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COP29 Climate Action Summit

Pak calls for grant-based climate finance; fulfillment of earlier pledges

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

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

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



"I strongly feel, that climate finance must be grant-based and not add to the debt burden of vulnerable developing countries. Here is the opportunity that the COP29 should make an understanding loud and clear that we will have to fulfill those financial pledges of COP27 and COP28... Ten years ago in Paris, we had failed to stop the rise in emissions and

catastrophic global warming. The Paris pledges made 10 years ago have yet to see the light of the day," the prime minister said.

He viewed that the COP29 would help understand the calamities already faced by some of the countries and others might face if counter-measures were

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

Pakistan, Azerbaijan vow to strengthen strategic partnership

BAKU (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday praised the strong ties between Pakistan and Azerbaijan and expressed optimism about further enhancing cooperation in various fields, including technology sharing and joint ventures in renewable energy. On the sidelines of the World Leaders Climate Action Summit (COP-29), Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif held a productive bilateral meeting with President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif congratulated President Aliyev on

successful holding of the World Leaders Climate Action Summit in Baku, Azerbaijan.

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

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



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

SSGC launches winter safety campaign; cautions customers to use gas wisely

QUETTA (APP): Sui Southern Gas Company launched its 2024-25 Winter Safety Awareness campaign in a session that was attended by religious scholars and media representatives from Balochistan region in large numbers.

The event was held at the Quetta Press Club.



In his keynote address, SSGC's Acting Senior General Manager Abdul Waheed Jumani, emphasized that protecting human lives is a noble act.

He advised the residents of colder regions in Balochistan to exercise caution while using gas-powered appliances and added that numerous steps have been taken in utility management to minimize difficulties for consumers.

Jumani assured attendees that the gas-related issues highlighted during the session would be addressed and appropriate recommendations will be submitted to the senior management.

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GoB grants relaxation in upper age limits upto 43 years

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan has granted general relaxation in upper age limits upto 43 years in favour of the fresh candidates and serving government servants.

According to an official notification issued here by Services and General Administration Department on Wednesday, the general relaxation has been granted to the fresh candidates and serving government servants in the upper age limits with effect from June 24, 2024 to June 23, 2025.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over a high level meeting regarding Provincial Action Plan.

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

Says Sana alias Baru was highly wanted by law enforcement agencies

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

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

"He was a focal recruitment agent, especially

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

Meanwhile President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday paid tribute to security forces for a successful intelligence-based operation against terrorists in District Kech, Balochistan.

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



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti meeting with Governor Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

President SCBA meets CM Balochistan, both vow: No compromise to be made on independence of judiciary, to work for welfare of lawyers

Independent Report

QUETTA: The newly elected President of Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), Mian Rauf Ata Advocate called on the Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti here on Wednesday.

During the course of meeting, they discussed different matters including those related to the welfare of lawyers community.

Both the leaders were of the view that supremacy of parliament and constitution is supreme and that no compromise would be made

on independence of judiciary.

They also expressed their resolve to work for welfare of the lawyers community. The Chief Minister assured cooperation for the Supreme Court Bar Association Housing Project in Quetta.

On this, the President of SCBA, Rauf Ata thanked the Chief Minister.

Earlier, the Chief Minister congratulated Mian Rauf Ata on his election as President SCBA and expressed best wishes for him.

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

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

The decision came during a meeting led by Privatisation Minister Aleem Khan, which re-

viewed several privatisation initiatives and approved key recommendations. Addressing the meeting on Wednesday, Khan stressed that all privatisation efforts, including those for PIA, must adhere to legal protocols while prioritising the national interest.

"The final decision on the privatisation of institutions like PIA rests with the cabinet committee," he stated.



QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafiqat briefs media men regarding Quetta campaign. Director General Public Relations Balochistan Muhammad Noor Khethran is also present

CM chairs meeting on formulation of Provincial Action Plan: High level meeting decides to make steps for prevention of terrorism, crimes, extortion & smuggling effective

Sarfaraz Bugti directs to evolve concrete strategy for elimination of terrorism and crimes without any confusion; calls for inclusion of modern technology in strategy for making PAP more effective; says restoration of peace is first priority as sustainable development conditional with peace

Independent Report

QUETTA: The high-level meeting chaired by Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has decided to make steps for prevention of terrorism, crimes, extortion and smuggling more effective in the province.

The meeting attended by the Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Additional Chief Secretary Home, Shahab Shah, Inspector General of Police, Moazzam Jah Ansar and other concerned high ups discussed the formulation of Provincial Action Plan

(PAP) here on Wednesday.

The Chief Secretary Balochistan briefed the meeting about PAP and the measures being taken for good governance and restoration of peace in the province.

He informed that com-

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Syedaal visits Quetta, condemns Railway Station bomb blast

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Chairman Senate Syedaal Khan Wednesday visited Quetta's Trauma Center to inquire about the health of those injured in the recent railway station incident.

He extended his best wishes for their recovery and expressed sympathy to the families of the martyrs.

Speaking to the media, he said that terrorists deserve no leniency and expressed the government's resolve to bring those who threaten national integrity and sovereignty to justice.

He acknowledged the crucial role of security forces in combating terrorism. It is everyone's shared responsibility to work together to eliminate terrorism and counter hostile elements.

He also highlighted Balochistan's strategic importance as the gateway to Central Asia. He said that the province's progress toward economic development, stressing that cowardly acts, such as the railway station attack, cannot weaken their resolve.

Provincial Ministers Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa and Raheela Hameed Durrani were also present, and condemned the terrorist attack and reaffirming their commitment to peace and stability in the province.

Enforcement of RTI Act to be ensured in Balochistan very soon, assures Governor

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that formation of Information Commission is in final stages in Balochistan on pattern of federation and other provinces, and adding he assured that enforcement of the RTI Act would be ensured very soon.

The Governor was speaking to the delegation of Center for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI), Islamabad who called on him under leadership of its Director General, Shoaib Ahmed Siddiqui here at the Governor House on Wednesday.

Also present in the meeting were included Mehboob Qadir Shah,

Monis Kainat, Imran Khan and Principal Secretary to Governor, Muhammad Hashim Khan Ghilzai.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor said that it is necessary for policy making, budget making and planning that the common men is not only fully aware of it but their personal opinions are also including in it so as to ensure implementation on the requirements of "Right to Information".

He said that the right to information is a constitutional right of the people, and in this context, formation of the information commission is also in final stages in Balochistan on pattern of the federation

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QUETTA: Deputy Chairman Senate Syedaal Khan Nassar and Provincial Minister for C&W Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa enquiring about health of injured of Railway Station bomb blast at Trauma Center.

Pakistan remains committed to peace in region: Gilani

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

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

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

Praises successful operation in Kech: CM appreciates effective role of security forces for elimination of terrorists in Balochistan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz has appreciated the successful operation of the security forces against terrorists in Kech and said that the forces are playing effective role for elimination of the terrorists.

In an official statement issued here on Wednesday, the Chief Minister said that the terrorists were neutralized during a successful operation in Kech.

He said that the successful operation against

terrorists is a firm resolve of the government against terrorism.

He said that we have already told that the terrorists would be taken to task.

He said that the anti state elements faced failure due to the timely action of the security forces in Kech.

He said that the critics of law and order should appreciate such successful operations.

He said that the whole nation is standing with its brave forces against terrorism.

AJK President calls for raising Kashmiris voice globally

MIRPUR (AJK): (APP): Azad Jammu Kashmir President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has stressed the need for raising voice in support of Kashmiris' right to self-determination from all available regional and international platforms.

The President said this while talking to Chairman Parliamentary Kashmir Committee, Rana Muhammad Qasim Noon, who called on him at the Jammu Kashmir House in federal metropolis on Wednesday.

Former federal minister Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry and Irfan Kayani were also present in the meeting, AJK President office said.

Speaking on the occasion, Barrister Sultan said that there was a dire need to sensitize the global community about the early and amicable settlement of the Kashmir dispute. He, however, maintained that implementation of the UNSC resolutions, which guaranteed the right to self-determination to the people of Kashmir, was the only way forward to resolve the lingering dispute peacefully, according to the AJK President office.

"It is imperative to raise the voice for Kashmiris' inalienable right to self-determination at all lev-

els", the president said, adding that the Parliament of Pakistan was the most suitable platform that can play a significant role to amplify Kashmir cause both at national and international level.

"The parliament of Pakistan should effectively support the Kashmiris in order to mount international pressure on India to resolve the Kashmir issue," he added. About recently concluded assembly elections in the held Kashmir, he said, the so-called polls held by India under the supervision of a million troops was a failed attempt to mislead the world.

Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry also condemned the Indian policy of oppression and suppression to stifle Kashmiris' legitimate political aspirations and demands. He said that the Kashmiris' ongoing struggle would continue till they achieve their cherished goal of freedom from India's illegal military occupation.

On this occasion, the Chairman of the Parliamentary Kashmir Committee, Rana Muhammad Qasim Noon, assured the President of Pakistan's continued political, moral and diplomatic support to the Kashmir cause.



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



QUETTA: A delegation of lawyers led by Senator Kamran Murtaza Advocate meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti.

Harnessing youth power to push rich nations to finance global climate action must: Romina

BAKU (APP): Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam Wednesday said that empowering young leaders from around the world to push with strong call for global climate action and spearhead meaningful environmental change is paramount to cultivate a new generation of climate-conscious leaders with passionate for creating sustainable solutions for the future.

Addressing a high-level side 'Global Youth Leadership in Climate Action' held at the Pakistan Pavilion in Baku on the side-line of two-week's global climate summit (COP29), the PM's climate aide said, "While the adverse impacts of climate change become increasingly evident, young people themselves are at the forefront of the global demand for urgent climate action. However, connecting youth leaders with those demanding for climate justice and global climate action including environmental experts and policymakers is vital to efforts for tackling pressing common climate challenges."

