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

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

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

The prime minister, addressing the High-Level Segment of the "World Leaders' Climate Action Summit" of the 29th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29) here, called for fulfilling the pledges of COP27 and COP28 as well as those made in Paris 10 years ago.

"I strongly feel, that climate finance must be grant-based and not add to the debt burden of vulnerable developing countries. Here

is the opportunity that the COP29 should make an understanding loud and clear that we will have to fulfill those financial pledges of COP27 and COP28... Ten years ago in Paris, we had failed to stop the rise in emissions and catastrophic global warming. The Paris pledges made 10 years ago have yet to see the light of the day," the prime minister said.

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

and almost 1700 people dead.

Besides, the country also faced an economic loss worth around \$30 billion, he added.

Highlighting the devastation faced by the people of Pakistan caused by the climate change-induced floods in 2022, Prime Minister Shehbaz recalled his interaction with a boy Ikramullah in the flood-hit Balochistan who had lost everything to the calamity including his home, school, and entire village.

"My memories are still fresh. I was meeting with people in Balochistan who were affected by the flood. I met a boy by the name of Ikramullah whose entire village was razed on the face of the earth, his home completely demolished and his school submerged," the prime minister said.



BAKU: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing the COP29 Climate Action Summit.

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

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

The decision came during a meeting led by Privatisation Minister Aleem Khan, which reviewed several privatisation initiatives and approved key recommendations. Addressing the meeting on Wednesday, Khan stressed that all privatisation efforts, including those for PIA, must adhere to legal protocols, while prioritising the national interest.

"The final decision on

the privatisation of institutions like PIA rests with the cabinet committee," he stated.

adding that steps must be taken to enhance future bidding processes.

Khan also directed officials to expedite the privatisation of PIA and other public entities, noting, "We are bound by our oath to undertake whatever actions are necessary for the welfare of the country and its people."

He emphasised the importance of learning from the current PIA privatisation process to improve future efforts. The board also considered significant aspects related to the privatisation of other state-owned projects, marking further steps towards Pakistan's broader privatisation agenda.

Pakistan remains committed to peace in region, says Gilani

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman Senate Yousuf Raza Gilani has said Pakistan remains committed to peace and stability in the region.

Addressing a seminar organized by Islamabad Policy Research Institute, he emphasized addressing core conflicts such as Palestine and Kashmir with fairness and without bias.

He said Pakistan believes in the principles of mutual respect and peaceful coexistence.

5.3 magnitude earthquake jolts, federal capital, several KP areas

ISLAMABAD (Online): A moderate earthquake measuring 5.3 on the Richter scale jolted Islamabad and different areas of KP on Wednesday.

People came out of their homes reciting Kalima Tayyaba.

The epicenter of this earthquake was in the Hindukush mountain range in Afghanistan, about 220 kilometers beneath the Earth's surface.

According to the Pakistan Meteorological Department's Seismological Centre the tremors were felt in Peshawar, Swabi, Malakand, Batgram, Mardan, Swat, Nowshera, Landi Kotal, Hundo, Mansehra, Hazara, and Abbottabad.

Petroleum products prices likely to be scaled up from Nov 16

ISLAMABAD (Online): Prices of petroleum products are likely to be scaled up from November 16 by Rs 6 per liter. The price of petroleum products is likely to be increased by Rs 6 per liter for next 15 days.

According to sources the per liter price of petrol can be increased by Rs 2.50 and high speed diesel by Rs 5.91. Kerosene oil price can be enhanced by Rs 5.54 per liter and light diesel oil by Rs 5.90 per liter.

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

Says Sana alias Baru was highly wanted by law enforcement agencies

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

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

"He was a focal recruitment agent, especially suicide bombers, for so called Majeed Brigade in District Kech and was highly wanted by the Law Enforcement Agencies," it further said.

Meanwhile President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime

Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday paid tribute to security forces for a successful intelligence-based operation against terrorists in District Kech, Balochistan.

The president and prime minister lauded the bravery and professionalism of the security forces for killing four terrorists including a high value target in the operation.

The president said that they would never allow terrorists to disrupt progress, prosperity and law and order of Balochistan province.

The entire nation lauded the contributions of security forces for peace and stability in the province, he added.

President Zardari reiterated the commitment to continue operations till eradication of menace of terrorism, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.



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

Pakistan, Azerbaijan vow to strengthen strategic partnership

BAKU (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday praised the strong ties between Pakistan and Azerbaijan and expressed optimism about further enhancing cooperation in various fields, including technology sharing and joint ventures in renewable energy.

On the sidelines of the World Leaders Climate Action Summit (COP-29), Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif held a productive bilateral meeting with President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif congratulated President Aliyev on successful holding of the World Leaders Climate Action Summit in Baku, Azerbaijan.

