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Martyrs' blood would not go in vain Terrorists would have to account for every drop of blood of martyrs: CM

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti condemned the terrorist attack in the Johar area of Kalat district. In his statement issued on Sunday, he said that the security forces are fighting on the frontline in the war against terrorism and there are anti-national elements behind the deteriorating situation in Balochistan. He said that organized terrorism is being carried out in Balochistan to destabilize Pakistan and foreign hands are involved in terrorism saying that several proofs have been given at international forums regarding conspiracies. "The wave of terrorism in Balochistan is a conspiracy against the state, but such conspiracy will be foiled", he said adding that our security forces are bravely fighting the terrorists to maintain durable peace in the area. Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that the cowardly attack by the terrorists in Kalat is condemnable, we are determined to bring the terrorists to their logical conclusion. Paying tribute to the brave soldiers who were martyred, the CM said that the martyrs' blood would not go in vain, terrorists would have to account for every drop of blood of martyrs. Meanwhile Governor Balochistan, Jaffer Khan Mandokhail, strongly condemned the terrorist attack in the Johar area of Kalat and reiterated the government's resolve to maintain peace and stability in the province. He emphasized that sustainable peace is essential for economic development and political stability. Governor Mandokhail urged law enforcement agencies to ensure the safety of citizens' lives and property. He offered prayers for the martyrs who lost their lives in the attack and extended his condolences and solidarity to their families. He stated, "We will not allow the peace and order of our region to be disrupted under any circumstances. The sacrifices of our brave security personnel will not go in vain." The Governor's remarks reaffirmed the commitment to combating terrorism and ensuring the protection of Balochistan's people against such cowardly acts.



RAWLAPINDI: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti condoling with relatives of Shaheed Major Haseeb. Former Chief Minister Anwaar ul Haq Kakar is also present.

Condemns terrorist attack in Kalat Terrorists will not be allowed to disrupt peace of Balochistan says President Zardari

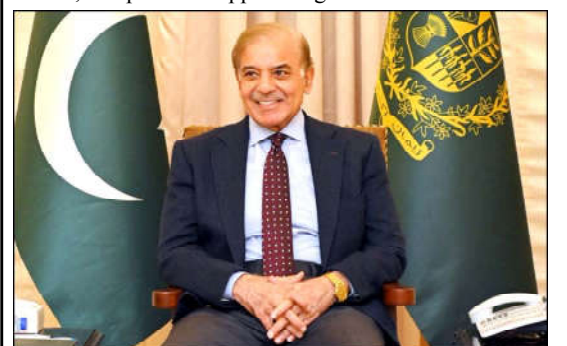
ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari has strongly condemned a terrorist attack on check post in Kalat. The president expressed deep sorrow and grief over the martyrdom of brave soldiers in the terrorist attack. Terrorist elements are enemies of the nation, aiming to sabotage the journey of progress, he said adding that the people of Balochistan reject terrorist elements. The president stressed that the terrorists will not be allowed to disrupt the peace of Balochistan. He also prayed for the swift recovery of the injured in the incident. Offering his heartfelt condolences to the families of the martyrs, the president prayed for their patience and strength. The Prime Minister directed to provide the best medical facilities to the injured. He paid tribute to the security forces for killing six terrorists and arresting four after injuring them during the gun battle. Shehbaz Sharif said the elements spreading chaos and unrest in Balochistan are enemies of the people and the development of the province. He, however, said such nefarious tactics cannot shake the government's resolve for the development and prosperity of Balochistan. The Prime Minister expressed the nation's resolve to foil the nefarious designs of terrorists. He reiterated that the war against terrorism will continue till eradication of this menace from the country. Earlier, the terrorists attempted to attack a security forces' post in general area Shah-e-Mardan of Kalat District. The troops fought gallantly as a result of which six terrorists were sent to hell while four terrorists were injured.

Govt's timely efforts put economy back on track, says Finance Minister

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb says the economy has been showing signs of improvement lately due to the sincere efforts of the incumbent government. Addressing a press conference in the capital on Sunday, the finance minister said inflation had come at the single digit - seven percent - from 38 percent as the PM himself had been spearheading the efforts in this regard. The finance minister said the international financial institutions had shown trust in the country's ability to handle the economic crisis. He mentioned that the IMF staff was also astonished at the success of the Pakistan's economy - which became stable in just 14 months adding the board was well aware of the government's ability to steer the country out of crisis. The minister highlighted the cooperation by the chief ministers of four provinces adding that the government could achieve the best possible outcome by working as a whole. As for the private sector, he said all the segments of society have to come at the forefront to create the best possible opportunities. Lastly, he also mentioned the climate change phenomenon which has been taking a heavy toll on the country.

PM Shehbaz to chair meeting of Apex Committee today

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the Apex Committee on the National Action Plan (NAP) will be held on Monday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The meeting, to be held at the Prime Minister's House, is expected to approve significant decisions aimed at ensuring internal security.



The meeting will be attended by Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir, the Director-General of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), and heads of other intelligence agencies. Attendees will receive briefings on counter-terrorism efforts and the overall law and order situation. The meeting's agenda includes reviewing the implementation of the National Action Plan, improving coordination between the federal and provincial governments, and enhancing the effective sharing of intelligence information.

Fazlur Rehman criticises KP for prioritising politics over public interest

PESHAWAR (INP): In a sharp critique of recent legislative changes, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has said Pakistan's 26th Constitutional Amendment has introduced laws that make citizens feel like "suspects in their own country." Fazlur Rehman's comments came in Peshawar, where he offered condolences on the death of prominent political figure Ilyas Bilour. "The people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are enduring severe hardships," he told reporters, alleging that the provincial government has placed politics above public welfare. "Their entire focus is on politics rather than on maintaining peace, which is wrong," he added. The JUI-F leader criticised the removal of Article 8 during the 26th Amendment, which he claims has opened the door for laws that infringe upon basic rights. "Following this amendment, legislation has been rushed that violates human rights," he said. According to Rehman, these laws permit authorities to detain anyone for up to 90 days without due process.



Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar listening to problems of people during his visit to Civil Hospital Zhab.

Bushra Bibi warns party members to join Nov. 24 protest or face disaffiliation

PESHAWAR (INP): Bushra Bibi, the wife of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, has issued a stern message to party members ahead of the planned protest on 24th November. She made it clear that any member of the National Assembly or party official who fails to attend the demonstration will have no affiliation with PTI. The statement came after a meeting of PTI members in Peshawar, which saw the participation of members from southern districts, along with Bushra Bibi, who addressed the gathering. "The two discussed bilateral defense relations and participation in defense exhibitions," Pakistan High Commission said in a post on X handle. iterated the message from her husband, Imran Khan, urging the party to take to the streets on 24th November in defence of the constitution, rule of law, and parliamentary supremacy. She added that every provincial and national assembly member should film their journey as part of a convoy from Peshawar to Islamabad for the protest. The video should also capture PTI supporters accompanying the members in their vehicles. Bushra Bibi made it clear that any absentee members or officials on the day of the protest would be considered as having severed ties with the party. In her remarks, she re-



ISLAMABAD: Spanish Senate parliamentary delegation meeting with National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq.

NA speaker calls for stronger Pak-Spain parliamentary diplomacy through PFGs

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq Sunday emphasized strengthening parliamentary diplomacy to foster closer ties between Pakistan and Spain and advocated for the effective use of Parliamentary Friendship Groups (PFGs) to enhance inter-parliamentary relations. He expressed these views during a meeting with a high-level Spanish parliamentary delegation comprised of Spanish Senators Vicente Azpitarte Perez, Ms. Natalia Ucerro, Antononio Gutierrez Limones, Luis de la Peña and Ambassador of Spain in Pakistan Jose Antoniode de Ory. He said, "Enhancing Parliament to Parliament contacts are pivotal for strengthening ties between both nations. The discussion focused on enhancing bilateral trade, investment, and cooperation in areas such as agriculture, technology, education, and IT." Speaker stated that Pakistan and Spain share cordial ties rooted in unanimity of views on various regional and international issues. Pakistan and Spain have enduring and strong ties. Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq lauded the Spanish government and parliament for their principled support of the Palestinian cause. NA Speaker expressed grief over the loss of precious lives and property due to the devastating floods in Spain. He said, "Both, Pakistan and Spain, contribute the least to climate change, yet face most of its impact." He also expressed gratitude to the Spanish government and Spanish people for supporting Pakistan during severe floods in 2022. Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq also highlighted Pakistan's untapped economic potential and geo-strategic importance as a partner for European nations. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to fostering stronger ties to promote regional stability and economic growth. He condemned the severe human rights violations against Palestinians, noting that over 40,000 innocent children, women, and men have been martyred. Moreover, he called for urgent global action to address these atrocities and praised Spain's unwavering advocacy for the rights of the Palestinian people. NA Speaker also highlighted the plight of the Kashmiri people, who have been denied their fundamental rights for more than seven decades.



QUETTA: President Central Anjum Tajir and Balochistan Abdul Rahim Kakar, Nasrullah Khan Zarey, Malik Naseer Ahmed Shahwani and others addressing a Press conference.

Govt. committed to end digital gender divide: Shaza Fatima

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Sunday said that the government was committed to ending digital gender divide. "Women's access to technology and Internet is utmost necessary, as they can be empowered through the provision of digital devices and Internet", she expressed while addressing virtually a conference titled 'Digitalization and Women in Politics' in Doha, Qatar. She said the government was taking steps to remove hurdles in using mobile phone and Informa-

tion and Communications Technology (ICT) by women. Socio-economic hurdles impede women entry in politics, she said, adding that women could be empowered and brought into mainstream politics through digitalization. Shaza Fatima said work is going on Gender Digital Divide Policy to facilitate women in their access to digital economy. She said the Prime Minister's Free Laptop Scheme was playing important role in enhancing access to digital tools. She said work is underway on the Smartphones for All Policy.

London High Court declares Hasan Nawaz bankrupt in UK tax case

LONDON (INP): Hasan Nawaz Sharif, son of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, has been declared bankrupt by the London High Court. According to the court, he has been declared bankrupt in a tax and liability case of the UK government's tax and revenue department. The details of the case has been published by the official UK Gazette, which keeps the public record. It says that Hasan, a resident of Flat 17 Avenfield House, 118 Park Lane, and the company director has been declared bankrupt in the High Court of Justice in case No 694 of 2023, filed on 25 August 2023. It merits mention that the bankruptcy order was issued on April 29, 2024, on a case brought by the creditors over non-payment. In his latest post on X (formerly Twitter), the senior PML-N leader said Imran Khan should call back his children from London for the success of his upcoming rally. Asif said Bushra Bibi



QUETTA: MPA Zarak Khan Mandokhail meeting with Provincial Minister for Agriculture Haji Ali Madad Jattak.

Pakistan, Netherlands agree to boost bilateral relations, cricket collaboration

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met with Netherlands Ambassador Henny De Vries on Sunday to discuss enhancing cooperation in various sectors, including the promotion of cricket between the two nations.

During the meeting, both sides agreed to organize a bilateral cricket series next year. The Netherlands also expressed willingness to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to support cricket development. Ambassador Henny De Vries confirmed that the Netherlands cricket team will visit Pakistan next year and play matches with the Pakistan "A" team.

PPP's Domki wins PB-8 Sibi by-election

By Saleem Gushkori SIBI: In the by-election held in Sibi's constituency PB-8, Pakistan Peoples Party's (PPP) candidate Sardar Kohyar Khan Domki has emerged victorious with a significant majority, according to unofficial and preliminary results. Domki, the son of late Sardar Sarfraz Khan Domki, a provincial minister of PPP, was fielded by the party to contest the seat left vacant after his father's demise. The Election Commission of Pakistan had announced the election on November 17. Mir Asghar Mari of Sibi Ittehad secured the second position despite boycotting the election, while Khan Wali Khan Marghazian of PTI and Syed Noor Ahmed Shah Khajjak of Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party secured third and fourth positions, respectively.

Khawaja Asif takes a job at PTI founder Imran Khan

ISLAMABAD (INP) - Defence Minister Khawaja Asif took a job at PTI founder Imran Khan. In his latest post on X (formerly Twitter), the senior PML-N leader said Imran Khan should call back his children from London for the success of his upcoming rally. Asif said Bushra Bibi has assigned responsibility to the PTI parliamentarians to bring as much as 20,000 people to the rally. But if the PTI wanted a real success, he added, the PTI founder should urgently call back his children from London while Bushra Bibi should also call his all family members to spearhead the efforts.



