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QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over meeting of Provincial Cabinet.

Balochistan cabinet expresses firm resolve to fight against terrorism with full force and energy

Balochistan security of Vulnerable Establishment Act approved: Chief Minister vows to ensure sustainable peace by eliminating terrorism in Balochistan; cabinet approves required funds for Quetta Development Package; appreciates performance of Ministers and other high ups on provision of emergent services soon after terrorism incident

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Balochistan cabinet has expressed its firm resolve to fight against terrorism with full force and energy in the province.

In this regard, cabinet approved the Balochistan Security of Vulnerable Establishment Act 2024 aiming to make the coordinated measures of different security institutions fruitful for restoration of peace in the province.

The cabinet also approved establishment of new police stations in Rada Sham and Kingri areas of the province besides Chaman Master Plan Levies Station.

The provincial cabinet accorded these approvals during its meeting held with

the Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti in the chair here at the CM's secretariat on Monday.

The cabinet also approved appointment of chairman and members of the Balochistan Sales Tax on Services Revenue Appellate Tribunal.

In addition to this, the cabinet also approved required funds for the Quetta Development Package.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister said that we are working with firm resolve to fight against terrorism in the province, and as such would defeat the elements involved in it and ensure sustainable peace.

He said that the establishment of new proposed

police and levies stations would help establish peace in the province.

He said that the jurisdictions of the new proposed police and levies stations would be made compatible with the public requirements.

The Chief Minister said that Quetta city is the face of province, this is why expansion in the Quetta Development Package is unavoidable for bringing improvement in the development and beauty of the city.

For the purpose, required funds would be released without any delay, adding he announced.

Meanwhile, provincial cabinet highly appreciated

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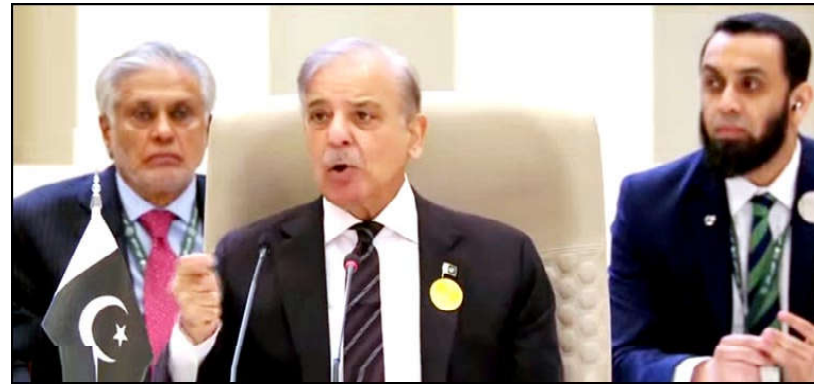
Condemns Israeli actions in Gaza, Lebanon, and Iran

PM calls for immediate ceasefire, lifting of Israeli blockade of Gaza and arms embargo on Israel

Reaffirms call for free Palestinian state at Arab-Islamic Summit; Says humanity is being tested and failing in Gaza; Calls for accountability of unabated Israeli war crimes; Atrocities against Palestinians rightfully labelled as 'genocide'

RIYADH (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday while regretting the 'deafening silence' of the international community over the systematic genocide of the people of Palestine, called for swift action to safeguard the inalienable rights of the oppressed Palestinians, by ensuring the establishment of an independent state.

Addressing an Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit, the prime minister said that as Ummah, they were duty bound by their religion and conscience to stand



resolutely with the people of Palestine more than even before, 'we should not let this genocide and oppres-

sion to persist.'

The prime minister stressed that this conference must call for immediate

and unconditional ceasefire, impose an immediate arms embargo on Israel and lifting of Israel's

blockade against Gaza, ensuring prompt delivery of food water, electricity and medical aid.

The prime minister also called for holding of accountability of Israel for its war crimes, besides, urging the summit to pursue the adoption of UNGA special session's resolution 10/24 that followed up a historic advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also demanded a comprehensive review of Israel's membership

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Zardari thanks President Xi for goodwill message, plans visit to China soon

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday extended gratitude to the Chinese President Xi Jinping for the goodwill message, adding that he would visit China in near future on a suitable date.

In his letter dated November 3, President Xi expressed concern over the President of Pakistan's injury and conveyed his best wishes for a speedy recovery, according to a press release issued by the President House Press Wing.

President Xi, in his letter reaffirmed the deep friendship between Pakistan and China.

Chinese President Xi Jinping also extended a warm invitation for President Zardari to visit China.

President Zardari stated that he was deeply moved by the messages inquiring his health by the leadership and people of China. "I will visit China in the near future at an appropriate time," the president said.

He said this visit will further strengthen the long-standing and ironclad bonds between the two countries.

Both leaders highlighted the importance of the "All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership" between the two countries.

Balochistan cabinet condemns Railway Station blast; offers fete for martyrs

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Balochistan cabinet on Monday strongly condemned the terrorism incident occurred at the Railway Station Quetta on Saturday last.

The cabinet met with Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti in the chair on Monday morning.

The provincial ministers, advisors and parliamentary secretaries were in attendance with the Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan, Inspector General of Police, Moazzam Jah Ansari and other senior government functionaries.

The provincial cabinet discussed the terrorism incident that had claimed lives of some 27 persons and left over 60 injured on Saturday last.

The participants strongly condemned the incident and offered fete for the departed souls of those martyred in the incident.

Ban on meeting with Imran, other prisoners in Adiala jail lifted

ISLAMABAD (Online): Ban on meeting with Imran Khan and other prisoners in Adiala jail has been lifted.

Islamabad High Court (IHC) has wrapped up petition against restrictions on meeting with Imran Khan in jail and for provision of facilities to PTI founder in jail.

Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir has issued written order for wrapping up petition filed by Noreen Niazi.

According to written order Jail authorities assured to provide all facilities as per court's orders and jail rules. A detailed report was filed in the court with the signatures of superintendent Adiala jail.

Ban on meeting with PTI founder and others prisoners in jail has been lifted. Home department Punjab had imposed ban on meetings in jail for fear of terrorists attacks.

According to jail authorities meeting of petitioner Noreen Niazi has been arranged with Imran Khan in jail.

Jail authorities said PTI founder has appointed his coordinator in the light of court's order. Therefore who aspire to meet Imran Khan can contact coordinator appointed by Imran Khan. According to deputy superintendent jail all the facilities are available to PTI founder in jail as per jail rules.

The jail authorities assured that all the facilities will be provided to Imran Khan as per court's orders and jail rules.

Pakistan, Australia vow to strengthen defense cooperation

RAWALPINDI (APP): Lieutenant General Simon Stuart, Chief of the Australian Army called on General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) of Pakistan here Monday at the General Headquarters (GHQ).

During the meeting, both leaders engaged in discussions covering matters of mutual interest, particularly the global and regional security environment, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release.

The COAS emphasized Pakistan's appreciation for its ties with Australia, noting the importance of strong bilateral relations in promoting shared goals of peace and stability. Both sides reiterated their commitment to further strengthen cooperation in defense and security, recognizing the value of continued collaboration for regional and global peace, it further said.

Lieutenant General Stuart commended Pakistan's efforts in countering terrorism and expressed his resolve to deepen bilateral defense and security cooperation between the two countries.

Earlier, upon his arrival at GHQ, the Chief of the Australian Army laid a floral wreath at the Yadgar-e-Shuhada to honor Pakistan's martyrs. He was accorded a warm welcome, with a smartly turned-out contingent of the Pakistan Army presenting a guard of honor to him.

Recalling the Secretary-

ance, and mutual respect.

PM praises MWL's role in advocating Muslim causes

RIHADY APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has commended the remarkable work being done by the Muslim World League in promoting the true image of Islam worldwide.

During a meeting with the Secretary-General of the Muslim World League

Recalling the Secretary-



General's recent visit to Pakistan, the Prime Minister expressed his commitment to completing various collaborative projects, particularly the establishment of the Seerat Museum, which will be instrumental in highlighting different aspects of the life and teachings of the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him).

Health Minister inaugurates State-of-the-Art CT Scan Machine at SKBZANH

Independent Report. QUETTA: Bakt Muhammad Kakar, Provincial Health Minister of Balochistan, has expressed gratitude to the National Disaster Risk Management Fund for providing a modern CT scan machine to Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Hospital in Quetta.

The CT scan machine was installed through the COVID-19 project with the support of the National Disaster Risk Management Fund. Director of the COVID-19 project, Dr. Naeqeb Niazi, briefed the

health minister on the machine's capabilities. Key Features of the CT Scan Machine: Advanced Imaging; Enables CT angiography and contrast studies, Artificial Intelligence; Features AI programming for enhanced diagnosis, Interventional Radiology; Allows for minimally invasive procedures, High Capacity; Average 150 tests per day.

This state-of-the-art machine will greatly benefit the people of Balochistan, providing access to advanced medical imaging and diagnostic capabilities.

Justice Shah says No one can question even if regular bench hears constitutional cases

ISLAMABAD (INP): During the hearing of a tax-related case in the Supreme Court on Monday, the judges got into a debate over the necessity of a constitutional bench, it reported in media.

Senior judge Justice Mansoor Ali Shah raised the question if the regular bench they were on was unconstitutional until the constitutional bench is established.

He also remarked that even if the present bench heard the case, no one could question it. "Even if we decide the case, what will happen? If a review plea comes before us, we'll say it's our jurisdiction," he added.

At the outset of the

hearing, Justice Ayesha Malik remarked that this case would be heard by the constitutional bench. Justice Shah asked that since there was no constitutional bench as of now, what should be done about the "unconstitutional bench" they were a part of.

"Are we unconstitutional until the constitutional bench is established?" he asked, adding that this means constitutional cases would not be heard until the constitutional bench comes into force. He further remarked that even if this regular bench heard the case, nobody could question it. Even if the regular bench decided the case, who could stop it, he asked further.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail distributing certificates among students during 1st Convocation of Govt. Girls Degree College Quarry Road Quetta.

Governor calls for increasing necessary facilities to make Quetta effective educational hub

Jaffar Mandokhail says Girl students not only raised heads of their parents, but ours too; announces to establish Computer Sciences Department in Govt. Girls Degree College and assures to form committee for resolving issues of College

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has underlined the need to increase necessary facilities for making Quetta effective educational hub. He said that Quetta meets 40 percent

educational requirements of the province.

He stated that He said that the female students have not only raised heads of their parents, but ours too.

The Governor said that an educated mother makes

the whole family educated, so we have to educate our female.

He was addressing the maiden convocation held at the Government Degree Girls College Quarry road on Monday morning.

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All the departments will be cleansed from interest from 2028: Fazal

LONDON (Online): JULF chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has said all the departments will be cleansed from interest from 2028.

Pakistan cannot make progress without the enforcement of Islamic order and elimination of interest based system, he said while addressing here.

He went on to say Pakistan survival lies in Islamic order. In 26th constitutional amendment, elimination of interest based system has been made part of constitution.

Constitution is of all of us, he said adding we will have to respect it. We will continue movement in Pakistan for survival of democracy and enforcement of Islamic system. We will have to be united for peace in Pakistan, he urged.

Hajj 2025 to cost upto Rs 1.2m: Salik

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, and Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Chaudhry Salik Hussain on



Monday said the next year Hajj would cost upto Rs 1.2 million under the Government's Hajj Scheme 2025.

Announcing the Hajj Policy 2025, the minister said the Hajj is expected to range between Rs 1,075,000 and Rs1,175,000, with an additional amount of Rs 55,000 for the cost of the sacrificial offering.

Regarding pilgrim accommodations, the minister stated that applicants selecting double-bed and triple-bed options in Makkah will be required to make additional deposits of Rs 220,000 and Rs 75,000, respectively. He said the pilgrims would get an opportunity to pay for Hajj in installments under the Hajj Scheme 2025.

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QUETTA: Nataional flag flying half-mast due to three-day mourning over the bomb blast at the railway station

Two suicide bombers arrested during IBOs

QUETTA (INP): Two suicide bombers have been arrested in Balochistan during intelligence-based operations (IBOs).

It reported in media that that two suicide bombers have been apprehended during targeted operations across various areas of Balochistan. The arrested terrorists were reportedly planning attacks on security forces and foreign nationals in Karachi.

The mastermind behind a planned suicide attack on Chinese engineers near Karachi Airport's signal has also been detained in Windar. Additionally, four other terrorists were arrested from various locations during intelligence-based operations (IBOs).

On Saturday, Quetta

railway station's platform resulted in the killing of at least 26 persons and more than 40 were injured, including women and children.

Commissioner Quetta Hamza Shafiqat giving accounts of the deadly railway station bombing in Quetta said that the blast took place at 8:25am leaving 26 dead and more than 40 injured. The blast took place at the time of the departure of Jaffar Express, when a large number of passengers were present at the railway station, police said.

The railway authorities said that two trains, Chaman Passenger and Jaffar Express, were scheduled to depart from Quetta to Chaman and Peshawar, respectively.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over a meeting regarding Green Pakistan

COP29:

Time to act now for global climate action rising to this moment: Romina

BAKU (APP): Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam on Monday emphasised the urgency for unified global response to protect rapidly degenerating ecosystems, lives and livelihoods of the vulnerable communities and infrastructure.

"Time to respond the century's worst challenge to the sustainability of planet earth, human lives and ecosystems is running out fast and climate inaction is no option," the PM's coordinator Romina Khurshid highlighted while talking to media after plenary session of the two-week's annual UN-led global climate conference (COP29), which began today in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Romina Khurshid Alam

is leading Pakistan's delegation at the climate conference, with emphasis to highlight Pakistan's commitment to global climate action and the country's actions for resilience building despite limited financial resources.

The 29th annual United Nations climate summit kicked off with delegates from nearly 200 countries readying for tough talks on finance and trade, following a year of weather disasters that have stretched developing countries in their key demands for more funds to cope with exacerbating impacts of climate change.

Here at the annual UN climate meeting, global leaders have converged hoping to contain rising global temperatures, which are mak-

ing deadly events like the recent floods in Pakistan, India, Nepal and Spain far worse.

An overarching aim at this year's global climate meeting is agreeing on how to get more cash to poorer countries to help them curb their planet-warming gases and to help them cope with the worsening impacts of climate change.

During her conversation with journalists, Romina Khurshid Alam called upon the world leaders to meet their pledges for climate finance for the developing countries.

"Here in Baku, we, however, must reach an agreement on a new global climate finance goal to save the planet earth from devastating impacts of climate change.