The event was organised jointly by Climate Change & Environmental Coordination Ministry and Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development

in the South (COMSATS). She said that engaging youth leadership is critically important for many reasons. Because, as young people are key to driving sustainable change and addressing the urgent challenges posed by climate change.

She said: "Climate change will disproportionately affect future generations, particularly youth, who will have to live with its long-term impacts. Issues like rising sea levels, extreme weather, and biodiversity loss will shape their future, making it essential for young people to be actively involved in shaping climate policies and solutions today."

The PM's climate aide said that youth actually bring fresh perspectives, creativity, and innovative approaches to climate solutions. Their understanding of technology, social media, and modern communication tools allows them to mobilise communities, raise awareness, and drive grassroots movements effectively.

"Youth leadership's engagement in climate action actually embodies the principle of intergenerational justice—the idea that current generations should not deplete resources or degrade the planet at the expense of future generations."



QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary Mir Muhammad Khan Lehari in a meeting with Senator Naseebullah Khan Bazi.

SSGC launches winter....

Continued from page 1

Farooq Ahmed Khan, SSGC's General Manager Balochistan Region outlined the objectives of the launch, stressing that gas is a great blessing from God and requires careful handling to prevent accidents. He emphasized that the purpose of this important campaign is to raise awareness of safety precautions in gas usage, as negligence can lead to the tragic loss of life.

He also advised customers to avoid rubber pipes and use high-quality GI iron pipes instead. He shared that SSGC has completed 33 projects in Balochistan in 2023-24 at a substantial investment of 500 million rupees, with further development schemes planned for 2024-25. The company aims to maintain gas pressure during winter so that residents can fully benefit from this natural resource.

Chief Engineer Customer Relations Egr. Muhammad Altaf presented a detailed presentation showcasing images of fatal accidents mainly due to consumer's negligence and also shared the preventive measures available to address them.

Religious scholars from various parts of

Balochistan also spoke at the event, committing to share the session's message in Friday sermons and other addresses to raise public awareness of these critical safety measures. They also highlighted specific issues and urged the company's management to take tangible steps for resolution.

The scholars included prominent figures from various schools of thought, such as Professor Yameen, Khateeb of Jamia Masjid Satellite Town; Pir Syed Habibullah Chishti, Head of Ahl-e-Sunnat wal Jamaat Quetta; Allama Syed Hashim Mousavi, Imam Jumma Quetta; Maulana Hafiz Syed Samiullah Agha, member of Ulema Mashaikh Board; Qari Muhammad Tufail, Khateeb of Madressa Ghafoor Khan Durani and Professor Ashfaq Baig of Jan Muhammad Mosque.

Representing the media fraternity, President of Quetta Press Club Abdul Khaliq Rind and General Secretary of Balochistan Union of Journalists Abdul Shakoor assured full support in promoting the awareness campaign and highlighted some pressing issues, some of which the company can address directly while others require governmental intervention.

Justice Kayani instructs to fix old cases on priority

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad High Court (IHC)'s Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani on Wednesday instructed the registrar office to fix the old cases on priority for hearing.

He also instructed the office to immediately upload the court orders on the websites of IHC.

Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani visited various branches of the IHC including writ, criminal, civil and diary branches to view the work. Registrar IHC Sardar Tahir Sabir was also along with him on the occasion. The office in-charges briefed them regarding the cases. Justice Kayani instructed the offices to fix the old cases for hearing on priority so that backlog would be cleared. He also directed to immediately upload the orders of court on website after issuance.

High level meeting

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prehensive strategy is being prepared for improving governance and restoration of peace in the province.

Addressing the meeting, Chief Minister directed to include modern technology in the proposed strategy for making the PAP effective.

He said that increase in professional capacity of the security forces is unavoidable for coping with the challenges of terrorism and crimes.

In addition to this, he also stressed that it is also necessary to get to the depth of the crimes by putting the investigation process on modern lines.

The Chief Minister on the occasion directed to the concerned quarters to prepare concrete strategy for elimination of terrorism and crimes without any confusion.

He also directed to keep strict vigil of the profiling of criminal elements. Besides, he also directed to ensure coordinated measures by the security forces for information about the criminals, accused and suspected persons in the province.

He categorically stated that we would provide the desired resources to the forces, however, we want results for achieving targets.

He said that restoration of peace is the first priority in the province as sustainable development is conditional with peace. He believed that the fruits of PAP would bear gradually in form of peace.

Shaheen Afridi becomes No.1 ODI bowler

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan's star pacer Shaheen Afridi become World No.1 ODI bowler as the green shirt dominated the latest International Cricket Council (ICC) rankings. Afridi, who secured eight wickets with an average of 12.62 during Pakistan's landmark ODI series win against Australia, moved up three positions to surpass South Africa's Keshav Maharaj, who fell two spots to third, while Afghanistan's Rashid Khan remained in second place.

Previously, Afridi had held the top position during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 in India. His fellow bowler, Haris Rauf, awarded



QUETTA: Deputy Chairman Senate Syedal Khan Nasser meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti.

Pak calls for grant-based....

Continued from page 1 not taken to create a conducive environment to avert calamities like the one faced by Pakistan in the form of 2022 floods which left millions of the people homeless, millions of house and acre of land submerged, standing crops destroyed, and almost 1700 people dead. Besides, the country also faced an economic loss worth around \$30 billion, he added.

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

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

He said as the government had arranged the said boy's education in another part of the country, he was now becoming a very productive hand of Pakistan. However, even all-out efforts could not subdue the sufferings of all flood-hit children in Pakistan or any other part of the world, he added.

To meet the needs of the populations hit by the impacts of climate change and avert such devastations in the future, Prime Minister Shehbaz reiterated his call for the fulfillment of the pledges made in previous COP summits.

He told the gathering of

Player of the Series in Pakistan's 2-1 triumph over Australia, advanced 14 places to 13th and achieved a career-best rating in the format, while teammate Naseem also climbed to a new high as he moved up 14 spots to a shared 55th.

With Afridi's ascent to the highest rank, both the top players in batting and bowling rankings are now from Pakistan, as star batsman Babar Azam maintained his lead.

The right-handed batsman increased his margin over India's Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill, and Virat Kohli by scoring 80 runs across three matches against Australia, where he was dismissed only once.

BPPRA successfully hosts significant workshop on MAPS

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Balochistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (BPPRA) successfully hosted a significant workshop on the "Methodology for Assessment of Procurement Systems" (MAPS). This event gathered key stakeholders, including experts from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the World Bank, representatives from public procurement regulatory authorities across Pakistan, and members of the MAPS Working Group. Notable attendees included Secretary Health Mujeeb Ur Rahman Panizai, Secretary Fisheries Dr. Javed Anwar Shahwani, Additional Chief Secretary of Azad Kashmir Maidaat Shahzad, MD PPR Punjab Waqar Azim, ADB Consultant Peter Trept, Senior Procurement Consultant from the World Bank Rehan Haider, Assistant Director of Monitoring & Evaluation BPPRA Noman Razaq, Assistant Director DGPR Manzoor Magi, as well as senior officials from various departments such as Irrigation, C&W, Health, Local Government, Public Health Engineering, Agriculture, Pakistan Engineering Council, Contractors Association, and officers from BPPRA.

The workshop aimed to review and validate the preliminary findings of the MAPS assessment for Balochistan, marking a pioneering step within Pakistan. Participants discussed the critical role this assess-

ment plays in aligning Balochistan's public procurement system with international standards. The initiative reflects the province's commitment to assessing procurement capacities and identifying opportunities for improvement. Stakeholders emphasized that the workshop was an essential step towards fostering transparency, efficiency, and accountability in procurement across Balochistan.



Experts from ADB and the World Bank highlighted global best practices in procurement and commended Balochistan's leadership for

initiating the MAPS assessment. Officials from BPPRA and representatives from other provincial procurement bodies shared their insights, stressing the importance of cooperation in advancing procurement

reforms on a national scale. Members of the MAPS Working Group presented data and analysis collected during the assessment, while stakeholders provided valuable feedback for refining the findings further.

ADB and World Bank consultants briefed participants on the MAPS methodology, explaining its comprehensive approach to assessing public procurement systems. The MAPS tool, designed as a universal instrument, can be utilized by countries worldwide, regardless of income level or development status.

PTI challenges election tribunal, symbol decision in SC

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has moved the Supreme Court to challenge a series of decisions related to its electoral matters, including the change of an Election Tribunal and the denial of its electoral symbol, the "bat."

In a petition filed by PTI leader Ali Bukhari, the party has contested the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) decision to replace the election tribunal previously headed by Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri.

The petition argues that the ECP acted improperly by not consulting the Chief Justice before making the change, a move that was made after candidates from the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) raised objections to the tribunal. PTI's petition requests the Supreme Court to annul the ECP's June 10 decision to alter the tribunal and restore the original panel.

Enforcement of...

Continued from page 1

and other provinces. He stressed that the focus of all policies and projects should be the public interest, therefore it is not possible to make planning in the larger public interest without knowing the public opinion.

The Governor also said that the right to information is very necessary for trust building and mutual understanding between the government and public.

It may be mentioned here that the meeting of CPDI with the Governor was to make demand for establishing Balochistan Information Commission under the RTI Act 2021.

It was mentioned that the Balochistan RTI Act had been enforced in 2021. According to the Act, Information Commission was to be established within 120 days.

But, despite lapse of three years, Information Commission could not be formed yet. The members of delegation demanded enforcement of RTI Act in Balochistan as has been done in the federation and other provinces.

Japan approves grant for flood management project in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Government of Japan has approved a grant amounting to 18.5 million dollars for flood management project in Pakistan.

A signing ceremony for exchange of notes and record of discussion between the governments of Ja-



ISLAMABAD: Dr. Kazim Niaz, Secretary Ministry of Economic Affairs and H.E. Wada Mitsuhiro, Ambassador of Japan signing exchange of notes for flood management project.

pan and Pakistan was held in Islamabad on Wednesday.

