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dailyindisb@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah www.dailyindependent.com.pk Gwadar

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Deportation process applies to all illegal foreigners: PM Kakar

taker Prime Minister special session, the prime Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on minister elaborated that Pa-Monday reiterated that as kistan had hosted more than per government's policy 4 million Afghan refugees and relevant laws, they were sending back all the were sending back all the wears under the Geneva illegal aliens and foreigners from the soil of Pakistan as the set deadline of October 31 under the repatriation process draws nearer. He said that such policy was not centric to only illegal Afghan nationals that had been staying inside the country but encompassed all those undocumented and illegal foreigners.

In an interaction with the students of Lahore kistan with the required le-

Convention, despite the fact that it was not a signatory to that.

He said more than 1 million foreigners had been categorized as illegal who had been staying in Pa-kistan without legal and valid documents. They were being encouraged to return back to their native countries, he said, adding if they wanted to return to Pa-University of Management gal documents and valid vi-

LAHORE (APP): Care- Sciences (LUMS) during a sas, there would be no restriction. Replying to a question regarding an incident involving Afghan nationals, the caretaker prime minister said that he had already given direction to the relevant authorities of the interior ministry to ensure dignity of the repatriated women and children as there might be vulnerable

groups.

The prime minister said that Pakistan had entertained on its soil for decades those Afghans that had been registered as refugees and compared the treat ment meted out to immi grants' boats in the Medi terranean Sea.

Fierce clashes in

Gaza as Israeli

forces expand

ground offensive

Monitoring Desk GAZA/JERUSALEM:

Fierce air and artillery

strikes rang out in Gaza

early on Monday as Israeli

troops backed by tanks

pressed into the Palestin-

ian enclave with a ground

assault that prompted more

international calls for civil

ians to be protected. Israel'

military said it had struck

gets over the past few days

more than 600 militant tar-

as it expanded ground op-

erations in the Gaza Strip,

where Palestinian civilians

are in dire need of fuel, food

and clean water as the war

ens of terrorists who barri-

caded themselves in build-

ings and tunnels, and at-

tempted to attack the

troops," a military state-ment said. Israel began a

major push into Gaza on

Friday and reiterated calls

for civilians to move from

the north of the tiny

coastal enclave to the south

as it tries to root out Hama

Electricity price

likely to be increased

by Rs 1.30

ISLAMABAD (INP): The

price of electricity is likely

to increase as the National

Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) is

considering a proposal to

increase the price of elec-

tricity by one rupee and 30

paisa. The proposal would

put an additional burden of

22 billion 56 crore rupees

proposed to cover the cost

of electricity theft and line

losses, as well as to increase

The increase is being

on consumers.

militants.

"IDF troops killed doz-

enters its fourth week.



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki addressing participants of National Security Workshop (NSW) to Chief Minister's Secretariat

Caretaker govt has no political agenda: Solangi

Locals helping undocumented immigrants will be dealt with iron hand: Bugti

ISLAMABAD (APP): of the Federal Cabinet pre-Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Monday said that the caretaker government was strictly adhered to its constitutional role of holding free, fair and transparent elections in the

"We are not a political government, and we do not have any political agenda. Political parties do not need us for establishing contacts with each other. The Election Commission is in contact with all the political parties," the minister said while addressing a press conference after a meeting

sided over by Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul Haq Kakar. Solangi was flanked by

ministers for Interior, Culture & Heritage, and National Health Services.

Sharing the major decisions taken by the Federal Cabinet, the minister said the forum approved the Repatriation Order under sections 3 and 14B of the Foreigners Act of 1946 on the recommendations of the Ministry of Interior. It was aimed at sending back illegal immigrants to their countries,

Political Party's sit-in outside Parliament to be addressed through negotiations: Bugti

ISLAMABAD (APP): they continued to stage their sit-in.

Bugti underscored the Bugti Monday emphasized prominent role of seasoned the need for negotiations to resolve ongoing sit-in out- Mengal in the protest, conside the Parliament, led by sidering his party's involvethe political party BNP-M

and civil society members.

Speaking here at the Senate, he said that while the BNP-M had initially been granted permission for a press conference and a token protest at the Islamabad Press Club, adding they subsequently moved their demonstration

Bugti underscored the

Politician Akhtar Khan ment in various governmen tal capacities over the last decade

Senator Raza Rabbani. addressing the issue during the Senate session, high lighted the protesters' concerns, particularly regarding the chronic problem of missing persons and alleged death squads operating in Balochistan.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Balochistan National Party Sardar Akhtar Mengal along with Pakistani human rights activist Amina Masood Janjua and others participate in the protest protest of the missing persons outside Parliament House in Federal Capital.