RAWALPINDI: Chief of the Australian Army, Lieutenant General Simon Stuart laid a floral wreath at the Yadgar-e-Shuhada, at General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi. Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir is also present.

IHC reserves verdict regarding travel restriction on Mahrang Baloch

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday reserved its verdict on a petition seeking the removal of Mahrang Baloch's name from the list of overseas travel restrictions.

Chief Justice Aamer Farooq heard the case filed by the Baloch woman activist.

During the proceeding, the public prosecutor informed the court that the name of the petitioner was placed on the fly list at the request of the Balochistan Home Department. Addressing the prosecutor, the chief justice remarked

that you are misusing the provision of the Provisional National Identification List (PNIL).

Petitioner's lawyer Iman Mazari Advocate pleaded that her client has to travel US to attend the Times Gala. She was stopped at Karachi Air Port for four to five hours.

The prosecutor said that firstly the petitioner's name was placed in PNIL and then she was added to the exit control list (ECL). He said that the cases are registered against Mahrang Baloch for anti-statement activities and terrorism.

Pak, Denmark celebrate 75 years of diplomatic ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb attended a special reception celebrating 75 years of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Denmark here Monday.

The minister attended the reception at the invitation of Danish Ambassador to Pakistan, Jakob Linulf.

The gathering included a delegation from Denmark, led by Denmark's State Secretary, Ms. Lisbet Zilmer-Jones, along with senior dignitaries and officials from Pakistan. The event, themed "75 Years of Greener Together," marked a significant step in strengthening economic and environmental partnerships between the two nations. A highlight of the evening was the transformation of the Danish residence into an art gallery, featuring climate-focused artworks by 33 Pakistani artists, celebrating the shared vision of Pakistan and Denmark for a greener future.

Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, expressed his pleasure and honor at the invitation, stating that he was there to celebrate 75 years of diplomatic relations between Denmark and Pakistan.

Matches between celebrities promote harmony: Kundi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi, on Monday participated as the chief guest in a memorable cricket match between the Anchors XI and Showbiz XI at Diamond Cricket Ground Islamabad.

The match, which featured popular TV anchors and celebrities from the entertainment industry, also saw the presence of several notable figures, including Sindh government's spokesperson and Mayor of Sukkur, Barfiter Arsalan Sheikh, Sweet Home's founder Zamurd Khan, and President of Centaurus Group of Companies, Sardar Rashid Ilyas.

Governor Kundi interacted with the players and applauded their excellent performances during the match.

He highlighted that such events not only provide healthy entertainment but also promote harmony and friendship among individuals from different sectors.

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Pakistan's tit-for-tat to India's Champions Trophy snub

ISLAMABAD (INP): The federal government has advised the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to adopt a firm stance on India's refusal to play in the upcoming Champions Trophy in Pakistan.

According to the report, the government has recommended that the PCB refrain from competing against India in future international events if the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) continues to avoid playing games in Pakistan.

Sources said the government has issued clear policy guidelines to the PCB, proposing that alternative teams be invited should India refuse to participate.

Options under consideration include Sri Lanka and the West Indies, which

could fill the void left by India's absence, the sources added.

Sources also indicated that the PCB will send an official letter to the International Cricket Council (ICC) today, questioning the BCCI's grounds for refusing to play in Pakistan.

The sources said Pakistan asserts that India's stance undermines the financial value of the competition, emphasizing that a Pakistan-India clash generates considerable viewership and revenue.

Additionally, the government has urged the PCB to collaborate with the ICC and other cricket boards to address the situation, signalling Pakistan's readiness to ensure the Champions Trophy's success regardless of India's participation.



QUETTA: Principal Shireen Gul Kakar presenting memorial shield to Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail during 1st Convocation of Govt. Girls Degree College Quarry Road Quetta. Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani is also present.

Balochistan cabinet expresses firm...

Continued from page 1

Buledi gave proposal of imparting training to the volunteers and then seeking their to tackle any emergent situation. According to Dr. Rubaba Buledi, the relief activities can be made more effective by engaging trained volunteers in emergent situations.

The Chief Minister endorsed the proposal and directed to the concerned to prepare strategy in this regard.

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The Chief Minister endorsed the proposal and directed to the concerned to prepare strategy in this regard.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti and Cabinet members offering Fateha for victims of Quetta Railway Station bomb blast

Education & extra curricula activities are essential for bright future of students: Khondoi

Independent Report
CHAMAN: The head of Iqra Ilmi Markaz and senior journalist of Chaman, Syed Sardar Muhammad Khondoi has stated that education and extra curricula activities are essential for the bright future of students.

He stressed that we have to pay attention on education and extra curricula activities so that the students may take wholehearted part in them.

He was addressing the ceremony on occasion of the cricket match at the Frontier Corps Headquarter Chaman the other day.

The match was arranged due to the special interest of Commandant FC Chaman Scouts, Brigadier Shakeel.

Sardar Khondoi was the chief guest of cricket match played between FC School and College Cricket Club and Iqra Ilmi Markaz.

Also present on the occasion were Principal FC School and College, Professor Ehsan Elahi, Major Saad

and Captain Waleed.

The players of both teams were introduced to the chief guest and other guests.

The match was won by Iqra Ilmi Markaz Cricket Club.

Earlier, after winning the toss, FC School and College decided to field first.

Iqra Ilmi Markaz scored 180 runs in the stipulated overs. In reply, the FC School and College team couldn't achieve the target.

The chief guest gave away cash prize of Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 5,000 for the winner and runner up teams respectively.

Speaking on the occasion, Sardar Khondoi said that sports are necessary for a healthy and intelligent student, therefore, we have to provide maximum opportunities of sports to our students.

Professor Ehsan Elahi on the occasion said that FC Balochistan has always given special attention on education and extra curricula activities.

UoT's session on employability skills prepares students for career development

Independent Report
TURBAT: The Office of Research, Innovation, and Commercialization (ORIC) at the University of Turbat (UoT) conducted a session titled "Employability Skills" on Monday in the university video conference room.

The resource persons for the session Dr. Ghulam Jan and Mr. Noroz Khan, faculty members from the Department of Management Sciences covered topics such as job search strategies, the job application process, and building a personal brand. Dr. Ghulam Jan advised students on finding jobs through recommended websites like Rozee.pk and Mustakbil.com and also shared insights on what employers look for in candidates today. He also discussed the differences between the hidden and open job markets.



QUETTA: DG NAB Balochistan Noman Aslam meeting with CEO QESCO Engr. Shafiq Ali.

Hajj 2025 to cost...

Continued from page 1

The first installment of Hajj dues, amounting to Rs 200,000, must be deposited along with the Hajj application, he said, adding the second installment of Rs 400,000 must be submitted within ten days of the balloting. The remaining amount must be deposited by February 10 next year.

Chaudhry Salik Hussain stated that no deductions will be made if an application is withdrawn before the final submission date. However, if the first installment is refunded after the balloting, a deduction of Rs 50,000 will apply. A deduction of Rs 200,000 will be imposed if the third installment is not paid.

The minister clarified that no refunds will be issued for the remaining amount after February 10 of next year. However, in the event of the applicant's death, the aforementioned deductions will not be applied.

Salik said that a total of 179,210 Pakistanis will perform Hajj in 2025, with 89,605 seats allocated to both the government and private Hajj schemes, maintaining a 50:50 quota distribution.

He added that 5,000 seats will be reserved for the sponsorship scheme under the government Hajj Scheme, while 30,000 seats will be allocated to private Hajj Group Organizers for sponsorship. Furthermore, he emphasized that participation in the sponsorship scheme requires sending foreign exchange through official banking channels.

Chaudhry Salik Hussain clarified that the government sponsorship scheme will be conducted on a "first come, first served" basis and will not be subject to balloting. He also

stated that the foreign exchange collected through the sponsorship scheme will be exclusively used for Hajj-related expenses in Saudi Arabia.

The minister further explained that under the Government Hajj Scheme, the traditional long stay will last between 38 to 42 days, while the short stay will be from 20 to 25 days.

He also mentioned that, according to Saudi regulations, each organized private Hajj group must include at least 2,000 pilgrims. One major reason is that, generally, groups used to take only 10, 20, or 100 people, leading to difficulties in securing accommodation upon arrival. He explained that having a group of 2,000 will ensure better allocation of places.

In accordance with Saudi regulations, children under the age of 12 will not be allowed to accompany pilgrims due to various reasons, primarily the challenges posed by the extreme heat during Hajj and other associated difficulties.

The minister also highlighted some important changes, including an increase in compensation for pilgrims. If a pilgrim passes away during Hajj, the compensation has been raised from Rs 1 million to Rs 2 million. Additionally, compensation for serious injuries has been increased to Rs 1 million.

In response to another question, the minister noted that pilgrims from Europe and Canada typically pay around 20,000 dollars for their Hajj journey.

Regarding Pakistani expatriates, he assured that efforts are being made to ensure that the quota allocated for those departing from Pakistan is not wasted and is instead included in the general quota.

Governor calls...

Continued from page 1

The convocation ceremony was attended by Provincial Minister for Education, Raheela Hameed Durrani, other concerned high ups, Vice Chancellor of Balochistan University, Dr. Zahoor Bazzi, faculty members and students of the College and their parents.

The Governor congratulated the young female graduates on their successful graduation from the Girls College Quarry road in its first ever convocation.

He also congratulated the college administration and faculty on conducting first convocation successfully. He on the occasion announced to form a committee for resolving the issues being faced by the college.

He also assured to take steps for resolving the issue of shortage of classrooms and teachers in the college. Similarly, steps would also be taken for promotion of sports activities in the college.

The Governor on the occasion announced to establish Computer Science Laboratory at the Government Degree Girls College Quarry Road. Besides he also asked to arrange trained faculty for the Computer Laboratory.

The Provincial Minister for Education, Ms. Raheela Durrani and Principal of college, Professor Shirin Gul also addressed the convocation ceremony.

In her welcome address, the Principal highlighted the issues facing the college. She sought the very cooperation of Governor for resolving the issues of college.

She pointed out that it is the second oldest girls college of Quetta, but facing shortage of teachers and classrooms.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Iran Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam called on Chairman Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir Rana Muhammad Qasim Noon at Parliament House.

PM calls for immediate ceasefire, lifting of Israeli...

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ship of the United Nations.

He said for more than a year, Gaza had fallen into endless darkness and despair with families torn apart, buildings, schools and hospitals blown up.

He alarmed at the silence of international community which shut its eyes in the face of such crimes committed against Palestinians, adding the atrocities being committed against Palestinians had been rightly labeled as genocide not only by media, but also by the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

"With each passing day, every moral code has been flagrantly being violated by Israel yet the killing and destruction continued with no end in sight," he observed.

The prime minister questioned as to how long this annihilation be ignored. Israel has been emboldened with the international community's indifference and inaction. "There has been utter disregard for the humanity's repeated calls for a

reaffirmed Pakistan's stance.

The prime minister said that it was the only avenue for justice and durable peace in the holy land.

He said Pakistan strongly condemned Israel's recent strikes against Iran as an outright violation of its sovereignty and territorial integrity, adding "We equally denounce Israel's ongoing aggression against Lebanon and stand in complete solidarity with its people."

He cautioned that such escalation by Israel constituted a dangerous threat that could unleash a broader war.

The prime minister expressed the hope that this summit would be a moment to transform their words into action. "Together they should move beyond condemnation and act swiftly to uphold justice and dignity for the people of Palestine and all those who faced oppression."

He also expressed his profound gratitude to the sagacious Saudi leadership for convening the summit,

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TENDER NOTICE

Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The Teach Hospital Loralai invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items: **Tender fee Not required**

S.No	Class of Object	Bid Security
1.	Provision of Laundry Services (Total Item(s) Count: 1)	2%
2.	Water & Laundry Services (Total Item(s) Count: 1)	2%

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules-2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Eligibility Criteria for bidders may be seen in the Bidding Documents **Bidding Procedure:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure (TSE-242511587322, TSE242511587292) **Tender Documents:** The Bidding document can be downloaded from www.bppra.gov.pk (free of cost) and the same can also be obtained from the office of the under-signed upon payment of prescribed tender fee. **Last Date and Time of Bid Submission** 26 November, 2024 at 02:00 PM and will be opened on same day at 03:00 PM Address: Main zangji wall road loralai Phone no: 0824410436 Email: msdqhospitalloralai@gmail.com

PRQ No.1895/11-11-2024 Medical Superintendent Teaching Hospital Loralai
www.dpr.gov.pk @dpr_gob @dpe_gob @dprbalochistan

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division Ziarat invites sealed tenders on form (as per Schedule Attached) on the composite Schedule of Rates, 2023 Government of Balochistan from Eligible Bidders for Execution of work through EPPS System with the detail terms and conditions given below- The Tender Fee will be deposit through green challan in National Bank of Pakistan under the head of Account C-03434 (Irrigation Receipt)- **EARNEST MONEY 3% In shape of CDR and Tender Fee Rs.2000/-**

S.#	NAME OF WORK	E/COST
1.	CONSTRUCTION OF DAMAT LORI TOP UC KACH DISTRICT ZIARAT. -PSPD# 2906 (2023-24) - TSE-242511588133	100.00M

Procurements shall be made under BPPRA Rules 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** - Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work in Three (03) subsequent previous years. The cost must be equal or above the 80% of the Contract cost Turn over of at least 70,000,000 PKR amount in Three (03) subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-4 and above (Upto 200 million) In Relevant Category And Specialized Code is CE04(iii) (dams only), CE10(ii) (Slope Protection System). Eligibility Criteria for bidders are mentioned in Bidding Documents. List of Machinery on a Non-Judicial Stamp Paper Duly verified by 1st Class Magistrate or Notary Public List of Staff on a Non-Judicial Stamp Paper Duly verified by 1st Class Magistrate or Notary Public **Procedure of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure. **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of 3 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gov.pk **Issuance of tender Documents:** Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gov.pk **Last Date of bid submission:** Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 27th November, 2024 till 12:00 PM through supplier dashboard. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at 01:00 PM on EPPS System **Address:** Irrigation Division Ziarat or O/O Chief Engineer Irrigation Sariaab Road Quetta Phone no: 0307-8110814; - Email engr.umairali@gmail.com **Note:- All documents / proof provided by the Contractors / Firms will be verified from concerned authorities / departments.**

PRQ No.1892/11-11-2024 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIVISION ZIARAT
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Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani addressing as chief guest to the participants of PIPS 10th National Parliament Development Course-2024 at Pakistan Institute for Parliament Services (PIPS), Islamabad.