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

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

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif congratulated President Aliyev on

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

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

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

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

He said that the Chinese President Xi Jinping and the leaders of Pakistan have led the development of bilateral relations, set the positioning of China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, and carried forward the construction of the CPEC from basic layout to a new stage of building an 'upgraded version'.

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

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



BUDAPEST: Federal Minister for Interior, Mohsin Naqvi exchanging views with Christine Schraner Burner, Swiss Migration Minister during meeting held in Budapest.

Naqvi seeks global cooperation to combat human trafficking

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

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

The issues of mutual interest, including combat-

ing irregular migration and human trafficking were focused in these meetings. The leaders emphasized the need for joint actions to address these challenges.

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

He also stressed the importance of enhanced collaboration between delegations and institutions, specialized training for officers from relevant insti-

tutions.

Meanwhile Minister for interior Mohsin Naqvi attended the 7th Budapest Process Ministerial Conference in Hungary.

on Wednesday and said that since the last Ministerial Conference held in 2019, several important developments have taken place.

He highlighted that today, we are confronted with a range of pressing issues such as prolonged conflicts, economic instability and climate change, that have reshaped migratory flows worldwide.



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

Youth's role vital for boosting agriculture growth: Rana

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Prime Minister Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashood Ahmad Khan on Wednesday emphasized the critical role of youth engagement in the agricultural sector, particularly in innovative practices and sustainable growth initiatives.

Addressing the "Baraka Pakistan Olive Summit 2024: Paving the Way for a Safe, Sustainable, and Export-Ready Olive Sector in Pakistan" here at a local hotel, Mashood underscored the potential of Pakistan's olive sector to generate economic opportunities and foster rural development.

Rana said that the country under the dynamic

leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was advancing towards the path of development and growth in the exports of textiles and Information technology, increase in the stock exchange index, and growth in other sectors reflected the result-oriented policies of the government.

Mashood urged the need to export Olives instead of import and assured that govt would provide all kinds of support in this regard.

He said that PMYP in collaboration with NAVTCC and TEVTA had started the various latest training programmes with the help of China to excel youth in diverse fields including the agriculture sector.

Pak, Morocco deep desire to cement bilateral cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Morocco have expressed deep desire to consolidate the existing ties focusing on collaborative training programs, joint military exercises and industrial cooperation.

The desire was expressed in a meeting between Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu and Inspector Royal Moroccan Air Force Major General Mohammed Gadih in Islamabad on Wednesday.

The Air Chief reiterated his resolve to strengthening military partnership through full collaboration in joint training initiatives in the entire spectrum of air power application, which will include basic and tactical level training for Moroccan Air Force personnel.

Cop martyred in targeted attack

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

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

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

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

During the meeting,



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

Ambassador WADA expressed gratitude for the warmth and hospitality he experienced throughout his

time in Pakistan, describing his stay as an enriching and memorable period. He praised Pakistan's vibrant culture and highlighted the country's potential for continued economic growth, noting the productive collaboration between the two nations across diverse sec-

tors, from technology to trade.

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

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

Smog sneaks into Islamabad as city AQI reaches 210

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pollution is no longer an issue confined to Lahore alone as it has reached as far as Islamabad where the air quality index (AQI) was recorded at 210 on Wednesday, making the city hazardous for people's health.

The AQI in the city was 26.9 per cent more than the guideline set by the World Health Organization (WHO). Doctors advised asthma patients in particular to wear facemasks in order to prevent exposure to smog.

It is worth mentioned here that smog, a mixture of smoke and fog, became a significant public health issue in the early 20th century, particularly in industrialized cities. The term "smog" originated in London, where dense smoke from coal-burning industries mixed with fog to create a toxic haze.

The infamous "Great Smog" of 1952 in London, which caused thousands of deaths, highlighted the deadly impact of industrial air pollution. Over time, smog became a global issue, especially in rapidly urbanizing regions, worsening due to increased vehicle emissions, industrial growth, and agricultural practices like crop burning.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Pakistan Prime Minister's Youth Program, Rana Mashood Ahmad Khan calls on Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

United stance

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

Although it would have been better if the Muslim bloc had announced practical measures to punish Israel and its supporters for their murder of tens of thousands of Palestinian and Lebanese civilians, in the current circumstances, even coming together on one platform to denounce the genocidal violence is an achievement. Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman vowed to stand by "our brothers in Palestine and Lebanon", while warning Israel to respect Iran's sovereignty.

In view of the acrimony that has often marked ties between the kingdom and the Islamic republic, this show of solidarity is creditable. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif sought an arms embargo against Israel; indeed, such an embargo, as well as Muslim states' freezing of economic and diplomatic ties with Israel, should have happened as soon as Tel Aviv began its butchery in Gaza. The summit also reiterated the need for Israel to vacate all occupied Arab land, including the held Palestinian territories and the Golan Heights.

