Director General KPJA, Mr. Zia Ur Rahman, Dean Faculty, Dr. Qazi Ataullah, Senior Director Research & Publication, Director Instructions, and other directors and officers of the Academy, and Representatives of ROZAN Pakistan, also attended the ceremony.



KARACHI: Syed Hafeezuddin, Chairman National Assembly Standing Committee on Industries & Production, chairing the meeting at Pakistan Steel Mills.

International News

Putin, ascendant in Ukraine, eyes contours of a Trump peace deal

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin is open to discussing a Ukraine ceasefire deal with US President-elect Donald Trump but rules out making any major territorial concessions and insists Kyiv abandon ambitions to join Nato, five sources with knowledge of Kremlin thinking told Reuters.

Trump, who has vowed to swiftly end the conflict, is returning to the White House at a time of Russian ascendancy. Moscow controls a chunk of Ukraine about the size of the American state of Virginia and is advancing at the fastest pace since the early days of the 2022 invasion.

In the first detailed report of what President Putin would accept in any deal brokered by Trump, the five current and former Russian officials said the

Kremlin could broadly agree to freeze the conflict along the front lines.

There may be room for negotiation over the precise carve-up of the four eastern regions of Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson, according to three of the people who all requested anonymity to discuss sensitive matters.

While Moscow claims the four regions as wholly part of Russia, defended by the country's nuclear umbrella, its forces on the ground control 70-80 per cent of the territory with about 26,000 square kilometres still held by Ukrainian troops, open-source data on the front line shows.

Russia may also be open to withdrawing from the relatively small patches of territory it holds in the Kharkiv and Mykolaiv regions, in the north and

south of Ukraine, two of the officials said.

Putin said this month that any ceasefire deal should reflect the "realities" on the ground but that he feared a short-lived truce which would only allow the West to rearm Ukraine.

"If there is no neutrality, it is difficult to imagine the existence of any good-neighbourly relations between Russia and Ukraine," Putin told the Valdai discussion group on November 7. "Why? Because this would mean that Ukraine will be constantly used as a tool in the wrong hands and to the detriment of the interests of the Russian Federation."

Two of the sources said outgoing US President Joe Biden's decision to allow Ukraine to fire American ATACMS missiles deep into Russia could complicate and delay any settlement.

Bomb cyclone pounds Northwest US, leaving 600,000 without power

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: A powerful storm was clobbering Washington state on Wednesday, knocking out power to hundreds of thousands while wreaking havoc on road travel and causing at least one death and two injuries.

A woman was killed on Tuesday when a tree fell on a homeless encampment in Lynnwood, just north of Seattle, local fire department officials said on social media. Two people were also injured when a tree fell on their trailer in Maple Valley, southeast of Seattle.

Schools across western Washington canceled classes or postponed the start of school on Wednesday.

The storm with tropical storm force winds of 50

miles (80 km) per hour and gusts around 70 mph felled trees and power lines overnight. It knocked out electricity to more than 600,000 homes and businesses in Washington, Southwest Oregon and Northern California, according to the Poweroutage.us.

"The storm is just beginning," said Rich Otto, a meteorologist with the NWS Weather Prediction Center in College Park, Maryland.

"We haven't gotten a ton of rain yet, just 2-3 inches over Southwest Oregon and Northern California," Otto said.

