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Govt to establish Anti-Riots Force to combat violence: PM

"These so-called revolutionaries are making sinister attempts to destroy the country and spread chaos," says Shahbaz Sharif

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said that the government will establish an Anti-Riots Force in Islamabad and across the country to combat future attempts to create violence and unrest in the country. This force will be equipped with professional training and necessary equipment, on the lines of international standards. Legal actions will be taken against those who damage public and private property, along with armed individuals, the prime minister said. Chairing a meeting to review law and order situation in the country, the

prime minister instructed that a comprehensive strategy be developed to prevent any future attempts to march towards Islamabad or any other city for personal or political gains. He emphasized that those who attempted to bankrupt the country to save their government were brought to justice. The prime minister was briefed on the recent protests across the country, where demonstrators targeted government property and attacked Rangers and police personnel. The government, he said demonstrated restraint by preventing armed individuals from spreading chaos under the guise of peaceful protests. The prime minister said, "Instead of following legal procedures, repeated efforts were made to create chaos by mobilizing forces towards Islamabad, attempting to spread unrest across the country." He said during the mobilization of these disruptive elements, several security forces' personnel were injured and martyred. "How can these individuals claim to be revolutionary when they are attempting to destroy the nation and create chaos?" the prime minister questioned. He directed that immediate legal action be taken against the elements in-

involved in the violent mob that marched towards Islamabad. The prime minister also emphasized the need for further improvements in the prosecution system. "Once the disruptive group dispersed, the stock exchange crossed the 100,000 points mark," the prime minister pointed out. "The country suffered billions in losses due to these attempts to spread disorder."



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding law and order situation.

Dharna committee ends 10-day long dharna at Unity Chowk CM reiterates Govt.'s resolve for safe recovery of kidnapped child

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has assured to the family members of the kidnapped child, Muhammad Musawar Kakar that his government would continue its efforts for his safe recovery.

The Chief Minister said that whole Balochistan is with family of the kidnapped child. He also assured that the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) formed for recovery of the child would keep on updating him about the progress in the case. This assurance was made by the Chief Minister while speaking to the family members of Muhammad Musawar Kakar and participants of dharna committee at the Unity Chowk on Thursday. It may be mentioned here that Chief Minister reached at dharna to meet the family members of the

kidnapped child. The Chief Minister urged them to end their dharna. On standing assurance of the Chief Minister, the dharna was deferred for 10 days. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister said that it feels that the kidnapped child is just his own. He said that he is in contact with the family of kidnapped child from the day first. He said that there happens to be no other option except protest in case of such incidents. He said that every one has right of protest in democracy. However, negotiations are the best solution to the issues, he added. He said that the efforts remain continued if the negotiations would not be successful even. Later, the roads were opened following the visit of Chief Minister to dharna point.

Balochistan Assembly adopts resolution about ban on PTI amidst Opposition's boycott

Resolution demanded of the federal government to ensure immediate ban on the PTI on spreading anarchy and making an attempt to quarrel the security forces with the general public

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Balochistan Assembly has adopted a joint resolution demanding of the federal government to ban the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) immediately. However, the members of Opposition parties staged walk out of the session.

The resolution demanded of the federal government to ensure immediate ban on the PTI on spreading anarchy and making an attempt to quarrel the security forces with the general public. The resolution mentioned that the party, which create chaos and anarchy on May 9, has once again been carrying out violent acts in the country. The resolution denounced the resolution adopted in the KP assembly against the security forces. The resolution said that the KP Assembly's resolution is against the

facts. It also demanded that the resentment prevailing among people because of PTI may be ended.

While the members from treasury benches spoke in favour of the resolution, the members belonging to Opposition parties vehemently opposed it. They also boycotted the session.

Earlier, the newly elected member of provincial assembly from Sibi, Sardarzada Kohyar Khan Domki took oath in the session. The Speaker administered oath to Sardarzada Domki.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti addressing protestors to end 12 day sit-in against kidnapping of Musawar Khan Kakar. Speaker Balochistan Assembly, opposition leader, provincial ministers and MPAs are also present.

PM congratulates nation as PSX hits 100,000 milestone for first time

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday felicitated the entire nation as the 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange hits the milestone of 100,000 points for the first time.

The prime minister, in a statement, said the stock market surge reflected the confidence of the business community and investors in the government's economic policies. Lauding the efforts by the government's economic team for the promotion of investment in the country, he said that he had pledged with the nation to take all-out measures for economic stability and national development.

The prime minister said that the government's sacrifice of its politics to save the country from the default did not go in vain.

"The positive trend (in the stock market) returned with the return of the insurgent group. The enemies of the country's stability are once again attempting to derail the country," Prime Minister Shehbaz remarked.

He said that besides further reduction in inflation, the policy rate has been brought down to 15% and remittances were on an upward trajectory. "We will continue to strive for the country's development. We will not let the enemies of the country's progress and prosperity succeed in their nefarious designs," he resolved.

One soldier martyred, four injured in Turbat attack

Independent Report

QUETTA: A series of seven explosions rocked Apsar Turbat at around 9 a.m. on Thursday, followed by heavy gunfire. According to official sources, the attack targeted a convoy of security forces, leaving one soldier dead and four others injured, including a passerby woman. The martyred soldier has been identified as Shahid Zamzan, while injured personnel include Shams and Amanullah. Civilians injured in the attack were Khan Bibi, wife of Shah Meer, and Faraz, son of Shah Mehr, residents of Apsar. Security forces and law enforcement agencies promptly arrived at the scene, initiating an investigation and a search operation.

4 khwarij terrorists killed including ring leader in IBO in Bagh: ISPR

President, PM pay tribute to security forces for successful operation against terrorists

RAWALPINDI (APP): Security Forces killed four khwarij terrorists including their ring leader Batoor and another three sustained injuries in intelligence based operation (IBO) in general area Bagh Khyber District.

"During the conduct of operation, own troops effectively engaged khwarij location, as a result of which, four khwarij including Kharji ring leader Batoor, were sent to hell, while three Khwarij got injured," said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release. "Sanitization operation is being conducted to eliminate any other Kharji found in the area, as security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe-out the menace of terrorism from the country," it further said.

Meanwhile President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday paid tribute to the personnel and officers of the security forces for conducting successful operation against the terrorists in Bagh area of Khyber district.

In their separate statements, the president and the prime minister appreciated the professional abilities of the security forces for killing four Khawarij and arresting three others.

President Zardari also lauded the role of security forces in eliminating the menace of terrorism from the country. He expressed the nation's resolve to eliminate the terrorism from the country.

PM Shehbaz Sharif expressed the determination to continue war against terrorism till complete elimination of the menace. The entire nation stands shoulder to shoulder with the security forces in eradicating the terrorism in the country, the prime minister added.



Mr. Attaullah Tarar, Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting briefing the representatives of International media along with Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for planning & development in Islamabad.