As the Muslim-Arab bloc was pledging solidarity with Palestine in Riyadh, the Israelis were busy pouring cold water over any prospect of a sovereign Palestinian state. The new Israeli foreign minister said that statehood was not a "realistic" position, while Tel Aviv's extremist finance minister has asserted that plans are ready to annex the occupied West Bank. This is a clear message that the Israelis are not ready for peace and Tel Aviv's bloodthirsty, expansionist policies will continue.

Moreover, Donald Trump is assembling a mortifying line-up of pro-Israel, anti-Iran hawks to head positions in the UN and the State Department. It is safe to say that peace-making will not be a priority, unless this 'peace' entails total capitulation of the Arab side.

Exactly 50 years ago, Yasser Arafat told the world while speaking at the UN that he held forth an olive branch as well as a freedom fighter's gun. "Do not let the olive branch fall from my hand," Arafat warned. Sadly, in their arrogance, the Israelis have effectively cut off the hand holding the olive branch, which has left the Palestinians clasping only a gun. What occurred on Oct 7, 2023, was the result of the Israelis repeatedly dismissing the olive branch. Today, Gaza is a massive graveyard, Lebanon is on fire and the entire Middle East is on the brink of a conflagration. The only solution is for Israel to stop its slaughter, and recognise the reality that Palestine cannot be erased.

Trumped again

Mahir Ali

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

The Democrats' election symbol might be an insult to a species whose intelligence has been underrated since donkeys were domesticated 6,000 years ago, but its traditional implications accurately reflect the party hierarchy's mindset after last week's devastating defeat.

The post-mortems began pouring in as soon as it became obvious that Kamala Harris had been trounced by Donald Trump. Yesterday, the president-elect was due to be hosted in the Oval Office by a man who had described him as a dire threat to democracy.

Joe Biden's claim wasn't exactly inaccurate, but it ignored his own party's contribution to the promotion of plutocracy. It may not have been initiated by the Democrats, but they ran with the neoliberal trend exemplified by the Reagan administration.

Bill Clinton and Barack Obama lent their imagined left to the Harris campaign, and both ignored the issues whereby their presidencies led, respectively, to George W. Bush and Trump. The Clinton presidency did not deviate all that much from the Reagan era, and Obama effectively pursued both the neoconservatism and neoliberalism of his Republican predecessor.

No one can claim with any certainty that the 2024 result would have been different had Biden butted out after the 2022 midterm elections, in which the Democrats did

not fare quite as badly as the polls and the mainstream media projected, but they might have made amends that bolstered their support two years later. No such luck. Biden did propose some healthy measures on the economic and renewable energy fronts, but they made no immediate difference to most of those who were suffering from the consequences of the Covid pandemic and its inflationary aftermath.

The Democrats offered no alternative to the status quo beyond gradual improvement over the years, bolstered by pundits who proclaimed that the economy was going gangbusters, with rising employment and declining inflation. Too many voters did not feel the joy that Harris sought to project, recalling that their grocery bills were lower before Biden took over. Among the many promises Trump is unlikely to fulfil, he vowed to bring down grocery bills, cut taxes and end all wars.

Back in 2016, he emerged as a potential disruptor of a status quo that wasn't working for most Americans. He could not reclaim the perch in 2020, after four years in power. That he was able to achieve a far more convincing victory than eight years ago is a testament to the decrepitude of the Democrats.

That does not only mean that Biden ought to have ruled himself out a couple of years ago on the basis of his senescence, but also that his successor should have diverged from a self-defeating formula by offering viable alternatives to both an economy whose supposedly thriving aspects are not trickling down to most voters, and to a foreign policy that involves prolonging a nasty war in Europe and promoting a genocide in the Middle East. Harris focused, instead, on slamming

Trump and saying that she wasn't Biden — the latter of which was obvious given her gender and ethnicity, but less so when it came to her ideology. Much of the Democratic elite that has ridiculed Bernie Sanders for accurately claiming that the working class was only returning the favour when it deserted the De-mocrats have also claimed that Har-ris ran a wonderful campaign but was der-ailed by unavoidable obstacles. That's nonsense. It's true she had only 100 days to stake her claim, thanks to her geriatric chieftain's obduracy and his party's inexplicable obeisance, but her rallying cries consisted of little more than hollow platitudes, and her oratorical skills don't match those of Barack Obama.

Sanders consistently reminds the electorate that real wages haven't increased since the 1970s, the minimum wage is far too low, and it's a travesty that so many citizens of the world's richest nation live in poverty despite full-time jobs, and struggle to pay their medical bills and education debts. While the Republicans' ridiculous response is to privatise everything, the Democrats are petrified by the prospect of proposing anything more than a bit of tinkering on the edges of neoliberalism.