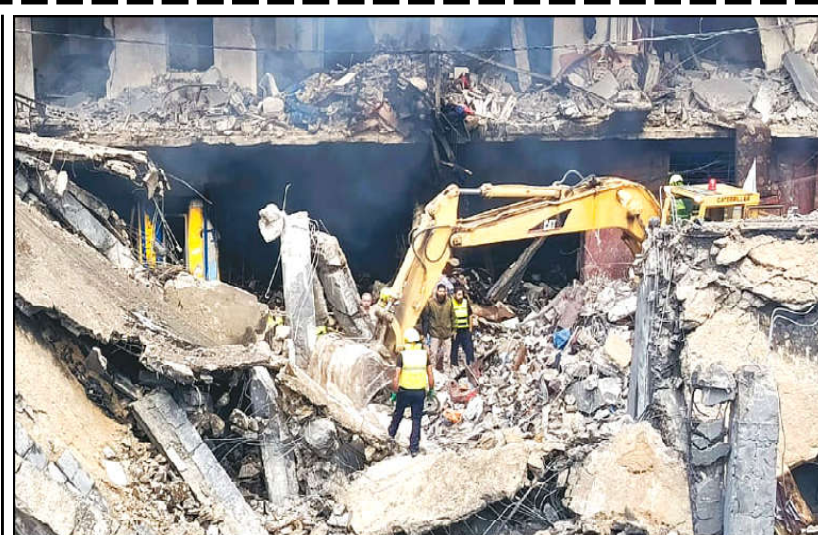
But the storm, called a "bomb cyclone" which happens when the storm rapidly intensifies, is going to stall over Northern California in the next few days, he said.

Senegal's president faces budget challenge after likely parliamentary win

Monitoring Desk
DAKAR: A likely absolute majority for President Bassirou Diomaye Faye's Pastef party in Senegal's legislative election would empower him to pursue his ambitious 25-year agenda, though his first challenge will be coming up with a budget amid a fiscal crisis.

Faye sought a clear parliamentary majority in Sunday's vote to implement the reform agenda that helped sweep him to power in a landslide election victory in March. But analysts say creating a budget catering both to his voters' needs and to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), with which his government is currently in talks, will be challenging.

Former president Macky Sall, who headed an opposition coalition, on Monday congratulated Pastef on its win.



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

Hamas negotiators 'not in Doha', but political office not closed, says Qatar

Monitoring Desk
DOHA: Hamas negotiators are not in Doha but their office has not been permanently closed, Qatar said on Tuesday following speculation that the Palestinian group had been ordered out of the Qatari capital.

"The leaders of Hamas that are within the negotiating team are now not in Doha," foreign ministry spokesperson Majed Al-Ansari said, adding: "The decision to ... close down the office permanently, is a

decision that you will hear about from us directly."

Qatar, along with the United States and Egypt, had led months of fruitless negotiations for a truce in the Gaza conflict, but the Gulf state announced earlier this month it was pausing its mediation efforts.

The announcement followed reports Qatar had warned Hamas that its political bureau, which the Gulf state has hosted since 2012 with the blessing of the United States.

IAEA says Iran has offered to cap stock of sensitive uranium

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

The offer is conditional, however, on Western powers abandoning their push for a resolution against Iran at this week's meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency's

35-nation Board of Governors over its lack of cooperation with the IAEA, diplomats said, adding that the push was continuing.

During IAEA chief Rafael Grossi's trip to Iran last week, "the possibility of Iran not further expanding its stockpile of uranium enriched up to 60pc U-235 was discussed", read one of the two confidential quarterly IAEA reports.

It added that the IAEA had verified that Iran had "begun implementation of preparatory measures".

Israeli strikes kill 15 in Gaza as hospital in north of the region makes distress call

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: Israeli forces killed at least 15 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip on Wednesday, including a rescue worker, health officials said, as tanks deepened their incursion in the area and blew up homes, according to residents.

Medics said at least 12 people were killed in an Israeli strike on a house in the area of Jabalia, in northern Gaza, earlier on Wednesday. They said at least 10 people remained missing as rescue operations continued. Another man was killed in tank shelling nearby, they said.

In the Sabra suburb of Gaza City, the Palestinian civil emergency said an Israeli air strike targeted one of their teams during a rescue operation, killing one

staff and wounding three others.

The death raised the number of civil emergency service members killed since Oct 7, 2023, to 87, it said.

There was no immediate Israeli comment on the two incidents. Adding to the challenges facing the healthcare system in north Gaza areas, the civil emergency service said their vehicles were hardly operational because of shortages of fuel and equipment, citing Israel's continued refusal to allow them to bring the needed supplies.

In Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip, medics said one man was killed and others wounded in an Israeli air strike on the eastern territory of the city.

Over 200 kids killed in Lebanon as US envoy sees end to war

Monitoring Desk
GENEVA: Unicef has said more than 200 children have been killed and 1,100 injured in Lebanon in just two months, as US special envoy Amos Hochstein met officials in Beirut on Tuesday to discuss a truce plan with claims that an end to the war is "now within our grasp".

Unicef spokesperson James Elder at a press briefing in Geneva said, "Despite more than 200 children killed in Lebanon in less than two months, a disconcerting pattern has emerged: their deaths are met with inertia from those able to stop this violence."

"For the children of Lebanon, it has become a silent normalisation of horror," he said, while drawing "chilling similarities" between the conflicts in Lebanon and in Gaza, where a significant portion of nearly 44,000 people killed in are reported to be children.

On the other hand, Israel expanded the focus of

its operations to Lebanon from Gaza, where forces stormed Jabal Mukaber area and cordoned off the decades old Al-Shiyah mosque before tearing it down, Al Jazeera reported.

Earlier, State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said that the US had shared ceasefire proposals with both Lebanon and Israel.

During a visit to Beirut on Tuesday, US special envoy Amos Hochstein said an end to the Israel-Hezbollah war was "now within our grasp" as he met with officials to discuss a truce plan largely endorsed by Lebanon.

Following a meeting with Hezbollah-allied parliament speaker Nabih Berri, who has led mediation on behalf of the group, Hochstein told reporters he saw "a real opportunity" to end the fighting. "I'm here in Beirut to facilitate that decision, but it's ultimately the decision of the parties."



QUETTA: A Russian delegation led by Honorary Consul General Dr. Abdul Rauf Rind meeting with Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

Expects Russian cooperation & guidance in education sector: Governor Balochistan calls for paying attention on learning modern technical skills to young generation

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has emphasized that we have to pay attention on learning modern technical skills to the young generation in the province in view of the economic and trade opportunities and challenges in the whole region.

The Governor said that Russia is very advance country in the world from technology point of view and as such it can guide and support us in learning modern skills to the youth of province by making our technical and vocational institutions.

The Governor was speaking to the honorary Consul General of Russia, Dr. Abdul Rauf Rind, who called on him here at the Governor's House on Wednesday.

During the course of meeting, they discussed the matters about mutual relations between Pakistan and Russia as well as economic development, prospects of investment and provision of scholarships for poor students of the province.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor said that Pakistan and Russia enjoy pleasant relations, however, still there are bright prospects of boosting these relations in different sectors including trade, education and technology between the two countries.

He mentioned that Russia provides opportunities of training to the Ph.D scholars and professors in modern education sector. He said that Russia has the honour to provide most expensive education in the world. The Governor said that Balochistan has vast area with scattered population. However, there is great potential of investment in different sectors in the province. He said that investors can benefit from the investment potential the province has in different sectors.

In the end, Governor and the guest exchanged commemorative shields.

LHC declines interim bail plea for PTI founder in all cases LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Wednesday declined a plea to grant interim bail to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder in all cases registered against him in Punjab and Islamabad.

Justice Farooq Haider heard the petition filed by Noreen Niazi, the sister of the PTI founder, seeking details of the cases registered against her brother. During the hearing, reports on behalf of the federation and the Punjab Home Department were submitted, revealing that 62 cases had been registered in Islamabad and 54 cases in Punjab against the PTI founder.

At this stage, the petitioner's counsel requested the court to grant interim bail to the PTI founder in these cases. In response, the court remarked that it was necessary for the accused to appear before the court in person to seek pre-arrest bail.

Maulana Wasey voices concern over new wave of terrorism, law & order situation QUETTA: The Provincial Ameer of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islami (JUI) Senator Maulana Abdul Wasey has expressed deep concern over what he termed deteriorating situation of law and order in the province.