Justice Mansoor issues dissenting note in NAB amendment case ISLAMABAD (APP): Su- undermining the parliament

preme Court (SC)'s Justice Mansoor Ali Shah on Monday issued 27-pages dissenting note in judgment pertaining to the NAB amendments. Justice Shah wrote that judiciary could review a legislation only when it contradicted with fundamental human rights.

It said that examining the legislation by keeping the interest of the legislators electricity consumption. in front was tantamount to

and democracy. The note said that the

court had to give judgments according to the constitution and law even if it goes against the public sentiment The balance between

the institutions could be maintained only if there was a mutual relationship of respect, it said, adding that the judiciary should show tolerance as long as the constitutional

Geo-political importance of Balochistan not hidden from anyone, says caretaker CM

Domki says interim Govt endeavouring to restore peace of the past; around 40 precious minerals resources discovered so far, which are enough to meet 50 to 100 years needs of country; facilitation centres established for immigrants repatriating to their country on voluntary basis

adding he informed. He also

said that every possible as-

sistance is being provided

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that the geo-political importance of the province is not hidden from anyone.

The Chief Minister was speaking to the participants of National Security Workshop (NSW) here on Monday. He said that the interim provincial government is giving priority to the law and order, education, healthcare and their basic infrastructure in the

Referring to the initiatives taken by the government, the Chief Minister said that the anti smuggling wing has been activated for

Two soldiers embrace martyrdom ın Awaran District

RAWALPINDI (APP) Two soldiers embraced martyrdom during an exchange of fire with terror ists in the general area Khoro, Awaran District of Balochistan, on Sunday. According to an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) press release, the troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location and resultantly two terrorists were sent to hell. while two got injured.

However, during an intense exchange of fire, Naib Subedar Asif Irfan (age 37 years, resident of District Okara) and Sepoy Irfan Ali (age 22 years, resident of District Sargodha) having fought gallantly, embraced 'Shahadat'. Sanitization of the area is being carried out to eliminate any terrorists found in the area. The security forces are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our re-solve, the ISPR press release added.

China, Pakistan to hold Arabian Sea joint military

drills in November ISLAMABAD (Online): China and Pakistan will hold their third joint naval exercises next month in the north of the Arabian Sea, the Chinese defence ministry said. The Sea Guardians-3 drills will focus on formation movements, inspection and capture, mutual landing of helicopters, ioint search and rescue, as well as anti-submarine op-erations, the ministry said.

"The theme of this joint exercise is 'jointly responding to maritime security threats'," said ministry spokesman Senior Colonel Wu Oian at a press briefing..

The two countries are aiming to further deepen the "China-Pakistan allweather strategic cooperative partnership and traditional friendship", and improve the level of actual combat training between the two militaries, he said.

Last month, the PLA Air Force's J-16 fighter jet and Pakistan's J-10C and JF-17 fighters took to the skies over northwest China for Shaheen-X, a joint air exercise aimed at validating interoperability in the face of "realistic contemporary air combat scenarios

prevention of the smuggling ing he asserted. About potential of the in Balochistan. province in natural resources, the Chief Minis-In addition to this, joint check posts have also been

established all over the ter mentioned that the resprovince, he added.
While on the other hand, marked reduction has ervoirs of around 40 precious minerals have been discovered so far in the provbeen made in prices of the ince. These resources are enough to meet the 50 to 100 edibles following measures taken for control of the years needs of the country. prices. Regarding the repatriation of illegal immi-The Chief Minister said that massive economic grants, special centers have been established for their activities for the investment and means of employment assistance in the border areas,

for local population could be generated in the mineral resources sector. He said that it is the endeavour of interim government to restore exem-

to the immigrants repatriating to their country voluntarily. The action would plary peace of the past and be started for repatriation provide protection to the life and property of the of the illegal immigrants after the given deadline, add- masses.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar addressing at ceremony of Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony.

Governor emphasizes on promotion of inter-faith & religious harmony The Governor said that

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has emphasized upon promotion of the inter-faith and religious harmony in the prov-

The Governor was addressing the inter-faith and religion harmony held here at the Sikandar Jamali auditorium in civil secretariat on

The caretaker provincial Minister for Information, Jan Muhammad Achakzai, Sardar Zainul Abidin, prominent religious scholar and leaders besides representatives of civil society, and people belonging to different walks of the life.

The Governor said that we have to ensure the rights and powers of all the citizens on the equal basis without any discrimination.

He said that the constitution of Pakistan ensures giving equal rights to all citizens with freedom of expression and religion.

He expressed pleasure

over holding of the inter faith faith and religion harmony.

Allah almighty is the creator of all human beings He said that this is a fact

that our first identity is as a human being and there is no room of any discrimination and religious, race, linguistic divisions.