It's easy to empathise with the likeliest victims of Trump's non-consecutive second term, an achievement previously pulled off only by Grover Cleveland in the 19th century. And he was a Democrat back when the Republican Party was relatively progressive. Trump's unpredictability means we can only wait and see how far he will go in carrying out his threatened atrocities at home and his promised peacemaking abroad. — Courtesy Dawn

Finding inspiration

Nadeem Hussain | Jawad Ahmed

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

With each passing day, Pakistan's most talented and educated young women and men are increasingly making the difficult decision to leave the country. They don't just depart but take with them the very skills, ideas, passion, commitment, empathy, and optimism that could have transformed our collective future. Since the beginning of 2022, reportedly over a million highly qualified professionals have left the country, perhaps after trying everything they could. But what makes this crisis even harder to bear is the truth that, in their departure, they are not abandoning Pakistan, but are, in fact, calling out for all of us to reflect, to act, and to change.

Despite a wrecked economy, fragile security, and suppressed free speech rights, we still have individuals and organisations investing in Pakistan's future and the generations to come. Most of these agents of change are deeply invested in the youth and in a Pakistan that values talent, integrity, and potential. Education is one such area that can give this nation some hope.

Pakistan's education system has remained in a state of perpetual crisis. The official number for out-of-school children is 26.2m (40 per cent of the total school-going popula-

tion of 66m children). This means that out of every 100 children, 36 are never enrolled in primary school; and from those who do get a chance to begin their academic journeys, only 55pc are able to complete Grade 5 — the state fails 65 of every 100 children within the first 10 years of their lives in this 77-year-old country.

With the second lowest literacy rate in the region, the world's fifth most populous nation spends 1.5pc of its GDP on education — a drop from 2.4pc. These numbers tell us the trajectory of this country's fate in the coming years; evidence and decade-long economic research show that none of the world's nations has really progressed without investing in its people and developing its human capital.

Everyday phrases — 'no one cares'; 'this country will stay as it is'; 'there isn't anything that we can do'; 'the powers that be won't allow this country to grow'; 'we're corrupt to the core'; 'the government doesn't do anything'; 'the establishment plays its games'; 'our votes get stolen'; and 'the state doesn't honour its commitment to citizens' — won't do any good to the people of this country. In fact, whatever little hope is left for the ones who are destined to stay and survive in Pakistan will also vanish.

For a stronger civic response to the challenges we face, it is in the best interest of all Pakistan's citizens — within and outside of the country — to champion the right of fundamental education for the youngest members of Pakistan society and not only become their voice but also act on their behalf when they can.

One such example and an inspiration for young and old in this country is 27-year-old Wall Street-based financial analyst Tabarak Rehman. On Nov 3, Tabarak embarked on a journey to become the first-ever person to run 1,600 kilometres across Pakistan. He is doing this to create awareness and make an impact on the education of 7,000 Pakistani children who might have otherwise remained out of school.

With his run, he is trying to raise \$1m for the education non-profit The Citizens Foundation. We have observed across social media platforms that Tabarak's venture has initiated a discourse on 'what and how' to do something for the most marginalised children of our nation.

Such ventures have the potential to bring society onto one platform for a single cause, with college- and university-going students, young professionals, corporate leaders, civil servants, philanthropists, and industrialists within and outside Pakistan discussing the educational crisis in the country.

Discussion itself is the starting point of overcoming such a grave challenge and leads to further responsive civic activism.

If Pakistan is to find its way forward, it will be because we collectively recognise the power of this new generation — their struggles, their dreams, and their resilience. The question is not whether we can afford to listen and respond to these young voices but whether we can afford not to. Nadeem Hussain is the co-author of Agents of Change and The Economy of Modern Sindh. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Rana for exploiting olive potential to cut edible oil imports

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

With Pakistan's current reliance on imported edible oil, the minister stressed the need for a sustainable substitute, highlighting the potential for olive oil production to meet local demands and drive exports.

"As we hear the word export the government becomes excited because we want to enhance our export," he added. He praised the efforts of Dr. Tariq and Azmat Awan, two government officials driving the olive sector's development.

Overseas Pakistani investors meet Punjab industries minister

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

The meeting discussed investment opportunities in Punjab

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

The Al Baraka Pakistan Olive Summit 2024 brought together key national and international experts, policymakers, and industry leaders to advance Pakistan's olive industry.

Under the theme "Developing a Safe, Sustainable & Ready-to-Export Supply Chain of the Olive Sector," the summit emphasized Pakistan's potential to emerge as a significant player in the global olive market.

Gold prices up by Rs.1,400 per tola

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

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also went up by Rs.1,200 to Rs.233,111 from Rs.231,911 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat gold increased to Rs.213,685 from Rs.212,584.



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

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

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

Addressing the inaugural session of Margalla Dialogue 2024, of Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) here, he underscored the need to re-

equip youth with education to make them a capable workforce in a changing and competitive world order, said a press release.