Turkiye, Pak explore deeper collaboration in housing sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Türkiye to Pakistan, Irfan Neziroglu, met with Federal Minister for Housing, Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada, on Monday to discuss enhancing bilateral ties, particularly deepening cooperation in the housing sector.

Talking to ambassador, minister emphasized the need to strengthen trade and investment ties with Türkiye, highlighting housing as the government's top priority. He called the ambassador's visit timely, as the housing ministry is actively seeking solutions to Pakistan's housing challenges.

The minister warmly welcomed Ambassador

Neziroglu, noting the deep cultural and historical ties between the two countries. He recalled his memorable official visits to Türkiye and expressed gratitude for Türkiye's steadfast support of Pakistan on the international stage.

The ambassador thanked the minister for the warm welcome and expressed a strong interest in learning from each other's experiences. He highlighted Türkiye's desire to expand bilateral and even trilateral cooperation across various sectors. The ambassador also introduced TOKI, Türkiye's housing administration established in 1984 to address the housing needs of low- and middle-income groups, and empha-

sized Türkiye's readiness to share its expertise and contribute to Pakistan's housing sector.

Referring to the prime minister's vision of seeking investment and trade rather than aid, the minister highlighted Pakistan's vast market potential, especially in the housing sector, which offers significant opportunities for collaboration.

He praised Türkiye's community garden initiatives and expressed eagerness to explore ways to replicate TOKI's successful models in Pakistan. The meeting concluded with both sides reaffirming their commitment to deepening bilateral ties and working together on key areas of mutual interest.

Pakistan, Denmark reaffirm commitment to maintain momentum in bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Denmark on Monday reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining momentum in bilateral relations and coordinating closely on all issues of mutual concern, including at multilateral forums.

The bilateral ties were discussed at the Fourth Round of Bilateral Political Consultations between Pakistan and Denmark here at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Pakistan delegation was led by Additional Foreign Secretary (Europe), Ambassador Shafiqat Ali Khan, while the Denmark side was led by State Secretary for Foreign Policy, Ambassador Lisbet Zilmer-

Johns according to a Foreign Office press release.

The two sides conducted a comprehensive review of the full spectrum of bilateral cooperation, encompassing political relations, trade and investment, climate change, renewable energy, infrastructure development and people-to-people contacts. Important regional and global developments were also discussed.

Expressing satisfaction at the upward trajectory of bilateral cooperation, the two sides agreed to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Denmark in a befitting manner this year.



ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to Pakistan H.E. Irfan Neziroglu called on Federal Minister for Housing and Works Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada.

SC decides to do color coding of pending constitutional cases

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan has been decided to do color coding of the pending constitutional cases.

As per the minutes issued by the SC, in pursuance of the nomination of judges for the constitutional benches of this court, a meeting was held in the chamber of Justice Aminuddin Khan on November 6, to work out modalities of rapid functioning of the said benches. He was briefed about the pendency of the cases under Article 184(1), 184(3) and 186 including Human Rights Cases. The current working/practices of procession of the constitution petitions and proposed strategy for future adoption were also placed before the head of the constitutional benches.

It was decided that color coding of the cases shall be done, which are clearly falling under the purview of Article 191A of the constitution and Mr.

Mazhar Ali Khan Senior Research Officer (SCRC) has been given task to scrutinize the cases arising out of the Article 199 of the constitution. However, fixation, sitting of benches, issuance of court roster and number of cases to be heard in a week will be decided in consultation with the remaining two senior most members of the constitutional benches, as in accordance with Article 191A Clause (4), a committee comprising the most senior judge of the constitutional benches and next two most senior judges from amongst the judges nominated under clause (1), has to constitute a bench consisting of not less than five judges for the purposes noted in clause (3) of the instant Article. As one member of the committee is not available being out of country, therefore, soon after the availability of members of committee, next meeting will be scheduled.



ISLAMABAD: Artists performing on stage during ten days of Folk Festival Lok Mela at Lok Vira in the Federal Capital.

ITP holds 785 road safety workshops, educates over 420,000 citizens

ISLAMABAD (APP): Following the special directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) is striving to ensure traffic discipline and minimize the violation of rules through educating road users.

In this regard, the Islamabad Police organized 785 road safety workshops through which 4,21,238 citizens were educated during the ongoing year.

These road safety workshops were arranged for driving license applicants, volunteers, students of educational institutions and staff of government and non-government organizations, a police public relations officer told APP on Monday.

He said that, the Islamabad Police is arrang-

ing such workshops and creating awareness amongst citizens about consequences of traffic rules violations, including over speeding, one-wheeling, non-pattern and fancy number plates, juvenile driving, lane-line discipline and zebra crossing etc.

This effort is meant to infuse traffic discipline, which will help to protect the lives and property of citizens and to sensitize road users about various traffic rules, while the awareness campaign for the safety of road users is in full swing.

In this regard, special teams have been constituted to spread awareness among road users in order to ensure their safety before travelling on roads, particularly motorbike riders were being advised how to take the left lane while travelling.

Salik calls health, safety of workers responsibility

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Chaudhry Salik Hussain on Monday said that the health and safety of workers was the prime responsibility of the government.

Addressing the national tripartite labour conference on Monday, he said that workers play an important role in the development of the country and contribute a major share to the economy. "We are working to bring such an environment that would eliminate the hurdles in the life of workers", he added.

He said that Pakistan ranked better on the list of countries that provide health and safety to workers due to the efforts of the government. He said that the first Occupational Safety and Health Profile (OSH) was opened in Pakistan to monitor the health and other concerns of workers.

AIOU expedites mailing of books

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has expedited the process of mailing of books to its students of Autumn 2024 semester across the country.

Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mehmood has directed the Mailing Section to complete the process as per schedule and enable the students to get the books well before time, so that they could do their academic assignments within stipulated schedule.

According to the Mailing Section, over 62,000 students have been enrolled in the Matric program, while more than 74,000 students are enrolled in the FA program.

ICT Police apprehend 39 from sheesha cafe

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police's Shalimar teams on Monday apprehended 39 individuals in a targeted operation against illegal sheesha cafes and seized sheesha equipment, hookahs, various flavors, and weapons with ammunition from the suspects.

A police spokesperson told APP that, Shalimar Police teams intensified crackdown against the Sheesha centers in order to eliminate this menace from the city and special efforts were also taken against the accused involved in immoral activities.

In this regard, the Shalimar police station team apprehended 39 accused during the crackdown against sheesha cafes. Police team also recovered sheesha, hookah, flavors and weapons with ammunition from their possessions.

Court extends interim bail for Saddique in social media case

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad District and Sessions Court on Monday extended the interim bail of Saddique Anjum, accused of running a social media campaign against the Judge Humayun Dilawar until November 23, while calling for arguments in the next hearing.

The Additional District and Sessions Judge Muhammad Afzal Majoka heard a pre-arrest bail request from Siddique Anjum, who faces allegations of launching an online campaign against Judge Humayun Dilawar.

Anjum appeared in court with his legal team, facing arguments from the Federal Investigation

Agency (FIA) prosecutor.

The FIA's prosecutor informed the court that Anjum had previously secured protective bail from the Peshawar High Court, which initially protected him from arrest. However, the Islamabad court was urged to reconsider Anjum's bail status in light of new arguments, despite the protective order from Peshawar.

In response, Anjum's lawyer argued that the FIA was presenting misleading information. According to the defense, Anjum's protective bail from the Peshawar High Court covers unspecified cases, not the specific charges in Islamabad.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Chaudhry Salik Hussain addressing two-day Pakistan's National Tripartite Labour Conference, jointly organized by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (MOPHRD).

High level delegation from West African Countries studies BISP initiatives and impacts

ISLAMABAD (APP): A high level delegation from West African Countries Monday visited Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) headquarters to learn from the social protection initiatives implemented under this largest programme and its impacts on the marginalized segments.

The delegation was welcomed by the Chairperson BISP, Senator Rubina Khalid, and Secretary BISP, Amer Ali Ahmad.

The delegation belonged from Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, and Niger.

The delegation is on a four-day study tour from November 11 to 14, 2024, in collaboration with the World Food Program and

the World Bank, aiming to learn from BISP's initiatives in social protection for disadvantaged sections of society.

In her welcoming remarks, Chairperson Rubina Khalid described BISP as Pakistan's flagship social protection program, inspired by the vision of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto and launched in 2008 by then-President Asif Ali Zardari. She explained that BISP uniquely identifies 9.3 million low-income women across Pakistan using the CNIC system. The female head of each eligible household is entitled to financial assistance, with Form 'B' made mandatory for program registration.



ISLAMABAD: A major road network project is underway at the PTCL Chowk underpass in the heart of the capital, aimed at improving traffic flow and enhancing infrastructure.

Role of Parliament vital to tackle challenges: Gilani

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Monday highlighted the pressing challenges humanity faces, including climate change, sustainable development, and socio-economic disparities.

The Chairman Senate was speaking as a chief guest at the inaugural session of the 10th Annual National Parliamentary Development Course at the Pakistan Institute for Parliament Services (PIPS).

He said that the role of parliament and parliamentarians has become increasingly crucial in steering the country toward achieving its strategic national and international objectives. He said that members of parliament and parliamentarians have become increasingly crucial in steering the country toward achieving its strategic national and international objectives. He said that members of parliament and parliamentarians have become increasingly crucial in steering the country toward achieving its strategic national and international objectives.

with the masses.

He observed that Parliamentary work has become a specialized service that necessitates proficient and professional support from officers well-versed in cross-disciplinary concepts and practices.

"You must take pride in the responsibility bestowed upon you to serve and provide technical assistance to the elected representatives. Your role is crucial in guiding the nation's progress towards the wellbeing of its citizens, aiming for a secure, prosperous, and happy future for our coming generations," Gilani remarked while highlighting the importance of the training course.

He called upon the participants to make full use of this robust and comprehensive training program designed to advance understanding of the Constitu-

tion, the Parliamentary Rules of Procedure, and the Government Rules of Business 1973.

He commended the PIPS administration and team for their pivotal role in empowering parliamentary officers with relevant and practical knowledge.

The chairman expressed best wishes to the course participants and hoped they would exploit this learning and networking opportunity towards a new destiny as professionals par excellence, offering quality-oriented services to the Parliamentary institutions. A highly diversified cohort of mid-career officers from the federal parliament and provincial assemblies, as well as Legislative Assemblies of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan and the Parliament, is participating in the course.



ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid in a group photo with a high-level delegation from West African Countries visits Benazir Income Support Programme.

Mashhood distributes cheques among lucky winners of 'Apni Chhat Apna Ghar' programme

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister's Youth Programme Chairman Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan has said that the government is working day and night to provide basic facilities to the people and the elements who defamed the country were now defaming themselves.

He expressed these views at a cheque distribution ceremony among lucky winners who were declared eligible for loans under the "Apni Chhat Apna Ghar" scheme at Babu Sabu on Monday. Rana Mashhood said that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz

Sharif would inaugurate the "Green Youth Movement" programme next month to deal with climate change. "The government believes in action not promises. The Apni Chhat Apna Ghar program is the fulfillment of the promise made to the people," he added.

Mashhood said that all resources were being utilised for the improvement of backward areas, especially those which are deprived of basic facilities even though they are in Lahore. "Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has given a special package for these areas and in this

regard development work will start next year," he added.

He said Maryam Nawaz had won the hearts of the people of Punjab by giving a wonderful project Apni Chhat Apna Ghar worth Rs700 billion. "We are serving the people day and night and the country has reached a position to take-off, and inflation has reduced," he added.

He said that the federal government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was playing its full role in bringing the Muslim world together.

SCBA expresses Full confidence in judges nominated for constitutional benches

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) on Monday said that the decision to make Justice Aminuddin Khan the head of the constitutional benches is commendable.

President SCBA Mian Rauf Ata said that the legal fraternity has full confidence in the seven judges nominated for the Constitutional Benches.

He said that it is hoped that the constitutional bench will be formed soon so that the backlog of the constitutional cases is cleared.

The President SCBA also welcomed the initiatives of Chief Justice Yahya Afridi regarding case management. It is a good idea to issue the monthly cause list and fix urgent petitions for

hearing, he said.

The Judicial Commission meeting was chaired by Chief Justice Yahya Afridi, where Justice Aminuddin Khan was appointed as the head of constitutional bench by a majority of 7-5 members.

A seven-member constitutional bench was formed for 60 days.

For the constitutional bench, Justice Aminuddin and Justice Ayesha Malik were taken from Punjab, while Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar and Justice Hasan Azhar Rizvi were selected from Sindh.

Justice Jamal Mankokhal and Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan were included from Balochistan, while Justice Musarrat Hilali was included from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



ISLAMABAD: CDA workers cleaning a map constructed at Zero Point in the Federal Capital.

IHC verdict lifting ban on political discussions in jail visits challenged

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad administration has challenged the Islamabad High Court's (IHC) verdict that declared the clause prohibiting political discussions between prisoners and their visitors as unconstitutional. The capital city administration approached the IHC through the chief commissioner of office and filed an intra-court appeal, requesting the court to set-aside the verdict of a single bench.

A division bench

headed by Chief Justice IHC Aamir Farooq and comprising Justice Saman Riffat will hear the challenging plea on Tuesday.

Earlier on October 31, Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan ruled that such restrictions violate the fundamental right to freedom of expression, as enshrined in Pakistan's constitution. The verdict was announced after Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders were barred from discussing political matters with their incarcerated founder.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Tuesday November 12, 2024

Time to deliver

Countries, big and small, are gathering today in Baku, Azerbaijan, for COP29.

Pakistan's participation in the climate summit will centre on three daily events at its pavilion, focusing on climate justice, energy transition, and gender-responsive climate policies. We will showcase our commitment to climate adaptation and sustainability with national initiatives such as the Living Indus project and Recharge Pakistan. However, the real challenge lies in securing meaningful financial support for these programmes.

Never has it been more urgent to take climate action. While developed nations are trumpeting a rise in international public adaptation financing from \$22bn in 2021 to \$28bn in 2022, the truth is it is a meagre increase. For Pakistan alone, the World Bank estimates a need of \$348bn by 2030 for climate resilience. Add to this the current pledges to the Loss and Damage Fund, which stands at a mere \$770m, and it is clear that global financial commitments are grossly inadequate.

Senator Sherry Rehman's call for 'Internationally Determined Contributions' from developed nations in aid of climate-vulnerable countries deserves serious consideration at COP29. The fact is that countries like Pakistan, which hardly contribute to global emissions, bear disproportionate climate impacts. The devastating floods of 2022, causing \$30bn in damage, and this year's severe cross-border smog in Punjab show our vulnerability to sudden disasters and chronic pollution.