While addressing a scheduled press conference at the JUI's provincial secretariat on Wednesday afternoon along with other Jamiat leaders, Maulana Abdul Wasey said that we are deeply concerned about the new wave of terrorism in the province. He said that protests were lodged against incidents of terrorism in the province. He referred to the incidents of terrorism at Quetta Railway station, attacks at the coal mines in Duki and Hamal besides the abduction of a school child from van in Quetta saying that these and other similar acts of terrorism and lawlessness are matter of great concern for us.

He said that a meeting of JUI was also held on circumstances of the province, in which it was feared that there may be more disturbance in province in future. He questioned performance of the law enforcement agencies saying that if the law and order can't be controlled then why billions of rupees are allocated for the purpose. He stressed that the law enforcement agencies should fulfill their responsibilities with regard to maintain law and order in the province.

The JUI Provincial Ameer criticized the government for raids in madrassas in Pishin and Chaman. He said that madaris are our red line and we wouldn't accept the illegal raids on them.

Removal of educational backwardness our collective responsibility: Brig. Adnan CHAMAN: The Regional Director Anti Narcotics Force (ANF), Brigadier Adnan Danish has stated that it is our collective responsibility to remove educational backwardness. Brigadier Adnan Danish was addressing the gathering of Educational Festival, held at the Shaheed Advocate Aimal Khan Achakzai Degree College in Chaman on Wednesday.

The prominent among the participants were Professor Dr. Abdul Samad Achakzai, Professor Dr. Najeeb Sarparah, Deputy Commissioner Chaman, Habib Ahmed Bangulzai, Wing Commander Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Irfan, Assistant Commissioner Chaman, Imtiaz Ali Baloch, District Education Officer, Abdul Qudus Achakzai, Principal of the College, Ajab Khan Marwat, Principal FC School and College, Professor Ehsan Elahi, District Coordinator UNICEF, Jameel Kakar besides the senior officers, tribal elders, teachers and students.

The students delivered speeches on the anti narcotics, and other topics. Similarly, a ceremony was also held at the Girls College Chaman the same day. There were interesting competitions on the occasion. In the end, the guests witnessed the stalls of books set up there.

The Deputy Commissioner Chaman gave away awards and shields to the guests. The Educational Festival would also remain continued today (Thursday).

Planning minister directs sites' identification, concept paper preparation for M-SEZs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan would provide land to Chinese industries, while they would manage the infrastructure and market these zones themselves. Ahsan Iqbal highlighted the importance of industrial zones and said that a one-window facility would be provided to these zones so that investors do not face any difficulties.

He passed these directives while chairing a meeting on Model-SEZs and the policy framework for the relocation of Chinese industries to Pakistan, following a detailed briefing by officials from the Board of Investment (BOI).

Stressing the need to enhance G2G (government-to-government) joint cooperation with China, he said



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, chaired a high-level meeting to review the identification of locations for Model Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and the policy framework for relocating Chinese industries to Pakistan.

Umrani says: Provincial Govt utilizing available resources on projects of public welfare

Independent Report QUETTA: The Advisor to Chief Minister for Labour and Manpower, Sardar Ghulam Rasool Umrani has stated that the government is utilizing the available resources on the collective nature development projects of public welfare.

He said that our resources are limited while problems are more, despite this, government is doing its best to remove the sense of deprivation prevailing among the people. He said some 30,000 youngsters are being provided opportunities of livelihood abroad by making them skilled.

He said that third party hiring firms have been assigned the responsibilities to ensure merit in the Programme. The Advisor to Chief Minister was speaking to different delegations of tribal elders and other people in his office on Wednesday. He also said that the youth of Balochistan are being provided opportunities of livelihood and progress under leadership of Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

He said that several projects of improvement in manpower as well as the Benazir Bhutto Scholarship Programme and Youth Skills Development Programme have been implemented, which would help end the sense of deprivation in the province.



BAKU: Federal Minister for Communications, Privatization and Board of Investment, Abdul Aleem Khan during the COP29 in Baku.