The project is aimed at improving accuracy of flood forecasts and flood control functions, accumulate basic data that contributes to disaster risk reduction measures, and reducing the risk of loss to human and economy including infrastructure.

The project titled "Flood Management Enhancement in the Indus Basin" will be materialized through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The scope of the project is to develop a hydrological and hydraulic observation network besides rehabilitating the river structures damaged by the 2022 flood in Indus River and its tributaries.

The project will also contribute to the capacity building of flood management institutions, thereby contributing to future flood risk reduction.

Secretary Ministry of Economic Affairs Dr. Kazim Niaz and Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan Wada Mitsuhiro signed the documents on behalf of their respective governments.

Quetta Electric Supply Company

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed bids are invited from well reputed GST/NTN registered firms (having sufficient experience in the repair & maintenance) for following vehicles of QESCO. Complete description of parts / services can be obtained with the tender documents.

Sr. No.	Vehicle No.	Make & Type	Formation	Repair Involved
01	QBA 1555	TOYOTA REVO	Chief Engineer (T&G) QESCO	Engine replacement / clutch plate/disc suspension work/ Complete gear / denting /painting /steering box New / bumper front & rear/ side mirrors/leaf spring patta/mud guards

Specification and standard of above items, terms and conditions of services have been given in the tender documents, which can be obtained from office of Deputy Director Transport QESCO, on or before **03-12-2024** against Pay Order/Demand Draft or CDR in the name of Finance Director QESCO Quetta of Rs.5000/- Bidding will be carried out by adopting "Single Stage one Envelope" method. Vehicle can be inspected in place where the vehicles are parked on working days before **02-12-2024**. Bids completed in all respects are to be submitted on **03-12-2024** at 11:00 Hours in the office of Chief Engineer (O&M) QESCO Quetta, the Received Bids will be opened by the respective Committee on the same date at 11:30 Hours in the same office. This advertisement is uploaded on QESCO and PPR websites. QESCO reserves the right to reject any or all of the proposals as per PPR Rules.

Deputy Director Transport
QESCO Quetta

PID (Q) 198/24

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

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

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

The prime minister said the government had launched significant health reforms to tackle non-communicable diseases, with a significant prioritization of diabetes. With the support of their partners, the government had developed various programmes to prevent and control diabetes, he added.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Senator Rubina Khalid emphasized that BISP supports 9.3 million low-income families, and equipping them with technical skills is essential for improving their living standards.

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

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

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

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

PEIRA, NCHD join hands to eradicate illiteracy in Islamabad

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

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

20 outlaws held, narcotics weapons recovered

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

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

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

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



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



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

Youth's role vital for boosting agriculture growth: Rana

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

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

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

Mashhood urged the need to export Olives instead of import and assured that govt would provide all kinds of support in this regard. He said that PMYP in collaboration with the National Vocational and Training Commission (NAVTTCC) and Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) had started the various latest training programmes with the help of China to excel youth in diverse fields including the agriculture sector.

"Our collaborative efforts will pave the way for a skilled workforce equipped to drive innovation and productivity," he affirmed.

Mashood said that Pakistan's economic condition had been strengthened at the global level and various countries including Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar and others agreed to become partners with Pakistan in different sectors to boost economic growth.

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

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

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

NDMA's participation at COP 29 highlights Pakistan's commitment to tackling climate change and strengthening resilience through international collaboration and support.

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

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

Hearing of 190 million pounds reference adjourned

ISLAMABAD (Online): Accountability Court (AC) has adjourned hearing of 190 million pounds reference till November 15.

The case came up for hearing in AC led by Judge Nasir Javed Rana in Adiala jail Wednesday. Faisal Choudhry counsel for PTI said acquittal pleas of PTI founder and Bushra Bibi be decided first. AC replied no order from IHC has been received in trial court. NAB prosecutor said IHC has not issued any stay order against hearing by trial court.



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

IGP Islamabad orders concrete measures against crime

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

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

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

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

NA Speaker condoles death of Riaz's brother

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of Minister for Housing and Work Riaz Hussain Pirzada's brother, Sajjad Hussain Pirzada. "In this moment of grief, I stand in solidarity with the bereaved family," he said in a condolence message issued here on Wednesday. He prayed for the deceased, saying, "May Allah grant the departed soul a place in His mercy and give Riaz Hussain Pirzada.

Ethiopian envoy honored 'Global Ambassador Award' for outstanding performance

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Envoy and Ambassador Extraordinary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) to Pakistan, Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula on Wednesday received the Global Ambassador Award for his outstanding and extraordinary diplomatic activities in Pakistan. The Diplomatic Insight, a global public diplomacy institution in Pakistan, honored the Ambassador and extraordinary diplomatic activities in Pakistan. The Diplomatic Insight, a global public diplomacy institution in Pakistan, honored the Ambassador and extraordinary diplomatic activities in Pakistan. The Diplomatic Insight, a global public diplomacy institution in Pakistan, honored the Ambassador and extraordinary diplomatic activities in Pakistan.



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

CDA board greenlights major upgrades in emergency services, cybersecurity

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

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

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

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

88% public complaints resolved through IGP Complaint Cell 1715

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

On a daily basis, complaints related to citizens' problems are resolved with transparency and merit. In the last six months, 1,104 complaints were received via the 1715 helpline, and the staff promptly forwarded them to the concerned forums. Out of the complaints received, 973 have been resolved with complete transparency and merit, with a resolution rate of 88%. Moreover, citizens can register complaints regarding the registration of cases, traffic-related issues, complaints against any police officer, or any issues related to investigations.

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

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



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

Addressing Pakistan's mental health crisis with digital solutions

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan is facing a mental health crisis, with an estimated 24% of the population affected. However, it remains largely unaddressed due to societal stigma, limited resources, and cultural barriers. Women, college students, and children are among the most vulnerable. Mental health struggles, linked to economic instability, family pressures, and gendered expectations, are intensified by a shortage of mental health professionals and awareness.

Women are disproportionately affected by mental health issues such as depression and anxiety. However, cultural norms discourage seeking help. "Women are expected to be the pillars of the family, so mental health struggles are seen as weaknesses," Dr Amina a local mental health professional talking to APP said. Domestic violence and early marriages contribute to untreated mental health struggles among women.

A particularly troubling trend is the reliance on fake spiritual healers (pir) by women in rural areas. "Many women, especially in rural regions, turn to fake spiritual leaders for emotional and mental relief because they feel there's nowhere else to turn," Professor Dr. Nasir Ali at PIMS hospital in response to an APP query highlighted another aspect contributing to this growing health issue. "These so-called healers often lack any formal training in mental health, and exploit women's desperation, offering false promises that only worsen their situation, leaving women vulnerable to exploitation." He suggested consulting qualified doctors, "as even minor mental health issues can be mishandled, leading to long-term complexities."

At the same time, mental health issues among men often go unaddressed due to societal norms that discourage emotional vulnerability. "Many men suffer in silence," he further explained, "because expressing emotions is seen as a sign of weakness."

Mental distress is also prevalent among students, with 60% of college and university students reporting significant mental health challenges. These are driven by academic pressures, financial stress, and a lack of social support. Abrish, a bachelor's student at Quaid e Azam University talking to APP said, "The pressure to succeed academically, along with financial concerns, affects my mental health daily."

Similarly, children face increasing mental health challenges due to unstable family environments, poverty, and child labour. The UNICEF estimates a significant percentage of Pakistani children suffer from anxiety, depression, and behavioral issues.

The rise of digital mental health platforms offers a solution, particularly in underserved rural areas. Humraaz and Sehat Kahani are key platforms providing support.

The Humraaz app, backed by the government and WHO, has helped over 240,000 users with counseling and emotional support. "Humraaz helped me reach out when I couldn't find help in person," app's rural user Sara said.

Sehat Kahani, a telemedicine platform, connects users with mental health professionals through online consultations. Dr. Zainab, a psychiatrist, notes, "Sehat Kahani is expanding access to mental health care, especially in rural areas." Despite progress, challenges remain in ensuring continuous, personalized care. Platforms like Talkspace and BetterHelp in the U.S. and UK offer direct access to licensed therapists and AI-based tools, models Pakistan could adapt to improve digital mental health care. To tackle the mental health crisis, Pakistan must integrate digital solutions into its national healthcare system, connecting online support with in-person care. Public health campaigns to raise awareness and reduce stigma are also vital. Dr. Zainab suggests incorporating mental health care into primary health services. "Local doctors can be trained to offer initial counseling and refer patients.

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United stance

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

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

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

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

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

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

The only solution is for Israel to stop its slaughter, and recognise the reality that Palestine cannot be erased.

Rafia Zakaria

For the longest time, archaeologists forever in search of lost civilisations used to walk the earth, and map and dig areas where they believed ancient settlements had once existed and now lay buried under centuries of sediment and overgrowth. Sometimes, discoveries were made inadvertently, as in the case of the magnificent Lascaux caves of France, which were found by a group of teenage boys walking in the forest with their dog in 1940.

Another example is that of Pompeii, which was covered in ash from Mount Vesuvius when it erupted in 79 AD. Its location was discovered in the 16th century during work on a canal. The find was stunning: volcanic dust and lava deposits had "frozen" Pompeii in time. Some corpses were found in cowering and crouching positions, just as they had been in their last moments before perishing under a heavy rain of volcanic ash. Everything, from children's toys to food containers, had been preserved, providing a

picture not only of the tragedy that occurred so long ago but also of what life was like at that time. Pompeii remains one of the most visited archaeological sites today, so much so that the authorities have had to lately limit the number of visitors to the World Heritage Site out of fear of over-tourism.