No direct firing, no fatality during LEAs operation against PTI mob: Tarar

PTI founder not a political prisoner, facing corruption, violence charges: Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Thursday stated categorically that no direct firing was done by the law enforcement agencies during operation to flush out Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf protesters.

The minister said that the federal capital was besieged for the past several days by the miscreants belonging to a political party and this was not the first time they had done so.

Attaullah Tarar said that the PTI activists wanted to disrupt peace in Islamabad.

He said that the Belarusian President and his delegation was present in the red zone when the PTI protesters besieged the capital.

The minister said that the miscreants had modern weapons, tear gas shells, stones and slingshots with them and they were targeting the law enforcement agencies personnel.

He informed the foreign media that Islamabad High Court had ordered that there would be no protest of any kind but they openly violated the court orders.

The miscreants violated the red zone and tried to wreak havoc with the country when the economy was doing well.

"We offered them to protest at Sangiani near the capital where they could protest peacefully but they rejected the offer as peaceful protest was not their intention.

He said two days ago, a footage was released in which professionals in the protesters could be seen firing, using weapons, tear gas shells, pellet guns.

Tarar said that four Rangers and two police personnel were martyred by miscreant attacks. He asked on whose hands the blood of these martyrs could be found.

All resources being mobilized for establishing peace, protection of Pak-Afghan border: IGFC

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Inspector General of Frontier Corps (FC) Balochistan (North), Major General Abid Mazhar has stated that all resources are being mobilized for establishment of peace and protection of the Pak-Afghan border in Chaman.

The IGFC (North) was addressing the tribal jirga held in Chaman on Thursday. The tribal elders as well as the officials of civil administration and FC participated in the tribal jirga. The matters about Pak-Afghan border management, security situation and others were discussed in the tribal jirga.

The tribal elders appreciated the efforts of FC for maintaining law and order and social services in the area. They assured that they are standing with the Pak army and FC for elimination of terrorism and the matters related to the Pak-Afghan border.



QUETTA: A delegation of Rakshan Mekran Border Trade Alliance Balochistan led by Haji Khalil Diyani meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

Majority of federal cabinet members supports to impose governor rule in KP

ISLAMABAD (Online): Majority of federal cabinet has supported to impose governor rule in KP.

According to government sources only one point agenda came under discussion in federal cabinet meeting held under Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif. Law ministry and Attorney General gave their opinion to federal cabinet for imposing governor rule

in KP. They told the cabinet KP itself created justification for imposition of governor rule by mounting federation. Government employees and state machinery were used.

As per sources government has decided to make consultation with PPP, Law ministry and Attorney General gave their opinion to federal cabinet for imposing governor rule

Petrol, diesel prices likely to go up by Rs3 per litre

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) has recommended increasing the prices of petrol and diesel by Rs 3 and Rs 2.87 per litre, respectively.

According to sources well placed in OGRA, if approved, the price of petrol will rise from Rs 248.38 to Rs 251.38 per litre, while high-speed diesel will increase from Rs 255.14 to Rs 258.01 per litre. The sources said that the proposal also includes a minor reduction of Rs 0.11 per litre for kerosene oil and Rs 0.04 per litre for light-speed diesel.

Pakistan and its integrity very dear to us, Mehmood Khan: Chairman PkMAP demands inquiry into alleged killing and disappearances of PTI workers in Islamabad's incident

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chairman Pashtoonkhwaw Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) and Head of Tehreek Tahafuz Aayeen-e-Pakistan, Mehmood Khan Achakzai has stressed that judiciary should take suo moto notice of Islamabad incident demanding probe into the alleged killings of workers of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) during its protest in Islamabad. He also demanded of the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif to get the founder of PTI, Imran Khan release.

He noted with concern that several persons are missing after the Islamabad's incident and stressed that the solution of the same should be found out, as this method



would not work. He also asked the rulers to tender apology to the families of those children, who were killed in Islamabad.

He said that Pakistan and its integrity is very dear to us. We want that the international organizations of human rights should probe into the Islamabad's incident.

He also expressed condolence with the bereaved families of those killed in Islamabad, on behalf of his party and TTAP.

He also said that Pakistan is in crisis while there is a threat to region's peace. Therefore, if this country has to be steered out of crisis, only solution to it lies in supremacy of constitution.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

A hasty retreat

Political immaturity has cost the PTI dearly once again. It appears things may not have come to this had Bushra Bibi, leading her first protest, listened to those around her instead of insisting on leading the crowds to D-Chowk.

As it turned out, the party leadership was forced to beat yet another furtive retreat, which has greatly demoralised its cadres. Their disgruntlement is the price that the party must pay for failing to manage expectations and provisioning adequately for all contingencies when it decided to march on the capital.

It had previously been pointed out that it was a mistake for the PTI to turn its protest in Islamabad into a 'do or die' moment and that this would create difficulties for its own leadership if things did not pan out as expected. Though the party was able to gain much ground over the course of three days, its strength proved brittle once the state unleashed its power in full.

However, the government would be wise not to gloat. Nor should it contemplate extending its campaign of violence against the PTI and its leaders, thinking that it now has the upper hand. Enough is enough. It would be a mistake to underestimate the general discontentment in the public against the state and its repressive policies. Much harm has already been caused to national unity by the authorities' mishandling of this protest march and the violence that surrounded it.

As our history bears witness, beating a major political party into submission can yield fleeting victories, but it causes lasting harm. The ruling parties should be wary that a new normal has been set for how protests may be dealt with in the future. Today, they may be beneficiaries of this new policy; tomorrow, they will likely find themselves in its crosshairs. There is an urgent need for all stakeholders to move towards a political settlement of the crises facing Pakistan. The two sides in this conflict need to realise that their positions are not tenable: repression, censorship, violence and continuous agitation will only continue to bleed the country and weaken it further. Unless they agree to abide by a rules-based order, the space for public participation in the political process will continue to shrink until, eventually, all political parties lose their relevance for the people. The unhealthy obsession with 'crushing' political opponents, which has grown unchecked over the past decade, has led the country down a very dark path. It is unfortunate that democratic transitions were repeatedly sabotaged during this period, as it could have allowed this trend to be arrested and reversed. Now, it seems it is up to a handful of individuals to set things right. The nation remains at their mercy.

Carbon potential

Qurat ul ain Siddiqui

The floods in Pakistan in 2022 highlighted the urgent need for effective climate action. Over 1,700 lives lost and a staggering \$30 billion in damages served as a brutal wake-up call: climate change isn't just coming — it's already here, and Pakistan sits squarely in its crosshairs. This reality hits particularly hard in a country where agricultural prosperity and human survival are intricately linked to climate patterns.