QUETTA: MPA Zarak Khan Mandokhail meeting with Provincial Minister for Agriculture Haji Ali Madad Jattak.

PM greets Attaullah Lango on becoming BHCBA President

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday felicitated Mir Attaullah Lango on being elected as President of the Balochistan High Court Bar Association.

In a statement issued by the PM Office, he also congratulated other newly elected office bearers of the Bar. The prime minister emphasized that the success of the Balochistan High Court Bar Association election will promote the welfare of the lawyers' community. He lauded the commitment of the Bar Association to serving the Balochistan lawyers' interests, upholding the Constitution and promoting the rule of law in the province. PM Shehbaz expressed the hope that the newly elected team would work tirelessly to strengthen the legal profession and play a significant role in advancing justice and democracy in the country.

PTI founder appoint three official spokespersons

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan on Sunday appointed three official spokespersons. According to a notification issued by the PTI, Barrister Gohar Khan, Salman Akram Raja, and Omar Ayub have been designated as the focal persons for PTI's incarcerated leader. This decision aims to clear any ambiguities regarding information related to the PTI founder, ensuring that all communications will now be handled through these spokespersons, as per the notification.

Pak HC calls on Singapore Defence Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan High Commissioner in Singapore Rabia Shafiq on Sunday made a courtesy call on Minister of Defence Singapore Dr Ng Eng Hen. "The two discussed bilateral defense relations and participation in defense exhibitions," Pakistan High Commission said in a post on X handle.

Pakistan only country to convene two separate panel discussions on climate finance at 29th COP29 meeting

BAKU (INP): Pakistan has become the only country to convene two separate panel discussions led by senior justices focused on the critical issue of climate finance at the 29th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP29) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The COP29 is currently being held at the Baku Stadium in Azerbaijan, running from November 11 to 22, 2024, and is setting the stage for the next phase of global climate action.

Pakistan, which has consistently ranked among the top five countries most affected by climate change, took a bold step to highlight the role of the judiciary in shaping climate policy and finance. The panels were designed to address the urgent need for climate finance as a tool for achieving climate justice, especially for the Global South, which continues to bear the brunt of climate disasters despite contributing minimally to global emissions.

The first panel, titled "Judicial Pathways Towards Climate Justice - Judicial Approaches for Addressing Climate Change through Global Analysis," was moderated by Justice

Mansoor Ali Shah, Supreme Court of Pakistan. The panel featured prominent global legal voices including Senator Sherry Rehman, Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change, and senior judges from Nepal, Belgium, Brazil, and Pakistan. The panel emphasized the growing gap in climate finance, with developing countries needing \$4 trillion to tackle climate change impacts.

Senator Rehman highlighted the critical need for scaling up climate finance, stressing that countries like Pakistan - with less than one percent of global carbon emissions - are paying the heaviest price in terms of climate-related disasters. She underscored the urgency of fulfilling financial commitments made under the Paris Agreement, particularly for adaptation and loss and damage funds.

Other speakers, including Professor Luis Gabriel Franceschi of the Commonwealth Secretariat and Justice Sapana Malla of Nepal, discussed the intersection of human rights and climate rights, the failure of wealthy nations to meet financial obligations, and the need for judicial leadership in holding governments ac-

countable for climate action.

Justice Jawad Hassan of the Lahore High Court reinforced the pioneering role of Pakistan's judiciary in advancing climate justice, particularly through landmark judgments and legal frameworks that have prioritized the right to a clean and healthy environment. He cited Pakistan's Constitutional framework and its proactive steps in addressing climate justice and adaptation. Justice Antonio Herman Benjamin of Brazil also spoke on the evolving role of the judiciary in shaping legal regimes for climate change, advocating for stronger international collaboration among judges to enforce climate commitments.

The second panel, titled "Integrating Science into Judicial Decision Making" chaired by Justice Ayesha A. Malik of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, focused on the integration of climate science into judicial decision-making. Panelists included leading experts such as Dr. Adil Najam, Dr. Fahad Saeed, and Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, who stressed the need for judicial systems to adopt and understand climate science to make informed decisions.



BAKU: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah speaks at a UNICEF-hosted event during COP29.

Azam Nazir Tarar to extend congratulations to Mir Attaullah Langove

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Law & Justice and Human Rights, Azam Nazir Tarar, extended his heartfelt congratulations to Mir Attaullah Langove, upon his success as President Balochistan High Court Bar Association.

The Minister also congratulated all other successful candidates on their well-deserved victory.

The Minister commended Mr Ahsan Bhoon, head of the Independent Lawyers Group (Asma Jahangir Group) for his unwavering dedication and leadership that contributed to this success.

Aqib likely to be appointed white-ball team head coach

LAHORE (INP) - Former Test cricketer Aqib Javed is likely to be appointed as the new head coach of Pakistan's white-ball team.

Sources suggested that discussions are ongoing about assigning him the role of the upcoming Zimbabwe series and beyond, with an official decision expected soon.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is set to appoint a local coach on a permanent basis for this position.

Before the Australia tour, Gary Kirsten had resigned from the head coach role, and Jason Gillespie, the head coach for red-ball cricket, was appointed as the interim coach for the Australian tour.

Pakistan is scheduled to play a series against Zimbabwe from November 24 to December 5.

Following that, the team will face South Africa in a series from December 10 to January 7, which will include 3 T20s, 3 ODIs, and 2 Test matches.

NDMA dispatches 19th shipment, 17 tons of aid to Gaza

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) dispatched its 19th shipment of aid on Sunday to Gaza, Lebanon, and Syria, carrying 17 tons of essential supplies such as tents, food, milk, clothing, and hygiene kits in collaboration with the Al-Khidmat Foundation.

The aid supplies, including rice buckets, powdered milk, canned food, family packs, sleeping bags, and medical support kits, were dispatched on the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif via a chartered flight from Jinnah International Airport in Karachi to Damascus, Syria.

The send-off ceremony held at Jinnah International Airport was attended by MPA, Ali Khurshedi, Senator Amir Waliuddin Chishti, senior officials from NDMA, and Al-Khidmat Foundation.

Ali Khurshedi emphasized the urgent need to provide relief to the war-affected population, considering the ongoing conflict

and the needs of the affected communities. He reaffirmed the Government of Pakistan's commitment to supporting the brothers and sisters in distress and stressed the importance of collaboration between welfare organizations and the Pakistani public in strengthening these efforts.

This 19th consignment was dispatched for the people of Syria and refugees from Lebanon, before this, the Government of Pakistan sent 12 aid consignments to Palestine and 6 shipments to Lebanon, with a total volume of 1722 tons. The Government of Pakistan continues to send relief supplies based on the needs of the war-affected populations of Lebanon and Palestine.

On instructions of the Prime Minister, a special account named the "Prime Minister's Relief Fund for Gaza and Lebanon", has been established for the collection of donations from the public to aid their brothers and sisters in Gaza and Lebanon who are facing war emergencies.



PESHAWAR: Awami National Party (ANP) President, Aimal Wali Khan along with others offering Fataha for the departed soul of Ilyas Ahmed Bilour, at Bilour House in Peshawar.

Ambassador Hashmi attends World Maritime Equipment Conference in Fuzhou, China

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan Ambassador to China, Khalil Hashmi paid his first official visit to Fuzhou, capital of Fujian in Southern China to attend the World Maritime Equipment Conference and to speak at one of the side events of the conference.

"Speaking at the Seminar titled 'High-Quality Development of Offshore Wind Power Supply Chain', Ambassador Hashmi who visited Fujian at invitation of provincial authorities highlighted Pakistan's natural advantages as a country with a long coastline of over 1,000 kilometers, and emphasized the country's strong focus on transitioning to renewable sources of energy.

Appreciating China's rapid advancements in offshore wind industry sector, Ambassador Hashmi underlined the need for enhancing bilateral cooperation by strengthening technology exchanges, infrastructure development and regulatory support.

He invited Chinese investors to explore the opportunities available in Pakistani offshore wind industry.

"Ambassador Hashmi also interacted with a num-

ber of senior officials from Fuzhou, including its senior-most political leader, Ms. Guo Ningning.

The two sides reiterated the commitment of Pakistan and China to build on the momentum of the over-arching rubric of Pakistan-China relations, and strengthen the cooperation between Pakistan and Fuzhou under the overall bilateral framework.

The Ambassador highlighted Pakistan's renewed focus on B2B engagement with China, under the guidance of Pakistani leadership, and expressed his commitment to enhance interaction between the business enterprises of Pakistan and China.

Besides, the Ambassador was given a tour of the World Maritime Equipment Conference, and was separately briefed on urban planning, shipbuilding and cultural landscape of the province.

"Fujian province in Southern China is the hub of China's maritime industry advancements, poverty alleviation and sustainable development efforts. Chinese President Xi Jinping has also served in the province for around 17 years, including in Fuzhou city.



ABBOTTABAD: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Former Chief, Siraj-ul-Haq talking to media persons, at Jamat-e-Islami Center in Abbottabad.

'Khalistan referendum sends strong message to India to end Sikhs' persecution'

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Khalistan referendum sends a strong message to India to end its persecution of Sikhs.

A report released by Kashmir Media Service, today, said a referendum for a separate Sikh homeland is taking place at Aotea Square in Auckland, New Zealand, today.

It said to India's dismay, New Zealand has permitted Sikhs for Justice to hold the Khalistan referendum in Auckland. Despite India's pressure, Modi failed to halt the Sikh referendum in New Zealand, it added.

The report said the Khalistan referendum has already taken place in the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia. It said massive participation of Sikhs

in referendums for their homeland has unnerved India.

Results of the Khalistan referendum will be shared with the United Nations and international bodies to build global support for a separate Sikh homeland, it maintained.

The report said India must recognize Sikhs' birthright to freedom and independence as the Khalistan movement continues to inspire Sikhs worldwide in their struggle for an independent homeland.

It lamented that Sikhs have faced systematic persecution by successive Indian governments since 1947 and their oppression in India has fueled their movement for a separate homeland.



QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary Social Welfare Haji Wali Muhammad Noorzai enquiring about health of Parliamentary Secretary Urban Planning and Chairman QDA Asfandyar Khan Kakar.

Governor for more opportunities to KP's youth

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday said more opportunities should be created for the youth including females to excel in various fields and boost the pace of the country's development.

He was addressing Black Belt Certification ceremony held here at a Taekwondo academy.

"Women play a crucial role in the socio-economic development of our country, and we must continue to provide them with the platforms they need to succeed," the governor said.

Referring to the significant contributions of the young athletes, he said they were playing crucial roles in promoting a positive image of Pakistan internationally.

He said young athletes have not only excelled in their sport but were representing Pakistan on the in-

ternational level. He also lauded the academy's efforts in empowering young female athletes, particularly in martial arts, and commended their success on both national and international platforms.

During the ceremony, certificates were awarded to a group of talented athletes, including Iqra Javed, Mamoonah Nasir Baloch, Aiman Larab, Aysa, Ajwa Nadeem, Syeda Sherbano Sherazi, Umsha Shah, Fatima Noor, and Manima Khalid, all of whom earned their black belts in Taekwondo.

The governor was briefed on the academy's impressive track record, which includes training over 40 girls who have earned black belts. The academy has also made a mark internationally, with 19 of its athletes representing Pakistan globally.

The athletes have won a total of seven interna-

tional titles, including a gold medal by Mamoonah Nasir Baloch, a silver by Ajwa Nadeem, and bronze medals by Areeba Baloch and Aysa.

Moreover, the academy's athletes have claimed 30 national gold medals. Meanwhile, two athletes Sofyan Mehsud and Irfan Mehsud also called on the governor who lauded them for recently setting world records in their respective fields.

Speaking on the occasion, governor Faisal Karim Kundi underlined the need for supporting the young players to improve the country and individuals who are contributing to improving the country's international image.

He said they had not only earned recognition for their families but had also brought honor to Pakistan on the global stage.

Attempts to create unrest will never succeed: Tanveer

MURIDKE (APP): Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain says attempts are being made to derail country from achieving economic stability through protest and long march.