Perhaps among the most bizarre incidents in this category of inadvertent finds was the discovery of the catacombs of Alexandria, Egypt. The ancient Greco-Roman necropolis was discovered when a donkey fell through a hole in the ground.

Archaeology, however, has changed drastically since the days when luck and a little bit of knowledge helped explorers and archaeologists unearth some glorious object or a structure that indicated the prior existence of a bustling settlement. Archaeologists relied more on maps, ancient texts, geographical alignments, and surface finds. Without the resources of the modern age, archaeology was a calling and re-

flected the determination of the human spirit to excavate its way to the deep recesses of the past and bring to life all that was part of local lore and historical tracts. It was this restlessness that led Heinrich Schliemann to unearth the Homeric city of Troy and collect 'Priam's treasure', consisting of a large haul of diadems, rings, earrings, daggers and swords.

Overcoming the odds, archaeologists braved difficult terrains, disease and ancient curses. In areas such as South and Central America, with their heavily forested landscape in many areas, digging was difficult and archaeological methods were labour intensive. Armed with their shovels, archaeologists relied on maps and local knowledge. It was thus that Hiram Bingham chanced upon Peru's Machu Picchu, now one of the New Seven Wonders of the World.

Archaeology has taken many steps forward. From maps and pickaxes, it is now possible to discover ancient

relics from a distance, as in the case of a recent find. Luke Auld-Thomas, a PhD student, made a mind-blowing discovery while looking at aerial Lidar (light detection and ranging) images of the Mexican state of Campeche. Lidar, a remote-sensing technology, can look through heavily forested areas that are covered by vegetation to deliver images of structures from long ago. Archaeologists may not have access to the technique unless they have credible indication of the existence of some past settlement in the area. However, in many cases while archaeologists may not have the budget, people looking for other things, such as scientists or conservationists and land surveyors, may already have Lidar studies of a particular region.

It was one such study done all the way back in 2014 and commissioned by the Nature Conservancy of Mexico that Luke Auld-Thomas was poring over when he made the discovery of a lifetime. Through the Lidar images, Auld-Thomas

could piece together the remains of what has been described as "a huge ancient city which may have been home to 30-50,000 people at its peak from 750 to 850 AD".

It also contains thousands of structures. Auld-Thomas and his team have named the city 'Valeriana'. Auld-Thomas has said that he had been looking through the images because he felt that casting about in the region known to have been populated by the ancient Mayans would eventually yield a discovery. No doubt, it was quite something to be the actual person to have made the discovery. He is the lead author of an article on the lost city, which appeared in the journal *Antiquity* recently.

The impressive nature of Luke Auld-Thomas's work lies not only in that he made the discovery but that he used what he had access to — in this case, old Lidar maps from a decade ago — to see if he could find anything that would substantiate the view that Mayan cities were often interconnected and spread over large areas

which did not exhibit the same level of population density.

The discovery of the new city will yield a treasure trove of information about how the ancient Mayans lived, what they believed, and how they understood the world around them.

Junior researchers have a high bar to clear in that their relative lack of power means that they would never have the capacity to find the funds to commission a high-tech study on their own.

Clearly, that did not deter Luke Auld-Thomas and it should not deter others who pursue discovery and are often thwarted by doubters who think everything worthwhile either requires a huge budget or has already been discovered.

In this sense, the ancient city of 'Valeriana' will not only reveal truths about a civilisation that disappeared long ago, but will also make us appreciate the spirit within us which charts new courses and makes new discoveries. -- Courtesy Dawn

A summit to nowhere**Zahid Hussain**

After silently watching Israel's genocidal war in Gaza for the past year, the leaders of the Arab and Muslim countries have once more met in Riyadh to discuss the escalating conflict.

The so-called international alliance conceived by Saudi Arabia, with its aim of pressing for the establishment of a Palestinian state, failed to formulate a concrete plan of action to stop the Israeli invasion that has been extended to Lebanon.

Interestingly, the resolution issued at the conclusion of the joint summit of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and Arab League is restricted to the usual condemnation of Israeli aggression. It doesn't even plainly describe the ongoing Israeli military action in Gaza, which has killed more than 43,000 people, mostly women and children, as a genocide.

There is no suggestion to sever the diplomatic and trade ties with Israel that some of these countries continue to have, despite the war crimes being

committed by the Zionist forces. With the complete blockade of the Gaza Strip, more than a million people face death by starvation and disease. Mere condemnation cannot stop Israel's genocidal war. It is nothing short of a betrayal of the hapless people of Palestine.

In fact, the inaction of the Muslim world has given impunity to the Zionist state, which is now threatening to annihilate the entire occupied territory. The latest summit was held a year after a similar gathering in Riyadh. Then, too, the leaders had merely condemned the Israeli military action in Gaza. They could not agree on even a minimum plan of action to stop Israeli atrocities.

They did not even leverage their oil and economic capabilities to apply pressure on countries supplying arms to Israel to stop the war. One year of war crimes doesn't seem to have brought any change in their position, which can be described as capitulation. The resolution is as toothless as the previous one.

The most shocking part of the resolution is

the decision "to affirm support and express appreciation for the tireless efforts made by the Arab Republic of Egypt and the State of Qatar in cooperation with the United States of America to achieve an immediate and permanent ceasefire in the Gaza Strip...". It couldn't get more outrageous given that the ongoing genocide in Gaza is essentially supported by the US. It is massive American military aid that has helped Israel sustain its war.

Notwithstanding the occasional rebuke by US officials, there has never been any real American pressure on Israel to implement a ceasefire. In fact, the Biden administration has repeatedly vetoed resolutions in the UN calling for one. Some of the Arab rulers are believed to have tacitly supported what Israel has described as its war against Hamas. Moreover, America has its bases in Arab countries, and concerns have been raised that they could have supplied Israel with weapons to kill Palestinians. These countries have not prohibited the use of these bases.

Significantly, the lat-

est summit took place soon after Donald Trump's victory, which has been hailed by some member countries, prompting observers to conclude that it was meant to send a message to the incoming US administration. It seems that the 'international alliance' is now pinning its hopes on the incoming Trump administration to get Israel to agree to a ceasefire and accept the creation of a Palestinian state.

For instance, while addressing a Council of Foreign Ministers preparatory meeting a day before the summit, Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar expressed the hope that the incoming US administration would "lend its weight to reinvigorate efforts for peace in the Middle East". His remarks show his utter ignorance about Trump's hard-line approach to the Middle East conflict.

Such expectations from the president-elect, who is considered even more pro-Israel than the outgoing Biden administration, are unrealistic. During his election campaign, Trump had called

on Israel to finish the offensive and "get the job done". He has stated that he would "defend our friend and ally in the State of Israel like nobody has ever".

How can one forget that in his previous term he shifted the American embassy to occupied Jerusalem? The move defied Washington's earlier position of not recognising one of the most sacred of Islam's holy places as Israel's capital. In his previous term, Trump had also endorsed Israeli settlements in occupied West Bank, which are illegal under international law. Under the so-called Abraham Accords, he oversaw the establishment of diplomatic relations between Israel, the UAE, Bahrain, and Morocco.

Although Saudi Arabia did not enter into such an agreement, it did indicate its willingness to recognise Israel in return for security and economic benefits, though insisting there would be no diplomatic ties without a Palestinian state. Some analysts believe that the Riyadh summit has sent a clear signal to the incoming Trump administration that it can

rely on the kingdom as a strong partner in extending American interests in the region. The summit has pushed for greater American leverage in bringing the war to an end.

But it is very clear that the incoming Trump administration will not push for the establishment of a Palestinian state as envisaged by the 'international alliance'. There has been no mention of the two-state solution in his recent statements on the Middle East conflict.

Since winning the election, Trump has spoken to the Israeli prime minister more than once. Therefore, it's not surprising to see the right-wing Israeli government harden its position after Trump's election. In a recent statement, Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar opposed the establishment of a Palestinian state, saying it was "unrealistic". Surely the inaction of the Arab and Muslim countries has made things worse for the Palestinians. The joint resolution indicates that these countries do not have any intention of using their leverage to put pressure on Israel and its allies to end the war.

Trumped again**Mahir Ali**

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

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

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

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

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

No one can claim with any certainty that the 2024 result would have been different had Biden butted out after the 2022 midterm elections, in which the Democrats did not fare quite as badly as the polls

and the mainstream media projected, but they might have made amends that bolstered their support two years later. No such luck. Biden did propose some healthy measures on the economic and renewable energy fronts, but they made no immediate difference to most of those who were suffering from the consequences of the Covid pandemic and its inflationary aftermath.

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

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

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

Harris focused, instead, on slamming Trump

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

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

It's easy to empathise with the likeliest victims of Trump's non-consecutive second term, an achievement previously pulled off only by Grover Cleveland in the 19th century. And he was a Democrat back when the Republican Party was relatively progressive.

Trump's unpredictability means we can only wait and see how far he will go in carrying out his threatened atrocities at home and his promised peacemaking abroad. -- Courtesy Dawn

Finding inspiration**Nadeem Hussain | Jawad Ahmed**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

they can.

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

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

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

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

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

CM, Fed Minister vow to address fishermen issues, revive Keti Bandar port

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, during their meeting, discussed addressing the fishermen's issues, tackling sea pollution and plans to develop Keti Bandar as a new port.

According to CM House statement, meeting held here at the Chief Minister's House on Wednesday and was attended by Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh and Chairman Port Qasim Rear Admiral Nasir Shah.

The Chief Minister noted that provincial government has banned sensitive fishing nets, known as Bulloo and Gujjo. However, the matter of determining which government-issued licenses to trawlers remains

unresolved.

To tackle the trawlers' issue, the Chief Minister and the federal minister agreed to form a joint committee comprising members from the Maritime Ministry, as well as the governments of Sindh and Balochistan.

They also discussed the problem of untreated wastewater being discharged into the sea, which contributes to sea pollution. In response, the CM said that Sindh government has initiated the West Karachi Water Recycling Project.