While no policy can reverse Pakistan's immense losses, Islamabad must move forward with solutions to safeguard future generations. The National Carbon Market Policy (NCMP) is a crucial step in our broader strategy to build climate resilience and prevent further disasters. It establishes frameworks for both voluntary and compliance-based carbon trading across the energy, agriculture, waste management, and forestry sectors.

Carbon markets offer a way to balance environmental protection with economic development and transform our forests, agricultural practices, and even waste management into valuable assets. It's like turning environmental responsibilities into economic opportunities while adhering to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. For a developing nation like Pakistan, this represents a crucial pathway to sustainable development that doesn't compromise our economic aspirations.

Also, we're not complete newcomers to this field. Pakistan's earlier experience with the Clean Development Mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol showed us what's possible. Projects in landfill gas recovery, afforestation, and initiatives like the Delta

Blue Carbon Project have demonstrated the opportunity to leverage natural ecosystems for climate solutions. Not only has the Delta Blue Carbon Project helped sequester significant carbon, it has also improved coastal resilience.

Of course, the path ahead will have its challenges. We need to improve our ability to measure and verify carbon reductions; for that, our institutions and infrastructure require strengthening. Moreover, a limited understanding of carbon markets among stakeholders continues to hinder adequate participation, while volatile carbon prices add to market uncertainties — challenges the NCMP is now expected to address.

Several countries provide instructive examples for Pakistan's carbon market development. Kenya's Agricultural Carbon Project demonstrates effective integration of sustainable farming practices with carbon credit generation, creating a viable model for rural development. Similarly, Vietnam's implementation of the REDD+ strategy has channelled international funding into large-scale forestry projects, leading to measurable reductions in deforestation and improved carbon stock management.

These cases offer valuable insights into overcoming implementation challenges and illustrate the potential benefits of well-structured carbon market mechanisms. Pakistan's climate goals are ambitious: a 50 per cent emissions reduction by 2030, with 15pc from domestic efforts and 35pc reliant on international support. This includes sourcing 60pc of power from renewables and having 30pc of new vehicles to be electric. Achieving this is challenging, but carbon markets could provide crucial funding and expertise.

Carbon markets offer multiple developmental co-benefits beyond emissions reduction. Forest protection initiatives, while generating carbon credits, also create employment, enhance biodiversity, and strengthen natural defences against climate impacts. Similarly, improved waste management systems reduce methane emissions while advancing urban sanitation and public health objectives. These benefits are vital for Pakistan's multifaceted development challenges.

Pakistan's potential for carbon-on sequestration projects is substantial. With strategic planning, initiatives like afforestation and improved land-use practices can yield verifiable carbon credits, enabling monetisation while supporting environmental goals. The country's diverse geography, from coastal mangroves to mountain forests, presents ample opportunities to attract international investment in these projects.

Getting this right won't be easy. It will require well-defined rules and effective monitoring systems. To get there, addressing institutional and technical barriers directly will be essential, with transparency and accountability required to build trust with international partners and ensure the credibility of our carbon credits.

Ultimately, carbon markets are far from a silver bullet without targeted development of renewable energy infrastructure, electrification of transportation, and moving towards sustainable fuels. For Pakistan, this moment calls for a careful balance between environmental and economic priorities, as pressures mount on both fronts. — Courtesy Dawn

Upward mobility

F.S. Aijazuddin

The main title is misleading: Dear Mr Jinnah. It implies a familiarity between the book's author Salman Faruqi and the Quaid. In fact, Faruqi was only eight years old in 1947, when he and his family migrated from Patiala state to settle in Sukkur and then in Karachi. He had a forceful academic career and as a student leader in Hyderabad, he interacted with H.S. Suhrawardy and Z.A. Bhutto (then a minister in Ayub Khan's cabinet).

Faruqi sat for the CSS exam in 1961 and after an initial hiccup (he was too outspoken during his viva voce interview, preferring democracy to dictatorship), he was offered the 'lesser' Pakistan Customs & Excise Service. He joined it in 1964, then spent his career in sight of those in power — from Ayub Khan's time until Asif Ali Zardari.

One is reminded of the Teflon durability of another public figure — the Russian Ana-stas Mikoyan. He remained a member of the Communist Party's Central Committee, surviving at that height for 53 years (from 1923 to 1976). Mikoyan served Lenin, Stalin, Khrushchev and Brezhnev. A contemporary wit suggested once that if one wanted to know who ruled in the Kremlin, look on either side of Mikoyan.

Like Mikoyan, Faruqi learned early the principle of survival: "to be politically correct and reticent in his opinions". He realised that "for a bureaucrat in Pakistan aspiring to reach the top, the best strategy is often not to take risks and/or decisions but to be circumspect in voicing opinions and seeking safe jobs".

Faruqi's career became one of upward mobility. His 377-page narrative covers the years he spent in Sindh with GM. Jatoi and later in Islamabad under M.K.

Junejo, Ziaul Haq, Benazir Bhutto, Moeen Qureshi, Nawaz Sharif, and Zardari.

Gen Zia gave the young Faruqi a sensitive assignment. He wanted Faruqi to head a specialised unit to handle 'differently abled' children. (Zia had a challenged daughter.) Three colonels with such special children were assigned to help him.

Benazir Bhutto as prime minister quickly recognised Faruqi's ability to deliver. She asked him to visit London to learn how the British prime minister Margaret Thatcher organised her office at 10 Downing Street. Despite the well-oiled infrastructure available in Whitehall, Mrs Thatcher said that "at No.10, I have no junior ministers. There is just Dennis and I".

Such knowledge helped him handle the Bhutto-Zardari couple and also navigate the Bhutto-Ghulam Ishaq Khan-Farooq Leghari-Nawaz Sharif whirlpools.

During his fluid career in the ministries of communications, commerce, food & agriculture, water & power, and the Planning Commission, decisions taken during his stewardship have had continuing consequences. As Agatha Christie once wrote: "Old sins have long shadows."

For instance, in communications, creation of PTCL and initiation of Gwadar port; in commerce, the Yellow Cab and Yellow Tractor schemes (Faruqi was not amused when his wife was offered a yellow BMW); in food & agriculture, locust control; in water & power, the unbundling of Wapda into 10 Discos, the opening of power generation to the IPPs, and the creation of a top-heavy Nepra.

The closing years of his career saw him as Musharraf's ambassador-at-large and deputy-chairman of the Planning Commission, and later

Zardari's personal secretary general.

In 1999, Faruqi reached the age of superannuation and reverted to unprotected mortality. He was forced to "run to several government offices to resolve his pension and medical reimbursement issues". Appeals for help went unanswered. He learned, as an ordinary citizen, how life could be "a slow and unending descent into the he-art of darkness".

His closeness to Zardari rescued him from that painful oblivion. He was appointed federal ombudsman in 2012. A mountain of 75,000 unresolved cases confronted him. The Supreme Court might envy the speed of his disposal of 324,000 cases in three years. He left the ombudsmanship in 2017. He quit Islamabad to settle in a mode-st 300-square yard house in Clifton, Karachi.