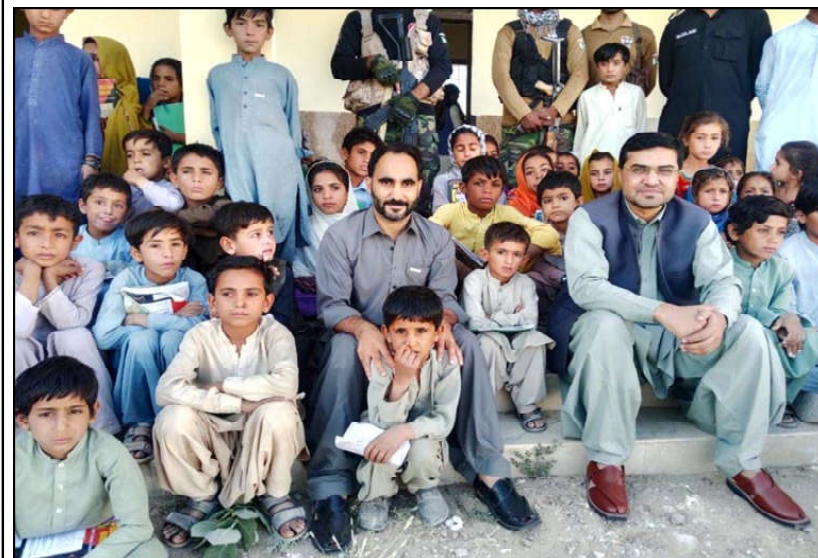
Talking to media in Muridke on Sunday, he said attempt to create unrest and anarchy on November 24 will never succeed like previous attempts.

The Minister for Industries said that Pakistan is a sovereign state and for-

eign interference in our internal affairs cannot be accepted.

Rana Tanveer said the disqualification of Nawaz Sharif in 2017 was the first conspiracy, followed by the alleged manipulations during 2018 elections.

He categorically stated that all conspiracies to destabilize democratic system and economic reforms will be thwarted and Pakistan will continue to move forward on development path.



KHUZDAR: Deputy Commissioner Khuzdar Yasir Iqbal Dashti and Assistant Commissioner Naal Nadeem Akram Shahwani in a group photo with under education children.

Academicicians from Pakistan and China participate in Bio-health Agriculture Symposium

BEIJING (INP): The 6th International Symposium on the Belt and Road Bio-health Agriculture and China-SCO National Bio-Health Agriculture Overseas Science and Technology Demonstration Park Construction Forum was held at Northwest A&F University (NWAUFU), China in the recent week.

Professor Mushtaq Ahmad from Qaid-i-Azam University, a member of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences, and Professor Zhang Lixin from NWAUFU served as chairmen of the conference.

Co-organizers include but not limited to the Silkroad (Yangling) Biohealth Agricultural Industry Alliance (SBHAI), the Sino-Pak Research Center for Agro-Biological Resources, the Sino-Pak Agricultural Cooperation and Exchange Center, Qaid-i-Azam University, Pakistan, Shaanxi Hybrid Rapeseed Research Center.

According to Gwadar Pro, more than 200 representatives home and abroad, from Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Turkey, Malaysia, Czech Republic, Iran, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, Sri Lanka, Ethiopia, participated in the forum offline and online.

In a keynote speech, Luo Jun, Vice President of

NWAUFU, noted that all parties availed the opportunity to discuss the theme of promoting food safety through agricultural biodiversity and smart multifunctional agriculture.

Matters also came under discussion for promoting the development of biodiversity, green and smart agriculture through scientific and technological collaboration among countries along the Belt and Road Initiative.

"Meanwhile, researches involved potential crops, Chinese medicinal materials and energy plant varieties, and built a technical system for biodiversity and ecological restoration, bio-healthy agricultural product production, and agricultural environmental governance are proceeding orderly, thus achieved rich results," Luo added.

"Agriculture is Pakistan's economic pillar. Through holding such seminar, China and Pakistan should accelerate the cooperation process in agricultural talent training, establishment of joint laboratories, construction of demonstration parks, and development of smart agriculture," emphasized Khan Muhammad Wazir, Scientific Counselor of the Pakistani Embassy in China.

Professor Zabta Khan

Shinwari, President of Federal Urdu University of Science and Technology, Pakistan, and Professor Shukhrat Shokirov, Vice President of Tashkent University of Water Resources and Agricultural Machinery Engineering, Uzbekistan, also expressed earnest desire and specific suggestions to strengthen China-Pakistan and China-Uzbekistan agricultural cooperation with NWAUFU in their speeches.

A total of 20 keynote reports on biodiversity, production of bio-healthy agricultural products, as well as green and smart agriculture, has been delivered by Chinese and Pakistani representatives.

They included Professor Mushtaq Ahmad, Professor Muhammad Ishtiaq Al, Professor Zabta Khan Shinwari, Professor Shah Nawaz Mari, Professor Hafiz Saad Bin Mustafa, Senior Researcher Shazia Sultana, Associate Professor Shabana Memon, Researcher Guo Rui from Shaanxi Aerospace Breeding Engineering Technology Research Center, Jia Shuhao, Cloud Solution Architect of Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd., and Dai Bao, Deputy General Manager of China Machinery Industry Engineering Group's Pakistan subsidiary.



ISLAMABAD: Winner of 9th Thal Desert Jeep Rally Asif Fazal Chaudhry receiving trophy from chief guest.



ISLAMABAD: Cake has been cut to mark the Silver Jubilee joint venture of SHARP and UNHCR.

Mushahid welcomes Trump resolve to contain 'Deep State'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed has welcomed Donald Trump's election as US President, terming it, as good for world peace and also welcomed his resolve to control the US 'Deep State'.

In a keynote address at the 'Margalla Dialogue', he also defined the 'red lines' in Pakistan's national security and foreign policy, listing these as the nuclear/missile programs, Occupied Kashmir & Palestine, China/CPEC, rejection of

Indian hegemony and refusal to part to any destabilisation of Iran.

Referring to the conference themed 'Emerging Global Realities', he cited new realities as retrenchment of Western and American power with diminished clout, the peaceful rise of China and resurgence of the Global South, with the likely emergence of Muslim Middle Powers like Pakistan, Türkiye, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Indonesia playing pivotal regional roles in the coming decade.

Mushahid Hussain praised Donald Trump as the first US President since John Kennedy who's not a representative of the American security establishment, which, he said, tried to block Trump in this election.

He also welcomed President Trump's resolve to contain the US 'Deep State' which had been active in fomenting unrest, destabilisation and regime change in developing countries.

Mushahid Hussain

also called for a regional reset in Pakistan's foreign policy, urging the government not to unilaterally beg India for trade, talks and cricket matches, build better friction-free ties with Afghanistan and Iran, and alleviate Chinese concerns on Terrorism.

Mushahid Hussain concluded his keynote address by stating that 'Pakistan now has Strategic Space' in the region but the biggest challenge for Pakistan is the mindset of defeatism and fear.

Ch. Yaseen says: India can't keep Kashmir in her unlawful occupation by force for further long time

ISLAMABAD (APP): PPP AJK Central President and Member Azad Jammu Kashmir Legislative Assembly Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin has called upon the United Nations to play its much-awaited key role moving to settle the prolonged unresolved global issue of Kashmir in line with its resolutions on the conflict.

"It is impossible to establish lasting peace in the region without the grant of right to self-determination", the Kashmiri leader said while talking to journalists here on Sunday.

Yaseen recalled that Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto had announced to

fight for the freedom of Kashmir for a thousand years since freedom is the fundamental right of the Kashmiri people of Jammu and Kashmir, he added.

The President of Pakistan Peoples Party Azad Jammu Kashmir continued that India couldn't keep the Kashmiris as slaves nor bulk of the disputed Himalayan Jammu and Kashmir state in her unlawful occupation by force for a further long time.

The PPP AJK Chief lauded the new "government" of Indian illegally Occupied Jammu Kashmir state for unanimously approving resolution demanding immediate restoration

of special status of the disputed IIOJK and the ancient state-hood revival articles 370 and 35-A.

"The Kashmiri people must be given their due right in IIOJK in any case, which India had scrapped through its forced August 05, 2019, sinister action, he recalled.

Referring to the supply of inexpensive electricity and flour to the people of AJK, Yaseen said that the credit goes to the President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shahbaz Shareef, who, by admitting the public demand relevant, immediately announced Rs. 23 billion package for Azad Jammu Kashmir this year.

NUST, PAEC General Hospital join forces for enhanced collaboration

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) and the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) General Hospital formalised a strategic partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The signing ceremony, held at the NUST Main Office, brought together key representatives from both institutions, said a news release.

The MoU aims to foster collaboration in education, research, and various other mutually beneficial activities.

By combining their strengths, NUST and PAEC

General Hospital seek to elevate healthcare standards and scientific advancements.

Chairman PAEC, Dr Raja Ali Raza Anwar commended NUST's impressive achievements and academic reputation, particularly recognising the establishment of the NUST School of Health Sciences (NSHS). He emphasized that this partnership is a significant step towards realizing shared goals.

The MoU was formally signed by Dr Abdul Majeed, Director PAEC General Hospital, and Professor Dr Rizwan Ashraf, Principal NSHS.

Search, combing operation conducted at Noon police station jurisdiction

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: According to the details, Islamabad Police conducted a grand search and combing operation at the Noon police station jurisdiction, a public relations officer said.

He said that, under the supervision of SP Sadar Zone Khan Zaib, a grand search and combing operation was conducted in different areas of Noon police station by Islamabad Police, CTD, FC, and lady police

bikes were shifted to police station and also recovered 02 pistols during this operation.

DIG Islamabad said that the search and combing operations were conducted to heighten security in the federal capital. All zonal officers were directed to continue these operations in their respective areas.

Citizens are also requested to cooperate with the police during the checking. Citizens are urged to co-



operate with police and report any suspicious activity or information through the emergency helpline 'Pucar-15' or via the 'ICT-15' app for immediate assistance.

SZABIST announces ZAB Artificial Intelligence CUP

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Department of Robotics and Artificial Intelligence at Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science and Technology (ZABIST) has announced the 2nd ZAB Artificial Intelligence Cup competition, taking place on December 18 and 19.

This prestigious competition aims to bring together AI enthusiasts from various universities who are pursuing BS, MS, and PhD

degrees in computing and related fields. This two-day event will bring together some of the brightest students from across Pakistan, giving them the chance to showcase their expertise in Machine Learning (ML) and Deep Learning (DL).

According to an official of the university, the challenge will involve implementing ML/DL models to achieve high accuracy on provided datasets.

Rank Pinning ceremony of newly promoted officers held at SP Swan Zone Office

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: According to the details, a distinguished ceremony was held at SP Swan Zone Office to

Addressing the officers during the ceremony, the SP Swan Zone emphasized the increased responsibilities that accompany their



honor the promotion of officers. The event was organized by the Superintendent of Police Swan Zone Pari Gul Tareen in recognition of their exemplary dedication and commitment to their duties. The newly promoted officers were acknowledged and congratulated by SP Swan Zone.

new ranks. He highlighted the clear directives issued by the IG Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi to ensure that promotions continue to be granted for all vacant positions. SP Swan Zone expressed that their well-deserved promotions are a testament to their hard work and unwavering efforts.



ISLAMABAD: Students taking part in the last day of 3 Day Pakistan Learning Festival at Islamabad College for Boys G-6/3 in the Federal Capital.

PTI intra party election case: EC adjourns hearing till December 4

ISLAMABAD (Online): Election Commission (EC) has adjourned till December 4 hearing of petition regarding intra party election of PTI.

The petition was filed by the former member of PTI Akbar S Babar.

A two members bench of EC took up for hearing the petition filed against intra party elections of PTI Thursday.

PTI chairman Barrister Gohar Khan appeared in the EC. He told the commission that he had gone to village and the file is not with him at present.

He requested the EC to give him more time.

The EC while accepting plea of chairman PTI adjourned the hearing of the case till November 04.

Karachi Company police netted 630 outlaws in last 10 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Police Karachi Company police teams have carried out an extensive crackdown against criminal elements in the federal capital over the past 10 months to maintain peace and security.

A public relations officer on Sunday said that during this period, the Islamabad Karachi Company police teams arrested a total of 630 accused involved in various criminal activities and recovered cash and valuables worth over 41 million rupees from their possession. As part of the ongoing "Nasha Ab Nahi" campaign in the federal capital, Karachi Company police teams arrested 74 drug dealers and seized four kilogram hashish, 2.5 kilogram of heroin and 500 gram ice from their possession.

Additionally, Karachi Company police teams also conducted extensive operations against the accused.

3-Day Pakistan Learning Festival concludes with enthusiastic participation

ISLAMABAD (APP): The three-day 'Pakistan Learning Festival' successfully concluded on Sunday at the Islamabad College for Boys, G-6/3.

Organized by the Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training in collaboration with the National Book Foundation (NBF), Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi, Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) and the National Vocational & Technical Training Commission (NAVTC) the festival attracted a large number of students, teachers, and parents.