Murad Shah and Qaiser Shaikh discussed the installation of a Combined Effluent Treatment Plant, agreeing that both provincial and federal governments should collaborate on this project.

During the

conversation, it was noted that Karachi Port Trust and Port Qasim currently handle sea traffic. However, there is an increasing need for another deep port, such as Keti Bandar, to help alleviate some of this load. Keti Bandar Road has connectivity to the National Highway and motorway, facilitating efficient transportation of goods to inland areas.

The Chief Minister stated that the Keti Bandar project was initially approved as part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects but has not been pursued for unspecified reasons. The federal minister expressed his intention to discuss the issue within his ministry and seek a private partner to establish the port.



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

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

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

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

The CM said that number of field hospitals

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

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

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

urban and congested areas across Punjab."

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

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

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

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

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

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

The minister said that PTI's politics had now been reduced to street-level politics. "Nawaz Sharif had once said, 'We will

build roads, and you will just measure them,'" she recalled former premier's statement.

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

Azma said that CM Maryam Nawaz had taken historic and revolutionary steps in Punjab. In just a few months, she introduced relief packages and development projects in every sector of the province, she added. The minister said political figures always engage in political struggle and they did not dream of invading the federation under the guise of politics. "We will not allow any form of mischief under the garb of peaceful protests. Anyone who breaks the law or spreads fear among citizens will be dealt with strictly," she warned.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanges views with Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

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

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

He said that there is a need to take better measures to prevent tax evasion, for which the scope of the tax net needs to be expanded. Governor

Punjab said that payment of tax is the moral and legal responsibility of all of us. He said that the people are ready to pay taxes, but the government has to simplify the system and impose taxes in consultation with the business community.

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

President Lahore Tax Bar Shehbaz Siddique said that lawyers are trained every week on tax reforms and high ethical values. Patron Chief Pakistan Tax Barran Munir Ahmed said that Lahore Tax Bar Association has never boycotted the courts.

LHC reserves judgment on maintainability of petition against NAB amendment

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has reserved judgment on maintainability of miscellaneous petition against NAB amendment through promulgation of presidential ordinance.

The miscellaneous petition against NAB amendment through presidential ordinance came up for hearing in LHC Wednesday.

Justice Shujaat Ali Khan of LHC heard the

petition filed by citizen Munir Ahmad.

Counsel for the federal government raised objection over maintainability of the petition.

The state counsel said petitioner is not aggrieved party. The term of presidential ordinance has expired.

The court reserved judgment on maintainability of the petition.



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

Law Minister thanks CM for approving add funds for LMH

KOHAT (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Aftab Alam Afridi Advocate has said that provincial government has formally approved additional funds for the reconstruction of Liaquat Memorial Hospital (LMH) Kohat in its yesterday's meeting and hoped the project would now be completed within stipulated time.

In a statement issued here, the Law Minister expressed his heartfelt

gratitude to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Khan Gandapur on behalf of all the members of the assembly and the people of Kohat for approving funds for this important public project despite financial constraints.

He said the credit for this goes to him and all the elected members of the National and Provincial Assembly of Kohat, Shehryar Khan Afridi, Daud Shah Afridi and Shafi Jan, whose tireless efforts made this possible.



PESHAWAR: Provincial Minister Social Welfare and Women Empowerment, Syed Qasim Ali Shah takes keen interest at stall during the Fun Fair Festival organized by ZamungKor Model Institute for State Children, held in Peshawar.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Governor Kundi also mentioned his efforts to strengthen ties between traders from Saudi Arabia and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, as well as explore opportunities for business growth with Tajikistan.

He pointed out that there are seven trade routes between Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Central Asia, and if these routes are restored, they could significantly change the

Man killed in Bajaur bomb blast incident

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

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

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

Police have started search operation to trace the culprits.

8 dead, 1,353 injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE (APP): Eight people were killed and 1,353 others injured in 1,284 road accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours.

As many as 572 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 781 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams.

CM KP participate in ceremony at BISE

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

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

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

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

competitions between various colleges and boards.

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

The competitions, which began on November 9, concluded today, November 13. Teams from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and various boards from across the country participated.

In the tennis competition, five boards—Lahore, Mardan, Faisalabad, Peshawar, and Punjab Board of Technical Education Lahore competed. Lahore Board secured the first position, Mardan Board came second while Peshawar Board and PBTE Lahore shared third place.

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

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

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

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

In response, the court adjourned the hearing until December 14 and directed police to submit a report at the next hearing.

The six accused - Rai Murtaza Iqbal.



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

Meeting reviews policies, implementation strategy for religious minorities

LAHORE (APP): A high-level meeting of the Task Force, chaired by Provincial Minister for Minorities Affairs, Ramesh Singh Arora, and Additional Chief Secretary Punjab, was held on Wednesday at S&GAD's committee room to review various policies and their implementation concerning minority rights and welfare in the province. The meeting was attended by MPA Emmanuel Ather and Secretary of Human Rights and Minority Affairs, Ali Bahadur Qazi, along with representatives from several departments.

Key agenda items included a review of the Punjab Human Rights Policy, 2018, and the progress of its implementation under the Action Plan. Additionally, the status of the 2pc quota for minorities in the higher

education sector was discussed, as well as the situation regarding the establishment of a Government Primary School in Yohannaabad.

The meeting also focused on the 5% job quota for religious minorities, the 2pc quota for religious minorities in higher educational institutions, and the review of the Juvenile Justice Act and Prison Reforms laws. The Child Marriage Act, 1929 was also discussed in detail. Special attention was given to the facilities for persons with disabilities in government buildings, and the approval of district-level committees under the Department of Human Rights and Minority Affairs. Ramesh Singh Arora emphasized the need to ensure uniform education for religious minorities in all schools.

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

MULTAN (APP): The Veda Bus Service, a new transit initiative aimed at easing transportation between Nishtar Hospital-I and Nishtar Hospital phase-II, has officially launched in Multan here on Wednesday. The service was inaugurated by the Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) South Punjab, Fawad Hashim Rabbani, who also took a journey on the bus to experience the service firsthand.

Joining him on the inaugural journey were Secretary Services South Punjab, Engineer Amjad Shoaib Khan Tareen, Special Secretary Health Amanullah, Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Mehnaz Khakwani, Additional Secretary Muhammad Farooq Dogar, Deputy Secretary Abdul Saboor Thakur and PMA Manager.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Housing and Urban Development Bilal Yaseen inspecting the ongoing development works at LDA City.

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

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

"Four major planned roads, along with a motorway, will also be passing through LDA City and it would become a premier residential hub for Lahore's residents, said by Bilal Yaseen during his visit to LDA City project site on Wednesday to review the progress of ongoing development work.

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

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

"LDA City will prove to be an excellent residential project for the people of Lahore," Bilal Yaseen said, expressing his confidence in the project's potential. The minister also noted the swift progress on the construction of key roads, including the ongoing work on the Chenab Road, where 50% of the work has already been completed.

In addition, Yaseen confirmed that work on the Neelam Road will begin soon. "We will be offering more good news to LDA City allottees under the special instructions of Chief Minister Punjab, Maryam Nawaz."



LAHORE: Punjab Finance Minister Mujtaba Shuja ur Rehman presides over the 10th meeting of Cabinet Standing Committee for Law affairs and privatization.

Rana for exploiting olive potential to cut edible oil imports

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for National Food and Security Rana Tanveer here on Wednesday stressed the need for exploit the potential of olive oil production and reduce dependence on edible oil imports.

Speaking at Olive Summit 2024, the minister emphasized the country's vast potential for olive sector, urging the need of processing, packaging, and marketing to attract customers.

The minister said that research was crucial to the growth of any sector, so for developing the agricultural sector, there is a need to undertake research to enhance its development.

Tanveer said that Pakistan currently imports 70-80% of edible oil, which is then processed into unhealthy ghee while in contrast, olive oil offers numerous health benefits.

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

"As we hear the word export the government becomes excited because we want to enhance our export", he added.

He praised the efforts of Dr. Tariq and Azmat Awan, two government officials driving the olive

sector's development.

Pakistan's olive sector is poised to significant growth, with Rana Tanveer outlining ambitious plans to transform the country into a major player in the global market. The Al Baraka Pakistan Olive Summit 2024 brought together key national and international experts, policymakers, and industry leaders to advance Pakistan's olive industry.

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



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

FBR introduces new payment creation system

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

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

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

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

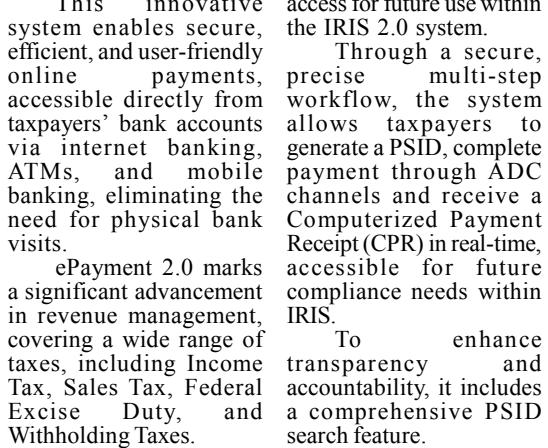
Earlier, taxpayers used a separate ePayment system outside IRIS 2.0, requiring them to switch between portals. Now, with ePayment 2.0, FBR has provided a unified and improved user interface accessible directly within IRIS 2.0.

By generating a unique Payment Slip ID (PSID), it enables quick and convenient payments for both registered and unregistered taxpayers.

Upon payment completion, Computerized Payment Receipt (CPR) is issued via email and SMS, providing official confirmation and easy access for future use within the IRIS 2.0 system.

Through a secure, precise multi-step workflow, the system allows taxpayers to generate a PSID, complete payment through ADC channels and receive a Computerized Payment Receipt (CPR) in real-time, accessible for future compliance needs within IRIS.