Faruqi's book closes with a letter beginning "Dear Mr Jinnah". It is his version of Milton's Paradise Lost. It bemoans the present state of governance conducted from "the edge of the precipice", with "irrational and enduring incompetence".

Faruqi tells Jinnah that his paradise can be regained, our country "made perfect by diligence, hard work, and sound and just moral values".

Understandably, the book avoids mentioning friction between NAB and the two Faruqi brothers Salman and Usman (once chairman Pakistan Steel Mills). Nor does it allude to rumours about the much envied adhesion of the Faruqi family to power.

Now in the evening of his life, Faruqi might recognise his recollections in this early verse by the late Khaled Ahmed: "I saw through the filigree of poised self, my crumbling sunsets." — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

PSX makes history as index crosses 100,000 milestone

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) made history on Thursday by closing all time high at 100,082.77 points as compared to 99,269.25 points on the previous day, with gain of 813.52 more points, a positive change of 0.82 percent.

A total of 1,164,794,139 shares were traded during the day as compared to 1,057,104,968 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 39.776 billion against Rs 39.556 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 452 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 290 of them recorded gains and 118 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 44 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were Bank of Punjab with 179,225,089 shares at Rs 8.85 per share, K-Electric with 64,868,271 shares at Rs 5.40 per share and Bank Makramah with 64,868,271 shares at Rs 2.73 per share.

Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 126.71 per share price, closing at Rs 19,494.84, whereas the runner-up was Service Industries Limited with Rs 51.21 rise in its per share price to Rs 1,226.69.

Rafhan Maize Products Company Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 110.75 per share closing at Rs 7m878.00 followed by PIA Holding Company LimitedB with Rs 21.70 decline to close at Rs 880.58.

Meanwhile, Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori

on Thursday congratulated the nation, government, military leadership and the business community on the Pakistan Stock Exchange crossing the highest level of benchmark of KSE-100 Index to over 100,000 points for the first time in the history of the Stock market. Governor Sindh also visited the Pakistan Stock Exchange and extended greetings to business leaders over this unprecedented achievement.

Speaking to media at PSX, Governor Kamran Tessori said, "The credit for the high trading volume in the stock market goes to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of the Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir because the Army Chief is keen to strengthen the country's economy while securing the country's borders."

Pakistan's total liquid foreign reserves surge to \$ 16 billion

KARACHI (APP): The total liquid foreign reserves of Pakistan increased to US\$ 16,076.2 million as of November 22, 2024 while the SBP reserves kept surging steadily to \$ 11,418.5 million.

The State Bank of Pakistan, informed in a statement issued here on Thursday, that total liquid foreign exchange reserves held by the central bank increased by \$ 131 million to \$ 11,418.5 million during the week ended on 22-Nov-2024.

Meanwhile, net foreign reserves held by commercial banks were recorded as \$ 4,657.7 million, it added.

Total liquid foreign reserves held by the country, in the previous week ended on November 15, 2024, were \$ 15,967.7 million. Among them foreign reserves held by the central bank were recorded as \$ 11,288 million while commercial banks held net reserves of \$ 4,679.7 million.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, listens to the concerns of the Pakistan Carpet Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PCMEA) delegation, led by Abdul Latif Malik, as they seek tariff and duty exemptions to support the struggling carpet industry.

Finance Minister lauds SECP efforts for promoting EODB

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, on Thursday appreciated the Security and Exchange Commission of Pakistan's (SECP) efforts for promoting ease of doing business (EODB) in Pakistan.

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, visited SECP, Head Office in Islamabad, said a press release issued here.

During the visit, he was briefed by the Chairman SECP, Akif Saeed, and the management team on upcoming initiatives, key reforms, and achievements to date.

The minister was briefed by the Chairman SECP on efforts towards ease of doing business in Pakistan and reaping the benefits of advancement in technology through regulatory reforms, digitalization of services, and access to finance, said

a press release issued here on Thursday.

He was also briefed on areas related to market development and innovation, such as regulatory sandbox and efforts to promote startups. The minister expressed keen interest in SECP's initiatives towards sustainability reporting and investor education and protection and expressed satisfaction with the SECP initiative to launch the ESG Sustain Portal.

Uzbekistan-Pak direct flight to resume on Nov 29: Ambassador

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan Alisher Tukhtayev on Thursday said that direct flights between Uzbekistan and Pakistan would resume on November 29 (tomorrow) for enhancing regional integration.

This flight, connecting the cities of Tashkent and Lahore, aims to further strengthen bilateral cooperation between the two countries, take trade and economic relations to a

new level, and facilitate tourists. Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, Alisher Tukhtayev, told APP here. The ambassador said that this remarkable achievement would not have been possible without the personal initiative and unwavering support of Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

He said, "Because of the leadership and strategic vision of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, since September of this year,

Rupee sheds 08 piasa against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Thursday depreciated by 08 piasa against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.04 against the previous day's closing of Rs 277.96. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 277.60 and Rs 279.10 respectively.

The price of Euro increased by 84 piasa to close at Rs 292.82 against the last day's closing of Rs 291.98.

Governor Kundi says: Efforts of Overseas Business Forum UK to promote Pak products commendable

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday lauded the efforts of Overseas Business Forum UK to promote Pakistani products and businesses in foreign countries.

A delegation led by Forum Chairman Muhammad Farooq Khan included former Vice President of the Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry KP Anila Khalid, as well as OBF members Faisal Saboori, Samina Ahmad, Farooq Jan, and others. During the meeting, discussions focused on the forum's efforts to promote Pakistani products and businesses in the UK and other countries.

"Exports from KP are lower compared to Punjab and Sindh, limiting the province's business opportunities on a global scale," the delegation highlighted.

Global agri-tech company devotes to optimize China, Pak agriculture coop model

BEIJING (APP): Plump rice grains, full-bodied peppers, fragrant sesame... an endless stream of visitors were full of praise for the dazzling array of agricultural products at the ongoing 2024 China International Supply Chain Expo (CISCE). "From high-quality seeds, premium agricultural inputs to the Agriculture Value Chain (AVC) comprehensive business, Syngenta Group is committed to building a win-win framework between China and Pakistan, not only helping local farmers open up new sales channels as well as increase their income, but also enriching Chinese consumers' dining tables, and making China's oilseed and cash crop import sources more diverse," a staff at Syngenta Group

China, told China Economic Net.

"By supplying inputs and production services to growers, bartering with entities in core producing areas in exchange for key agricultural products, while linking China's agricultural product market demand and opening up the global upstream and downstream chains, the AVC model has brought practical benefits to farmers in Pakistan."

Sesame cultivation in Pakistan has tripled in the past five years. As most Pakistan sesame is for export, with more than 1/3 goes to China, AVC aims to link the quality sesame from Pakistani growers served by Syngenta with international value chain partners especially in China.