The event featured free entry, encouraging widespread participation. Renowned educational institutions, including Islamabad Model Post-graduate College H-8, Islamabad Model College for Boys H-9, and Federal Government Home Economics College F-11, among others, showcased their stalls, adding diversity to the experience. A huge crowd was seen at the stall established by IMPC H-8, which highlighted environmental issues.

Resolution in IIOJK Assembly like rubbing salt in wounds: Lone

ISLAMABAD (APP): The left-wing J&K People's Conference Chairman Sajad Ghani Lone, in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, has criticized the "ruling" National conference for vague wording in its resolution on Article 370, moved in inaugural session of the so-called assembly, accusing them of inconsistency and political maneuvering and calls for a clear stance on the 5 August 2019, sinister Indian action.

Sajad Lone continued saying "Congress says it is not about 370. NC says it is about 370 and much more". "If NC was so serious about 1953, position or Article 370 or 35 A or 5 August— why didn't they write so in plain English", he asked.

Lone further said "Why are they having to explain three sentences. Was there a dearth of paper to print the resolution on, or death of will and courage or the choice of words were pre-scripted and authored in Delhi. Let it be clear.



ISLAMABAD: Gypsy girls are enjoying playing on a seesaw at a local park in the Federal Capital.

Pakistan sets unique precedent at COP29 by convening justice-led panels on Climate Finance

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan has become the only country to convene two separate panel discussions focused on the critical issue of climate finance at the 29th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP29) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The COP29 is currently being held at the Baku Stadium in Azerbaijan, running from November 11 to 22, 2024, and is setting the stage for the next phase of global climate action.

Pakistan, which has consistently ranked among the top five countries most affected by climate change, took a bold step to highlight the role of the judiciary in shaping climate policy and finance. The panels

were designed to address the urgent need for climate finance as a tool for achieving climate justice, especially for the Global South, which continues to bear the brunt of climate disasters despite contributing minimally to global emissions.

growing gap in climate finance, with developing countries needing \$4 trillion to tackle climate change impacts.

The first panel, titled "Judicial Pathways Towards Climate Justice - Judicial Approaches for Addressing Climate Change through Global Analysis," was moderated by Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Supreme Court of Pakistan. The panel featured prominent global legal voices including Senator Sherry Rehman, Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change, and senior judges from Nepal, Belgium, Brazil, and Pakistan. The panel emphasized the

Senator Rehman highlighted the critical need for scaling up climate finance, stressing that countries like Pakistan - with less than one percent of global carbon emissions - are paying the heaviest price in terms of climate-related disasters. She underscored the urgency of fulfilling financial commitments made under the Paris Agreement, particularly for adaptation and loss and damage funds.

Other speakers, including Professor Luis Gabriel Franceschi of the Commonwealth Secretariat and Justice Sapana Malla of Nepal, discussed the intersection of human rights,



ISLAMABAD: A woman painting the face of a young girl on stall during the 10-Day "Folk Festival (Lok Mela) 2024" at Lok Virsa in the Federal Capital.

SUPARCO announces Collaboration on Rover Mission through China's Chang'e 8 Mission in 2028

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) has announced its collaboration on a groundbreaking lunar exploration mission in partnership with China's Chang'e 8 mission, set to launch in 2028.

This collaboration marks a significant milestone for Pakistan's space program, as SUPARCO's indigenous rover will be part of the mission to explore the lunar surface.

SUPARCO's rover, with an approximate weight of 35 kilograms, will join China's Chang'e 8 mission, which is part of the larger International Lunar Research Station (ILRS)

project. The rover is set to land on the lunar south pole, a region known for its challenging terrain and potential scientific discoveries.

This mission aims to explore the Moon's surface, conduct scientific research, and test innovative technologies for future lunar and planetary exploration.

The mission will involve a series of scientific experiments, including the study of lunar soil, mapping of the lunar surface, and the testing of new technologies for sustainable human presence on the Moon. SUPARCO's rover, equipped with state-of-the-art scientific instruments, will play a crucial role in collecting data that could pave the way for future.



ISLAMABAD: Boys looking for useable items from a garbage container to earn for their livelihood.

Forging new paths: Green Tourism, GRCP partner for sustainable cultural preservation

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Gandhara Resource Centre Pakistan (GRCP), a flagship project of the Center for Culture and Development (C2D), hosted a meeting with Lt. General © Sardar Hassan Azhar Hayat Khan, Managing Director of Green Tourism, to explore a mutual partnership.

The meeting focused on building an alliance to advance eco-friendly tourism and community development in the region, said a press release.

Lt. Gen. © Sardar Hassan Azhar Hayat Khan, was welcomed at GRCP's Taxila Garden premises by a team comprising Sara Mahmood, Team Lead; Waqar Haider Awan, Member Advisory Committee;

Riaz Ahmed, Program Coordinator; Sohail Ahmed, Manager, Media & Communications; Iftikhar Ahmed, Sculptor and Heritage Conservator; and Iftikhar Uddin Siddique, Community Outreach Officer.

Discussions revolved around strategies to promote Gandhara's archaeology, focussing on key priorities, including eco-friendly tourism initiatives as business model initiatives to attract local and international visitors.

Lt. Gen. © Sardar Hassan Azhar Hayat Khan proposed collaboration with GRCP in alignment with Green Tourism's vision to integrate tourism with heritage conservation and community empowerment.

Police reunite missing boy with family

ISLAMABAD (APP): Tarnol police station team successfully reunited a missing boy, Fizan, with his family on Sunday. A public relations officer told APP that the Tarnol police station received a report from the boy's father, Mehr Wali Khan, a resident of Chaudhry Mohalla.

Wali Khan stated that his three-year-old son, Fizan, had gone missing after leaving home in the morning, and despite all efforts by the family, he could not be located. Upon receiving the report, the police team, under the supervision of Sub-Inspector Inamullah Ghazi, utilized both technical and human resources to locate the missing boy.

He added that the suspect was also found with stolen national and foreign currency, gold jewelry, and prize bonds, with a total value of PKR 8.5 million.

He said the case has been registered against the suspect at Lohi Bher Police Station, and further investigations are underway.

PS Lohi Bher arrests suspect, recovers kidnapped woman, 8.5 miln

Governor KP says: Several development initiatives afoot for Paharpur's uplift

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday said that a number of development initiatives were being taken for the socio-economic development of Paharpur Tehsil.

He expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation of traders and notables from Paharpur Tehsil.

The delegation included the Chairman of the Paharpur Traders' Association, Noman Niazi, Haji Muhammad Iqbal, Haji Bagh Ali, Chaudhry Nazir Ahmed, and prominent political and social figure Junaid Tariq Qureshi, who briefed the governor on issues being faced by the area.

He said that the results of the ongoing upgradation project of the Paharpur Grid Station will soon be visible, contributing significantly to the area's development. Moreover, he added that an interchange would be established at Paharpur-Paniala under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which will not only provide convenience to the local population but also serve as a milestone for the region's economic development.

Similarly, he said that a passport counter would be set up at the NADRA office in Paharpur and residents would not have to travel to Dera Ismail Khan for passport-related services. The governor also said that effective measures were being taken to equip the area's youth with quality education and enable them to pursue higher studies in their own region.

As part of it, efforts were underway to establish a campus of Gomal University in Paharpur and the Higher Education Commission would be contacted in this regard.

The governor also informed that a breakthrough had been achieved about Kloorkot-Karri Khaisor Road and the Chashma Right Bank Canal project. He said those initiatives would benefit the local population, no opportunists and elements with vested interest would be allowed to obstruct the progress of the area.

Meanwhile, the governor also paid a visit to the house of late PPP worker Muhammad Akhtar at Paharpur and sympathized with the bereaved family members.



LAHORE: A group photograph of Delegates of the International Conference at Allama Iqbal's mausoleum.

Malik calls for enhancing school facilities at standing committee's meeting

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Malik Adil Iqbal, Chairman of Information and Public Relations standing committee and Member of Provincial Assembly (MPA) PK-48, actively participated in the meeting of the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education. The session, presided over by Committee Chairman MPA Taj Muhammad Khan. During the meeting, Malik Adil Iqbal issued key directives aimed at elevating the educational standards in his constituency, PK-48. He underscored the urgency of

addressing staff shortages in schools, asserting that hiring adequate teaching personnel would lead to a marked improvement in the quality of education.

He also highlighted the importance of equipping schools with necessary facilities and ensuring that newly upgraded institutions at the secondary and higher secondary levels are provided with state-of-the-art amenities. Additionally, Malik Adil Iqbal stressed the need to accelerate ongoing construction projects to complete new educational institutions.



KARACHI: A Bishop leading ceremony of Diamond Jubilee at St. Patrick Church.

Call to promote religious harmony

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Auqaf Secretary Dr Tahir Raza Bukhari has said that it is the need of the hour to promote religious harmony.

He said this while presiding over a meeting held regarding making the Khatam-un-Nabiyeen (PBUH) University active and forming Centre of Excellence for Religious Harmony at Aiwan-e-Auqaf on Sunday.

He said that role of 'Mehrab and Minbar' was very important in overcoming terrorism and

sectarianism.

He said that the university actually reflected the sentiments of Muslims of Pakistan. It was told in the meeting that Quran Complex covering 55 kanals had been designated for setting up the Khatam-un-Nabiyeen (PBUH) University. Council of Islamic Ideology Chairman Dr Muhammad Raghay Hussain Naemi said that establishment of Centre of Excellence for Religious Harmony.



HYDERABAD: Activists of Sindh United Party (SUP) are holding protest rally against federal canals project, at Mehran Bridge in Hyderabad.

16 dead, 1397 injured in 1328 RTCs in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): At least sixteen persons were killed and 1397 injured in 1328 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours. Out of these, 204 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 797 victims with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams thus reducing the burden of Hospitals.

Furthermore, the analysis showed those 771 drivers, 49 underage drivers, 134 pedestrians, and 508 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes. The statistics show that 269 RTCs were reported in Lahore which affected 302 persons placing the Provincial Capital at top of the list followed by Multan 89 with 95 victims and at third Faisalabad with 84 RTCs and 86 victims.

Four dacoits killed in encounter

FAISALABAD (APP): As many as four dacoits were allegedly killed during a police encounter in the area of Nishatabad police station. Police spokesman said here on Sunday that the team was carrying four accused of a dacoity case for recovery of property case on late Saturday night when seven outlaws intercepted the police van and open blunt firing to get their accomplices released from police custody near Achkera. The police also returned fire and during this encounter, the four accused received serious injuries due to the bullets fired by their accomplices whereas the assailants managed to escape from the scene under the cover.



MUREDKAY: Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain expressing solidarity with brides during mass wedding ceremony of needy families.

Maryam urges road users to follow traffic rules to prevent accidents

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has stressed the need for collective responsibility in ensuring road safety, urging all road users to follow traffic laws.

In her message on the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims, she emphasized the importance of safety for both individuals and the community. She stated, "Make it a habit to follow traffic rules for your own safety and the safety of others," highlighting the

need for everyone to actively contribute to reducing road traffic incidents.

The CM expressed her heartfelt condolences for those who have lost their lives in road accidents. She prayed for the forgiveness of all those who have tragically lost their lives in road traffic accidents. She extended her sympathy to the families of the victims, stating, "I share grief of the families who have lost their loved ones in these heartbreaking incidents."

The chief minister

reaffirmed the government's commitment to improving road safety in the province. "We are working diligently to enhance road safety in Punjab to ensure that no family has to suffer the loss of a loved one in a tragic accident," she said.

CM Maryam Nawaz highlighted ongoing efforts to prevent accidents, noting, "Over 600 roads are being constructed, repaired, and rehabilitated across the province at an accelerated pace to improve safety and reduce road-related tragedies."

KP govt making sincere efforts for promotion of higher education: Minister

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Higher Education Meena Khan Afridi has said that the provincial government is making sincere efforts to promote higher education and his visits to various colleges and universities are a step toward this direction.

His visits to the entire province are aimed at spreading awareness regarding problems of colleges and universities by taking concrete steps towards this end, he added.

He expressed these views during a briefing given to him at the

Government Post Graduate College Karak regarding all colleges of the district. Earlier, he was also given a detailed briefing at the Khushal Khan Khattak University Karak.

On this occasion, Provincial Minister for Agriculture Major Muhammad Sajjad Barakwal, Shahid Khattak MNA, Chairman DDAC Karak Khurshid Ahmed Khattak, the party's district leadership and the principals of male and female colleges were also present.

The minister was informed about the performance of 6 males.