To enhance transparency and accountability, it includes a comprehensive PSID search feature.



LAHORE: Kissan Ittehad Chairman, Chaudhry Khalid Hussain Bath addresses to media persons during press conference, at Lahore press club.

Malaysia keen on importing Pakistani Food Products: FTO

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) Saif Ur Rehman on Wednesday said that Malaysian buyers have shown a keen interest in importing high-quality food products from Pakistan that meet international standards.

Currently, he is on a two-week visit to Malaysia, leading the Pak Food delegation to explore export markets and joint ventures with counterparts, said a news release. He said growing demand of Pakistani food products reflects a shared appreciation for premium food items and highlighted the potential for strengthening trade ties between the two countries.

Pakistan, known for its rich agricultural resources and diverse food products, offers an array of products of rice, fresh fruits, spices, and processed foods, which

align well with the tastes and preferences of the Malaysian market, he added. He said the focus on quality, safety, and adherence to international food standards has enhanced the popularity of Pakistani food products in Malaysia.

With advancements in production, packaging, and food safety, Pakistani manufacturers have been able to meet the stringent quality requirements expected in international markets.

He said this alignment with global standards gives Malaysian buyers confidence in the safety and premium quality of Pakistani imports.

He also highlighted the country's commitment to maintaining competitive pricing while upholding quality makes it an attractive source of destination for Malaysian food importers.

Waseem assigned look-after charge of NTDC MD

LAHORE (APP): The Board of Directors (BoD) of National Transmission and Despatch Company Limited (NTDC), in its 281st meeting, assigned the look-after charge of the post of managing director (MD) to Engineer Muhammad Waseem Younas, deputy managing director (SO) NTDC, with immediate effect, and until the arrival of a regular incumbent.

A notification was issued in this regard, according to an NTDC spokesman here on Wednesday.

Engineer Muhammad Waseem Younas holds a Master degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore. He has over 34 years experience of power sector mainly in the fields of Power System Analysis, Transmission Planning and System Operation.

Through a secure, precise multi-step workflow, the system allows taxpayers to generate a PSID, complete payment through ADC channels and receive a Computerized Payment Receipt (CPR) in real-time, accessible for future compliance needs within IRIS.

Rupee gains 07 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Wednesday appreciated by 07 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 277.85 against the previous day's closing of Rs 277.92.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 277.90 and Rs 279.40 respectively.

The price of Euro decreased by 84 paise to close at Rs 294.60 against the last day's closing of Rs 295.44, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen came down by 01 paise remained and closed at Rs 1.79, whereas a decline of Rs 2.15 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs 353.85 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs 356.00.

The exchange rate of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal decreased by 02 and 03 paise to close at Rs 75.64 and Rs 73.95, respectively.

The meeting focused on the potential establishment of a cement unit in Dera Ismail Khan and its anticipated impact on the region.

Azam Farooq informed the Governor that



SARGODHA: A trader sells sweet jaggery "Gur", an alternative to sugar, at the Gurr Market.



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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate and former Prime Minister, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Wednesday called for creating more social cohesiveness to boost investors' confidence and strengthening democratic credentials. Addressing the inaugural session of Margalla Dialogue 2024, of Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) here, he underscored the need to re-quip youth with education to make them a capable workforce in a changing and competitive world order, said a press release.

He said that new realities are shaping the world at large, and we are living in an era of alliances, including those that are breeding conflict and militarization such as

AUKUS and QUAD in the region and beyond.

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

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

He talked about global tensions echoing in the region, and touch-based on internal security and challenges that Pakistan faces in the form of terrorism.

Gilani said that Pakistan's vision is based

on strength and strategic location, along with resilient people and good governance.

Earlier, President IPRI Amb. Dr Raza Muhammad introduced the audience about the journey that his think tank has undertaken and the meticulous process of holding one of Pakistan's finest dialogue, Margalla Dialogue.

He said that Indian arrogance of not talking to Pakistan is at the root cause of problems, and said that we are living in an era where trade with Russia looms large despite sanctions on several member states of the region. He talked about the emerging realities of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Overseas Pakistani investors meet Punjab industries minister

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

The meeting discussed investment opportunities in Punjab

and the Investors group indicated to make investment of US \$ 50 million in the EV (electric vehicles) and other sectors in the province.

Provincial Minister apprised the delegation that 18 Special Economic Zones (SEZs) have been established in Punjab while seven more SEZs projects are in the pipeline.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi called on by representative delegation of Kohat Chamber of Commerce & Industry at Governor House.

Governor Kundi assures support to establish cherat cement unit in DI Khan

PESHAWAR (APP): A delegation led by Azam Farooq, CEO of Cherat Cement Company, met with Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday at Governor House to discuss the province's industrial development and investment promotion.

The delegation included Ali Farooq, Deputy GM Admin Fazal Din Khan, and Senior Manager Administration Zeeshan.

The meeting focused on the potential establishment of a cement unit in Dera Ismail Khan and its anticipated impact on the region.

Azam Farooq informed the Governor that

setting up the cement plant would not only boost industrial activities in the area but also create local employment opportunities.

He emphasized that the project would contribute to the province's economic growth and provide stability to the construction sector.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi commended cherat cement's initiative and assured full support for industrial development.

He emphasized that the provincial government would facilitate the project and resolve any issues faced by industrialists to promote investment and create job opportunities.

The price of Euro decreased by 84 paise to close at Rs 294.60 against the last day's closing of Rs 295.44, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen came down by 01 paise remained and closed at Rs 1.79, whereas a decline of Rs 2.15 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs 353.85 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs 356.00.



SARGODHA: A trader sells sweet jaggery "Gur", an alternative to sugar, at the Gurr Market.

Jam, World Bank advance agenda for export competitiveness

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

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

Jam Kamal Khan highlighted the Whole-of-Government approach to export enhancement, which promotes a unified policy framework to improve competitiveness and the Ease of Doing Business for exporters.

This strategy emphasizes export-led growth by providing crucial enabling factors such as financing, liquidity support, reduced input

costs, and regulatory facilitation to empower Pakistan's export sector.

The World Bank reiterated its support for Pakistan's Trade and Investment Officers (TIOs) stationed in Missions abroad and its commitment to collaborating on knowledge-sharing initiatives to strengthen Pakistan's global trade connections. Minister Jam also noted the recent establishment of 17 Sectoral Councils by the Ministry of Commerce, aimed at bolstering private sector involvement in policy development—a move warmly appreciated by the World Bank team for its potential to enrich the policymaking process. Both sides agreed to form a joint working group on trade, set to meet periodically, to advance the goal of realizing Pakistan's export potential of \$60 billion.

Earlier, President IPRI Amb. Dr Raza Muhammad introduced the audience about the journey that his think tank has undertaken and the meticulous process of holding one of Pakistan's finest dialogue, Margalla Dialogue.

He said that Indian arrogance of not talking to Pakistan is at the root cause of problems, and said that we are living in an era where trade with Russia looms large despite sanctions on several member states of the region. He talked about the emerging realities of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).



RAWALPINDI: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani addressing a function held at the Chamber of Commerce.

Pakistan is the safest country in terms of investment: Governor

LAHORE (APP): A delegation of foreign investors and CEOs of various Pakistani companies led by UK-based overseas Pakistani businessman Asim Sattar called on Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House Lahore.

Speaking on this occasion, Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that Pakistan is the safest country in terms of investment and the government is providing facilities to foreign investors through the Special Investment Facilitation Council. He said that the confidence of foreign investors has been restored with the political stability in Pakistan. Governor Punjab said that the development of

countries depends on the development of industry and foreign direct investment. He said that Pakistan is committed to increase investment and investor-friendly policies. Governor Punjab said that Overseas Pakistanis are playing an important role in the country's economy through foreign exchange.

On this occasion, Overseas Pakistani businessman Asim Sattar said that overseas Pakistanis want to do a lot for the country.

He said that bringing foreign investors to Pakistan is a difficult task. Foreign investors expressed their interest in investing in Pakistan in meat supply chain, renewable energy and solarization among other sectors.

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

Govt. committed to transforming Pakistan into cashless economy

ISLAMABAD (APP): The government, following the Prime Minister's vision, is dedicated to transforming Pakistan into a cashless economy.

An official from the Ministry of Information Technology said that steps are being taken to promote digital payments across the country, recognizing their crucial role in enhancing economic

growth and efficiency. He said that Pakistan has embarked on a journey of national digitization. Prime Minister has directed the establishment of a National Digital Commission and Pakistan Digital Authority, which will soon be legislated, the official added. The goal is to promote digitization across economic, governance, and social sectors in Pakistan.

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

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

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

As many as 450 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 196 of them recorded gains and 191 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 63 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 43,291,848 shares at Rs 1.26 per share, Waves Home Applications with 33,201,636 shares at Rs 8.79 per share and Pak Refinery with 31,524,926 shares at Rs.26.88 per share. Rafhan Maize Products Company Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.64.96 per share price, closing at Rs 7,601.00, whereas the runner-up was Philip Morris (Pakistan) Limited with Rs38.17 rise in its per share price to Rs 827.67. Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 221.80 per share closing.

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

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

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

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

Monitoring Desk

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

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

Israel's campaign in the north of Gaza, and the evacuation of tens of thousands of Palestinians from the area, has fueled claims from Palestinians that it is clearing the area for use as a buffer zone and potentially for a return of Jewish settlers.

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

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

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

As funeral prayers were held on Wednesday in central Gaza, for Palestinians killed in Israeli airstrikes the day before, the United States' top diplomat said it's time to end the war.

The Israeli military has denied any such intention, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has

said he does not want to reverse the 2005 withdrawal of settlers from Gaza. Hardliners in his government have talked openly about going back.

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

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

Speaking on Wednesday, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Israel "has accomplished the goals that it set for itself" by taking out Hamas' leadership and ensuring the group is unable to launch another massive attack.