This year's discussions will focus on creating a new climate finance goal that surpasses the previous \$100bn annual commitment set by the Paris Agreement. Developing nations are advocating for climate finance to be provided with major concessions or as grants, instead of the typical loans, to alleviate their growing debt burdens. Azerbaijan's proposed \$1bn Climate Finance Action Fund, funded by fossil fuel producers, aims to support disaster response and community initiatives, offering a fresh approach to financing.

Pakistan's government seems to be concerned about our participation at the summit. The parliamentary committee on climate change has stressed transparency and measurable outcomes. In the long run, success will require more than just government action. The private sector must be engaged and provincial climate initiatives strengthened.

The Global Climate Finance Framework, already signed by 15 nations, offers Pakistan an opportunity to strengthen its position in climate negotiations. Pakistan must leverage its moral authority as a climate-vulnerable nation while displaying a serious commitment to adaptation and mitigation at home.

Maleeha Lodhi

The world was already bracing for Donald Trump's return to power. And it is a stunning comeback. His clean sweep in the election, winning the White House, Senate and most likely the House of Representatives, will make him a more powerful president than he was in his first term, with a stronger mandate.

What his foreign policy will look like is being feverishly assessed across the world. Will it mimic his first term's America First approach which translated into an America Alone policy? Will it prove as disruptive and destabilising as in the past?

Influencing assessments is the widespread view among the international community that Washington's engagement with the world in recent years has neither been sustained nor consistent, which raises questions about US reliability. This at a time when the US is no longer the sole dominant power in an increasingly multipolar world, which places limits on its ability to shape global geopolitics and determine outcomes.

Trump's unpredictable and impulsive personality will intensify uncertainty about the course of American policy especially given his penchant for suddenly changing course. His 'America First' unilateralist worldview created much discontinuity and volatility in foreign policy in his first term and dented America's international standing. His isolationist approach also made the US retrench from its global role.

One certainty, with far-reaching implications for global stability and economy, is that Trump 2.0 will continue the well-established US policy of containment of China. A bipartisan consensus now sees China as a strategic adversary and challenge. Trump might escalate the confrontation over trade and technology issues. During the campaign he threatened to impose 60 per cent tariffs across the board on Chinese imports and end China's most favoured-nation status. Whether he raises tariffs to this extent is doubtful as he will have to calculate its impact on American consumers; costlier imports would push up prices and that too when inflation is a

challenge. It would also pose a risk to European economies as China is Europe's biggest trading partner.

During the campaign, Trump also said he would seek a good relationship with Beijing. In a Fox News interview, he said while there was no greater critic of China than him, he respected China and President Xi Jinping. Though Trump will take a tough position on trade issues, his business instincts will urge him to be transactional and open to striking deals with China on trade and perhaps other contentious issues, including Taiwan. While intensifying the rivalry with China, Trump would want to avoid a collision course or military conflict over Taiwan. He has, in fact, been critical of Taiwan, saying it should pay the US for defending it.

Trump has proposed a 10 to 20pc tariff on all imported goods, which will strain relations with America's European allies, who Trump treated with derision in his first term, casting them as free-loaders. Aimed at all countries that have a trade surplus with the US, this would

nonetheless be hard to implement. It would be a blow to developing economies and dampen global economic growth.

While Trump is an avowed protectionist, the question is how far he will go to press this agenda. According to economic experts, his plan to raise tariffs and order mass deportations of immigrants will further fuel inflation that Trump has promised to tackle.

Where a radical change in US policy is likely is on the Ukraine war. Often claiming he can end the war "in a day", Trump is expected to push for talks to end a conflict he says "should never have happened". This is cause for concern for Europe. Trump has said he will press Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky and Russian President Vladimir Putin to enter negotiations for a peace deal. He may not be averse to an outcome that favours Moscow in which Ukraine has to cede territory. He is unlikely to respond to reservations of European nations in this regard.

Trump has frequently chastised NATO allies for not

sharing the defence burden. He has also said in his second term, America will fundamentally rethink "Nato's purpose and mission" and ask European nations to reimburse the US billions of dollars for military supplies it sent to Ukraine. This may be bluster but there is little doubt that Trump and the Republican Party do not want to continue military funding to Ukraine.

European allies, therefore, have much to worry about. They have to deal with a president who has shown little commitment to European security, and who declared during the campaign that "in many cases, our allies are worse than our so-called enemies". Trump sees European countries not contributing enough to their own security and taking advantage of the US, a situation he wants to end. He has no patience with alliances. Or with multilateralism.

The crisis in the Middle East presents a clear and present challenge that Trump might seek to address by forcing a ceasefire in Gaza. While avoiding specifics, he repeatedly said during the

campaign he wants to see peace in the region and Israel should end the war quickly — by winning it and "finishing the job". He is even more pro-Israel than President Joe Biden and has no empathy for the plight of the Palestinians (Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu once called Trump the best friend Israel ever had in the White House).

Nor has Trump shown any commitment to a two-state solution even though that remains the US position. Any deal he might push for will be on Israel's terms and will also aim to goad other Arab countries to accede to the Abraham Accords — his signature Middle East initiative in his first term. This will principally involve encouraging Saudi Arabia to normalise ties with Israel, although Riyadh has made it clear this will only be possible once a Palestinian state is established. Unpredictability is likely to be the hallmark of Trump's foreign policy. But because he has a transactional view of international relations that would also open his policies to pragmatic possibilities. -- Courtesy Dawn

Bracing for Trump 2.0

An overview of social and behavioral change for family planning in Balochistan

By Abdullah Khan

The Health Services Academy (HSA), a Public Health University in Islamabad, organized the 14th International Public Health Conference, 2024, in collaboration with Pathfinder International and other partners, on November 5-6. Titled: "Transforming Research into Action: Redefining Public Health through Social and Behavioral Change," the Conference was graced by Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani—the Acting President of Pakistan and Chairman Senate, as the Chief Guest at the Inaugural Session. Dr. Shahzad Ali coordinated the conference and among other key note speakers, I was honoured to shed light on the topic: "Empowering Choices: An Overview of Social and Behavioral Change for Family Planning in Balochistan". During the conference, I also had the opportunity to share my views in the Scientific Session that followed Inaugural Session. The key policy related areas that I tried to cover included aspects of better service delivery and their subsequent outcomes.

It is significant to note here that Social and Behavioral Change (SBC) is an essential component in achieving the health and family planning commitments of Pakistan, and the Global Development Goals, in specific Goal 3: 'Good Health and Wellbeing.' It can be defined as deep understanding of human and societal behavior to increase adoption of healthy behaviors and influencing social norms that reinforce those behaviors. Studies show that there are three key reasons why SBC is an essential component of any public health and family planning program: first, SBC is rooted in global evidence and the best practices that have exhibited increase in health and family planning services and better outcomes; second, SBC complements services delivery components fostering multiple positive outcomes; third, it demonstrates high return on investment.

When it comes to Balochistan, the province requires a strategy that is different from other provinces. 44% of the overall landmass of Pakistan, and stretching on 347,190 sq

kms, Balochistan is the least populated province with a density of 12 persons per km². Poor infrastructure, fragile law and order and rampant poverty—71% as per the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), raise serious concerns for the public policy makers. Nevertheless, the poor development indicators, and the small population in proportion to the land mass on the one hand, and the country's resource distribution, mainly on population basis under the National Finance Commission (NFC), allocation of seats in the National Assembly and Senate, on the other hand, have contributed to the nurturing of a particular mindset among the political leadership and policy makers to view Balochistan's fewer headcount a demerit. The NFC formula and allocation of seats in the parliament on solely population basis are a forceful disincentive for the cause of family planning and population control in Balochistan's context. This is a major challenge for the Department of Population Welfare Balochistan to change behavior at the top.

Moreover, at the individual and community level, there are generic issues of unacceptability, accessibility and gap between demand and supply that have always undermined family planning program.

This problem analysis in view, the PWD Balochistan is adopting a holistic approach using the Socio-Ecological Model for Change which is a framework for understanding and addressing complex issues like family planning and reproductive health. It examines how different levels of influences—ranging from individual to policy—interact and shape behaviors, norms, and access to resources.

Adopted primarily to target political leadership and policymakers is the Top-Down Approach to convince them through SBC techniques that the existing high population growth of about 3.2% is straining the resources, in specific the water resource, given Balochistan's severe water scarcity. Moreover, the leadership is being sensitized that Family Planning does not mean to have two children, rather it aims at

developing healthy human resource for overall economic growth and development. The new population narrative, Tawazun (Balance), which is in harmony with the rights-based approach of voluntarily planning and the Islamic ethos of moderation is a very feasible SBC tool to change the leadership approach towards family planning. This narrative has already been approved and adopted by federal and provincial governments and civil society organizations.

Similarly, the communities are being targeted by engaging Ulema, tribal leaders and other influencers to change thinking patterns, approaches and behavior towards family planning and reproductive health as without it, the Maternal Newborn, Child Health, Adolescent Health, Nutrition and other health indicators cannot be improved. The third layer is the Individual, who, under the framework, is being targeted through the doctors, social organizers, LHWS, Family Welfare Workers, Family Welfare Councilors, Community Based Family Planning Workers, and teachers.

The above three levels function in symbiosis, closely interacting with and supporting one another. For example, norms and attitudes shaped by personal relationships can influence community-level support or resistance. And community norms and available resources can impact interpersonal relationships and individual choices; thus, putting impact on the political leadership and policy makers to guide and steer right policy decisions to incorporate Family Planning into the overall Health Framework, with due resource allocation.

In this way, the SBC will have impact on individuals that affects the family and peer networks, leading to community, and at the top is the social and structural fabric that includes leadership, policy makers, which can be helpful in mobilizing resources through better public policy guidelines, and above all, the overall social and religious values which will change for positive and sustainable development. -- The writer is Public Policy Practitioner Secretary Population, Balochistan

Climate summit

Huma Yusuf

Over 140,000 people displaced by flooding in Sindh this August are living in unbearable conditions. They sleep in tents, scrape by on one meal a day, and die from waterborne diseases. They fear more hunger as, according to Amnesty International, 500,000 acres of the province's farmland lies flooded. Most are steeped in crushing debt, having taken fertiliser on credit to sow fields that remain waterlogged. This is the long tail of climate catastrophe.

The fate of our climate-affected compatriots lies in the hands of world leaders gathering today in Baku for COP29, the UN climate change conference. Unfortunately, the mood is despondent. Donald Trump's re-election as US president has given this COP the air of a non-starter. Trump's climate denial threatens to rationalise inaction by countless others.

The host's priorities also raise questions about the sincerity of the COP process. Azerbaijan is hooked on fossil fuels, with oil comprising 90 per cent of its exports. Videos leaked this week show the chief executive of the country's COP29 team seeking to strike more fossil fuel deals on the summit's sidelines.

This poor momentum will be further derailed by low turnout by key stakeholders. Leaders from France, Germany, the US, China, India and Brazil aren't bothering to show up, nor is the prime minister of Papua New Guinea, one of the most climate-vulnerable island nations, describing the summit as a "waste of time".

Thankfully, Pakistan is attending. What we'll get in Baku is a reality check.

Pakistan last year launched an ambitious National Adaptation Plan but its main climate plan still

takes the form of a demand for climate finance. This is not an irrational position given that by World Bank estimates we need investments totalling \$348 billion over the next seven years to tackle climate change. COP29 will clarify that we need more than a begging bowl to address this need.

Baku is being termed the 'Finance COP' because the key agenda item is determining a 'new collective quantified goal' — a new global funding plan for climate action. The ask is material — the UN Standing Committee on Finance estimates \$9 trillion are needed for mitigation and adaptation over the next five years.

Agreeing on a climate finance target is one challenge. Then the world must jointly decide who pays, when, how much, and how. Negotiations will be fraught and possibly unproductive, but there are some certainties that Pakistan should plan for. The era of handouts is over. Developed countries will not hand over climate finance without a fight, especially not since over 40pc of all greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions have been produced in the past 30 years, and two-thirds of these by developing countries. Developed economies will not contribute more unless developing yet high-emitting countries such as China, Russia, Brazil and India chip in too.

Consequently, climate finance may appear in various guises. It's no longer just about loss and damage grants or multilateral development bank projects. China, for example, resists official climate commitments under COP agreements, but going by a Centre for Global Development (CGD) analysis, is already a net provider of climate support totalling \$34bn between 2013 and 2021, primarily through lending

by its state banks.

Diversified climate financing will require recipient countries to beware of climate debt. Most funding will take the form of 'global investment flows for climate action' rather than dole-outs. Expect more private sector involvement (in the form of loans), mobilisation promises, and diversions of existing development finance and aid. Learning lessons from CPEC, Pakistan should avoid climate packages that increase the debt burden.

The direction of travel is towards self-sufficiency.

Countries need to revamp their Nationally Determined Contributions (proposing GHG cuts and adaption plans) by February ahead of COP30 in Brazil. Agreements at Baku will also increasingly take the form of co-financing, for example, the 'buy one get one free' model proposed by Jonathan Beynon for the CGD which envisages developed countries matching every dollar committed to climate mitigation or adaptation by developing countries.

One thing is certain, the climate finance agreed in Baku this week will go to countries that will put it to good use. So far, that's not us. As a recent Institute of Strategic Studies brief points out, our political instability, weak governance, lack of bankable projects, and paucity of data to evidence climate needs are all deterrents to climate funding. So are sociopolitical dynamics such as the disinterest in community engagement and tendency to suppress grassroots initiatives, which are seen as the bedrock of climate action. It'll take more than asking to address our climate challenge. -- Courtesy Dawn

Colonial mindsets

Abraham Shah

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer was recently accused of having a 'colonial mindset' by fellow lawmakers for declining to discuss slavery reparations in the Commonwealth Summit in Samoa. PM Starmer claimed his denial stemmed from a desire to "look forward" rather than holding 'discussions on the past'.

The construct 'colonial mindset' is a powerful one, for as authors like Frantz Fanon, Edward Said and Bernard Cohn explain, colonialism was as much an exercise in psychological control as it was of physical domination. The brown denizen of the subcontinent, for instance, was forced to recognise and internalise the white man's superiority — a mental trauma that people of colour continue to carry today.

This perpetuation of colonial forms of control — both covert and overt — necessitates a scrutiny of PM Starmer's dismissal of even discourse around slavery and reparations. Defence couched in 'looking forward' remains unsatisfactory as well, primarily because as we witness today, the past continues to inform and shape the present.