PPP leader criticizes PTI leadership, warns against protest

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Central Punjab Secretary-General Syed Hassan Murtaza on Sunday criticized the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership, calling the internal dissent within the party a "divine warning" for its founder. He noted that even the founder's imprisoned allies are now urging him to adopt a political engagement approach.

Responding to PTI Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi's recent statements, Murtaza remarked that the contradiction between PTI's words and actions has alienated its close allies and voters. "Politics is like flowing water; stagnant water becomes foul," he emphasized.

He urged that political discourse must be based on mutual respect and tolerance among parties.



PESHAWAR: Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry interacts with patients during his visit to Da Haq Awaz Rehabilitation Center in Peshawar.

Empowering poor to alleviate pervasive menace of poverty

MULTAN (APP): With wrinkles on his face and worries for sustenance in mind, Abdul Hakeem was tilling a patch of land preparing it for sowing wheat with hopes to have better crop and price this time. His last year's bitter experience, when wheat prices had fallen down to a worrisome level inflicting losses on him, was still haunting him.

Abdul Hakeem is one of the millions of poor farmers in the country who toil hard to meet their ends, but often the market forces exploit them leaving no clue for rescue. Trapped in cruel clutches of market forces, hoarders and exploiters, he and millions of others every season wait for a panacea to their

hardships.

"Decades after decades, the same phenomenon goes on. Every year we borrow inputs from commission agents at grain market, toil hard across the year but unfortunately suffer losses due to lesser prices of our commodities," he stated.

"People say agriculture is backbone of our economy. But, we the mainstay of this sector are often left in lurch," Hakeem said. "Whom I should question why my father was poor and then me and if it goes on, my son will also be poor. Will the time come when small farmers have their bounty?"

Poverty is a persistent challenge marked by lack of access to basic

needs like food, shelter, healthcare and education. It restricts opportunities, hinders economic growth, and perpetuates inequality.

Among millions of laborers in our country, nearly 70 percent are associated to agriculture and livestock sectors and keeping view its vitality for our economy the government policies have a significant impact on their families and overall economic growth of the country.

"We must have a fair mechanism and an Independent Agriculture Commission to offer fair rates of different crops to facilitate poor farmers after evaluation of cost of inputs," stated Chairman Pakistan Kissan Ittehad

Governor Tessori says: Traffic victims Day makes us realize significance of responsible driving

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori on Sunday said that the World Day of 'Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims' made us realize the importance of responsible driving.

"We have to take measures to be safe from accidents by highlighting the importance of road safety," he said.

The Governor Tessori said that many lives were being lost daily due to road accidents.

He stressed the need for ensuring traffic rules to avoid such incidents. He said that negligence, carelessness and failure to take precautions while driving could prove to be fatal. Kamran Khan Tessori said that obeying traffic rules was mandatory for everyone. He said that timely repair of roads could also control increasing accidents.

He urged the parents to strictly forbid their minor children from driving vehicles.



LARKANA: Foreigner visitor visiting the world famous archeological site of Mohen-Jo-Daro.

Azma Bokhari says: IMF acknowledged Punjab govt.'s progress towards achieving targeted surplus

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari has rebutted the contents of a news item published under the headline "Provinces face new targets under fiscal pact", in an English language daily on November 17, asserting that the news report falsely refers to the government of Punjab's investment in a UAE-based fund.

Contradicting the erroneous impression created in the news, the Information Minister said that the government of Punjab has not invested in any UAE-based fund. "Since there is no such investment in a UAE-based fund, this was never discussed in the meeting of the IMF with the

functionaries of the government of Punjab. Furthermore, the news item wrongly insinuates IMF's alarm over the previously incorrectly reported 1st quarter deficit of Punjab," she mentioned.

Azma Bokhari said that the IMF agreed that the Punjab government had a surplus of approximately Rs 40 billion at the end of the 1st quarter and as such the Ministry of Finance, government of Pakistan corrected its data and uploaded revised fiscal operations reflecting the Punjab government's surplus. "Lastly, the news item also misreports that Punjab fell short of its surplus target of Rs. 150 billion at the end of the 1st quarter.



KARACHI: View of site after fire broke out incident at fiber workshop as fire brigade officials are busy in extinguishing fire and rescue operation, at Lasipara located on Moenabad area of Malir in Karachi.

Barrister Saif lauds services of Paraplegic Centre

PESHAWAR (APP): Advisor to the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Information and Public Relations Barrister Dr. Muhammad Ali Saif visited the Paraplegic Centre Peshawar here Sunday and visited various sections and departments, including rehabilitation wards for persons with disabilities (PWDs), the physio gym, orthotics department, autism section, clubfoot clinic, occupational therapy gym and several other areas.

Barrister Saif praised the Paraplegic Centre Peshawar as a unique

national institution, providing exceptional rehabilitation services for PWDs in Pakistan and the neighboring country of Afghanistan.

He highlighted the Center's significant role in rehabilitating individuals with spinal cord injuries and disabilities resulting from accidents, empowering them to lead productive lives through comprehensive training programs.

He emphasized that the Center's in-house workshop manufactures high-quality, customized wheelchairs and supportive devices.

Functioning like a debit card, it enables registered farmers to purchase agricultural inputs up to Rs 150,000 per season that would hopefully benefit the poor farmers.

Rashid Sindhu, an official of agriculture department explained that Kissan Card program is transformative for farmers, particularly those with limited means. "The card empowers farmers to acquire necessary inputs at government-recommended prices. It helps them increase productivity and income and contribute to economic progress of the country." Additionally, the government also provides subsidies for advanced equipment like super-seeders and laser levels.

ADB launches major initiative to build resilience to melting glaciers

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Sunday launched a new regional program, Glaciers to Farms that will promote sustainable water use and food security in Central Asia, the South Caucasus, and Pakistan amid the catastrophic impacts of accelerated glacial melt due to climate change.

Supported by the Green Climate Fund's (GCF) Project Preparation Facility, ADB will conduct risk assessments of glacial melt in Azerbaijan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan—forming the scientific and technical basis for the Glacier to Farms program, according to ADB press release received here.

With temperatures in the region projected to rise by up to 6 degrees Celsius

by 2100, the loss of glacial mass threatens the fragile balance of ecosystems, jeopardizing water supply for agriculture and hydropower, and risking the livelihoods of more than 380 million people.

COP29 President and Azerbaijan Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources Mukhtar Babayev; Kazakhstan Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources Yerlan Nyssanbayev; Kyrgyz Republic Minister of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision Meder Mashiev; Tajikistan Committee on Environmental Protection Chairman Bahodur Sherazizoda; and Uzbekistan Minister of Ecology, Environmental Protection, and Climate Change Aziz Abdulkhakimov signed a

declaration of support for preserving glaciers with ADB. President Masatsugu Asakawa and GCF Chief Investment Officer Henry Gonzalez.

"As melting glaciers change waterflows, disrupt lives, and destroy ecosystems, we must act now," said Asakawa.

"As Asia and the Pacific's climate bank, we are pleased to be joined by key partners to launch this program to drive international collaboration and deliver results where they matter most—on the ground, in communities at risk," he added.

Glaciers to Farms envisages mobilizing up to \$3.5 billion from ADB, GCF, governments, development partners, and the private sector, subject to the participating institutions' board approvals.



TANDOJAM: Chairman IPO-Pakistan, Ambassador (R) Farukh Amil & Dr. Fatah Muhammad Marri, Vice Chancellor, Sindh Agriculture University with panelists after a productive seminar on Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge & IP.

Landa bazaars draw crowds amid rising prices

MULTAN (APP): With the arrival of winter, Landa bazaars in the city have come alive, offering second-hand imported items to a diverse range of buyers.

Popular hubs like Hussain Agahi, Ghanta Ghar, and the inner city markets are abuzz with activity as people search for winter essentials. Vendors have also set up makeshift stalls along roadsides and in suburban areas, creating accessibility for more customers.

Landa Bazaars are well-known for their wide variety of second-hand goods, including sweaters, jackets, coats, blankets, shoes, and bags. These items, imported primarily from abroad, cater to low-income and middle-class families, who find them an affordable alternative to expensive retail stores. For many, these markets are not just about saving money but also preserving

dignity while providing for their families.

However, this winter season, both vendors and customers are feeling the pinch of rising costs. Buyers complain about high prices, while sellers cite increased operational expenses as reason behind the price hike. Ikrumullah Khan, a vendor at Hussain Agahi, shared his concerns with APP: "Inflation has impacted everyone. Even though the number of visitors to the bazaar is high, actual purchases are fewer. It's becoming difficult to manage expenses."

Customers echoed similar sentiments. Shehryar Hameed, a government employee, mentioned, "I come here every year to buy shoes and sweaters for my family. But this year, prices are much higher, making it challenging to purchase even the essentials."

Shahid Imran says: Saudi Arabia shows interest in Pakistan's premium snacks

LAHORE (APP): Saudi Arabia has shown keen interest in high-quality food products from Pakistan, especially snacks that meet international standards.

Upon his return here on Sunday from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, after attending the 3-day Halal Food Expo, Shahid Imran, Convener of the Pakistan Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Regional Committee on Food, noted that the growing interest in Pakistani products reflects the rising demand in the Saudi market for diverse and premium food items,

where Pakistani goods have proven to be highly competitive. Pakistan's food industry, known for its quality ingredients and adherence to global standards, has made a mark in the Middle East, with snacks being particularly popular among Saudis. He said Saudi businesses have invited Pakistani companies to expand their supply of these sought-after products. Pakistani snacks, including chips, nimko, biscuits, and other convenience foods, align well with Saudi people tastes and have been recognized for their superior quality and flavor.



ISLAMABAD: People busy selecting and purchasing second hand warm clothes from vendor at weekly Bazaar in the Federal Capital.

Ranjha visits kisan card center

SARGODHA (APP): Chaudhry Shah Nawaz Ranjha, the Senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, visited Kisan Card Distribution Center Sargodha and distributed Chief Minister Punjab Kisan Card to the farmers.

On the occasion, he said that through the card, every eligible farmer can get fertilizer, agricultural medicines and seeds from the appointed dealers by getting interest-free loan of up to one and a half lakh rupees.

He further said that cards were being issued to the farmers after biometric verification.

Director of Agriculture (Extension) Shahid Hussain and other officers and farmers were also present in the ceremony.

Pakistan to showcase handmade carpets at Turkiye show

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan Carpet Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PCMEA) will showcase handmade carpets at a global exhibition, to be held in Turkiye in January next year.

In the global exhibition, 15 stalls will be set up and more than 50 people associated with the carpet industry will also participate.

PCMEA Chairman Mian Atiqur Rehman and Vice Chairman Riaz Ahmed disclosed this in a meeting held here at the association office on Sunday. Patron-in-Chief Abdul Latif Malik, Chairman of Carpet Training Institute (CTI) Ejazur Rehman, Senior Leader Usman Ashraf, Major (ret'd) Akhtar Nazeer, Saeed Khan, Shahid Hassan Sheikh,



CHINA: Ambassador of Pakistan to China H.E. Mr. Khalil Hashmi speaking at a Seminar on the High Quality Development of offshore Wind Power Supply Chain at Fuzhou, Fujian Province in China.

Governor inaugurates five newly installed TBS, gas expansion projects in DIK

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday inaugurated the gas expansion and low-pressure elimination projects in Dera Ismail Khan.

Addressing the ceremony held in this regard, the governor said all out efforts would be made to reduce gas load shedding and low-pressure issues in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to facilitate and extend relief to the people of the province.

He lamented that the province produced gas but faced the highest level of

gas load shedding. He directed the officials of the Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) officials to ensure minimal gas load shedding during the winter season.

He said that to prevent low pressure and load shedding in Dera Ismail Khan, five new TBS (Town Border Stations) were being installed, and the existing TBS would also be upgraded to ensure that residents face no difficulties during the winter.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi that the Pakistan Peoples Party

(PPP) government had initiated several major projects for the development of Dera Ismail Khan, including the Dera Ismail Khan International Airport, the CPEC interchange, and the four-lane road from Dera Ismail to Dera Ghazi Khan and onward Kasmor, Sindh. He added that with the completion of those projects, the region would progress on all fronts besides providing job opportunities to people of the area.

He expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Pakistan, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

Chitral's handmade furniture gains global recognition: PFC CEO

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) Chief Executive Officer Mian Kashif Ashfaq has said that handmade Chitral furniture, renowned for its historical and traditional designs, has gained global popularity due to its distinctive style and exceptional durability.

Talking to a delegation of furniture manufacturers from Chitral valley led by Gul Rehmat, here on Sunday, he said this

furniture reflects the rich cultural heritage of the area. Each piece is crafted by skilled artisans who have inherited their techniques through generations, making the furniture not only beautiful but also a testament to the craftsmanship of the past.