He said that new realities are shaping the world at large, and we are living in an era of alliances, including those that are breeding conflict and militarization such as AUKUS and QUAD in the region and beyond. The Chairman Senate said that

Pakistan looks forward to more democratisation, and an inclusive order where in economic resilience and security decorum come to adjust transitional changes.

He referred to the Founder of the Nation, Muhammad Ali Jinnah and said that "Pakistan is the pivot of the world," and even our existence at such an important geographic crossroads had proved vitality for our neighbours.

FBR introduces new payment creation system

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

In line with the vision of the government to modernize Pakistan's tax infrastructure, FBR is reinforcing its commitment to advancing tax administration and enhancing revenue collection through advanced digital solutions, said a news release. This

innovative system enables secure, efficient, and user-friendly online payments, accessible directly from taxpayers' bank accounts via internet banking, ATMs, and mobile banking, eliminating the need for physical bank visits.

ePayment 2.0 marks a significant advancement in revenue management, covering a wide range of taxes, including Income Tax, Sales Tax, Federal Excise Duty, and Withholding Taxes.

Earlier, taxpayers used a separate ePayment system outside IRIS 2.0, requiring them to switch between portals.

PSX gains 130 points to close at 93,355 points

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

A total of 807,067,924 shares were traded during the day as compared to 792,904,878 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs.31.688 billion against Rs.30.788 billion on the last trading day.

Jam, World Bank advance agenda for export competitiveness

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

The discussion also addressed how the World Bank can support these initiatives under the broader country program, said a press release issued here.

Jam Kamal Khan highlighted the Whole-of-Government approach to export enhancement, which promotes a unified policy framework to improve

competitiveness and the Ease of Doing Business for exporters.

This strategy emphasizes export-led growth by providing crucial enabling factors such as financing, liquidity support, reduced input costs, and regulatory facilitation to empower Pakistan's export sector.

The World Bank reiterated its support for Pakistan's Trade and Investment Officers (TIOs) stationed in Missions abroad and its commitment to collaborating on knowledge-sharing initiatives to strengthen Pakistan's global trade connections.

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

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

this conditionality; therefore, they will remain disadvantaged as compared to the larger industrial units. Additionally, the



appreciates the announcement of the winter package — the relief in the electricity tariff announced under it should be made available to small & medium enterprises (SMEs) as well through withdrawing the condition of 100,000 units consumption in the corresponding period of last year; and, resultantly, only applying the Rs. 26/kWh tariff to the incremental units consumed after that threshold. Ms. Qurrat Ul Ain, Acting President, FPCCI, explained that SMEs and new industries in particular cannot fulfil

government will also get full results of its winter package in industrial production and exports as the limitations of the winter package will create impediments in fully materializing the impetus offered for trade and industry. Acting FPCCI Chief highlighted that 100 textile units are already closed in Faisalabad due to burgeoning cost of doing business and lack of ease of doing business parameters in the country. The two biggest contributors keeping the cost of doing business high in Pakistan.



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

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

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

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

The CM said that number of field hospitals

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

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

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

urban and congested areas across Punjab."

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

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



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

CM KP participate in ceremony at BISE

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

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

The gymnasium is

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

He said that there is a

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

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

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

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

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

During the discussion,

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

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

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

Man killed in Bajaur bomb blast incident

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

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

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

Police have started search operation to trace the culprits.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

life in London.

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

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

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



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

International News

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

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

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

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

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

"The scenes of the 1948 catastrophe are being repeated. Israel is repeating its massacres, displacement and destruction," said Saed, 48, a resident of Beit Lahiya, who arrived in Gaza City on Wednesday.

"North Gaza is being turned into a large buffer zone. Israel is carrying out ethnic cleansing under the sight and hearing of the impatient world," he told Reuters via a chat app.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Triumphant Trump returns to White House to meet Biden

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

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

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

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

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

"The American people deserve this. They deserve a peaceful transfer of power." US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said Biden would go over top foreign policy issues when he meets Trump—including US support for Kyiv against Russia, which Trump has criticised. "The president will have the chance to explain to President Trump how he sees things, where they stand, and talk to President Trump about how President Trump is thinking."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lebanon says 11 killed in Israel strikes across the country

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

US imposes sanctions on Sudanese paramilitary commander

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

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

Indonesian president meets Biden and speaks with Trump, pledges cooperation

Monitoring Desk
JAKARTA: Indonesia's President Prabowo Subianto met with US President Joe Biden at the White House and offered his congratulations to President-elect Donald Trump by phone during an official visit to Washington.

"I will work very hard to strengthen Indonesian-United States relationship, and I would like to work towards this end that we have a strong cooperation," said Prabowo.