Dismissal of an open and honest conversation on past depredations is thus not only flawed but also points towards a deeper malaise: the inability to recognise how modes of control continue to operate, which disenfranchise the Global South. This takes on numerous forms: harsher immigration policies and hate towards refugees, heightened surveillance of black and brown bodies and communities, condoning genocide and the contrasting responses to Ukraine and Palestine.

In some aspects, therefore, PM Starmer is correct; there is a dire need to look forward, but any efforts to mould the future must actively engage with structures of injustice inherited from the past. This requires a critical discourse on colonialism, race, gender, Islamophobia, inequality and the global financial structure.

The inability to launch or sustain critical discourse highlights yet another fundamental concern: the dearth and sheer impotency of modern political discourse and activism. Ever since the advent of neoliberalism in the 1970s and the rise of the 'new left', the ideological spectrum in the political landscape has drastically shrunk, converging on what Tariq Ali calls the "extreme centre": a vapid political domain where economic exigencies emphasising GDP growth dominate other concerns.

This phenomenon is not limited to the UK. It is prevalent across the world, including in the US where conversations on race and drastically rising inequality are jettisoned in favour of economic growth.

This has resulted in an 'indistinguishable political elite', to yet again quote Tariq Ali, one that offers little alternative or solutions to impending crises. Conversations on means of production, inequality, and curtailing capitalism are dismissed as 'too radical', further revealing this dearth of imagination and political alternatives. Instead, half-baked solutions are proffered that do not address underlying causes. The inability to effectively tackle climate change globally or address land-use and developmental models triggering smog in Pakistan serve as examples.

Dissent, however,

finds avenues for expression. This occurs on the margins through the rise of populist movements including Donald Trump's and the far right which are casually dismissed by the mainstream. Very often, this dissent manifests in violence as we saw with the Occupy Wall Street Movement in 2011 and the more recent Islamophobic hysteria in the UK. Present upheavals across the world — protests in Pakistan against a private educational institute, the overthrow of Hasina Wajid in Bangladesh or farmer agitation in France can all be contextualised in the larger economic and political failings of our day.

What does all this mean for the Global South? First, we must actively recognise the past and not dismiss its continuous impact on our lives. Justifications of colonialism including 'they gave us railways and the penicillin' too must be criticised, recognising how colonialism altered the very social fabric and psyches of non-white societies. This backdrop must then inform attempts at reform that highlight not just reparations but also change in immigration and employment policies in the West, and greater First World responsibility to combat climate change.

Considering the anaemic political environment, this is a protracted struggle but it is a necessary one to rectify centuries of historical injustice. Individuals such as Bell Ribeiro-Addy and Clive Lewis — British lawmakers who called out PM Starmer on his stance on reparations — and dissenting voices like Rashida Tlaib and Ilhan Omar in the US — show us that silver linings do hide behind the clouds. -- Courtesy Dawn

Educational institutions closed then as to why constructions are not being suspended: LHC

LAHORE (Online): Justice Shahid Karim of Lahore High Court (LHC) has remarked order was issued that no construction work would be done in these two months and why the order is not being implemented.

He further remarked "educational institutions are closed. All is before us then as to why constructions are not being closed. He gave these remarks during hearing of the case related to smog here Monday.

Senior legal advisor Wasa, Mian Irfan Akram advocate, officers and law officers of different departments appeared in the court.

Punjab government filed report in the court about the steps taken by it.

Counsel for Punjab government told the court operation was conducted

on 3 bus stands in Lahore and action was taken against 60 smoke emitting vehicles.

Justice Shahid Karim remarked what is job of deputy commissioner Lahore. Could he not sit on Sunday. What was settled in the meeting of advocate general. Had you asked me I would have held court proceedings on Sunday. The responsible are not in the city in this season of smog.

Justice Shahid Karim remarked no one from transport department is in the court. Advocate general is not in Punjab today. This is most important matter of all. They should have been in the court today.

The court remarked we have been giving orders about smog since the last two years. Was transport department sleeping. Government departments

are failed in taking steps with reference to smog.

This is matter of life of all of us including our children but departments are not working in right way.

Justice Shahid Karim remarked the remains of crops are still being burnt. Did government not know its remains will be burnt after rice crop. But government did nothing.

He remarked due to tree cutting, Multan stands at No 1 in smog. Government was asked to take steps with regard to work from home. But nothing was done. Courts gave no order for closing markets from 8 P.M.

Justice Shahid Karim remarked government should assign the duty to all DCs and ACs all over Punjab asking them to come out of their offices and conduct checking on roads.



KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori addresses the media with Russian Ambassador Albert Khorev at Governor House.

High birth rate, migration affect Sindh's limited resources: Murad Shah

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Monday said that high birth rate and significant migration from within Pakistan and abroad, were the key factors which placed intense pressure on the province's limited resources, affecting job availability, healthcare, education, housing and food supply.

The CM said the 2023 digital census indicates a national population surge, with an annual growth rate of 2.55 per cent, which brings Pakistan's population to 241 million, and Sindh's population has surpassed 55 million.

He said this while presiding over a meeting of the Taskforce on Population Growth to follow up on key action taken on decisions previously set forth by Pakistan's Council of Common Interests and the Supreme Court.

The meeting was held at CM House and attended by provincial ministers Sharjeel Memon, Dr Azra Pechuho, Nasir Shah, Sardar Shah, Shahina Sher Ali, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Chairman P&D, provincial secretaries, Dr Luay Shabaneh, Country Representative of UNFPA, representatives from USAID and the Bill &

Melinda Gates Foundation, Technical Advisor Population dept Talib Lashari, and other participants attended the meeting.

The Chief Minister emphasised the importance of addressing Sindh's rapidly growing population. "This task force will build upon the achievements already made, guiding both policy and practical approaches," he stated.

Shah said that the recent 2023 digital census indicates a national population surge, with an annual growth rate of 2.55 per cent, resulting in a total population of 241 million in Pakistan.

Punjab governor for mass awareness on human trafficking

Independent Report
LAHORE: A delegation comprising the participants of the two-day training workshop organized to prevent human trafficking in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration and IFA met with Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House Lahore.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that going abroad through illegal means is a crime and there is a need to create awareness among the people so that they don't fall a victim to those who are involved in the criminal business of human trafficking.

He said that in this regard, the institutions and organizations working for creating awareness among people and providing them with accurate information are commendable. Governor Punjab while appreciating the efforts of Chief of Mission IOM,

Pakistan, M. Mio Sato, said that International Organization for Migration was making great efforts to increase the capacity of government institutions as well as non-governmental organizations and civil society and to raise awareness among the people.

Governor Punjab also congratulated the organizers for the successfully organizing the two-day training workshop on identifying the victims of human trafficking in Lahore, giving them access to relevant institutions and providing them support for rehabilitation. The delegation was led by Project Assistant, Ayesha Panizai and Programme Assistant, Nimra Nazir of International Organization for Migration, while representatives of civil society organizations, Abdul Shakoor Mirza, Zahida Parveen, Shahzad Naqvi, Ashfaq Nazir and Musa Ashfaq were also present.



KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Information, Transport and Mass Transit, Excise Taxation and Narcotics Control, Sharjeel Inam Memon exchanges views with UAE Consul General, Bakhit Atiq Al Rumiti during meeting held at his office in Karachi.

Kaiser Sheikh says: Mega sewerage to be set up in Chiniot

FAISALABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Kaiser Ahmed Sheikh said a mega sewerage system would be set up in Chiniot with the financial help of the World Bank to redress the issue on a permanent basis.

Talking to media persons during an open court arranged at his dera in Chiniot on Monday, he said that the government was fully aware of the fundamental problems including electricity, gas and sewerage. He said that population growth had enhanced civic problems

and the government was trying its optimum best to resolve the major issues at the grassroots level. He said that five new public parks were being developed in Chiniot to provide better environment and recreational facilities to people of the city. "The government is in touch with all government departments and as discrepancies are identified, the departments concerned will be immediately directed to resolve the issues up to the entire satisfaction of the masses," he added.

Azma Bokhari berates PTI for displaying US flag in event

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari has berated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), accusing the party of hypocrisy and disloyalty.

Referring to recent events at a PTI rally in Swabi, Bokhari stated, "Those who claim to fight against 'American slavery' are now waving the American flag as if seeking freedom through it."

Information minister argued that PTI's leader and his followers consider

taking U-turns a sign of bravery, while the display of the U.S. flag at the Swabi rally was a show of allegiance to what she called their 'American masters'. She insisted that the public gathering was a failure and resulted in clashes among PTI members, particularly between Ali Amin Gandapur and other party leaders.

The Punjab minister stated that the PTI was divided, with each faction pursuing its own agenda.



KARACHI: Sindh Home Minister, Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar along with Sindh Inspector General of Police (IGP), Ghulam Nabi Memon addresses to media persons during press.

Advisor announces floating tenders for Hangu main road

PESHAWAR (APP): Advisor to the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Communication and Works (C&W), Sohail Afridi accompanied by MNA Yousaf Khan during his visit to Hangu district on Monday announced floating of tenders for the construction of Hangu main road by December this year.

Talking to the media persons on the occasion, Advisor C&W said, "The government will solve the public problems within the available limited resources."

He added that we were focusing on completion of the ongoing incomplete development works. He further said, "Hangu to Sarozai road will be constructed on priority basis as this road was the main Highway connecting Pakistan and Afghanistan."

Due to unavoidable circumstances, work could not start on this important highway till now, he regretted.



LAHORE: A delegation comprising the participants of the two-day training workshop organized to prevent human trafficking in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration and IFA in a group photo with Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House.

Zia announces reward Rs50 million for CTD

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Home Minister Zia Ul Hassan Lanjar, announced a reward of Rs. 50 million and commendation certificates for the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) and its team for their significant achievements in apprehending terrorists involved in a high-profile case.

Additionally, recommendations for QPM (Quaid-e-Azam Police Medal) and PPM (President's Police Medal) awards are being made for the CTD officers and their team.

At a press conference held at the Central Police Office in Karachi on Monday, and according to the press release issued by the Home Ministry, the minister praised the CTD's role in the arrest of terrorists involved in the airport attack. Also present were IGP Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon, Additional IG CTD Imran Yaqub Minhas, DIG CTD, and other senior officers.

The minister elaborated that the investigation identified a suicide attacker, Shah Fahad, with evidence such

as the attacker's hand, vehicle, and other remnants. The attackers' accomplices included a rickshaw driver, Farhan, and Muhammad Sharif. Additionally, the vehicle used in the attack was registered under the suicide bomber's name and purchased from a showroom. An amount of Rs. 7.1 million was transferred from a bank in Hub for the vehicle purchase, with the funds originating from an account belonging to a man named Saeed Ali, and the attack was further facilitated by a bank employee named Bilal.

According to the investigation, the vehicle used for the suicide attack was prepared at an undisclosed location in Hub. The car was loaded with a chemical known as "paint" combined with RDX for the explosion. A woman named Gul Nisa was used to bring the car to Karachi, and surveillance at the airport was carried out by a person named Javed, who also informed the suicide attacker about the Chinese nationals' exit from the airport.

CM takes notice of violence against women

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has taken strict notice of an incident in Sargodha, where three women were reportedly subjected to violence over a property dispute.

The CM directed the Regional Police Officer (RPO) of Sargodha to submit a detailed report on the matter.

Expressing her strong condemnation, she stated, "Violence against women over property disputes is not only unfortunate but also completely unacceptable. Women and children are a red line for us, and such acts of violence will not be tolerated under any circumstances."

Swearing-in ceremony of elected general councilors held

DIR LOWER (APP): A swearing-in ceremony of the general councilors who won the local government by-election was held here at ADC Office Jirga Hall, Blombat, on Monday.

District Returning Officer/Deputy Commissioner of Dir lower Muhammad Arif Khan administered the oath to the elected councilors and congratulated them.

Additional Deputy Commissioner General Bashir Khan, District Election Commissioner Jamshed Khan, Rating Officer/Additional Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Tariq Khan, and representatives of the political parties participated in the ring-in ceremony. The Deputy Commissioner directed the elected representatives to serve the people of their areas without discrimination. The district administration would provide all possible support in public services.

Russian Envoy calls on Governor Sindh

KARACHI (APP): The Ambassador of the Russian Federation in Pakistan Albert Khorev called on Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House on Monday.

Pakistan-Russia relations and other matters of mutual interests were discussed during meeting of the both dignitaries.

According to Governor House spokesman, the Russian envoy was presented guard of honour on arrival at the Governor House.

Governor Kamran Khan Tessori, while talking to the Russian top diplomat, said Pakistan

and Russia want the best relations to each other and Russian Federation wants to prove its friendship in the current economic situation.

Governor Kamran Tessori and the Russian Ambassador hoisted the flags of both the countries. The Russian Consul General in Karachi was also present on the occasion.

Russian Ambassador also penned his impressions in the guest book and also visited the Quaid-e-Azam Gallery.

Ambassador Albert Khorev was served with Karachi's famous burger and "Matka Tea".

Environmental changes affecting life badly: ADC

SAHIWAL (APP): Additional Commissioner (Coordination), Dr Safdar Hussain on Monday said environmental changes were affecting human's life badly and emphasized the need of tree plantations to overcome these challenges.

While addressing a meeting regarding PISP Programme, he said the environment could become healthy by overcoming the changes and stress always played pivotal role in that regard.

Director Development, Dr Saifullah Bhatti, Director Local Government.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah chairs 4th the Population Task Force meeting, at CM House in Karachi.

Health minister chairs 14th syndicate meeting of FMU

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique chaired the 14th syndicate meeting of Faisalabad Medical University, held at the Department of Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education, here on Monday. The meeting permitted the university to start postgraduate diploma programs and increase seats in the departments of diabetology, family medicine, dermatology and esthetics. During the Syndicate meeting, permission has been given to start the BS program in

the Department of Respiratory Therapy. Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique approved the decisions and implementation report of the 13th Syndicate meeting of Faisalabad Medical University. Khawaja Salman Rafique emphasized the promotion of qualitative research in Punjab's medical universities and assured that transparency is being upheld in their financial affairs. He highlighted the Punjab government's commitment to providing quality education.

One killed, 14 injured in bus-truck collision in Lodhran

LODHRAN (APP): One person was killed and as many as fourteen passengers were injured on Monday when a bus was collided with a trowler in Lodhran.

According to a private news channel, a road accident took place in Lodhran when a passenger bus collided with a trowler that had overturned on the road. According to the rescue officials, teams reached the spot immediately after the incident was reported.