He said the designs often feature intricate carvings, with patterns inspired by the natural beauty of the region, such as floral motifs.



LAHORE: A large number of people are busy in buying warm shoes in a Landa bazaar at Haji camp, in the Provincial Capital.

Malik calls for strict action on tax evaders

LAHORE (APP): SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik has called for stringent action against all identified influential tax evaders without succumbing to any sort of pressure to strengthen tax base.

In a statement issued here on Sunday, he urged the authorities that fraudulent involved in mega tax scandal of Rs 529 billion detected by the Federal Tax Ombudsman Dr Asif Mahmood Jah should also be taken to task including corrupt tax officers. He emphasised

the recovery of outstanding tax liabilities from powerful evaders was essential to broaden the tax network and reduce the undue burden on existing taxpayers. He highlighted that the persistent culture of tax evasion by affluent mafia not only undermined the national exchequer but also discourage honest taxpayers, ultimately hampering economic growth. He urged the adoption of a transparent and impartial approach in addressing tax defaulters, ensuring that accountability was upheld for all.

Wheat growers urged to use nitro-phos

BAHAWALPUR (APP): The wheat growers were urged to use nitro-phos and ammonium nitrate fertilizers at the fields of standing crops of wheat to get extra produce.

Under the auspices of Fatima Fertilizer, a seminar was organized here to raise awareness among farmers to use fertilizer at their agricultural fields. While addressing, Regional Manager, Fatima Fertilizer, Junaid Khan said that Nitro phos and ammonium nitrate used to help in strengthening wheat plants, resulting in extra yield of the standing crop.

Terminating PPAs – A panacea to release consumers from IPPs clutches

ISLAMABAD (APP): Switching towards Competitive Trading Bilateral Contracts Market (CTBCM) regime, liberalization and privatization of power sector will have longstanding effects on power tariff, paving way for relief to consumers and contribute to overall economic growth of the country.

Since high-power tariff had been hammering our economic growth and piling up huge circular debt, the initiative of premature termination of power purchase agreements (PPAs) with dozens of independent power producers (IPPs) will also help resolve these grave issues.

Mounting debt load,

rising power prices and an astonishing Rs 1,411.669 million capacity payment made to IPPs during fiscals 2022-23 and 2023-24 made the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's government to come out with solutions to stem out this menace and lessen burden on consumers and national kitty.

The government set up a Task Force to implement structural reforms with Minister for Power Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari as its Chairman, PM's Special Assistant on power Muhammad Ali as co-Chairman and Lt Gen Zafar Iqbal as National Coordinator also including in it representatives from various regulatory bodies.

Initially, after detailed

deliberations with IPPs, Awais Leghari announced premature termination of PPAs with five oldest IPPs to save Rs 411 billion with an impact of around 71 paise per unit on average electricity tariff.

"Contracts with Saba, Lalpur, Atlas and Roush having accumulative generation capacity of 2,463 Megawatt (MWs), set up under 1994 power policy were terminated through 'mutual agreement.'"

Leghari said, process of reviewing contracts with other IPPs and state-owned power plants would further reduce tariffs by Rs 8-10 per unit. "Termination agreement with five IPPs was one of the several measures to reduce tariffs. We also desire to convert

Govt will steer country to prosperity: Trade leader

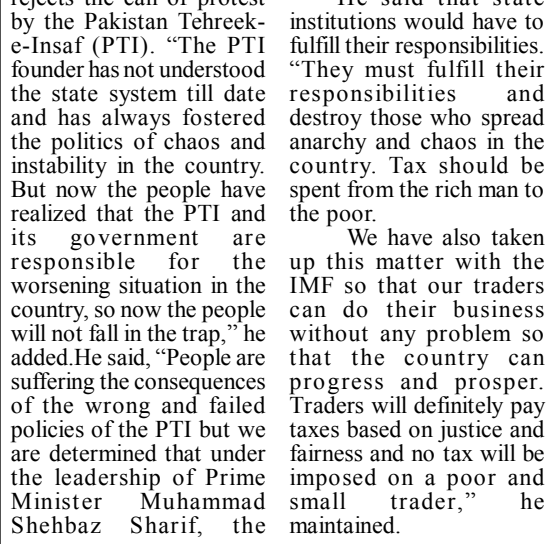
SIALKOT (APP): Chairman Supreme Council All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajran, Naem Mir, has said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, the government will surely succeed in bringing the country out of darkness.

He expressed these views while talking to media representatives after a special meeting with a delegation of businessmen in Sialkot. He said the business community rejects the call of protest by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). "The PTI founder has not understood the state system till date and has always fostered the politics of chaos and instability in the country. But now the people have realized that the PTI and its government are responsible for the worsening situation in the country, so now the people will not fall in the trap," he added. He said, "People are suffering the consequences of the wrong and failed policies of the PTI but we are determined that under the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, the

government will definitely succeed in bringing the country out of darkness. Today, all the international organizations including the World Bank and the IMF are also working with Pakistan which is proof that the trust of international organizations has been restored in Pakistan and the country is moving in the right direction again and the day is not far when the country's economy will be stable and people will be prosperous."

He said that state institutions would have to fulfill their responsibilities. "They must fulfill their responsibilities and destroy those who spread anarchy and chaos in the country. Tax should be spent from the rich man to the poor."

We have also taken up this matter with the IMF so that our traders can do their business without any problem so that the country can progress and prosper. Traders will definitely pay taxes based on justice and fairness and no tax will be imposed on a poor and small trader," he maintained.



ISLAMABAD: Visitors taking keen interest in artificial jewelry on stall during the 10-Day 'Folk Festival (Lok Mela) 2024' at Lok Virsa in the Federal Capital.

PBF signs MoU with Azerbaijan's private sector to strengthen regional trade ties

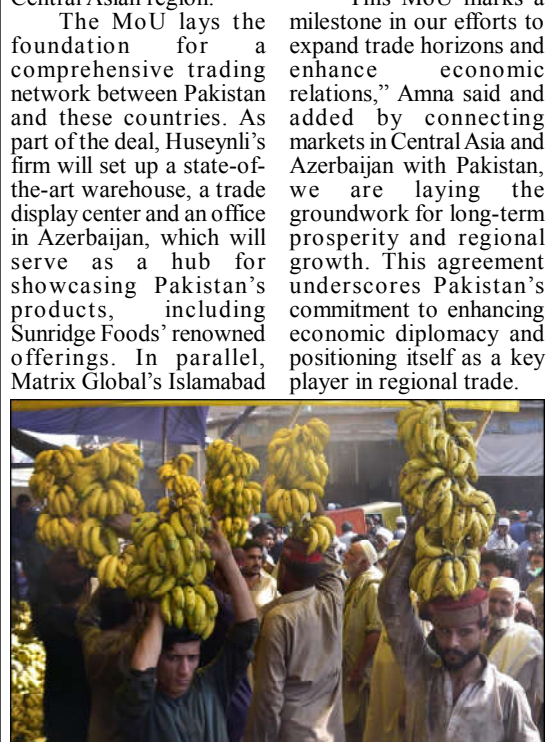
ISLAMABAD (APP): In a pivotal move to bolster regional trade and investment, Amna Munawwar Awan, Senior Vice President of the Pakistan Business Forum (PBF) and President of Matrix Global signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Babak Huseynli, Director for Central Asia and Azerbaijan at Digital Diplomacy here Sunday.

The agreement, which aims to enhance economic diplomacy, will facilitate the export of high-quality food products from Sunridge Foods Pvt Ltd to Azerbaijan and the broader Central Asian region.

The MoU marks a milestone in our efforts to expand trade horizons and enhance economic relations," Amna said and added by connecting markets in Central Asia and Azerbaijan with Pakistan, we are laying the groundwork for long-term prosperity and regional growth. This agreement underscores Pakistan's commitment to enhancing economic diplomacy and positioning itself as a key player in regional trade.

office will play a crucial role in facilitating regional connectivity and ensuring smooth trade operations.

At the signing ceremony, PBF SVP Amna Munawwar Awan highlighted the transformative impact of the partnership, stressing its potential to not only increase bilateral trade but also attract substantial investment into the region. With a projected trade volume exceeding \$10 million, the collaboration is set to unlock new economic opportunities, strengthening ties between Pakistan, Azerbaijan, and Central Asia.



PESHAWAR: Men carrying bananas of their head at Fruit Market.

existing clause of 'take or pay' for IPPs established under 2002 power policy, to 'take and pay.'

He also mentioned to reducing tariffs by Rs3.5 per unit through agreements with local IPPs, Rs3.75 per unit by re-profiling debt of Chinese IPPs, Rs0.75 per unit through surcharges, Rs0.72 per unit by closing five IPPs and Rs0.16 per unit reduction by removing television fee from electricity bills.

Special Assistant to PM, Muhammad Ali also hoped an agreement with bagasse based power plants for tariff cuts and revise PPAs with 18 other IPPs within next four to six months. "Negotiations had been completed with bagasse-based IPPs for

Israel carries out wave of air strikes on Beirut

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Israel launched a wave of air strikes on Hezbollah bastions in Beirut and south Lebanon, a day after Lebanese government officials said they were studying a US truce proposal. Since Tuesday, Israel has carried out several air raids on the city's southern suburbs, a stronghold of Hezbollah. AFP TV video showed three plumes of smoke rising over buildings in the area on Saturday morning, and another around midday. Shortly before the morning attack, Israeli military spokesman Avichay Adraee posted on X a call for residents of the Haret Hreik suburb to evacuate. "You are close to facilities and interests belonging to Hezbollah, against which the Israeli military will be acting with force in the near future," the post said in Arabic, identifying specific buildings and telling residents to move at least 500 metres away. A similar warning was also issued before the midday strike. An Israeli strike on neighbouring Syria earlier

this week killed two leaders from Islamic Jihad, a Palestinian group which has fought alongside Hamas in Gaza, a source told AFP. Since September 23, Israel has escalated its bombing of targets in Lebanon, later sending in ground troops after almost a year of limited, cross-border exchanges of fire with Hezbollah fighters. AFP TV footage showed fresh strikes on the southern suburbs of Beirut on Saturday, following calls from the Israeli army for residents to evacuate. Lebanon's state-run National News Agency said Israel carried out three air raids in the morning, later reporting another attack in the neighbourhood of Chiyah. It also reported a strike on the southern city of Tyre, in a neighbourhood near UNESCO-listed ancient ruins. Elsewhere in south Lebanon, the health ministry said Israeli strikes killed two rescuers affiliated with Hezbollah and its ally Amal. Hezbollah claimed several rocket attacks on northern Israel, targeting military sites including a

naval base in the Haifa area. Lebanese authorities say that more than 3,440 people have been killed since Israel launched its offensive. In a rare claim of responsibility for a strike on Syria, Israel said it targeted the Islamic Jihad group on Thursday. A source from the group told AFP on Saturday that Abdel Aziz Minawi, a member of Islamic Jihad's political bureau, and the group's foreign relations chief Rasmi Abu Issa were killed in the strike on Qudsaya, in the Damascus area. Islamic Jihad still holds several Israeli prisoners taken during the October 7 attack on southern Israel. Earlier this week, the group released two video clips of Sasha Trupanov, a 29-year-old Russian-Israeli prisoner. As diplomacy aimed at ending the Gaza conflict has stalled, a top government official in Beirut said on Friday that US ambassador Lisa Johnson had presented a 13-point proposal to halt the Israel-Hezbollah hostilities.



U.S. President Joe Biden meets with China's President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the APEC Summit in Lima, Peru.

China ready to work with Trump team, Xi tells Biden in Peru

Monitoring Desk
LIMA: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Saturday vowed to work with the incoming US administration of President-elect Donald Trump as he held his final talks with outgoing President Joe Biden on key conflicts from cyber crime to trade, Taiwan and Russia. Biden met Xi for about two hours at a hotel where the Chinese leader was staying, on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Lima, Peru, for their first talks in seven months. "China is ready to work with the new U.S. administration to maintain communication, expand cooperation and manage differences," Biden told Xi that the two leaders haven't always agreed but their discussions have been "frank" and " candid." The talks come two months before Trump assumes office. He has vowed to adopt blanket 60% tariffs on U.S. imports of Chinese goods as part of a package of "America First" trade measures. Beijing opposes those steps. The Republican president-elect also plans to hire several hawkish voices on China in senior roles, including U.S. Senator Marco Rubio as secretary of state and Representative Mike Waltz as national security adviser.