Prabowo, who has said he will pursue a non-aligned foreign policy, met with Biden in the Oval Office after posting a video of his call to Trump.

He arrived in Washington straight from China, where he had met with President Xi Jinping on his first overseas trip since tak-

ing office last month.

Washington sees Indonesia, the most populous country in Southeast Asia, as an important partner in a region where its rival Beijing has deep trade and investment ties. Indonesia is also the world's most populous Muslim-majority country.

While China is a key economic partner for Indonesia, Jakarta has also become a big buyer of US arms, and it wants to sell the West more metals from its mines.

At the White House, Biden said the two leaders were discussing climate, conflict in the Middle East and the South China Sea.

Indonesia said on Monday it does not recognize China's claims over the vast majority of the South China Sea, despite signing a maritime development deal with Beijing.

Kyrgyzstan makes arrests over suspected coup attempt ahead of local elections

Monitoring Desk
BISHKEK: Police in the Central Asian nation of Kyrgyzstan have arrested and charged seven people on suspicion of organising mass riots to overthrow the government ahead of local elections on Sunday.

The interior ministry said in a statement on Tuesday the individuals were suspected of using sports games and other competitions in the capital Bishkek to foment a riot. "Under the guise of national sports games, they intended to call for acts of violence, were going to put forward unconstitutional calls, (and) destabilise the situation for the further violent seizure of power on November 17," the ministry said.

Govt. committed to well-being of diabetic population: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif said that the Government of Pakistan was fully committed to controlling the escalation in diabetes and delivering well-being to diabetic population.

"We observe the 14th November as National Diabetes Day, with an objective to highlight awareness about diabetes, its prevention, and management. Today, Pakistan joins the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) and the World Health Organization to work for the well-being of millions of people with diabetes for a better life. During 2024-26 'Diabetes and Well-being' is the global thematic area of diabetes that calls for focus on access to diabetes care and support for wellbeing," the prime minister said in a message on World Diabetes Day being observed on November 14.

The prime minister said the government had launched significant health reforms to tackle non-communicable diseases, with

significant prioritization of diabetes. With the support of their partners, the government had developed various programmes to prevent and control diabetes, he added.

"At the Federal level, we will be launching the 'Prime Minister's Program for Prevention and Control of Diabetes Mellitus' under the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination. Objective of this programme is controlling the disease in federal areas and improving capacities in all provinces for providing universal health coverage, diagnosis, and treatment for diabetic patients, along with raising awareness and behavioral change," PM Office release, quoted the prime minister as saying.

The prime minister reiterated that the government of Pakistan stood committed to the provision of health facilities to all.

"For a prosperous future, the economy depends on mitigating disease burden and reducing out of pocket expenditure by our

citizens. This can only be achieved by working together in eliminating diseases like diabetes for a healthier Pakistan," he stressed. The prime minister said despite numerous advancements in the scientific world, every tenth person was suffering from diabetes. "Alarming, there are still 50% of diabetic patients undiagnosed and consequently untreated. This further leads to an enhanced burden of uncontrolled diabetic patients with complications such as heart disease, kidney failure, neurological disorders, stroke and blindness," he added. Pakistan was also facing the challenge of diabetes with about 33 million of their citizens enduring the burden of Diabetes, he said, adding with this alarming rate, Pakistan was in the list of countries facing the largest diabetic population. The prime minister further said that an additional 11 million adults in Pakistan had impaired glucose tolerance, while approximately 8 to 9 million persons with diabetes remained undiagnosed.



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

PM reiterates resolve to ensure safety of Chinese nationals

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

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

Highlighting the steps taken by the government for the security of the Chinese nationals in Pakistan, he said that the government of Pakistan was taking all possible steps to ensure the security of Chinese nationals.

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

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

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

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

The minister said the report provides a detailed analysis of the recent census results and it gives future direction along with the tools needed to solve forthcoming challenges related to the growing population, said a press release issued. "Pakistan 2025" study launched by UNFPA and Population Council presents challenges and suggestions related to overpopulation.

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

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

He said that there is a major debate going on in India right now on conducting the digital census, a seemingly gigantic task.

"We carried out the census with the consensus of all the provinces", Ahsan Iqbal said.

He further said that debating on the problems of growing population is necessary. It is also important to note that after the Eighteenth Amendment, powers were transferred to the provinces and the provinces have not yet devolved powers to local governments. The entire province of Sindh cannot be run from Karachi and Punjab cannot be run from Lahore. Service delivery and key outcomes cannot be achieved without devolving authority to local governments. The minister stressed that devolution of powers to lower levels is essential to improve the governance system.



ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi presiding over an important meeting at the Central Police Office regarding the security and crime situation in the federal capital.

IGP Islamabad orders concrete measures against crime

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Police apprehended 20 outlaws involved in different criminal activities including drugs peddling, gambling and possessing illegal weapons during last 24 hours.