CM orders outsourcing of solid waste management services across Punjab

LAHORE (APP): Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif approved in principle outsourcing plan of Solid Waste Management Services in every tehsil of Punjab.

Suthra Punjab App will also be launched for the facilitation of people. The CM will formally launch door-to-door waste collection campaign from 3rd December across Punjab.

She presided over a special meeting to review progress being made on "Zero Waste Mission" Suthra Punjab Programme.

It was apprised during the meeting that outsourcing of Solid Waste Management Services has been completed in 103 tehsils of Punjab while

outsourcing process is ongoing expeditiously in additional 33 tehsils.

It was apprised during the meeting that trackers will be installed on the vehicles deputed to monitor cleanliness. Monitoring system will be established at the provincial, district and tehsil level. A six-member monitoring committee will be constituted under the leadership of Assistant Commissioners in every tehsil.

It was informed during the meeting that more than one lakh people will be provided employment owing to outsourcing of Solid Waste Management Services. Additional 87,000 employments will be generated due to

outsourcing of Solid Waste Management Services. More than 21 thousand cleaning machinery and 83,000 cleaning equipment will be provided. Door-to-door waste collection will be carried out from 15 lakh houses of Lahore due to outsourcing of Solid Waste Management.

It was further apprised in the meeting that cleanliness will be ensured in 500 markets and 400 villages of Lahore. 540 workers will be hired to ensure cleanliness measures in Lahore. 10 loader rickshaws will be distributed in every union council of Lahore.

The Chief Minister directed to maintain equal cleanliness quality measures in every street and town. She asserted.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan addressing the distribution ceremony of rickshaws at Governor House organized by Lahore Presbytery Church and Vice President of People's Party Minority Wing Central Punjab, Advin Sahutra.

Punjab Governor says: PPP always protected the rights of minorities

Distributes rickshaws to the deserving people of the Christian community

Independent Report Punjab, Syed Shahid Shiraazi and members of the Punjab Christian community. Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that the Pakistan Peoples' Party has always protected the rights of minorities. He said that 100 rickshaws have been given to the deserving people of the Christian community. He said that these rickshaws will enable them to earn a living. Governor Punjab said that the doors of the Governor House are always open for the Christian Community.



FAISALABAD: Group photo of supporters with newly elected Secretary Sheikh Asghar.

New sanitation model to develop beautiful face of Punjab: Minister

LAHORE (APP): Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafiq has said that with the launch of the new sanitation system, a beautiful face of Punjab will be developed to help improve quality of life. In the first phase, the best sanitation services will be provided to 80.6 million population of the province, he added.

He was addressing a video link meeting of CEOs of waste management companies at the Civil Secretariat here on Thursday.

Secretary Local Government Shakeel Ahmed Mian, Special Secretary Asia Gul and CEO LWMC Babar Sahib Din were also present. During the meeting, the outsourcing of solid waste management and the future strategy under "Suthra Punjab" programme of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz were reviewed. Minister Zeeshan Rafiq said that the selection of contractors in 103 tehsils had been completed in the first phase.

"All preparations under the management of Lahore, Gujranwala, Sialkot, Multan, Bahawalpur, DG Khan and Faisalabad Waste Management Companies have been completed.



HYDERABAD: Players of winning team are in a group photo during the Iqbal Day Sports Festival held at Public School in Hyderabad.

Minister discusses issues faced by religious minorities

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Minorities Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora chaired a consultative meeting with religious minority members of the Punjab Assembly at his camp office.

The meeting focused on addressing the issues faced by religious minority communities in the province and discussed possible solutions.

The meeting was attended by Members of the Provincial Assembly (MPAs) Ejaz Alam Augustine, Emmanuel Athar, Baba Febous Christopher, Shakeela Arthur, Parliamentary Secretary Sonia Asher, Secretary of Human Rights & Minority Affairs Ali Bahadur Qazi, and other relevant officials.

Tube-wells to be solarized in Tank's city: DC

TANK (APP): Deputy Commissioner Tanvir Khan said that all tube-wells in the city would be solarized to provide clean drinking water to residents smoothly.

He expressed these views while addressing Kuli Katcher (open-court) held at his office to resolve problems of people at their doorstep.

He said that new tube wells would also be installed to improve access to clean drinking water for the city's residents.

He said the forum was being held so that the citizens had the opportunity to voice their concerns directly to the administration.

The participants raised several issues relating to NADRA (National Database and Registration Authority), Sui Gas supply, passport services, and water availability.

The DC assured the public of prompt action to resolve these pressing issues.

Muqam calls on Kundi to discuss law and order situation in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Federal Minister for SAFRON, Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir Affairs, Engineer Amir Muqam, met with the Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, at the Governor House on Thursday and discussed various issues of the province including political, economic and law and order. The meeting focused on the worsening law and order situation in the province and the growing concerns regarding provincial rights with the federal government.

During the meeting, the two leaders engaged in in-depth discussions about the escalating security challenges in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where incidents of terrorism and militancy have been on the rise.

Engineer Muqam and Governor Kundi also deliberated on the province's demands for greater autonomy in managing its resources and ensuring equitable development. There were calls for the federal government to take more decisive action to address

Police teams intensify crackdown on criminal elements

LAHORE (APP): In line with Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's "Safe Punjab vision", police teams continue their strict crackdown on criminal elements. Under the supervision of Inspector General of Police Punjab, Dr. Usman Anwar, police teams across all districts of the province, including Lahore, are carrying out operations against dangerous criminals without any discrimination. As part of this ongoing

crackdown, Punjab Police have arrested over 217,000 criminals wanted in various criminal activities. Spokesperson for Punjab Police said that, this year, a total of 123,647 proclaimed offenders have been arrested across the province, including 22,396 of category 'A' and 101,251 of category 'B'. Additionally, 61,238 court absconders were apprehended, with 5,954 from category 'A' and 55,284 from category 'B'.

Two killed, 14 injured as bus overturned in Sargodha

SARGODHA (APP): A tragic bus accident occurred in Sargodha on Wednesday, resulting in the deaths of at least two people on the spot while other 14 critical injured. According to details, the incident took place on Faisalabad Road in the Mitha Masoom area of Sargodha when a bus traveling from Faisalabad to Bannu overturned due to excessive speeding, killing two people on the spot and injuring 14 others, a private news channel reported.

International News

Israel steps up bombing of central Gaza, strikes kill 21 people

Monitoring Desk CAIRO: Israeli military strikes killed at least 21 Palestinians across the Gaza Strip on Thursday, medics said, as forces stepped up their bombardment of central areas and tanks pushed deeper into the north and south of the enclave.

The escalation came a day after Israel and Iran-backed Hezbollah began a ceasefire in Lebanon, halting more than a year of hostilities and raising hopes among many Palestinians in Gaza for a similar deal with Hamas, which rules the enclave.