FC (North) sets up 22 free medical camps in remote areas of Balochistan

Independent Report QUETTA: The Frontier Corps (FC) Balochistan (North) set up a series of free medical camps in the remote areas of the province. 2024. Over 10,850 patients including women and children were provided free of cost medical treatment in the camps. In addition to this, the free eye camps were also organized in collaboration with the Al-Shifa Trust and SPCB in Quetta, Dera Bugti, Dhadhar and Mach. Besides, the tribal jirgas were also held with the tribal elders in Lehri, Maiwand, Killa Saifullah and Zhub areas.

According to an official communique shared with the media on Wednesday, in all 22 free medical camps were arranged by the FC (North) in different far flung areas of the province between November 1-19.

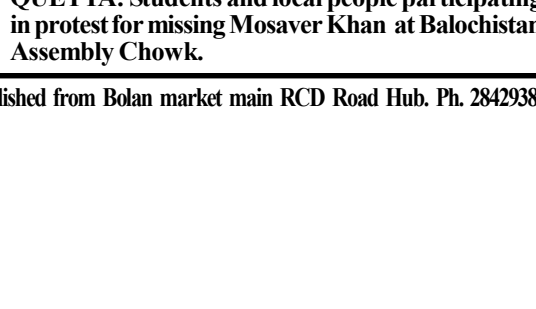
SC constitutional bench dismisses petition seeking sacking of govt employees

190m pounds reference BUSHRA BIBI did not appear in court in Adiala jail RAWALPINDI (Online): Bushra Bibi did not appear in Accountability Court (AC) in Adiala jail Rawalpindi Wednesday during hearing of 190 million pounds reference.

Bushra Bibi filed exemption plea for one day on medical grounds in the court. NAB prosecution team raised objection over exemption plea for one day. Prosecutor said Bushra Bibi has not appointed her pleader. The exemption plea by Bushra Bibi is tantamount to delay the reference. The replies to questionnaire of 342 were not given by the accused persons. NAB prosecutor said the application given by the accused for summing 16 witnesses is not being debated.

Justice Ayesha Malik remarked you have made request in your petition all the government employees do not work and they should be sacked. Why you had not resorted to respective institutions. The petitioner said no one hears him therefore, he has come to SC.

Asad Qaisar, Pervaiz Khattak others acquitted in Haqiazi Azadi March case ISLAMABAD (Online): District and Sessions Court Islamabad has acquitted all accused persons including Asad Qaisar and Pervaiz Khattak after Imran Khan in Haqiazi Azadi March case. PTI Haqiazi Azadi March cases came up for hearing in district and session courts Islamabad led by judge Azhar Nadim Wednesday. Sardar Masroof Khan advocate and Aamna Ali advocate appeared on behalf of the accused. The court acquitted Asad Qaisar, Pervaiz Khattak, Ghulam Sarwar and other accused from both of the cases.



QUETTA: Students and local people participating in protest for missing Mosaver Khan at Balochistan Assembly Chowk.



ISLAMABAD: Mr. Rod Smith of Cambridge University Press and Assessment signs an MoU with the Ministry of Federal Education, accompanied by Federal Minister Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui.

COP29: Pak pledges stronger financial protection against climate risks as Global Shield beneficiary

BAKU (APP): At COP29, Pakistan, which is ranked the fifth most vulnerable country to climate-induced disasters, reiterated its commitment to strengthening financial protection against climate risks as a beneficiary of the Global Shield initiative.

After a thorough in-country consultation process, the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC), with assistance from UNDP Pakistan, has identified key priority areas for its request to expand pre-arranged finance through the Global Shield.

Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam while delivering a keynote address at an important event 'Pakistan and the Global Shield' held at the Pakistan Pavilion in Baku on the sidelines of COP29 global climate summit held on Wednesday said that the escalating adverse fallouts of climate change including extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and prolonged droughts have underlined the urgent need for climate-vulnerable developing countries to hammer out comprehensive strategies to address loss and damage in vulnerable communities.