The dead body of the driver with other injured passengers was shifted to the nearby hospital.

ANF seizes over 17 kg drugs in six operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting six operations across the country managed to recover over 17 kg drugs worth over Rs 8.6 million and arrested six accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman on Monday.

He informed that 2.5 kg heroin and 3.5 kg ice were recovered from the possession of an accused arrested near Tench Bhatta in Rawalpindi.



LAHORE: British Council CEO Scott McDonald meeting with Punjab Education Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat.

Rubina vows promotion of Pakistan's cultural heritage through crafts

KARACHI (APP): Chairperson Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) Senator Rubina Khalid has emphasized the significance of preserving and promoting Pakistan's rich cultural heritage through traditional crafts and art.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony of Alfa Mall as a chief guest, BISP chairperson stressed the importance of integrating these timeless products into the modern fashion world, providing opportunities for BISP's Hunarmand beneficiaries to connect with the modern economy.

Alfa Mall, a pioneering digital trading platform revolutionizing the fashion industry. The event brought together influential figures from the fashion world, marketing professionals, government

officials, and corporate entities.

"Hunarmand art and crafts products are a testament to Pakistan's cultural and traditional history", she said and added, "It is essential we revive, preserve, and project these treasures, introducing them to the modern fashion world, we should also take it as an opportunity to uplift our under privileged artisans & skilled BISP beneficiaries".

The chairperson urged Pakistani brands and fashion icons to incorporate traditional arts and crafts into their designs, supporting BISP beneficiaries. The event organisers shared inspiring success stories of Hunarmand women from rural Sindh, including Saima and Nosaba, who utilize arts and crafts to support their families.



KARACHI: Senator Quratulain Marri, Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Planning, presides over a meeting to review PSDP projects for Sindh at Sindh Secretariat.

Shaza Fatima says: 'Pak-US Tech Investment Conference' to help foster collaboration b/w two countries'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja said Monday that the 'Pak-US Tech Investment Conference' marked a significant milestone for Pakistan's IT industry and would help foster collaboration between companies of two countries deeply involved in the future of innovation.

While addressing the first-ever Pak-US Tech Investment Conference 2024 through a video link, she said, "Pakistan's technology sector has shown promising growth in the past few years, driven by a vibrant ecosystem of innovation, entrepreneurship, and an unwavering commitment to growth."

"Our ICT exports have shown a remarkable 25% growth," she said. "We are committed to building on this momentum until we reach the \$25 billion goal that Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif has given us," she added.

The minister said, "The event is a critical step in achieving that goal, as it provides a platform for U.S. and Pakistani businesses to come together," she added.

She said, "By providing secure cyberspace to businesses, the government of Pakistan has made significant progress in that regard."

She said, "As a result of the Global Cybersecurity Index of the ITU, Pakistan has been ranked in Tier-1 (role modeling), alongside global leaders such as the United States and Japan."

Shaza Fatima said,

"This reflects our collective efforts in cybersecurity, including initiatives like the National Cyber Security Policy, CERT rules, nCERT, Cyber Security Regulations, Hackathons, cloud-first policy, etc."

She said, "Pakistan has also made notable advancements in the UNE-Government Development Index, rising 14 places compared to its position in 2022."

"We are now proudly in the High EGD category, reflecting our growing strength in e-governance and digital innovation."

She said, "Over 60% of Pakistan's IT and ITes exports go to the US and UK, which speaks volumes about the quality of the work that our enterprises and freelancers produce."



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh along with the officers of Ministry of Maritime Affairs in meeting with the senior officials of Danish Shipping Company Maersk Line in Islamabad.

Rubina emphasizes promotion of country's handicraft industry

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid Monday emphasized the significance of preserving and promoting Pakistan's rich cultural heritage through traditional crafts and arts.

She was speaking at the inauguration ceremony of Alfa Mall, a pioneering digital trading platform revolutionizing the fashion industry, in Karachi, said a news release.

The event brought together influential figures from the fashion world, marketing professionals, government officials, and corporate entities.

During her keynote speech, Rubina Khalid stressed the importance of integrating these timeless products into the modern fashion world, providing opportunities for BISP's

Hunarmand beneficiaries to connect with the modern economy.

"Hunarmand art and crafts products are a testament to Pakistan's cultural and traditional history. It's essential we revive, preserve, and protect these treasures, introducing them to the modern fashion world, we should also take it as an opportunity to uplift our underprivileged artisans and skilled BISP beneficiaries," she stated.

The chairperson urged Pakistani brands and fashion icons to incorporate traditional arts and crafts into their designs, supporting BISP beneficiaries.

The event organisers shared inspiring success stories of Hunarmand women from rural Sindh, including Saima and Nosaba, who utilize art and craft to support their families.

FM welcomes APM Terminals' investment offer

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb here on Monday welcomed APM Terminals' commitment to invest in Pakistan and assured full support in facilitating the Group and providing them with a level-playing and investment-friendly climate.

The minister was talking to Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of APM Terminals, Keith Svendsen who called on him here, according to press release issued by finance ministry.

The call-on meeting was also attended by Jakob Linulf, Ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan, Ambassador Shoaib Sarwar, Pakistan's Ambassador to Denmark, Rene Pii Pedersen, Managing Director A.P. Moller Maersk Singapore, Ahmed Hassan, SVP of A.P. Moller Maersk Group, and Sander Riemersma, Head of Portfolio Strategy APM Terminals.

The discussion focused on the progress made as a follow-up on the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) last month between government of Pakistan and government of Denmark to enhance bilateral cooperation and accelerate sustainable economic growth through promoting and enhancing green and sustainable Public-Private Partnership (PPP) investment.

Keith Svendsen briefed the Minister on APM Terminals' business portfolio and its plans for building port infrastructure in Pakistan for enhanced revenue growth and improvement in regional trade and connectivity.



ISLAMABAD: H.E. Shoaib Sarwar, Ambassador of Pakistan to Denmark called on the Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb at the Finance Division.

CM for mechanized farming of vegetables

LAHORE (APP): On the direction of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, sustainable measures have been taken for the first time to increase production of tomatoes and onions in Punjab.

Under this project, mechanized farming of vegetables, especially tomatoes and onions has been launched which will cost Rs. 3 billion. 70 percent subsidy will be given on planter, pruners, superior and other agricultural equipment for mechanized farming of vegetables.

The farmer will have to pay only 30 percent of the total cost. Likewise, the Punjab government will also give 70 percent subsidy on buying pulping units, dryers and graders for value addition.

On the direction of the CM Punjab, Lodhran, Multan and Vehari districts have been selected for onion cultivation, while Khushab, Sheikhpura and Muzaffargarh districts

have been selected for tomato cultivation to enhance under cultivation area and production of land. It has been decided to constitute farmer enterprise groups of land owners up to 25 acres in the above mentioned 6 districts. The farmer groups will be imparted training in the Farmers Field School about modern methods of agriculture and smart methods of cultivation. Farmers groups will also be linked with the international market.

CM Maryam Nawaz said, "It is my firm resolve to make farmers of Punjab prosperous and happy. For the first time in Punjab, regularly organized and coordinated projects were being launched for the cultivation of vegetables.

Mechanized and group farming would not only increase production of vegetables but also reduce their cost. Tomatoes and onions were daily needs of a common man.

addition, special teams with the assistance of district administrations were monitoring the supply of quality fertilizers, seeds and pesticides in the market.

Mega farmer gatherings and demonstration plots were being organized to support and educate farmers while divisional and district committee meetings were also held regularly. Furthermore, coordination between the Agriculture and Irrigation departments had been improved to ensure an adequate water supply for the wheat crop.

The provincial minister emphasized that as per the chief minister's directive it was top priority to achieve wheat cultivation targets across all districts. This year, wheat cultivation on government lands would be mandatory and each Deputy Commissioner would submit a report on wheat cultivation on public lands.



QUETTA: A Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) worker repairing the transformer at Adalat road.

Cash rewards to be given to farmers cultivating large areas of wheat

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Agriculture Minister Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani has said that the Punjab Chief Minister is taking practical steps to ensure agricultural progress and the prosperity of farmers.

The chief minister has launched a historic incentive package specifically for wheat farmers under which substantial cash rewards would be provided through a balloting system to farmers cultivating large areas of wheat, said a press release issued here on Monday.

During a briefing, the minister was informed that the target for wheat cultivation in Faisalabad division this season had been set at over 1.8 million acres and all available resources were being mobilized to achieve it.

The agriculture extension department's field staff was actively guiding farmers with technical support. In

addition, special teams with the assistance of district administrations were monitoring the supply of quality fertilizers, seeds and pesticides in the market.

Mega farmer gatherings and demonstration plots were being organized to support and educate farmers while divisional and district committee meetings were also held regularly. Furthermore, coordination between the Agriculture and Irrigation departments had been improved to ensure an adequate water supply for the wheat crop.

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FM meets Ambassador Shoaib Sarwar

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb held a meeting with Ambassador Shoaib Sarwar, Pakistan's Ambassador to Denmark, who called on the Finance Minister at Finance Division Monday.

During the meeting, various aspects of bilateral ties and ways for further enhancing cooperation and collaborations in the field of trade and commerce between Pakistan and Denmark were discussed.

The Minister highlighted the role of Pakistani diaspora in the socio-economic uplift of Pakistan.

Ambassador Shoaib Sarwar apprised the Minister about the current state of bilateral ties and the scope and opportunities for further business ventures and collaborations. He also highlighted the role of Pakistani expatriates settled in Denmark for strengthening bilateral ties and promoting commerce and cultural exchanges between both the countries.

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Cooking Oil to Jet Fuel

ISLAMABAD (Online): One of the first beneficiaries from this new ADB push will be a project in Pakistan to generate sustainable aviation fuel from cooking oil, Sorensen said. About half of the \$90 million needed would come from the ADB scheme with the deal expected to be signed on Nov. 20, the bank said.

The ADB, based in the Philippines, has spent three years developing the guarantee deal with a group of Western governments and hopes other countries will follow soon, he added.

It has also been sharing its experience with the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank and European Investment Bank as part of broader, collaborative efforts to scale up climate-related lending. "We have been extensively in consultation with multiple other MDBs," Sorensen said. While the deals mark the first use of sovereign guarantees for climate finance, they have previously been used to fund other areas of lending such as education. Public lending institutions have also begun to guarantee other, third-party investments for climate projects. Earlier this year, the World Bank launched a platform to house all such guarantees for loans and investments from across the various branches of the organisation.

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VEON, Jazz delegation visits PTA headquarters

ISLAMABAD (APP): A high-level delegation from VEON Group and Jazz visited the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), engaging in productive discussions with Chairman PTA, Major General @ Hafeez Ur Rehman, on strategic initiatives to further digital transformation across Pakistan.

According to a news release, the delegation, led by Augie K Fabela, Founder & Chairman of the

Board, VEON Group, included VEON Group's Chief Executive Officer Kaan Terzioglu, Group Director of Corporate Affairs Marine Babayan, Jazz CEO Amir Ibrahim, and Jazz VP of Public Policy and Regulatory Affairs Muddassar Hussain.

During the meeting, the Chairman PTA highlighted PTA's initiatives to create a robust environment for digital growth.



HYDERABAD: All Pakistan Wapda Hydro Electric Workers Union President, Abdul Latif Nizamani addresses during the workers session, at Labour Hall in Hyderabad.

PSX continues with bullish trend, gains 356 more points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Monday, gaining 356.64 more points, a positive change of 0.38 percent, closing at 93,648.33 points as compared to 93,291.68 points on the last trading day.

A total of 815,188,409 shares were traded during the day as compared to 763,255,174 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs.37.324 billion against Rs.30.206 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 454 companies transacted their shares in the stock market,

227 of them recorded gains and 184 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 43 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were Cnergyco PK with 98,601,408 shares at Rs.4.52 per share, Pak Elektron with 78,094,188 shares at Rs.29.01 per share and K-Electric Limited with 70,187,495 shares at Rs.4.98 per share.

Rafhan Maize Products Company Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.211.95 per share price, closing at Rs.7,522.00, whereas the runner-up was Abbott Laboratories (Pakistan) Limited with Rs.87.42 rise in its per share price to Rs.984.72.

Pharmaceutical exports increase 31.11% to \$105.936 mln

ISLAMABAD (APP): The exports of pharmaceutical witnessed an increase of 31.11 percent during the first quarter of the current financial year 2024-25, as against the exports of the corresponding months of last year.

The pharmaceutical exports from the country were recorded at US \$105.936 million during

July-September (2024-25) against the exports of US \$80.796 million during July-September (2023-24), according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

Meanwhile, year-on-year basis, the pharmaceutical exports witnessed an increase of 61.55 percent during the month of September 2024 as compared to the same month of last year.

Rupee sheds 13 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Monday depreciated by 13 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs.277.86 against the previous day's closing of Rs.277.73.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs.277.40 and Rs.278.90 respectively.

The price of Euro decreased by Rs1.87 to close at Rs.297.07 against the last day's closing of Rs.298.94, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese yen came down by 02 paise and closed at Rs1.80, whereas a decline of Rs1.28 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs358.26 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs359.54.



QUETTA: Balochistan Goods Truck Owner Association Leader, Haji Noor Muhammad Shahwani and others addressing a press conference, at Quetta press club.

Acting Indonesian envoys offers Pakistan to invest in various sectors

MULTAN (APP): Indonesia's Acting Ambassador Mr Rahmat Hindiarta Kusuma on Monday stated that there were vast investment opportunities in Indonesia for Pakistani business community with guaranteed profits.

During his visit to Multan, the acting ambassador was welcomed at the Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) by the president and others.

The discussions between the acting ambassador and the MCCI president focused on enhancing trade and friendly relations between Pakistan and Indonesia.

Mr Kusuma emphasized that Indonesia was a large economic market, and Pakistani businesses could invest in sectors like agro-processing, textiles, garments, and leather industries which could

further boost bilateral trade. He added that the relations between the two brotherly countries were very strong and special relief in visa procedures could be provided to Pakistanis visiting Indonesia.

He also mentioned that Pakistan and Indonesia needed to strengthen their working groups in sectors like tourism and trade, and exchange delegations to promote trade in the region.

He suggested that joint ventures in fruit and vegetable processing plants, halal food, livestock, and dairy farming should be initiated in South Punjab.

Additionally, awareness campaigns to promote tourism between the two countries should be launched, and ties between trade and business associations of both countries should be expanded and accelerated.