Trump attends UFC championship fight in New York, taking a break from Cabinet picks

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: President-elect Donald Trump walked out to a roaring standing ovation just ahead of the start of the UFC pay-per-view card at Madison Square Garden, combining two things close to his heart: fierce battles inside the octagon and New York City. Trump was accompanied by UFC President Dana White and the pair headed to their caged seats to Kid Rock's "American Bad Ass." UFC aired a video package of Trump's road to reclaiming the White House, calling it, "The great comeback in American History," while fans stood and applauded. Trump, wearing a suit and red tie, pumped his fist toward the crowd when the video ended. The president-elect also had his clenched fists pumping back and forth and briefly danced to the Village People's "YMCA" just outside the cage. He later again thrust his fist skyward as "Takim" Care of Business" played. Trump was flanked on his front-row seat by White on his right and Musk on his left and politely applauded the fight winners. Besieged by photographers and nearby fans, Trump stood to pose for pictures with White, Musk and other associates in breaks between fights. Trump even had a brief conversation with country singer Jelly Roll after the pair shook hands. What to know about Trump's second term: Staffing the administration: Here are the people Trump has picked for key positions so far. Plus, a look at recess appointments and how could Trump use them to fill his Cabinet.

Pope Francis suggests international study into possible genocide in Gaza

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Russia unleashed its largest wave of airstrikes on Ukraine in almost three months on Sunday, firing 120 missiles and 90 drones in a sweeping attack that killed at least seven people and caused "severe damage" to the power system, officials said. Ukrainians have been bracing for weeks for an attack on the hobbled energy system, fearing crippling damage that would cause long blackouts as winter sets in and ramp up psychological pressure at a critical moment in the war launched by Russia in February 2022. The strikes, which prompted emergency power cuts in numerous regions, came after this month's US presidential election victory of Donald Trump, who pledges to end the war without saying how he raised the prospect of a looming push to hold negotiations. "Russia launched one of the largest air attacks: drones and missiles against peaceful citizens, sleeping civilians, critical infrastructure," Foreign Minister Andrii Sybha wrote on X. Air defences could be heard engaging drones over the capital in the night, and a series of powerful blasts rang out across the city centre as the missile attack was under way in the morning. Kyiv's air force said the military had destroyed 104 out of 120 missiles fired and 42 out of 90 drones launched by Russia. Russia's defence ministry said it had launched a massive strike on energy facilities that supply Ukraine's military-industrial complex.

Venezuela says it frees 225 arrested after anti-government protests

Monitoring Desk
CARACAS: Venezuela has freed 225 people arrested during anti-government protests over the nation's disputed presidential election in July, Attorney General Tarek Saab said. The releases were based on new evidence gathered by prosecutors, Saab said in a statement. "Between the afternoon of Friday the 15th and Saturday the 16th, 225 measures of liberty were granted and executed to people prosecuted for the acts of violence that occurred after the July 28 elections," the statement said. Saab, who has said the protests left 28 people dead and nearly 200 injured, said last week he would review at least 225 arrests. Local rights group Foro Penal tallied more than 100 people who were freed on Saturday across four prisons. "Up to now we have verified 107 political prisoners, due to the post-electoral situation, released in Venezuela," the group's director, Alfredo Romero, said on social media. According to Foro Penal, at least 1,800 people were arrested after the July 28 election, which kept President Nicolas Maduro in power despite disputed results. Maduro took office in 2013, and is set to begin his next six-year term in January. The rights group monitored the releases at four prisons in central Venezuela, including at least 50 young adults from Tocoron prison, Romero said. A video he posted showed some of them walking along a highway outside the prison, to cheers and applause from a group of onlookers. In another video, a young man gives his name as Luis Enrique Correa Espinoza and smiles while holding a paper over his head, to applause from supporters. Outside the Tocuyito prison in Valencia, one young man, who declined to give his name, said he longed to eat a home-cooked meal with his parents because he often doubted whether the food in prison was safe. The election sparked deadly anti-government protests, and the opposition, rights groups and unions have accused Maduro's administration of cracking down on dissent.

Russia targets Ukraine's power grid in 'massive' missile strike, officials say

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Blasts rang out across Ukraine's capital Kyiv and other cities early on Sunday, as Russia staged its biggest missile attack since August and targeted power facilities with the winter setting in, officials said. Ukrainians have been bracing for a major attack on the hobbled power system for weeks, fearing crippling damage to the grid that would cause long blackouts and build psychological pressure at a critical moment in the war Russia launched in February 2022. "Another massive attack on the power system is under way. The enemy is attacking electricity generation and transmission facilities throughout Ukraine," Ukrainian Energy Minister German Galushchenko wrote on Facebook. Air defences could be heard engaging drones over the capital in the night, and a series of powerful blasts rang out across the city centre as the missile attack was under way in the morning. The scale of the damage was not immediately clear. Officials cut power supply to numerous city districts, including in Kyiv.

Russia cuts gas supplies to Austria

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russian gas giant Gazprom (GAZPMM), continued to pump steady volumes of gas to Europe via Ukraine on Saturday, but supplies to Austrian energy company OMV were halted hours after Vienna said Russia had given notice it would cut off flows. Russia, which before the Ukraine war was the biggest single supplier of natural gas to Europe, has lost almost all of its European customers as the EU tried to reduce its dependence and the Nord Stream gas pipeline to Germany was blown up in 2022.

India's successful test of hypersonic missile puts it among elite group

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: India successfully tested a domestically developed long-range hypersonic missile, it claimed on Sunday, attaining a key milestone in military development that puts it in a small group of nations possessing the advanced technology. The global push for hypersonic weapons figures in the efforts of some countries, such as India, which is striving to develop advanced long-range missiles, along with China, Russia and the United States of America.

Iran denies report on UN envoy's meeting with Musk

Monitoring Desk
TEHRAN: Iran's foreign ministry spokesman on Saturday "categorically" denied The New York Times report on Tehran's ambassador to the United Nations meeting with US tech billionaire Elon Musk, state media reported. In an interview with state news agency IRNA, spokesman Esmail Baghaei was reported as "categorically denying claims made in some American media about a meeting between Elon Musk and Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations in New York, expressed surprise at its wide coverage by the American media." The Times reported on Friday that Musk, who is a close ally of President-elect Donald Trump, met earlier this week with Iran's ambassador to the UN, Amir Saeid Irvani. It cited anonymous Iranian sources describing the encounter as "positive."



People take shelter inside a metro station during a Russian military attack, amid Russia's attacks on Ukraine, in Kyiv, Ukraine.

Bangladesh deaths from dengue cross 400 as outbreak worsens

Monitoring Desk
DHAKA: Bangladesh is battling its worst outbreak of dengue in years, with more than 400 deaths as rising temperatures and a longer monsoon season drive a surge in infections, leaving hospitals struggling to cope, particularly in urban areas. At least 407 people have died from related complications in 2024, with 78,595 patients admitted to hospital nationwide, the latest official figures show. By mid-November, 4,173 patients were being treated, with 1,835 of them in Dhaka, the capital, and 2,338 elsewhere. "We're witnessing monsoon-like rainfall even in October, which is unusual," said Kabirul Bashar, a zoology professor at Jahangirnagar University. Shifting weather patterns caused by climate change provided optimal conditions for the Aedes aegypti mosquito, the primary carrier of the disease, he added. "These changes in the season are fostering ideal conditions for the mosquitoes to breed." Dense populations in cities exacerbate the spread of the disease, usually more common in the monsoon season from June to September though it has spilled beyond that window this year. A rise in temperatures and longer monsoons, both linked to climate change, have caused a spike in mosquito breeding, driving the rapid spread of the virus.

Germany's Scholz defends call to Putin ahead of snap elections

Monitoring Desk
BERLIN: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said his conversation with Vladimir Putin had given no indication of a shift in the Russian President's thinking on the war in Ukraine, but defended his much-criticised decision to phone the Kremlin. Scholz's hour-long call with Putin, their first direct communication in almost two years, comes three months before snap elections in which the wildly unpopular chancellor faces a stiff challenge from populists of left and right who are demanding a resumption of diplomacy. Critics, including Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, said the call was a breach of Western solidarity for the sake of domestic political advantage.



People attend a "No to Putin! No to war in Ukraine! Freedom for political prisoners!" protest in Berlin, Germany.

Twenty-three arrested in India's Manipur after violent protests

Monitoring Desk
GUWAHATI: Police arrested 23 people on Sunday in the northeastern Indian state of Manipur for ransacking and setting fire to the homes of lawmakers and ministers, while hundreds demonstrated against recent violent killings in defiance of a curfew. The violence, marking the second day of unrest in the area, has led to a tense standoff in Imphal, the state capital. "The situation is relatively calm today but unpredictable," a senior state police official told Reuters, adding the situation was being closely monitored. The arrests followed Saturday's violence, which involved what a police statement said was the

Trump's defence pick Hegseth accused of sexual assault

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: One of Donald Trump's most controversial cabinet picks just became even more so: Pete Hegseth, tapped for defence secretary earlier this week, was accused of sexual assault in 2017, according to police. No charges were filed in the case but shocked Trump transition team officials are nonetheless reportedly weighing next steps for the Fox News host, whose nomination took many in Washington by surprise. President-elect Trump nominated the 44-year-old National Guard veteran on Tuesday to run the world's most powerful military.

Nigeria and India agree deeper ties in maritime security, counter-terrorism

Monitoring Desk
ABUJA: Nigeria and India on Sunday agreed to deepen collaboration in maritime security, intelligence and counter-terrorism during a state visit to the West African country by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Modi is the first Indian premier to visit Nigeria in 17 years after an invitation by President Bola Tinubu, who is seeking investments from some of the world's biggest economies. Modi arrived in the capital Abuja on Saturday night and met Tinubu at the presidential villa on Sunday where the two leaders also discussed economic development, defence, healthcare and food security, a joint statement said. With growing threats in the Gulf of Guinea and the Indian Ocean, the two countries agreed to coordinated action to safeguard maritime trade routes and combat piracy. Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, is seeking to woo more Indian investment and cheaper lines of credit to boost its economy and create jobs.

Brazil's first lady insults Elon Musk at G20 social event

Monitoring Desk
RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazil's first lady, Janja Lula da Silva, swore at billionaire Elon Musk during a G20 social event on Saturday at which she spoke about the need to regulate social media to rein in misinformation. A ship's horn sounded as she spoke and she joked, "I think it's Elon Musk," before adding, "I'm not afraid of you, fuck you, Elon Musk." Musk, owner of social network X, reacted to a video of her remarks by posting a laughing out loud emoji graphic.

Japan's Mount Fuji eyes China-made tram to transport hikers

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: Japanese authorities seeking to reduce the carbon footprint and overcrowding at Mount Fuji will propose a trackless, rubber-tyred tram system made by China's CRRC to transport climbers, a person with direct knowledge of the plan said. The new proposal, which has not been previously reported, would replace the original plan to build a light-rail system connecting the base to the fifth hiking station of the popular Yoshida Trail, which goes to the top, after a local city and other parties voiced concern over its environmental and cost impact. Yamanashi Prefecture, home of the most popular route used by climbers of the 3,776-metre (12,388-foot) volcano, is set to announce the plan soon, the person told Reuters, asking for anonymity because the information is not yet public. Mount Fuji, which straddles Yamanashi and Shizuoka prefectures, is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Japan, whose numbers have surged in recent years. Pollution from the constant stream of tourist buses and cars arriving at the fifth station, as well as overcrowding on the trails, have become headaches for authorities seeking to clean up the site.



A city corporation worker sprays fumigator to control mosquitoes, as number of dengue infected patients increase, in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

AI Summit declares East Jerusalem a red line, reaffirms two-state solution as key to Mid East peace

ISLAMABAD (APP): Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan emphasized that a two-state solution is the only viable path to lasting peace in the Middle East. Speaking after the summit, he highlighted Arab and Islamic unity in addressing the escalating crisis in Palestine.

Prince Faisal called for immediate de-escalation, an end to Israeli violations, the easing of humanitarian aid restrictions, and international pressure on Israel to halt aggressive measures, including withholding Palestinian tax revenues.

Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Secretary-General, Hissein Brahim Taha condemned Israeli violence in Palestine and Lebanon as 'atrocities and genocide' during the summit. He criticized attacks on UNRWA and warned of escalating risks of an all-out war, calling Israel's actions a 'blatant violation' of international law and UN resolutions.

Taha urged immediate global action, emphasizing the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2735 for a ceasefire and humanitarian aid access in Gaza. He also called for Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories and the empowerment of Palestinian governance in Gaza, essential steps for stability.