The police teams also recovered liquor, narcotics, gambling tools and weapons with ammunition from their possession, a public relations officer told APP on Wednesday.

He said that, the Tarnol, Industrial Area, Nilore, Bani Gala, Shams Colony and Phulgar police station teams took legal action against accused involved in drug peddling, gambling and possessing illegal weapons.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi presided over an important meeting at the Central Police Office regarding the security and crime situation in the federal capital.

The meeting was attended by all divisions DIGs, AIGs, SSPs, and SPS. Divisional officers provided briefings on city security and crime matters, and an audit report of the Islamabad Police force was presented.

The IG Islamabad also collected suggestions from officers and gave further instructions for improvement. He highlighted the need to improve investigation standards through the use of modern technology and called for optimal utilization of available resources to enhance performance.

Additionally, he directed concrete actions to control crime and strengthen security in the city. The performance of all patrolling units should be improved and made more effective.

Ethiopian envoy honored 'Global Ambassador Award' for outstanding performance

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Envoy and Ambassador Extraordinary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) to Pakistan, Dr. Jemal Bekir Abdula on Wednesday received the Global Ambassador Award for his outstanding and extraordinary diplomatic activities in Pakistan. The Diplomatic Insight, a global public diplomacy institution in Pakistan, honored the Ambassador with the award for his exemplary efforts and contributions to bringing the two big nations closer together at bilateral, regional and multilateral forums within a short period of time. The 6th Global Ambassador Awards Ceremony 2024 took place here in the presence of ambassadors, diplomatic

corps, parliamentarians, government officials, business community, academia, media and civil society. Rana Ihsaan Afzal Khan, Coordinator to the Prime Minister of Pakistan, graced the occasion as the chief guest.

Ambassador Jemal is a seasoned diplomat. His ground breaking efforts for the Ethiopian Missions in Australia, Bahrain and Pakistan are highly acknowledged at official level. Ambassador Jemal has already received the Best Ambassador Award from the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, a Peace Award from the National Peace and Justice Council of Pakistan and COMSTech Award for strengthening fraternity between the two nations.

Imran has given final call for protest on Nov 24

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

PTI founder has said lawyers should come out for the sake of Supreme Court. Civil society, farmers and students should come out for protest, she said this while talking to media men outside Adiala jail Wednesday. She said people should come out for voicing protest against the stolen mandate, unjust massive arrests and 26th constitutional amendment.

Nation has to decide today either they have to live under martial law or in freedom. PTI founder has given final call for protest on November 24, she held.

Dar calls upon developed nations to honour climate finance pledges

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

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

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

He emphasized the

importance of early warning systems for climate-induced hazards, including floods, glacial lake outbursts, droughts, and extreme heat. DPM/Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar outlined Pakistan's key initiatives to reduce projected greenhouse gas emissions including Green Pakistan Project, an Electric Vehicle Policy, a large-scale mangrove rehabilitation project, and BRT mass transit systems across major cities.

He also appreciated the UN Secretary-General's leadership in launching the EW4All initiative in 2022.

Dar said the meeting was being held to discuss the role of early warning system and the increasing risk posed by rising heat.

He said that they stood united in their commitment to safeguard the livelihood, lives, protect communities and ensure that no one was left unprotected from the unpredictable and severe impacts of the climate change.



ISLAMABAD: Syed Zafar Ali Shah, Secretary Ministry of Maritime Affairs addressing a Workshop on Pakistan Maritime Policy.

CDA board greenlights major upgrades in emergency services, cybersecurity

ISLAMABAD (APP): Capital Development Authority (CDA) Board in its 16th meeting on Wednesday announced major upgrades for emergency services and cybersecurity. The board meeting was chaired by CDA Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa at the CDA Headquarters.

All board members were in attendance, and a range of agenda items were discussed, leading to several important approvals and decisions. One of the key decisions was to fully operationalize the Capital Emergency Services.

It was also decided that the Directorate of Emergency and Disaster Management and 1122 Care units would come under the authority of the Director General of Capital Emergency Services.

Additionally, specialist staff will be recruited on a contract basis to enhance the capacity of this department.

Chairman Randhawa stressed the importance of expediting the promotion process for all officers and employees who meet the eligibility criteria for advancement.

88% public complaints resolved through IGP Complaint Cell 1715

ISLAMABAD: According to the details, the Islamabad Police IGP Complaint Cell 1715 is working in a fully operational and efficient manner to address the issues of citizens, a public relations officer said.

On a daily basis, complaints related to citizens' problems are resolved with transparency and merit. In the last six months, 1,104 complaints were received via the 1715 helpline, and the staff promptly forwarded them to the concerned forums. Out of the complaints received, 973 have been resolved with complete transparency and merit, with a resolution rate of 88%.