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Experts call for globally coordinated response for green economic transition

BEIJING (APP): As climate change increasingly affects economies worldwide, the urgency for a united, green economic transition has never been greater. However, experts - at the 7th China International Import Expo (CIIE) Hongqiao International Import Forum sub-forum "Sustainable Trade amid Climate Change" held last week - warned that political agendas and trade tensions may be hindering this effort, creating obstacles that undermine a globally coordinated response.

Erik Solheim, Co-Chair of the Europe-Asia Centre, former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme, has been vocal about the critical role of

China and the EU in leading global climate cooperation. Solheim emphasized that "Europe and China must work together to defend trade," especially in light of recent political shifts in the U.S., which might increase trade tensions in days to come. Without robust trade, he argued, the shift to green development could take far longer, leaving global economies more vulnerable. In recent years, with repeated shocks from the global pandemic, frequent geopolitical conflicts, and a resurgence of trade protectionism, the multilateral trading system has become increasingly fragile. Unilateral trade protection measures introduced by a few major trading nations could be the final straw that breaks the WTO.



ISLAMABAD: Women visiting stalls during ten days Folk Festival Lok Mela at Lok Virsa in the Federal Capital.

Saudi Arabia demands immediate ceasefires in Gaza, Lebanon

Monitoring Desk

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia called for immediate ceasefires in Gaza and Lebanon at a joint Arab League and Organisation of Islamic Cooperation summit that will renew calls for a Palestinian state on Monday.

Arab and Muslim leaders gathered in Riyadh, more than a year into the Israel-Hamas war and regional escalation, in what is seen as a chance to send a message to US president-elect Donald Trump.

Opening the summit, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said the international community must "immediately halt the Israeli actions against our brothers in Palestine and Lebanon", condemning Israel's campaign in Gaza as "genocide".

"(Saudi Arabia) affirms its support for the brothers in Palestine and Lebanon to overcome the disastrous humanitarian consequences of the ongoing Israeli aggression," he said.

A draft resolution for the summit stresses "firm support" for "national rights" for the Palestinian people, "foremost among which is their right to freedom and to an independent, sovereign state".

Just hours earlier, newly appointed Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar said it was not "realistic" to establish a Palestinian state, dismissing it as a "Hamas state".

"I don't think this position is realistic today and we must be realistic," Saar said in response to a question during an appearance in Jerusalem.

The Saudi foreign ministry announced plans for the summit in late October during a meeting, also in Riyadh, of a new "international alliance" to press for the establishment of a Palestinian state.

It comes one year after a similar gathering in

Riyadh of the Cairo-based Arab League and the Jeddah-based Organisation of Islamic Cooperation during which leaders condemned Israeli forces' actions in Gaza as "barbaric".

This time around, Trump's election last week for a second term in the White House is likely to be on leaders' minds, said Anna Jacobs, senior Gulf analyst for the International Crisis Group think tank.

"This summit is very much an opportunity for regional leaders to signal to the incoming Trump administration what they want in terms of US engagement," she said. "The message will likely be one of dialogue, de-escalation and calling out Israeli military campaigns in the region." The war in Gaza began with Hamas's unprecedented attack on southern Israel on October 7 last year, which resulted in 1,206 deaths, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally of Israeli official figures.



Lawmakers applaud as Japan's Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba (standing L) is reappointed as leader after the second round of a parliamentary vote to nominate a prime minister following the October 27 general election, during a special session of parliament in Tokyo.

Kremlin denies Trump call, says West not ready for talks

Monitoring Desk

MOSCOW: Russia on Monday denied a reported call between President Vladimir Putin and US President-elect Donald Trump on the Ukraine conflict and said it saw no signs the West was ready for talks.

The Washington Post said on Sunday that Trump had spoken by phone on Thursday with Putin, telling him not to inflame the conflict.

Trump's election to the White House has the potential to upend the almost three-year conflict and has thrown into ques-

tion Washington's multi-billion dollar support for Kyiv, crucial to its defence.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov denied the report, telling journalists it was "false".

Steven Cheung, Trump's communications director, told AFP in a written statement: "We do not comment on private calls between President Trump and other world leaders".

A senior Ukrainian presidency official also said Kyiv was "not informed" of any call between Putin and Trump.

Netanyahu admits he okayed Hezbollah pager attacks

Monitoring Desk

JERUSALEM: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday he okayed a deadly September attack on Hezbollah communications devices which exploded in Lebanon, the first time Israel has admitted involvement.

Hezbollah had previously blamed its arch-foe for the blasts that dealt a major blow to the fighter group, and vowed revenge.

"Netanyahu confirmed on Sunday that he greenlighted the pager operation in Lebanon."

Don't prejudice Trump over Ukraine, France says

Monitoring Desk

PARIS: Ukraine's allies must not prejudice how Donald Trump will handle the war there, France's foreign minister said on Monday, as French President Emmanuel Macron and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer reaffirmed their support for Kyiv during talks in Paris. Trump has repeatedly criticised the scale of Western aid to Kyiv and has promised to end the conflict swiftly, without explaining how. His victory in last week's presidential election has spurred concerns in Kyiv and other European capitals about the degree of future US commitment to helping Ukraine.

Deadly strikes on Gaza, Lebanon as Israel faces aid deadline

Monitoring Desk

JERUSALEM: Israeli air strikes killed dozens of people in Lebanon and Gaza, rescuers and authorities said, ahead of a US deadline for improved aid delivery to the Palestinian territory. Rescuers in the Gaza Strip said 13 children were among 30 people killed by Israeli strikes in the territory's north. The first strike early Sunday hit a house in Jabalia, killing at least 25 people including 13 children and injuring more than 30. Gaza's civil defence agency said.

At around 6:00 am, "there was a very huge explosion" at the Allouh family home, said relative Abdullah al-Najjar.

"When we arrived here, all the bodies were torn apart," the distraught man added. Vowing to stop

Hamas militants from regrouping in already ravaged north Gaza, Israel on October 6 began a major air and ground assault.

The United Nations has described the area as "under siege", and Washington set a deadline of this coming week for Israel to get more aid in or face possible cuts to military assistance. After the strike in Jabalia, Israel's military said it hit "infrastructure" in which militants were operating and "posed a threat" to troops in the area.

"Prior to the strike, numerous steps were taken to mitigate the risk of harming civilians," a military spokesman said. Another strike on the Sabra neighbourhood of Gaza City killed five people, the civil defence agency said.

Russian glide bombs, drones and a ballistic missile kill 6, injure 30 in Ukraine

Monitoring Desk

KYIV: Russian glide bombs, drones and a ballistic missile smashed into cities in southern and eastern Ukraine on Monday, officials said, killing at least six civilians and injuring about 30 others. Russia recently intensified strikes that have long tormented civilian areas. Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said, in an apparent effort to unnerve Ukrainians and wear down their willingness to keep up a war that is approaching its 1,000-day milestone.

"Every day, every night, Russia commits the same terror," Zelenskyy said in a post on the Telegram messaging app. "Except that an increasing number of civilian objects are becoming targets."

Both Russia and Ukraine are waiting to see how Washington will change its policy on the war after Donald Trump takes office in January. The U.S. is the biggest provider of military help to Ukraine but

Trump has chided the Biden administration for giving Kyiv tens of billions of dollars of aid. The major cities struck Monday by Russia are close to the war's around 1,000-kilometre (600-mile) front line.

Russian drones hammered the southern city of Mykolaiv, killing five people and injuring a 45-year-old woman, local authorities said. Around two dozen people sought psychological help following the attack that damaged houses and stores, officials said.

Russia open to hearing Trump's proposals for ending the war, an official says. Mykolaiv, located about 60 kilometers (37 miles) northwest of the front line in the Kherson region, frequently comes under Russian attack. An overnight attack on Zaporizhzhia, also in the south, with three powerful glide bombs killed one person and injured 21, including a 4-year-old boy, Ukraine's National Police said.

Indonesia says it has no overlapping South China Sea claims with China, despite deal

Monitoring Desk

JAKARTA: Indonesia said on Monday it does not recognise China's claims over the South China Sea, despite signing a maritime development deal with Beijing, as some analysts warned the pact risked compromising its sovereign rights.

Beijing has long clashed with Southeast Asian neighbours over the South China Sea, which it claims almost in its entirety, based on a "nine-dash line" on its maps that cuts into the exclusive economic zones (EEZ) of several countries.

Joint agreements with China in the strategic waterway have been sensitive for years, with some nations wary of deals they fear could be interpreted as legitimising Beijing's vast claims.

In 2016, an arbitral tribunal said the Chinese claim, based on its old maps, has no basis in international law, a decision China refuses to recognise.

A joint statement issued at the weekend during Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto's visit to Beijing mentioned the two countries had "reached important common understanding on joint development in areas of overlapping claims".

Indonesia's foreign ministry has repeatedly said the country is a non-claimant state in the South China Sea and has no overlapping jurisdiction with China.

On Monday, the ministry said its position was unchanged and the agreement would have no impact on its sovereign rights.

New Zealand Maori begin march on capital to protest Indigenous treaty bill

Monitoring Desk

WELLINGTON: Hundreds of people on Monday set out on a nine-day march to New Zealand's capital of Wellington in protest over legislation that would reinterpret a treaty at the heart of race relations in the Pacific country.

Convoys of cars and marchers set off after a dawn ceremony at Cape Reinga, in the country's far north, and will stage rallies in towns and cities as they move south, according to Eru Kapa Kingi, spokesperson for Toitu Te Tiriti or Honour the Treaty.

While the march, or hiko, was sparked by the bill currently before parliament, organisers hope it will ignite a broader conversation about New Zealand's relationship to Maori, he said.

"This is to build a hunger not just with Maori but also people in Aotearoa (New Zealand) to properly understand the people of this country and what happened to Indigenous people," he said.

The Treaty of Waitangi, first signed in

1840 between the British Crown and more than 500 Maori chiefs, lays down how the two parties agreed to govern. The interpretation of clauses in this document guides legislation and policy today.

Introduced by New Zealand's centre-right government last week, the Treaty Principles Bill, would enshrine a narrower interpretation of the treaty in law. Decades of interpretation by the courts and a separate Maori tribunal have tended to expand Maori rights and privileges.

Associate Justice Minister David Seymour said last week the bill would allow the important political and constitutional questions raised by the treaty to be decided in parliament instead of the courts.

His ACT New Zealand party won 8.6% of the vote in last year's election and argues non-Indigenous citizens are disadvantaged by policies designed to uplift Maori, who are over-represented in many measures of social and financial disadvantage.



Federal forces guard the perimeter of a scene following a shootout where several suspected gang members were killed while one local cartel leader was arrested, on the outskirts of Culiacan, Sinaloa state, Mexico.

Research reveals China has built prototype nuclear reactor to power aircraft carrier

Monitoring Desk

BANGKOK: China has built a land-based prototype nuclear reactor for a large surface warship, in the clearest sign yet Beijing is advancing toward producing the country's first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, according to a new analysis of satellite imagery and Chinese government documents provided to The Associated Press.

There have long been rumors that China is planning to build a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, but the research by the Middlebury Institute of International Studies in California is the

first to confirm it is working on a nuclear-powered propulsion system for a carrier-sized surface warship.

China's navy is already the world's largest numerically, and it has been rapidly modernizing. Adding nuclear-powered carriers to its fleet would be a major step in realizing its ambitions for a true "blue-water" force capable of operating around the globe in a growing challenge to the United States.

Nuclear carriers take longer to build than conventional carriers, but once in operation they are able to stay at sea for much longer because they do not need to refuel.

Iran calls to expel Israel from UN after deadly Syria strike

Monitoring Desk

TEHRAN: Iran's foreign ministry called Sunday for an arms embargo on Israel and the expulsion of its arch-foe from the United Nations, following a deadly strike in Syria.

Foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said Tehran "strongly condemned the aggressive attack carried out today by the Zionist regime against a residential building" in the Damascus area. The strike on an apartment belonging to the Lebanese armed group Hezbollah, which is backed by Iran, killed nine people including a Hezbollah commander, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights war monitor said.

Baghaei called for measures against Israel, including "an arms embargo" and its "expulsion from the United Nations."

Indian journalist shares details of alleged online harassment after doxing

Monitoring Desk

NEW DELHI: Rana Ayyub, an independent journalist and defender of women's human rights, has shared details of alleged online harassment she faced after her contact details were leaked on social media platform X.

Journalists and activists have long complained of harassment under India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whose government has been accused of trying to silence critical reporting.

Ayyub, a fierce critic of Modi and his Hindu nationalist government, has been targeted by his ruling Bharatiya Janata Party.



Abortion rights demonstrators rally during the annual Women's March in Atlanta, Georgia, US.

US says to spend \$6 billion for Ukraine before Trump arrives

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: The White House will spend its remaining \$6 billion of Ukraine funding before Donald Trump's presidential inauguration in January, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said Sunday, warning of the global risks of ending US support for Kyiv.

Sullivan said President Joe Biden is expected to go over top foreign policy issues when he meets with President-elect Trump Wednesday in the Oval Office.

"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 about taking on these issues when he takes office," Sullivan said on CBS's "Face the Nation." Biden has led an international coalition in support of Ukraine as it fights off invasion by Moscow, an effort at a crucial point following Russian military gains and an increasingly dire shortage of Ukrainian manpower.

Judge to decide on Trump's hush money conviction

Monitoring Desk

NEW YORK: A New York judge is set to decide this week whether President-elect Donald Trump's criminal conviction on charges involving hush money paid to a porn star should be overturned in light of the US Supreme Court's July ruling on presidential immunity.

Justice Juan Merchan has said he will make his decision by Tuesday.

It is the first of two pivotal choices that the judge must make after Trump's Nov 5 election victory. Merchan also must decide whether to go ahead with sentencing Trump on Nov 26 as currently scheduled.

Budget meeting scrapped as German parties wrangle over election timing

Monitoring Desk

BERLIN: German legislators on Monday scrapped a crucial budget planning meeting as parties continued to wrangle over the timing of an election to end a period of political uncertainty after Chancellor Olaf Scholz's coalition broke up last week. The cancellation of what was to have been the final meeting of the parliamentary budgetary committee this week risks delaying Germany's 2025 budget at a time when calls are mounting for government intervention to avert the economic crisis in Europe's largest economy.

Scholz's government has been without a parliamentary majority since Wednesday when the neoliberal Free Democrats (FDP) quit the coalition over its more left-wing partners' desire to spend more, using government borrowing if necessary.

The scrapping of the committee meeting makes it less likely that a majority can be cobbled together in the Bundestag to approve a budget, even if Scholz's Social Democrats and the Greens, who remain in government, manage to propose one.