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

Lebanon says 11 killed in Israel strikes across the country

Monitoring Desk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Monitoring Desk

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

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

US imposes sanctions on Sudanese paramilitary commander

Monitoring Desk

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

The US Treasury Department in a statement said Abdel Rahman Juma Barkalla led the RSF's campaign in West Darfur, which the department said was marked by credible claims of serious human rights.

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

Monitoring Desk

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

Situated in the town of Redzikowo near the Baltic coast, the base has been in the works since the 2000s and Warsaw says it shows Poland's military alliance

with Washington remains solid, whoever is in the White House. "It took a while, but this construction proves the geopolitical resolve of the United States," Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski said in a video posted to X on Tuesday. Polish President Andrzej Duda, a conservative who has stressed his warm ties with Trump, will attend a function to open the base, which the Kremlin calls a bid to contain Russia by moving American military.

Triumphant Trump returns to White House to meet Biden

Monitoring Desk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Monitoring Desk

BEIT EL: As Donald Trump's victory became apparent in last week's U.S. elections, Jewish West Bank settlement advocates popped bottles of champagne and danced to the Bee Gees at a winery in the heart of the occupied territory, according to a post on Instagram. The winery said it was rolling out a special edition red named for the president-elect.

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

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

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

"God willing, the year 2025 will be the year of sovereignty in Judea and Samaria," Israeli Finance Minister and settlement firebrand Bezalel Smotrich said Monday, referring to the West Bank by its biblical name, in comments that sparked international uproar. He said he would make sure the government lobbies the Trump administration on the idea. Israel captured the West Bank, along with east Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip in the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians want those territories for their hoped-for future state. Israel annexed east Jerusalem in a move most of the international community does not recognize and in 2005 it withdrew its settlers and troops from the Gaza Strip.

Indonesian president meets Biden and speaks with Trump, pledges cooperation

Monitoring Desk

JAKARTA: Indonesia's President Prabowo Subianto met with US President Joe Biden at the White House and offered his congratulations to President-elect Donald Trump by phone during an official visit to Washington. "I will work very hard to strengthen Indonesian-United States relationship, and I would like to work towards this end that we have a strong cooperation," said Prabowo.

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

He arrived in Washington straight from China, where he had met with President Xi Jinping on his first overseas trip since taking office last month.

Washington sees Indonesia, the most populous country in Southeast Asia, as an important partner in a region where its rival Beijing has deep trade and investment ties. Indonesia is also the world's most populous Muslim-majority country. While China is a key economic partner for Indonesia, Jakarta has also become a big buyer of US arms, and it wants to sell the West more metals from its mines.

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

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

Airlines ground Bali flights after volcano erupts

Monitoring Desk

TITHENA: Airlines cancelled flights to and from the Indonesian resort island of Bali on Wednesday, leaving travellers stranded after a nearby volcano erupted an ash tower miles into the sky.

At least 16 international routes were affected after Mount Lewotobi Laki-Laki on Flores island spewed a nine-kilometre tower a day earlier, the general manager of Bali's international airport said in a statement.

Flights from Singapore, Hong Kong, Qatar, India, Australia, Malaysia, China's Pudong and South Korea's Incheon were all either delayed or grounded, Ahmad Syaugi Shahab said Wednesday.

Animal clinic worker Samsudin, 52, from Indonesia's main island was transiting in Bali to Malaysia and forced to spend the night at the airport.

"I'm sleeping here rather than going back to Java. It is far," he told AFP.

"I'm waiting here, until tomorrow," he added, saying he bought a new flight after his AirAsia ticket was refunded.

Australia's Jetstar, Qantas and Virgin Australia all grounded flights, while Malaysia Airlines, AirAsia, India's IndiGo and Singapore's Scoot also listed flights as cancelled on Wednesday, an AFP journalist at Bali's airport said.

"Volcanic ash poses a significant threat to safe operations of the aircraft in the vicinity of volcanic clouds," said AirAsia as it announced several cancellations. Hong Kong's Cathay Pacific also listed its flights as cancelled, rescheduling routes to and from Bali until Thursday.

Multiple eruptions from the 1,703-metre twin-peaked volcano in recent weeks have killed nine people, with 31 injured and more than 11,000 evacuated, Indonesia's disaster mitigation agency said on Tuesday. Eruptions can pose serious risks to flights, disgorging fine ash that can damage jet engines and scour a plane's windshield to the point of invisibility.



Palestinians inspect the site of an Israeli strike on a house in Nuseirat in the central Gaza Strip.

Biden is sending aid to help Ukraine keep fighting next year, Blinken says

Monitoring Desk

KYIV: The Biden administration is determined in its final months to help ensure that Ukraine can keep fighting off Russia's full-scale invasion next year, sending it as much aid as possible so that it might hold Russian forces at bay and possess a strong hand in any potential peace negotiations, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Wednesday.

"President Biden has committed to making sure that every dollar we have at our disposal will be pushed out the door between now and Jan. 20," when president-elect

Donald Trump is due to be sworn in, Blinken said.

NATO countries must focus their efforts on "ensuring that Ukraine has the money, munitions and mobilized forces to fight effectively in 2025, or to be able to negotiate a peace from a position of strength," Blinken said during a visit to Brussels. The U.S. will "adapt and adjust" with the latest equipment it is sending, Blinken said, without providing details.

AP correspondent Donna Warder reports President Joe Biden intends to boost military support for Ukraine before he leaves office.

Kyrgyzstan makes arrests over suspected coup attempt ahead of local elections

Monitoring Desk

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

The interior ministry said in a statement on Tuesday the individuals were suspected of using sports games and other competitions in the capital Bishkek to foment a riot.

"Under the guise of national sports games, they intended to call for acts of violence, were going to put forward unconstitutional calls, (and) destabilise the situation for the further violent seizure of power on November 17," the ministry said.

Visibility drops in parts of Delhi as pollution surges

Monitoring Desk

NEW DELHI: The toxic smog that has enveloped India's capital worsened on Wednesday morning as temperatures dropped and the seasonal winter haze set in, reducing visibility in some areas and possibly affecting flights.

Delhi overtook Pakistan's Lahore as the world's most polluted city in Swiss group IQAir's live rankings, with an air quality index (AQI) score of more than 1,000. The group classifies readings above 301 as "hazardous".

The Indian capital battles severe pollution every winter as cold, heavy air traps dust and emissions.

Bangladesh leader slams rich nations for burning up the planet at UN climate talks

Monitoring Desk

BAKU: Bangladesh's interim leader Muhammad Yunus said Wednesday that world leaders shouldn't be negotiating at United Nations climate talks this year, and countries responsible for warming up the planet should instead just simply provide the funds to deal with the climate crisis.

"Why should there be a negotiation? You are causing the problem, then you solve it," he told The Associated Press in an interview in Baku, Azerbaijan. "We will raise our voice and tell them it's your fault, like what we did with colonialism."

Yunus was chosen to head Bangladesh's interim government after the nation's longtime prime minister Sheikh Hasina resigned and fled abroad. Her resignation followed intense political turmoil earlier this year, with weeks of protests and clashes with security forces that killed nearly 300 people. Known as the "banker to the poorest of the poor," Yunus was a longtime critic of Hasina.

Toxic smog smothering India's capital smashes WHO limit

Monitoring Desk

NEW DELHI: Residents of India's capital New Delhi choked in a blanket of toxic smog Wednesday as worsening air pollution surged past 50 times the World Health Organisation's recommended daily maximum.

Many in the city cannot afford air filters, nor do they have homes they can effectively seal from the misery of foul-smelling air blamed for thousands of premature deaths.

At dawn on Wednesday, "hazardous" pollutant levels in parts of the sprawling urban area of more than 30 million people topped 806 micrograms per cubic metre, according to monitoring firm IQAir.

That is more than 53 times the WHO-recommended daily maximum of fine particulate matter — dangerous cancer-causing microparticles known as PM2.5 pollutants that enter the bloodstream through the lungs.

By midday, when air usually is at its best, it eased to about 25-35 times above danger levels, depending on different districts.

As Somaliland votes, its leaders see international recognition in reach

Monitoring Desk

SOMALILAND: Voters in Somaliland flocked to the polls on Wednesday to choose a president at a time when the breakaway Somali region sees international recognition within reach after three decades of de facto self-rule.

Somaliland, which occupies a strategic location at the juncture of the Indian Ocean and Red Sea, declared independence from the Mogadishu government in 1991.

It has not been recognised by any country, restricting access to international finance and the ability of its six million people to travel.

Church of England faces pressure over abuse scandal after Archbishop quits

Monitoring Desk

LONDON: The Church of England faced pressure on Wednesday to ensure people are held to account for systematically covering up allegations of abuse, one day after the Archbishop of Canterbury resigned over a church abuse scandal. Justin Welby quit on Tuesday as spiritual leader of the global Anglican Church, saying he had failed to ensure a proper investigation into allegations of abuse by a volunteer at Christian summer camps decades ago.



Firefighters clean a drainage system blocked by mud following catastrophic flooding, as Spain braces for torrential rain in Paiporta, Valencia.

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

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

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

He said that the Chinese President Xi Jinping and the leaders of Pakistan have led the development of bilateral relations, set the positioning of China-Paki-

stan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, and carried forward the construction of the CPEC from basic layout to a new stage of building an 'upgraded version'.

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

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

He added both countries are members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the 'Global South'. "We are ready to strengthen unity and cooperation with Pakistan, usher in a new era of

joint self-reliance in the 'Global South', to respond to the unprecedented changes in a century for a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization." The ambassador said that Pakistan has successfully hosted meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) of the SCO Member States. He added, Chinese Premier Li Qiang personally led a delegation to attend the meeting and officially visited Pakistan. "It reflects China's firm support for Pakistan and also highlights the huge potential for both parties to strengthen cooperation."