Israel's military campaign - with the avowed intent of eradicating Hamas militants after the group's deadly raid on southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023 - has laid waste to the enclave of 2.3 million people.

"I hope a ceasefire will happen like it did in Lebanon... I just want to take my children to see my land, my house, to see what they did to us, I want to live in safety," said Amal Abu Hmeid, a displaced woman in Gaza.

"God willing we will have a truce," she said, sitting in the courtyard of a school sheltering displaced families in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip.

The courtyard was filled with dirt and water streamed in from where people did their laundry. Clothes were airing outside classrooms as children played nearby.

"(Life) was beautiful (before the war)... Now there is nothing beautiful, it's all gone. Our houses are gone, our brothers are gone, and no one is left. Now we hardly get... one meal a day. We can't even get bread," Abu Hmeid told Reuters.

Announcing the Lebanon accord on Tuesday, U.S. President Joe Biden said he would now renew his push for a ceasefire agreement in Gaza, urging Israel and Hamas to seize the moment. Months of efforts to negotiate a ceasefire have yielded scant progress, and negotiations are now on hold.

The ceasefire in the parallel conflict between Israel and Hezbollah, an ally of Hamas, took effect before dawn on Wednesday, bringing a halt to hostilities that had escalated sharply in recent months and overshadowed the conflict in Gaza.

In Nuseirat, one of Gaza's eight historic refugee camps, Israeli planes carried out several airstrikes, destroying a multi-storey building and hitting roads outside mosques.



A man waves a Lebanese flag as he stands amidst the rubble of a building destroyed in Israeli strikes in Tyre, Lebanon.

Putin says Ukrainian infrastructure attack was revenge for Kyiv's strikes

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday that a massive Russian overnight attack on Ukrainian infrastructure was a response to Kyiv's attacks on Russian regions using longer-range Western missiles.

Ukrainian officials said that Russia had unleashed its second big attack on Ukraine's energy infrastructure this month on Thursday, cutting power to more than 1 million people in the west, south, and centre of the country.

Speaking in Astana, Kazakhstan, Putin told members of a security alliance made up of ex-Soviet states:

"Tonight we conducted a comprehensive strike using 90 missiles of similar classes and 100 drones. Seventeen targets were hit.

"These are military facilities, defence industry facilities and their support systems. Let me repeat once again: these strikes on our part also took place in response to the ongoing strikes (by Ukraine) on Russian territory with American ATACMS missiles. As I have already said many times, there will always be a response from our side."

Ahead of Taiwan president's Hawaii trip, China says it will defeat secessionism

Monitoring Desk BEIJING/TAIPEI: China's military on Thursday vowed to defeat all attempts at secessionism and urged the United States not to send the wrong signals on Taiwan independence, ahead of a trip by Taiwan's President Lai Ching-te to Hawaii as part of a Pacific tour. China claims democratically governed Taiwan as its own territory and says Lai is a "separatist". Lai says only Taiwan's people can decide their future and has repeatedly offered talks with Beijing that have been rebuffed.

China is likely to launch military drills in the coming days near Taiwan, using Lai's upcoming trip to the Pacific and scheduled stopovers in the United States as a pretext, according to assessments by Taiwan and regional security officials.

Asked at a monthly news briefing in Beijing

about Lai's visit to Hawaii and whether there could be a military response from China, Chinese Defence Ministry spokesperson Wu Qian said the United States should refrain from sending any wrong signals to the forces of "Taiwan independence".

"The Chinese People's Liberation Army shoulders the sacred mission of safeguarding national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and will resolutely defeat all secessionist attempts for 'Taiwan independence' and thwart all interference by external forces," he added.

Earlier on Thursday, Taiwan's air force command said that for a two-hour period starting from 5 a.m. (2100 GMT Wednesday) aircraft, ships and missile systems had carried out in an "overall air defence battle plan exercise".

Nuclear attack unlikely despite Putin's warnings, US intelligence says

Monitoring Desk NEW YORK: The US decision to allow Ukraine to fire American weapons deeper into Russia has not increased the risk of a nuclear attack, which is unlikely, despite Russian President Vladimir Putin's increasingly belligerent statements, five sources familiar with US intelligence told Reuters.

But Russia is likely to expand a campaign of sabotage against European targets to increase pressure on the West over its support for Kyiv, said two senior officials, a lawmaker and two congressional aides briefed on the matter.

A series of intelligence assessments over the past seven months have concluded nuclear escalation was unlikely to result from a decision to loosen restrictions on Ukraine's use of US weapons. That view has not changed following President Joe Biden's changed US stance this month on weapons, said the sources, who were granted anonymity to speak freely about sensitive intelligence.

Biden administration advancing US\$680 million arms sale to Israel, source says

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: The Biden administration is pushing ahead with a US\$680 million arms sales package to Israel, a US official familiar with the plan said on Wednesday (Nov 27), even as a US-brokered ceasefire in Lebanon ended between Israel and Lebanese armed group Hezbollah has come into effect.

The package, which was first reported by the Financial Times, includes thousands of joint direct attack munition kits (JDAMs) and hundreds of small-diameter bombs, according to the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The news comes less than a day after the ceasefire agreement ended the deadliest confrontation in years between Israel and the Iran-backed militant group. However, Israel is still fighting its other arch-foe, the Palestinian militant group Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

The package follows a US\$20 billion sale in August of fighter jets and other military equipment to Israel.

Reuters reported in June that Washington,

Israel's biggest ally and weapons supplier, has sent Israel more than 10,000 highly destructive 2,000-pound bombs and thousands of Hellfire missiles since the start of the Gaza war in October 2023.

In remarks late on Tuesday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu listed the need to replenish weapons stocks as one of the reasons for the ceasefire. "And I say it openly, it is no secret that there have been big delays in weapons and munitions deliveries. These delays will be resolved soon," he said.

The package has been in the works for several months. It was first brought to the congressional committees in September then submitted for review in October, the US official said.

The conversations about the sale had been going on even as a group of progressive US senators including Bernie Sanders introduced resolutions to block the sale of some US weapons to Israel over concerns about the humanitarian catastrophe faced by Palestinians in Gaza.

Malaysia PM says tens of thousands of people in six states hit by flooding

Monitoring Desk KUALA LUMPUR: More than 37,000 people have been affected by flooding caused by torrential rain in six Malaysian states this week, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said on Thursday. Anwar told parliament 322 temporary shelters had been opened in the states of Kelantan, Terengganu, Kedah, Perlis, Johor and Perak to house those displaced by floods.

The north-eastern state of Kelantan, bordering Thailand, has been the worst hit, with 30,582 people from 9,223 families affected, Anwar said.

Floods are common on the eastern coast of Malaysia during the annual monsoon season from October until March, with thousands of people displaced each year.