However, integrating disaster risk financing into broader loss and damage efforts is a crucial step toward building resilience, ensuring timely response, and supporting long-term recovery. "Integrating disaster risk financing into loss and damage efforts represents a proactive approach to managing the escalating costs of climate change. By combining innovative financial tools with inclusive, data-driven strategies, governments, and global partners can mitigate climate risks, support recovery, and foster resilience," the PM's climate aide Romina Khurshid Alam told the participants from various countries, UN agencies and non-governmental organisations. "Collaborative action today will safeguard communities and ecosystems for a more secure and equitable future."

She said that today's discussions with climate and disaster insurance experts and the climate change & environmental coordination ministry's senior officials explored the pressing gaps in pre-arranged financial protection—particularly in public infrastructure, agricultural livelihoods, and small businesses—and how the Global Shield can bring unique value by aligning development efforts, fostering a country-led process, and leveraging pre-arranged financing instruments.

More non-permanent members not new permanent seats will make UNSC effective: Pakistan UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan, member of the Uniting for Consensus (UfC) group which opposes new permanent members in the U.N. Security Council, has reaffirmed its demand for adding more non-permanent seats to the 15-member body so as to make it more effective, representative and accountable.

"The UfC continues to believe that its proposal for an expansion of Security Council membership to 26 or 27, with the addition of 11 or 12 new non-permanent members, offers the best basis for Security Council reform," Ambassador Munir Akram, permanent representative to the UN, told delegates when the deadlocked Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN) aimed at restructuring the Council resumed on Tuesday.

The UfC's proposal to add only non-permanent members, elected periodically by the General Assembly, is "democratic and consistent" with the Charter's prescription that the Council "acts on behalf" of the entire membership, he said, adding it will also ensure "equitable representation" – the key objective of the Council reform process. Full-scale negotiations to reform the Security Council began in the General Assembly in February 2009 on five key areas—the categories of membership, the question of veto, regional representation, size of an enlarged Security Council, and working methods of the council and its relationship with the General Assembly.

PTA, NERA sign an agreement for next-gen broadband services ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has acquired consultancy services of National Economic Research Associates Inc (NERA) for 'Release of IMT Spectrum for Improvement of Next Generation Mobile Broadband Services in Pakistan.'

According to news release the contract was signed on November, 5 2024, accordingly. Stakeholder consultation has been initiated, consultant will recommend to government on salient features of upcoming spectrum release process including proposed reforms, spectrum valuation and auction design.

The process will most likely be completed by April 2025. **SC nullifies IHC decision on matter of allotment of plots to judges, bureaucrats** ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has announced reserved judgment after six months on the matter of allotment of plots to judges and bureaucrats in sector F-14 and F-15 Islamabad.

A 3-member bench of SC presided over by Justice Munib Akhtar had reserved judgment on May 21. Justice Ayesha Malik announced the decision. The decision said IHC should see the matter again and decide in this regard. It is pertinent to mention here IHC had declared Federal Government Employees Housing Scheme (FGEHS) unconstitutional.

IT exports surge by 42% due to prudent govt policies: Daniyal ISLAMABAD (APP): The country's IT exports have risen by 42 percent compared to the previous corresponding period, due to the government's effective policies, Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Barrister Daniyal Chaudhry said Wednesday.

Speaking at a news conference, he stated that in the first four months, the country's IT exports have doubled compared to the same period last year. He also noted that the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has met its highest-ever tax collection targets. He mentioned that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has always led the country out of crises whenever it came to power, even when the country was in ruins, and that PML-N was the only political party voted into power based on its performance. He also highlighted that in September, the country's IT exports increased by \$292 million, with total exports nearing the \$1.3 billion mark.

BAKU: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam hands over to Global Shield organization an official request document support regarding Climate and Disaster Risk Finance and Insurance (CDRFI) during an event at Pakistan Pavilion on sidelines of the COP29 climate summit.