Jiang Zaidong said that in July this year, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed at the SCO Astana Summit to build a common home of unity and mutual trust, peace and tranquility, prosperity and development, good neighborhood and friendship, fairness and justice.



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

451 out of 1021 registered complaints at complaint cell redressed: Chief Minister directs authorities to resolve issues of general public by redressing grievances

Mir Sarfraz Bugti warns action would be taken against departments showing irresponsibility on not attending public complaints

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has directed the concerned authorities to resolve the issues of general public by redressing their grievances.

He warned that action would be taken against those departments showing irresponsibility on not attending the public complaints.

The Chief Minister was chairing a meeting in the CM's complaint cell here on Wednesday. He reviewed the public complaints registered at the CM's complaint cell besides progress made for

their redressal.

He also reviewed different areas of Quetta on the video link and got verified the complaints redressed through the complaint cell.

The Chief Minister on the occasion also got him acquainted about the progress of redressal of the grievances by directing contacting the citizens over telephone. He also issued directives to the complaint cell to resolve certain complaints.

Meanwhile, the concerned officers of CM complaint cell briefed the Chief Minister about overall functioning of the cell.

It was informed that a total of 1021 complaints were registered in the CM's complaint cell established in the CM's secretariat. While 451 complaints were addressed, 88 were found unsubstantiated. Similarly, action is being taken on 482 complaints.

People of Palestine consider Pak their second home: Envoy

ISLAMABAD (Online): JI Amir Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman has met Palestinian ambassador in Islamabad.

He welcomed newly appointed ambassador of Palestine in Islamabad.

Ji Amir said we stand shoulder to shoulder with people of Palestine in their struggle for independence of Palestine.

Our Palestine policy is what was of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and was announced by Indian Muslims while presenting resolution of Pakistan in 1940.

The independence of Baitul Maqdas is part of faith of every Muslim, he added.

Palestinian ambassador paid tribute to efforts by people of Pakistan and JI for Palestine cause saying people of Palestine consider Pakistan their second home.

PTA blocks blasphemous, porn websites

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has blocked websites spreading blasphemous and porn material.

According to PTA spokesperson PTA is taking different steps to block blasphemous and immoral material. PTA has blocked 100183 blasphemous URL and 844008 obscene websites so far.

PTA is launching stern action against the websites spreading blasphemous and immoral material. PTA is too blocking such websites about which information is received from citizens and government organizations.

It is noted with sorrow attempts are made to seek access to 20 million obscene websites daily from across the country which are blocked on international gateway.

People use VPNs to seek access to these blocked websites on international gateway.

CTD eliminates three terrorists in Malakand

PESHAWAR (APP): In a joint operation of Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Mardan and Malakand, three terrorists were eliminated.

In Palai area of Malakand district, CTD Spokesman informed on Wednesday.

The action taken on intelligence-based information in Shahkot Khugdar area of Palai in the vicinity of Baizai police station in Malakand district.

During the action, the CTD officials conducted a raid on the hideout of terrorists in Palai where an encounter took place between the terrorists and police.

During crossfire the CTD police shot dead all the three terrorists, identified as Zikriya, Abdullah and Rizwan.

PM reiterates resolve to ensure safety of Chinese nationals

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

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

Highlighting the steps taken by the government for the security of the Chinese nationals in Pakistan,

he said that the government of Pakistan was taking all possible steps to ensure the security of Chinese nationals.

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

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



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

Naqvi seeks global cooperation to combat human trafficking

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

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

The issues of mutual interest, including combating irregular migration and human trafficking were discussed in these meetings. The leaders emphasized the need for joint actions to address these challenges.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dar calls upon developed nations to honour climate finance pledges

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

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

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

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

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

Dar said the meeting was being held to discuss the role of early warning system and the increasing risk posed by rising heat. He said that they stood united in their commitment to safeguard the livelihood, lives, protect communities and ensure that no one was left unprotected from the unpredictable and severe impacts.



QUETTA: Balochistan Education Minister, Raheela Hameed Durrani in a group photo along with participants during the Dissemination Seminar of Grade-VIII Report of 2023-24 held in Quetta.

Satisfied with performance of BEEF, orders right sizing: CM Bugti emphasizes on improving performance of public sector companies to increase revenue of provincial govt.

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has emphasized on improving performance of the public sector companies, which have formed for income generation.

He said that the very objective behind formation of the companies is to increase the revenue of government.

However, performance of the companies made purely for increasing revenue, has not been much satisfactory so far.

Therefore, it is necessary to make their performance more effective by utilizing the professional human resource.

He directed to advertise the posts of new Chief Executive Officers of the companies at the earliest and include such persons in

the boards who may become source of improving performance of the companies with a clear strategy having technical expertise.

The Chief Minister was chairing the meeting held to review performance of the public sector universities here on Wednesday.

Those who were present in the meeting were: Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Secretary Mines and Minerals, Saidal Khan Luni, Secretary Energy, Dawood Khan Bazai, Secretary Industries, Durra Baloch, Chief Executive Officers of the public sector companies, and other concerned high ups.

The Chief Secretary briefed about overall performance of the public sector companies including Balochistan Mineral Resource Limited, Balochistan

Mineral Exploration Limited, Balochistan Energy Company Limited, Balochistan Special Economic Zones Industrial Estates Development and Management Company and Balochistan Education Endowment Fund.

The meeting decided to reform the boards of public sector companies and appoint the Chief Executive Officers from the corporate sector, in order to improve their performance.

The Chief Minister expressed satisfaction over the performance of BEEF and ordered right sizing in it. Addressing the meeting, the Chief Minister said that some companies are formed for the service delivery under the government patronage while some are established for the purpose of profit.

West African nations delegation visits NADRA Headquarters

ISLAMABAD (APP): A high-level 12-member delegation from Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali, and Senegal visited the headquarters of Pakistan's National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) here on Wednesday.

The West African nations delegation is on an official visit to explore Pakistan's models of social protection, focusing on institutions such as the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and NADRA's pioneering data management infrastructure.

During the visit, NADRA officials provided an in-depth briefing on their role as the custodian of Pakistan's national data repository.

Asad asserts Khan's imminent release, vows to continue protest

SWAT (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior leader Asad Qaiser has expressed hope that PTI founder Imran Khan will be released soon, claiming that he cannot be kept in jail for much longer despite court orders. Speaking to a private TV Channel program, Qaiser criticized the current government, which he described as a product of Form 47, and accused it of operating in a manner that disregards the will of the people. Qaiser, who was part of a PTI delegation attempting to meet Khan in jail, revealed that the group had received an order from the Islamabad High Court allowing them to meet the former Prime Minister.



QUETTA: President Supreme Court Bar Association Atta Rauf Advocate meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti.

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

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

The minister said the report provides a detailed analysis of the recent census results and it gives future direction along with the tools needed to solve forthcoming challenges related to the growing population, said a press release issued.

"Pakistan 2025" study launched by UNFPA and Population Council presents challenges and

suggestions related to overpopulation.

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

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



QUETTA: Head of Federal Mohtasib Balochistan Region Tahira Parveen Baloch meeting with Speaker Balochistan Assembly Captain (retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai. Deputy Speaker Ghazala Gola is also present.

ARI Balochistan promotes saffron, broccoli cultivation

QUETTA: The Agriculture Research Institute (ARI) Balochistan recently hosted a seminar to highlight the potential of saffron and broccoli cultivation in the region. The event was graced by the presence of Mr. Ali Akber, the esteemed Secretary of the Agriculture & Cooperatives Department, as the chief guest, Special Secretary Mr. Jahangir Khan Kakar and other distinguished guests from different renowned organizations, Departments and Universities.

Renowned researchers from Agriculture Research, Agriculture Extension, the University of Balochistan, Women's University, and other prominent institutions were also invited. Director General Agriculture Research, Mr. Abdul Raouf Kakar, emphasized the significance of saffron cultivation in the province and its global production. Dr.

Muhammad Shakeel, Director of Special Crops, provided detailed insights into the cultivation techniques, benefits, and medicinal properties of both saffron and broccoli. Following the presentations, participants had the opportunity to visit saffron and broccoli fields. Saffron collection and storage briefed by the concerned Director. Its potential of cultivation in Balochistan Province were also highlighted before the participants. A collaborative research work between ARI and the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) were also visited by the Worthy Secretary Agriculture & Cooperatives and Special Secretary Mr. Jahangir Khan Kakar. The Pistachio, Apple, Fodder, Wheat, Grapes experiments of collaborative work were appreciated by the Worthy Secretary Agriculture.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti enquiring from a citizen about progress on complaint through video link at Complaint Cell.

Gas production from Dera Bugti well begins with 5MMSCFD

QUETTA (INP): The Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) has commenced gas production from a newly drilled well located in Dera Bugti, Balochistan, says in media reports.

This development marks a significant contribution to Pakistan's natural gas output.

According to a letter from OGDCL to the Pakistan Stock Exchange, the Uch-35 well is producing an impressive five million standard cubic feet of gas per day (MMSCFD).

The gas output has been successfully integrated into the Uch Gas Processing Plant, which will aid in streamlining and distrib-

ing the additional gas supply. OGDCL, the country's largest exploration and production company, holds complete ownership of the Dera Bugti well, as confirmed in its letter to the PSX. On Nov 12, Pakistan decided to stop the purchase of imported liquefied natural gas (LNG) and redirect it to domestic consumers, following a reduction in electricity consumption.

According to documents from the Ministry of Petroleum, providing LNG to domestic consumers will require an investment of Rs163 billion. Sources said that the imported LNG is increasing pressure on pipelines on a daily basis.



QUETTA: Participants are enlightened candles to pay homage in the memory of Baloch Martyrs on the occasion of Baloch Martyrs Day organized by Voice for Baloch Missing Persons, in Quetta.