The Meteorological Department on Wednesday issued a red alert warning for continuous heavy rain - indicating dangerous levels of downpour - in Kelantan, Pahang and Terengganu states.

Germany offers re-deployment of Patriot air defence units to Poland

Monitoring Desk BERLIN: Germany has offered to re-deploy Patriot air defence systems to NATO ally Poland at the start of the new year, the German defence ministry said on Thursday.

The units could be deployed for up to six months, the ministry said in a statement.

"With this, we will protect a logistical hub in Poland which is of central importance for the delivery of materials to Ukraine," German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius said.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a group photo with the participants of the 26th National Security Workshop.

PM vows to transform country's economic landscape

Says national security directly linked with economic security

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday reiterating the government resolve to transform Pakistan's economic landscape, said that the national security of the country had direct linkages with the economic security. "If we are economically strong, our exports are growing fast, industrial sector is expanding..... then our economic security will automatically strengthen our critical security," the prime minister said while addressing the 26th National Security Workshop of Defence University. Emphasizing the government's commitment to execute a comprehensive "Charter of Economy", the prime minister said that in 2018, he as an opposition leader, also suggested the idea of charter of economy and now "We are fully prepared to execute this idea". The prime minister, stressing the need to privatize all the State Own Entities (SOEs), said, "The government's mandate is only to facilitate the private businesses." "We should completely do away with the businesses to save trillions of rupees," he said adding that all institutions were on same page and he and the Army chief were also fully aligned on this issue. Facilitating the audi-

ence over strong performance of Pakistan Stock Exchange that crossed 100,000 points on Thursday, the prime minister said this was the result of team effort and close coordination among the federal government and various stakeholders. "This is also about business sentiments and we believe that Pakistan is slowly and steadily moving towards right direction." He said the day before yesterday the stock market witnessed a steep fall of around 4000 points due to what happened in Islamabad, however he said as the situation became normal, the market rebounded in next couple of days.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over a review meeting regarding Quetta Development Projects.

Governor Balochistan urges Philanthropists to take responsibility of education of poor students

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has urged the philanthropists to take responsibility of education of the poor students, as by doing so, we can contribute in empowerment of our nation. The Governor was speaking to a delegation of Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS) Zhob campus who called on him here at the Governor House on Thursday. Also present on the occasion was Principal Secretary to Governor, Hashim Khan Ghilzai. The Governor said that the dignity of a real leader lies in the capability of considering every child of the nation. He said that it has always been his endeavour and desire to financially support the students studying in all public sector universities and campuses in the province, and then provide them all necessary facilities and opportunities of development. He said that he thinks that every student deserves access to studies irrespective of one's background or financial situation. Therefore, we request all philanthropists to take responsibility of education of the poor students. The Governor assured the delegation to resolve the issues being faced by the students of BUITEMS Zhob campus.



QUETTA: Speaker Captain (Retd) Abdul Khalik Achakzai administering oath to newly elected MPA Sardarzada Mir Kohyar Khan Domki.

Pak, Russia parliaments signed historic agreement to enhance cooperation

ISLAMABAD (Online): two legislative bodies and establish permanent cooperation mechanisms through parliamentary committees, commissions and parliamentary Friendship groups. In his opening remarks, Mr Sadiq noted that with Mr. Volodin he has long ties of friendship and the Russian delegation he had been in close contacts for more than a decade. He also thanked Mr. Volodin for accepting invitation to visit Pakistan. Speaker Sadiq expressed gratitude to Mr. Volodin for his support to the initiative of Pakistan to convene Speakers' Conference.

Nazar urges teachers to ensure provision of quality education

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Ombudsman Nazir Muhammad Baloch urged the teachers that they should ensure the provision of quality education to the students by bringing all their capabilities to bear. He expressed these views while visiting the College of Agriculture (Baleley), Quetta. He was accompanied by Director Ombudsman Saeed Shahwani and Director Noorul Amin Zehri inspected various departments of the college and reviewed the teaching process. The Provincial Ombudsman was given a detailed briefing by the Principal of the College of Agriculture, Dr. Sardar Waseem Baran regarding the problems being faced by the college. The Provincial Ombudsman also met the academic staff and students of the college and listened to their complaints. On this occasion, he said that the teachers should ensure the provision of quality education to the students by bringing all their capabilities to bear.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers and MPs expressing their views on point of order during Balochistan Assembly session

Calls for urgent ceasefire, end to genocide President condemns Israel's unabated aggression in Palestine

ISLAMABAD (APP): As the world observes International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on Friday, President Asif Ali Zardari strongly condemned the unabated Israel's aggression and reiterated the call for the international community's role for an immediate ceasefire and end to the genocide of Palestinian people. "The global conscience cannot ignore the plight of millions who face unprecedented hardships due to Israeli occupation. We believe that the continued occupation and disregard for international law is the biggest obstacle to achieving peace in the region" the president said in his message on the Day. Urging the international community to act urgently and decisively to end the genocide of the Palestinian people, he reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering support for the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, as well as for the establishment of an independent, viable, and

contiguous State of Palestine, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital, based on the pre-1967 borders. "We stand in solidarity with the resilient people of Palestine in their rightful struggle for freedom, dignity, and justice." The president said the Day was commemorated at a time when the world was witnessing ethnic cleansing, the destruction of infrastructure and residential areas, and the sufferings and displacement of Palestinians in Gaza and other Occupied Palestinian Territories as a result of Israel's ongoing genocidal military campaign. He highlighted that over the past one-year, Israeli actions, in blatant violation of international humanitarian law, had claimed more than 45,000 Palestinian lives, mostly women and children. He said that millions of Palestinians were being deliberately denied life-saving humanitarian assistance by Israel by obstructing the vital work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine.

COAS attends closing ceremony Pak Army clinches Championship Trophy in 44th PARA Central meet



RAWALPINDI (INP): The closing ceremony of 44th Pakistan Army Rifle Association (PARA) Central Meet was held on Thursday at Army Marksmanship Unit (AMU), Jhelum. Federal Rifle Association, Lahore Garrison Shooting Gallery (LGSG) and civilians participated in the competition. COAS and Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, who was the Guest of Honor at the ceremony, awarded trophies and medals to the award winners and runners up in each category. Over 2000 firers from Army, Navy, Air Force, Civil Armed Forces including Rangers (Sindh & Punjab), teams ex Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan,

shah Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, who was the Guest of Honor at the ceremony, awarded trophies and medals to the award winners and runners up in each category. In the Inter Services matches, Pakistan Army won three contests including CJCSC, COAS and CNS matches, while Pakistan Air Force won CAS contest.