Moreover, citizens can register complaints regarding the registration of cases, traffic-related issues, complaints against any police officer, or any issues related to investigations.

In addition, citizens can submit complaints via the Islamabad Police mobile app, social media platforms, the website, or in writing. These initiatives aim to provide citizens with timely and the best services.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, said that Islamabad Police is utilizing all available resources to ensure the provision of the best and swift justice to citizens.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Clean and Green Islamabad and Former President ICCI Ahsan Bakhtawari, Director Sanitation and Market Development CDA Mashooq Ali Sheikh and President Blue Area Raja A reviewed the Cleaning and Development Works of Blue Area.

NDMA to host key panels on gender, climate resilience at COP 29 in Baku

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is set to host two crucial panel discussions on Gender, Climate Change and Risk Financing and Resilience at the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP 29) in Baku, Azerbaijan, showcasing Pakistan's commitment to addressing pressing climate issues.

NDMA's participation at COP 29 highlights Pakistan's commitment to tackling climate change and strengthening resilience

through international collaboration and support. Pakistan, ranked as the fifth most vulnerable country to climate change, has faced severe impacts, including devastating floods, heat waves, and droughts.

The country's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) outlines comprehensive strategies to enhance resilience across various sectors. However, the implementation of these strategies is hindered by financial and technical constraints.



ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid, met with Chairperson of the National Vocational & Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC), Ms. Gulmina Bilal, at the BISP Headquarters.

BISP, NAVTTC collaborate to empower BISP registered families through skill training

ISLAMABAD (APP): Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) will collaborate to empower registered families through skill training.

This was agreed during a meeting held here between Chairperson BISP, Senator Rubina Khalid and Chairperson of the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC), Ms. Gulmina Bilal.

The meeting focused on strengthening collaboration to provide skill training and quality certifications to BISP-registered families, aligning programs with both local and international workforce trends.

Senator Rubina Khalid emphasized that BISP supports 9.3 million low-income families, and equipping them with technical

PEIRA, NCHD join hands to eradicate illiteracy in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson of the Private Educational Institutions Regulatory Authority (PEIRA), Dr. Sayeda Zia Batool and Director General of the National Commission for Human Development (NCHD), Mr. Ali Asghar ON Wednesday signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaboratively extend the "Each One Teaches One" (EOTO) initiative to Islamabad's private educational institutions.

According to the detail of MoU, this initiative, in alignment with the Prime Minister's Roshan Pakistan - National Literacy Drive, under the Education Emergency is committed to eradicating illiteracy.

20 outlaws held, narcotics weapons recovered

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Police apprehended 20 outlaws involved in different criminal activities including drugs peddling, gambling and possessing illegal weapons during last 24 hours.

The police teams also recovered liquor, narcotics, gambling tools and weapons with ammunition from their possession, a public relations officer told APP on Wednesday.

He said that, the Tarnol, Industrial Area, Nilore, Bani Gala, Shams Colony and Phulgar police station teams took legal action against accused involved in drug peddling, gambling and possessing illegal weapons.

Islamabad Police also arrested 17 accused namely Muaz, Akbar Khan, Zain, Rasool Din, Sajid Gul, Irfan, Ehsan Chinedu Hillary, Yasir, Mulazim, Akhtar, Imtiaz, Zahoor, Altaf, Zahid, Basharat and Ashiq.

NA panel pledges to safeguard the rights of media workers

ISLAMABAD (APP): PEMRA Headquarters, Islamabad this morning under the chairmanship of Mr. Pullain Baloch, MNA to discuss agenda related to PTV, PEMRA, Payment of Salaries of media workers and payments of pending salaries and other liabilities of employees of Shalimar Recording and Broadcast company. The Committee while discussing the issues related to payment of salaries to media workers opined that the committee would not spare any effort to ensure payment of salaries and clearance of their outstanding dues. Commending the efforts of PEMRA and ITNE for pursuing clearance of salaries, the committee further suggested for bringing stringent regulations in the relevant Acts of Parliament for upholding the rights of media workers.

The Committee met at

skills is essential for improving their living standards.

"Our goal is to uplift these families by transforming their skills into sustainable assets through effective human resource development," she stated.

"With skill training, individuals can become self-reliant, raising their economic standing while contributing to the country's progress."

Senator Rubina Khalid highlighted the importance of internationally recognized certifications to enable beneficiaries to access job opportunities abroad.

She mentioned the growing demand for trained professionals in fields such as home care, nursing, and paramedics internationally. She stressed the need for BISP to ensure high-quality training that meets global standards.



ISLAMABAD: The twin cities and most parts of Punjab are shrouded in heavy smog. According to IQ Air, citizens of Islamabad are required to wear masks and a decision has been made to reduce traffic on the roads. While leaf fires are being set near Sectors I-9 and I-8, the emission of these hazardous substances and smoke is increasing the smog.