On Lebanon, Taha urged adherence to Resolution 1701, advocating a halt to hostilities and protection of the country's sovereignty. He reaffirmed the OIC's demand for international intervention to safeguard Palestinian and Lebanese rights and ensure humanitarian aid, stressing the summit's unified call for peaceful resolutions to the crises. Arab League Secretary-General Ahmed Aboul Gheit accused Israel of pursuing a strategy to dismantle Palestinian society in Gaza through forced or voluntary displacement, warning this approach aims to erase the prospects of a future independent Palestinian state.

Speaking at the summit, he said Israel's actions undermine coexistence and obstruct peace efforts based on justice. He stressed the region's unwavering demand for an independent Palestinian state along the 1967 borders.



LAHORE: Spanish Parliamentary delegation led by Vicente Azpitarte Perez visiting Badshahi Masjid.

Spanish delegation tours Lahore's historical sites

LAHORE (APP): A delegation of the Spanish Senate Foreign Affairs Committee toured several historical landmarks of the city to explore its rich cultural heritage, here on Sunday.

The distinguished guests visited several key sites, including the Lahore Museum, Badshahi Mosque, Royal Fort (Shahi Qila), the tomb of Allama Iqbal, and the Samadhi of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. They deeply explored the city's rich cultural heritage, connecting with its history and traditions. The delegation's visit began at the Lahore Museum, where the Director of the Lahore Museum, Nabeela Irfan, warmly welcomed the guests and presented them with souvenirs.

On arrival, Research Officer Ihtisham Aziz Choudhry guided the delegation through the museum's various galleries. The visitors explored the Art Gallery, Historic Gal-

Saghar says: Jailed Hurriyat leaders dedicated entire life for Kashmir cause

ISLAMABAD (INP): All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHK-AJK) chapter leader Mehmood Ahmed Saghar has said that illegally detained Hurriyat leaders have dedicated their entire life for the Kashmir cause and better political future of the oppressed people of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Mehmood Ahmed Saghar in a statement issued in Islamabad said people in Indian occupied territory know it well that Hurriyat leaders, including Shabbir Ahmad Shah, Massrat Aalam Butt, Muhammad Yasin Malik, Aasiya Andrabi.

Ilyas Bilour laid to rest in Peshawar

PESHAWAR (APP): Senior politician and veteran industrialist, Ilyas Ahmad Bilour was laid to rest at his ancestral graveyard after his Nimaz e Janaza was offered here at Wazir Bagh on Sunday.

The funeral prayers of the ANP leader and well known business personality, Ilyas Bilour was attended by the former Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali, former Governor, Sardar Mehtab Abbasi, provincial minister, Sayyed Qasim Ali Shah, Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, former chief minister, Amir Haider Khan Hoti, senior ANP leader, Mian Ifthikhar Hussain, Haji Ghulam Bilour, people from political parties and business community across the country and large number of people from different walks of life.



PESHAWAR: People are offering funeral prayer of Ilyas Ahmad Bilour, at Wazir Bagh in Peshawar. Prominent industrialist and leader of Awami National Party (ANP) Ilyas Ahmad Bilour passed away in Peshawar at the age of 84.

Pak-Syria direct flight to start from today: Envoy Ramez

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of the Syrian Arab Republic in Pakistan, Dr. Ramez Alraee on Sunday said that the direct flight between Pakistan and Syria will start from today, November 18th and the first flight will land in Lahore tomorrow morning.

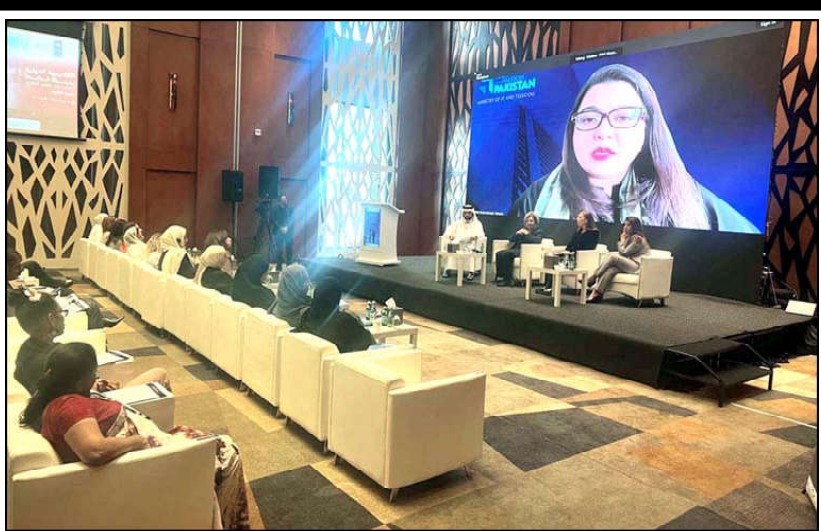
Earlier, Syrian Air Line had started its flight operations from Karachi since 2019 and tomorrow this will be the first flight of Syrian Airline to Lahore, for which the Foreign Affairs Ministries and Embassies of both countries have made great efforts.

Ambassador of the Syrian Arab Republic in Pakistan, Dr. Ramez Alraee told APP here.

The Ambassador said that tomorrow morning at 6:30 am, the first direct flight of Syrian Airline first



QUETTA: A sit-in has been held at the Provincial Assembly Chowk against the abduction of the businessman's son, in Quetta.



DOHA: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja addressing virtually a Conference titled 'Digitalization and Women in Politics'.

Education central route to development: Khalid Maqbool

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui has said, education is the sole path to Development of the country.

He expressed these words while addressing as chief guest at the convocation of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU), Sindh Chapter, held in Karachi on Sunday.

The minister emphasized that education is not only a necessity of the times but also the first commandment of our religion.

He warned that if we fail to align ourselves with the demands of the present era and do not strive to change ourselves, external forces will impose their changes upon us.

Federal Minister for Education and Vice-Chancellor AIU has distributed degrees to passed out students and the students with outstanding performance were awarded gold medals.

Congratulating the graduates, the Federal Minister emphasized that their success is a testament to their dedication, hard work, and the quality education provided by Allama Iqbal Open University, along with the efforts and competence of its teachers.

He remarked that the fast-changing world has transformed everything, and those who fail to adapt are left behind, as even divine intervention does not aid those unwilling to change themselves.

Highlighting Pakistan's youth as both an opportunity and a challenge, he noted that 65% of the country's population

Ali Hassan condemns attack on Kalat's Shah Mardan Check Post

QUETTA (APP): The cowardly attack by terrorists on the Shah Mardan check post of Kalat district of Balochistan is highly condemnable.

The elements spreading chaos and unrest in Balochistan are enemies of the people of Balochistan and its development. These views were expressed by the central senior leader of Pakistan Peoples Party, Spokesperson of President Asif Ali Zardari and Provincial Advisor for Industry and Crafts Mir Ali Hassan Zehri in his condemnation statement.

He said that such nefarious tactics cannot shake the determination of the government for the development and prosperity of Balochistan. Neither the cowardly attacks of terrorists can lower the morale of the brave Pakistani nation.

Mir Ali Hassan Zehri said that the nation will continue to destroy the evil intentions of Pakistan's enemies with the security forces and the country of the monster of terrorism. We will continue the war against it until its complete elimination. He paid tribute to the brave personnel who sacrificed their lives while protecting the homeland in the attack and said that the sons of nation who sacrificed their lives for the sake of the homeland will always be alive in the hearts of the nation.



CHINA: Ambassador of Pakistan to China H.E. Mr. Khalid Hashmi had a useful interaction with Ms. Guo Ningning, Party Secretary of Fuzhou, Fujian Province in China.

Smog severely impacts health of sensitive citizens across Punjab

LAHORE (INP): Smog has severely impacted the health of sensitive citizens across Punjab, with approximately 1.93 million people visiting hospitals over the past 30 days for respiratory and related illnesses, according to the Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department on Sunday.

In the last month, hospitals in Punjab received 124,660 asthma patients, 62,908 cases of ischemic heart disease, 5,953 stroke patients, and 12,694 cases of conjunctivitis. The department further reported that in the past seven days alone, 452,567 respiratory disease cases, 31,707 asthma cases, 13,768 ischemic heart disease cases, 1,695 strokes, and 47,224 conjunctivitis cases were treated. Over the last 24 hours, hospitals handled 53,377 respiratory disease cases, 3,509 asthma cases, 883 ischemic heart disease cases, 104 strokes, and 656 conjunctivitis cases. Lahore, the city most impacted by smog, reported 132,558 respiratory disease cases, 5,954 asthma cases, 14,869 ischemic heart disease cases, 583 strokes, and 2,395 conjunctivitis cases over the past month. In the last seven days, the city saw 34,168 respiratory disease cases, 2,321 asthma cases, 1,835 ischemic heart disease cases.

Raisani stresses youths' vital role of in fight against tuberculosis

BALI (INP): Nawabzada Jamal Khan Raisani, Member of the National Assembly and leader of the Pakistan Peoples Party, (PPP) on Sunday stressed the vital role of youth in the fight against tuberculosis through community-driven initiatives, awareness campaigns and the adoption of modern technology. Pakistan's cuisine from Australia.

He stressed the importance of involving youth in policy formulation and practical initiatives. "Young people should encourage their peers to adopt healthy lifestyles and address public misconceptions to ensure timely treatment," Raisani stated.

He added that early diagnosis of TB is possible through local-level screening efforts and collaboration with global organizations. Raisani also underlined the need for effective community campaigns to achieve complete eradication of TB.

Nawabzada Jamal Khan Raisani acknowledged the efforts of First Lady Aseefa Bhutto in the fight against TB. He said her vision has mobilized youth across Pakistan, including in Balochistan. He also praised Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's dedication to eradicating TB and polio from Balochistan and ensuring youth are provided opportunities in health and education sectors.



QUETTA: Chairman Public Accounts Committee, MPA Asghar Ali Tareen enquiring about health of Parliamentary Secretary Urban Planning and Chairman QDA Asfandyar Khan Kakar.

Hafiz Naeem urges all political parties to unite for peace in country

KARACHI (INP): Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman urged all the political parties to unite in order to establish peace in the country.

He was addressing a press conference in Karachi on Sunday.

The JI Emir strongly condemned the killing of party's general secretary of Bajaur chapter.

"It is the responsibility of federal and provincial governments to ensure security of the citizens. Jamaat-e-Islami is the largest political party of Bajaur," said Hafiz Naeem.

He said that Pakistan should avoid to fight any proxy war in the region.

The Afghan government should also play a responsible role to achieve peace in the region, he added.

The JI Emir also highlighted the need to address the issues in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

"All the political parties should sit together and resolve the country's problems collectively," he said.

Hafiz Naeem also grilled the government for its handling of the economy and national issues.

The deteriorating law and order situation is also affecting our economy badly, he added.

KP govt lost writ in province: Sherpao

PESHAWAR (APP): Senior politician and Chairman Quami Watan Party (QWP) Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao has said that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has lost its writ in the province. Talking to media at Charsadda on Sunday, Aftab Sherpao said the rulers of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were busy in taking out protest rallies and sit-ins after losing its writ and hold in the province.

The current circumstances, he said, demand a national dialogue between all the political parties rather than agitation and conflicts. The wheel of



SINGAPORE: Pakistan's High Commissioner to Singapore, Rabia Shafiq called on Dr Ng Eng Hen, Minister of Defence.

Silent humming protests shake COP29, climate activists demand climate justice

BAKU (APP): A silent yet powerful protest unfolded at COP29, as climate activists from over 100 countries aligned along the plenary halls to voice their demand for climate justice. The demonstrators used humming as a symbolic form of protest against what they perceive as the multilateral forum's bias towards oil-producing developed nations, which they accuse of stalling crucial climate finance mobilization.

Talking to APP on the sidelines of the protest, Hemantha Withanage from Sri Lanka's Centre for Environmental Justice emphasized the urgent need for developed countries to take responsibility for financing climate action. "The rich countries, who are the historical polluters, need to pay for climate finance instead of blocking its mobilization. The current contribution, like the \$700 million for the loss and damage fund, pale in comparison to the over \$1 trillion required by developing countries for adaptation, climate-resilient agriculture and infrastructure," Withanage stated.

Protesters criticized the calls for developing nations to seek climate finance from private sectors and carbon markets, insisting that public funding from developed countries is essential to support vulnerable nations. Many civil society organizations (CSOs) feel sidelined in forums dominated by wealthy polluting industries, such as oil and coal mining companies.