Ban on PTI could set dangerous precedent, warns Dr. Malik Baloch

QUETTA (UNA): National Party leader and Balochistan Assembly member Dr. Malik Baloch has opposed the resolution to ban PTI, calling it unconstitutional and a threat to democratic norms. "If PTI is banned today, a resolution to ban PPP could emerge tomorrow," he warned while addressing the assembly. Dr. Baloch highlighted past incidents of political suppression during martial law, where bans were imposed on political parties like Muslim League. "Some members who supported those bans then are now part of PML-N. Similarly, those pushing for PTI's ban today may join PTI tomorrow," he remarked. Reflecting on his party's struggle for autonomy in Balochistan, Dr. Baloch reaffirmed his commitment to democratic principles, urging the opposition leader to condemn the resolution.



PESHAWAR: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFFRON Engr. Amir Muqam addressing a press conference at his residence.

Khosa vows to timely complete ongoing projects

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Minister for Communications and Works (C&W) Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa on Thursday said that provincial government's first priority is to timely complete ongoing projects and to a high standard. He said that the improvement of infrastructure in the province, development and prosperity depend on the better performance of the C&W Department. He expressed these views while presiding over a meeting on the progress of ongoing development projects in the C&W Department, Naseerabad Circle. Secretary for Communications and Works Lal Jan Jafar, Additional Secretary for Communications and Works Ehsanullah Tareen, Chief Engineer Road Sibi Zone, Mir Ahmed Mengal, Technical Adviser Mukhtiar Ahmed Kakar, besides engineers and officers of Naseerabad Division Road and Building and other high officials were also present in the meeting. He said that the Naseerabad Division is the green belt of the province where the economy linked on agriculture and highways would play a key role in timely access to the market for agricultural commodities. On this occasion, Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa said that the need to further improve the performance of the department is that all the technical issues of the sector should be resolved on priority basis so that the obstacles in the completion of development projects are removed. He directed that in order to further improve the performance of the department, it is necessary that all district engineer officers ensure their attendance at their places of deployment and all superintending engineers must visit the ongoing development projects.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf addressing the participants of 7th Maritime Security Workshop (MARSEW-7) during visit to Naval Headquarters.

FS reaffirms Pakistan's unwavering support for Palestinian cause

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch on Thursday reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering support for the Palestinian cause, calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. The foreign secretary was addressing the second meeting of the "Global Alliance for the Implementation of the Two-State Solution" held today in Brussels, Belgium. The first meeting of the Global Alliance was held last year in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, according to a press release issued by the Foreign Office.

CJP reviews pending tax cases situation

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Chief Justice of Pakistan chaired a meeting to address pending tax cases before the Supreme Court. The session was attended by representatives from the tax bar and the legal team of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), Islamabad. Discussions focused on critical issues, procedural modalities, and strategies for the expeditious disposal of tax-related cases. The Chief Justice apprised the participants about the formation of dedicated benches to hear tax cases and stressed the importance of categorizing cases.

Participants of 7th Maritime Security w'shop visit NHQs

ISLAMABAD (APP): The participants of 7th Maritime Security Workshop (MARSEW), led by Commandant Pakistan Navy War College, Rear Admiral Azhar Mahmood, visited Naval Headquarters (NHQs) here Thursday. The workshop participants received a briefing on contemporary maritime challenges and Pakistan Navy's response strategies, including its contributions to maritime awareness and socio-economic development of coastal communities, said a press release issued by Directorate General of Public Relations (Navy).

CM directs to complete ongoing development projects of QDP at the earliest

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has directed to complete the ongoing development projects of Quetta Development Package (QDP) at the earliest. He asserted that no compromise would be made on standard of work on the development projects. The Chief Minister was chairing the review meeting about development projects being executed under the QDP here at CM's secretariat on Thursday. The Provincial Minister for Planning and Development, Mir Zahoar Ahmed Buledi, Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan, Additional Chief Secretary Development, Project Di-

BEEF organizes orientation, PhD facilitation session to guide aspiring scholars

QUETTA (APP): The Balochistan Education Endowment Fund (BEEF) took a significant step towards nurturing Balochistan's intellectual capital by organizing an Orientation and PhD Facilitation Session at BUITEMS University. The event aimed to guide aspiring scholars on securing admissions to prestigious universities worldwide under the Chief Minister's PhD Scholarship Program. The session featured insightful presentations by Muhammad Ahsan Achakzai, Director of BUITEMS Financial Aid Office, and Dr. Kamran Sami, Director of ORIC. They provided a comprehensive overview of the application process, highlighting key strategies to increase the chances of acceptance at top-tier institutions. Professor Dr. Khalid Hafeez, Vice-Chancellor of BUITEMS, and Dr. Abdul Rehman Achakzai, Pro-Vice Chancellor, inspired students to pursue their academic dreams. They emphasized the transformative power of higher education and encouraged students to seize the opportunity to contribute to Balochistan's progress. Muhammad Zakaria Khan Noorzai, CEO of BEEF, elaborated on the scholarship program's objectives, eligibility criteria, and application procedures.

162 teachers appointed on merit in Pishin, says DC

Independent Report QUETTA: The Deputy Commissioner Pishin, Zahid Khan has stated that as many as 162 teachers have been recruited on merit in Pishin district, as per the vision of Chief Minister, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti. While speaking to the media persons in Pishin, Deputy Commissioner said that the merit was set after combining marks of the professional degrees of the candidates. He said that there would be marked improvement in the education sector with recruitments to be made on merit. He said that the restoration of merit has been the vision of Chief Minister Balochistan from the day one. He said that the Chief Minister extended wholehearted cooperation to make recruitments of teachers on the basis of merit. The Deputy Pishin Pishin also said that restoration of merit is the topmost priority despite pressure.

Amir Muqam says

PTI's final protest call at Islamabad miserably failed after people kept distance

PESHAWAR (APP): Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions, Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan Affairs, Engr Amir Muqam on Thursday said that the Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf's leadership final protest call for release of PTI founder at Islamabad was miserably failed and was proved a misscall. Addressing a press conference here, Engr Amir Muqam said that people of KP have kept distance from the protest call due to an irrational demands especially about release of the PTI founder. He said that PTI founder was an accused and would have to face courts that would decide his fate. He said that PTI second demand about revoking of the 26th constitutional amendment was totally an irrational. Engr Amir Muqam said the said amendment was passed by the Parliament that reflected people will. The third demand of PTI to bring its leaders to the Parliament and ousted others was totally childish, he added. Muqam claimed that Pakistan had suffered huge loss due to agitation of PTI that kept life at Islamabad paralyzed for three days. Expressing condolences over the losses and injuries of security personnel during PTI protest, he said the Government and security forces leadership showed maximum restraint that averted bloodshed in the Federal Capital. He said the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were left alone at D Chowk Islamabad by the PTI. Despite using of KP Government machinery, he said that PTI could not bring out even 9000 workers against 9lac claims. He claimed that Afghan refugees were brought after PTI workers rejected the call. He said that even PTI lawmakers disassociated themselves from the protest.