The opposition conservatives, comfortably ahead in polls, say Scholz is delaying the election for political gain.

Trial starts over rape, murder of junior doctor in India's Kolkata

Monitoring Desk

KOLKATA: A court in the eastern state of West Bengal began the trial on Monday of a police volunteer accused of raping and murdering a doctor at a government hospital in August, a case that has sparked outrage over the lack of safety for women in India.

The woman's body was found in a classroom at the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in the state capital Kolkata on Aug 9, federal police said.



A protester holds a flag with the logo of the union IG Metall during a protest rally by employees of German car maker Mercedes demanding higher wages, at a Mercedes plant in Berlin, Germany.



RIYADH: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a group/commemorative photo of Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit 2024.

Danish company Maersk line to invest USD 2bln in Pakistan's maritime sector: Qaiser Ahmed

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh, on Monday welcomed senior officials from Maersk Line, the Danish shipping giant, in a key meeting ahead of the Danish Foreign Minister's visit to Pakistan.

During the meeting, Minister Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh emphasized Pakistan's readiness to collaborate with Maersk Line, which has committed to a landmark investment of USD 2 billion in the country's maritime sector.

Qaiser Ahmed described this investment as a significant achievement for Pakistan's shipping and logistics industry, underscoring the potential for long-term economic benefits from enhanced coop-

eration. The officials of Maersk Line expressed full confidence in the Government of Pakistan and the Ministry of Maritime Affairs, stating their satisfaction with the groundwork established for this major investment breakthrough.

Minister Qaiser Ahmed reassured Maersk officials of the Ministry's full support in facilitating their operations and addressing any challenges that may arise. "We are fully prepared to work with Maersk Line and ensure a smooth and efficient process for their investment," Minister said.

Qaiser Ahmed added that the terms of the partnership were being finalized, with today's meeting proving invaluable for es-

ablishing mutual understanding ahead of a formal agreement.

The Minister expressed optimism that this collaboration would pave the way for further foreign investment and contribute to Pakistan's maritime infrastructure growth.

In concluding the discussion, Minister Shaikh reiterated the government's commitment to addressing any emerging issues to fully support and encourage Maersk's investment.

This partnership is expected to generate numerous opportunities in port development, job creation, and overall economic growth, further solidifying Pakistan's position as a key player in the global shipping industry.



RIYADH: Saudi Investment Minister Engr. Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih and Advisor Royal Court Muhammad Al-Tuwajri call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on the sidelines of Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit.

Punjab behind KP in federal economic performance report

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Finance Ministry has released its report on the economic performance of provinces for the first quarter of the fiscal year 2024-25.

According to the report, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) has shown an impressive economic performance, with a surplus budget of Rs 103 billion leaving Punjab behind with major deficit of Rs 160 billion.

The report highlights KP's impressive economic performance, with a surplus budget of Rs 103 billion, a notable improvement from the previous year's deficit of Rs 10 billion.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Recorded a

surplus of Rs 103 billion, with revenue of Rs 316 billion and expenditures of Rs 212 billion.

Punjab: Faced a deficit of Rs 160 billion, with revenue of Rs 866 billion and expenditures of Rs 1026 billion.

Sindh: Recorded a surplus of Rs 131 billion, with revenue of Rs 568 billion and expenditures of Rs 437 billion.

Balochistan: Achieved a surplus of Rs 85 billion, with revenue of Rs 168 billion and expenditures of Rs 83 billion.

It's worth mentioning here that Pakistan's economy grew by 2.52% in the fiscal year 2024, primarily owing to strong growth in the agriculture sector.



HUB: Advisor to Chief Minister Balochistan on Commerce and Industry, Mir Ali Hassan Zehri holding a Khuli Katchery to resolve the problems of poor people in Hub.

Jogezai emphasizes need for unity to protect Pashtun land from exploitation, terrorism

LORALAI (ANN): Central Secretary of the Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP), Nawab Muhammad Ayaz Khan Jogezai, emphasized the need for unity to protect Pashtun lands from exploitation and terrorism, at the conclusion of a two-day public gathering in Loralai. He highlighted the strategic targeting of mineral-rich Pashtun regions by terrorist activities and the establishment of military outposts in these areas, leading to increased instability. Jogezai voiced concern over incidents where armed men forcibly enter homes at night demanding food, followed by uniformed personnel arriving in the daytime accusing residents of supporting terrorists.

Jogezai stressed the importance of ending internal conflicts and tribal rivalries to safeguard the

land's resources from external exploitation. He underscored that progress depends on collective efforts, asserting that "God does not change the condition of a people until they themselves seek change." The event was attended by local leaders who echoed the sentiment of unity as the foundation for securing Pashtun lands and livelihoods. He further condemned foreign interference, alleging that U.S. intelligence agencies have previously manipulated Pakistan's political landscape and promoted regional instability to access mineral resources in Pashtun territories. He highlighted the vast lithium reserves in Afghanistan, crucial for battery production, noting that global powers aim to secure these resources amidst the transition from oil to lithium-powered technology.

Shehbaz led PML-N govt. doesn't have mandate or performance: Abbasi

MURREE (INP): Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, the head of the Awam Pakistan Party (APP), has harshly criticized the current central government, claiming it lacks both the mandate and the governance necessary to provide stability in the country.

Speaking with a private TV channel, Abbasi stated that the government believes it has achieved stability due to the incompetence of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), but emphasized that true political power stems from both a legitimate mandate and strong governance, neither of which, according to Abbasi, the current government possesses.

"The government is strong when the country is

strong. It is clear that this government does not have either the mandate or the performance," Abbasi said, highlighting that effective governance requires both a solid mandate and the ability to deliver results, which he believes the present administration lacks.

In response to ongoing discussions regarding the privatization of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), Abbasi expressed skepticism over the government's expectations of raising 85 billion rupees from the sale of the national carrier. He suggested that the market was not inclined to accept such a high valuation and that a more realistic figure for PIA's privatization would be around 10 billion rupees.

Pak, Turkiye discusses bilateral cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb and Ambassador of Republic of Türkiye to Pakistan, Irfan Neziroglu here on Monday discussed various aspects of historical and longstanding brotherly ties between the two countries, particularly the growing bilateral cooperation in trade, investment and defense.

According to press release issued by finance ministry, the ambassador called on the federal minister during which Aurangzeb welcomed him on his diplomatic assignment in Pakistan. He highlighted the historical and fraternal bonds and the great potential for

enhancing the current volume of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Türkiye.

The Minister also recalled his meeting with Mehmet Simsek, Türkiye's Treasury and Finance Minister, in Washington DC on the sidelines of the World Bank Group/IMF Annual Meetings 2024 in Washington DC last month.

He said Pakistan could learn from Türkiye's experience of power sector reforms and invited Turkish firms to enter into mutually beneficial joint ventures with Pakistani counterparts, particularly in the field of information technology and agriculture.



QUETTA: Leader of PML (N) Sehar Gul Khilji meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

PEMRA tells LHC No order for not broadcasting name of Imran Khan on private TV channels issued

LAHORE (Online): Pakistan Electric Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) has said no order was issued for not broadcasting name of Imran Khan on TV channels.

Petition against not broadcasting name of Imran Khan on private TV channels came up for hearing in Lahore High Court (LHC) Monday.

Justice Farooq Haider took up the petition for hearing.

PEMRA submitted its

report in the court on petition filed against non broadcasting name of Imran Khan on private TV channels.

PEMRA said in its report it had not issued any notification for not broadcasting name of Imran Khan on private TV channels. The petitioner has not provided any evidence in connection with such order from PEMRA.

The assistant lawyer said the counsel for the petitioner is pre-occupied in Supreme Court (SC).

Hearing of 190m pounds case against PTI founder, Bushra adjourned till 13th

RAWALPINDI (Online): Judge Nasir Javed of Accountability Court (AC) Islamabad has adjourned till November 13 the hearing of 190 million pounds case against PTI founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi due to non receipt of orders from high court. Former chairman PTI was presented in the court Monday on the occasion of hearing.

Bushra Bibi too came to jail in connection with hearing of the case.

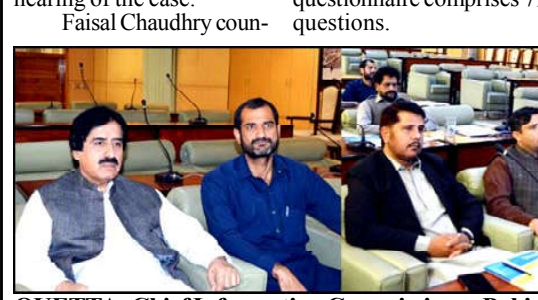
Faisal Chaudhry coun-

sel for the accused told the court Islamabad High Court (IHC) has ordered that acquittal pleas be decided first.

The court replied no order has been received from IHC so far in this regard.

Counsel for NAB took the plea as the accused are in the court therefore, their statements under 342 be recorded.

The counsel for the accused took the plea the questionnaire comprises 79 questions.



QUETTA: Chief Information Commissioner Pakistan Information Commission Shoaib Ahmed Siddiqui, Provincial Secretary Information Imran Khan and others addressing training session of Public Information officers regarding Access to Information Act.

Abrogation of Articles 370, 35A won't resolve Kashmir issue: Ameer Muqam

PALLANDRI (APP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON Engineer Amir Muqam on Monday reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to Kashmir's inseparability, stating that the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A did not resolve the issue and that Pakistan will continue opposing Indian atrocities in occupied Kashmir.

Speaking at the death anniversary of Babai Poonch Colonel Khan Muhammad Khan in Pallandri, as a special guest, the minister reaffirmed that the people of Pakistan stand with Kashmiris. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif boldly raised the Kashmir issue at the United Nations, while the people of Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir rejected Modi's party in recent elections. Azad Kashmir remains Pakistan's first line of defense, with the armed forces making sacrifices to protect the country.

At the death anniversary event chaired by Major (Retd) Sikandar Khan, the minister paid tribute to Baba Poonch Colonel Khan Muhammad Khan for his contributions to the people's welfare, emphasizing that successful nations build their future on the legacy of their forefathers.

The minister expressed pride in attending Khan Sahib's anniversary on the land of martyrs and ghazis, stressing that Kashmir's progress is integral to Pakistan's growth. He assured that the

Mirpur-Muzaffarabad-Mansehra motorway would be constructed, noting the special efforts made for the development of the Rathoa



Hariyam Bridge.

He pointed out that people in the region enjoy cheaper electricity than in Pakistan, and questioned why troublemakers fail to recognize that this region is free in every sense, while millions have sacrificed their lives for freedom in Occupied Kashmir, where women face atrocities and die for speaking out.

Maqam paid tribute to the brave Major Atif Khalil of Sudhnuti for his martyrdom and offered a special prayer for his soul's elevation.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Health Bakht Muhammad Kakar inspecting ambulances distributed among DHOs of different districts at Sheikh bin Zayed Hospital.

Two die, two injured in Surab road mishap

QUETTA (APP): Two women died and two sustained injuries in a road mishap at Batgo Check Post near Surab area of Kalat district on Monday.

According to Levies sources, a vehicle carrying four people including two women was on way to Pajgur from Quetta when it turned over on National Highway near Batgo Check Post due to its tyre burst.

As a result, two women died on the spot while a child and a man received injuries.

The bodies and the injured were rushed to nearby hospital where the injured treatments were started.

The victims identity could not be ascertained so far.

CM congratulates Tayyab Ikram on his election as IHF President

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has congratulated Tayyab Ikram on his election as President of International Hockey Federation (IHF) for eight years term.

In a felicitation message issued here on Monday, Chief Minister said that it is an honour for Pakistan to get presidency of IHF.

He said that unopposed election of Tayyab Ikram among 120 countries manifests the fact that Pakistan has its wholehearted representation in the field of hockey even today. This

would become source of promotion of hockey in the country, he believed.

The Chief Minister also greeted the player of Pakistan, Sufyan Khan on winning the title of rising player of the world.

He said that the day is not far away when Pakistan would prove mettle of its potential in the world hockey. Moreover, he also extended felicitation to the President of Pakistan Hockey Federation, Mir Tariq Hussain Bugti and Secretary General of PHF, Olympian Rana Mujahid on this important achievement.

New maternal, child health center opens in Barkhan

Independent Report BARKHAN: A new labor room has been inaugurated at the Basic Health Unit (BHU) Amir Muhammad in Barkhan district, marking a significant milestone in improving maternal and child healthcare services.

This state-of-the-art facility, established by PPHI Balochistan, aims to provide free medical services to the local community, especially pregnant women and newborns.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Deputy Commissioner

Barkhan Wagar Khurshid Alam, Wing Commander Meywand Rifles Barkhan Colonel Amer Bashir, and other distinguished guests, including DHO Barkhan Dr. Majid Amin, SP Barkhan Arshad Gola, and local residents.

This new center will provide comprehensive healthcare services, including prenatal care, delivery services, and postnatal care, all under one roof. The community will now have access to quality healthcare facilities right at their doorstep.



QUETTA: Quetta Commissioner and Administrator, Hamza Shafaqat visiting the MT Workshop located on Quarry road in Quetta.

PIC hosts seminar on role of Public Information Officers

QUETTA (APP): The Pakistan Information Commission on Monday organized a seminar aimed at developing skills related to the Right of Access to Information Act 2017 and the responsibilities of Public Information Officers.

Chief Information Commissioner Shoaib Ahmed Siddiqui highlighted the purpose of the seminar, expressing his appreciation for hosting the event in Pakistan's largest province, Balochistan.

Siddiqui praised the constructive mindset of the people of Balochistan, noting that their perspectives and suggestions on the right to access information are invaluable and can benefit all Pakistanis. He empha-

sized the Commission's commitment to organizing similar seminars across provinces to ensure the public can benefit equally from their collective efforts to enhance access to information.

He further stated that the Right of Access to Information is the essence and foundation of democracy, upon which true democracy relies. Transparency and accountability are essential for the growth of genuine democratic values. Societies lacking a culture of access to information are unable to progress. He stressed the need for awareness of information about our affairs to ensure a prosperous nation for future generations.

Highlighting the salient features of the RTI 2017, he says it gives citizens the right to access information held by public bodies. The law is based on the idea that citizens are owners of public information as taxpayers. The RTI aims to: Improve public service delivery, Increase transparency and accountability, and Reduce corruption.

He further noted that the RTI applies to all public bodies of the federal government, and citizens can submit an application to a designated official for information. The law also allows citizens to access information from private bodies that are substantially financed by the government