He said that we have learnt from our elders not to make enmity with anyone on the basis of colour, religion and race.

He stressed that we have to promote religious harmony, brotherhood and respect in order to make the country and province hub of

This is also necessary for facing the challenges of present era, adding he stressed.

He said that there are invaluable services of all minorities in different sectors in the country and it is hoped that they would continue to take wholehearted part in development of the country. In the end, Governor appreciated the organisers on successfully holding the conference on an important topic.



NOWSHERA: Illegal immigrants families living in Pakistan arrived outside the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) repatriation center to voluntarily return to Afghanistan following Pakistan's government decision to deport all illegally staving foreigners from the country after October 31st.

ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs

a meeting of the Caretaker Federal Cabinet.

Conference on repatriation of illegal immigrants & strategy of Govt.

Decision of repatriation of illegal immigrants in interest of country's security & betterment: Achakzai

Says interim Government fully prepared to send foreigners back to their homeland

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has categorically stated that the decision about repatriation of the illegal immigrants to their respective countries has been taken in the interest of country's security

and betterment. The Minister Information was addressing the conference on the issue of repatriation of the illegal immigrants here at the civil secretariat on Monday.

The prominent religious leaders including the central khateeb, Maulana Anwarul Haq Haqqani and others participated in the conference.

The conference was organized by the Information Department, Government of Balochistan in collabo-

The basic objective behind the conference was to share the matter of repatriation of the illegal immigrants and strategy of the government in this regard with the religious leaders

and scholars. The Minister Information mentioned that Pakistan has been hosting around four millions of Afghan refugees for last sev-

eral decades. The immigrants are living in different parts of the country without any incon-

venience, adding he pointed

However, the incumbent government has decided to repatriate those living illegally in the country. He said that the repa-

triation of the illegal immigrants is in accordance with the international laws. He said that the govern



ISLAMABAD: Chief Guest of the event Caretaker Interior Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti cut the cake along with Ambassador of Turkiye to Pakistan Mehmet Pacaci, Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori and others during the celebrations of the 100th Anniversary of the Proclamation of the Republic of Turkiye, at local hotel in Federal Capital.

Special anti-polio campaign kicks off in 10 districts of Balochistan

Independent Report QUETTA: The special

anti-polio campaign started 10 districts of Balochistan on Monday. According to the Emergency Operation Center

(EOC), the campaign started in Awaran, Dera Bugti, Gwadar, Usta Muhammad, Hub, Jaffarabad, Khuzdar, Hub, Lasbela, Naseerabad and Sohbatpur.

The special polio immunization campaign, however, has been postponed in four high risk districts of the province including

Quetta, Chaman, Pishin and Killa Abdullah.

Earlier, it has been decided to launch special antipolio campaign in 14 districts of the province after in environmental samples in different areas of the province including Quetta Pishin and Hub.

The EOC sources informed that it has been targeted to administer the antimillion children below five years of age in 10 districts where the campaign is being run presently.

Decision to deport illegal foreigners in line with sovereign laws, int'l norms: FO ISLAMABAD (APP):

The Foreign Office on Monday said the decision to deport the illegal foreigners residing in Pakistan was in line with the sovereign domestic laws and international principles.

Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, in response to a statement by the United Nations High Commissioner (UNHCR), said the decision was "in exercise of Pakistan's sovereign domestic laws, and compliant with applicable international norms and

The UNHCR had appealed to the Pakistani au-

thorities to suspend the deportations as a November deadline looms. "We have seen the press statement by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human

The Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan (IFRP) applies to all illegal foreigners residing in Pakistan, irrespective of their nationality and country of origin,' she said in a statement. Baloch said all foreign nationals legally residing or registered in Pakistan were beyond the purview of this

'The Government of Pakistan takes its commit- to this end," she said.

ments towards protection and safety needs of those in vulnerable situations with utmost seriousness,' she said. She mentioned that the country's record of the last 40 years in hosting millions of the Afghan brothers and sisters spoke

for itself. The FO spokesperson urged the international community to scale up collective efforts to address protracted refugee situations through advancing durable solutions as a matter of priority. "Pakistan will continue to work with our international partners

Daily Aoice of Masse Independent

In waiting

With the Election Commission seemingly committed to holding elections by the last week of January, it is puzzling that the political parties still appear to be showing little interest or initiative in preparing for the exercise.

One unconfirmed report in a local daily, published this Saturday, has even claimed that the ECP has set aside Sunday, Jan 28 for the general election, and is expected to inform the Supreme Court accordingly. While the published claim was not substantiated by the ECP — which has publicly taken the position that an official date can only be announced once final delimitations have been notified — it nonetheless appears to be a reasonable target for political parties to plan around.

This gives the parties less than three months to finalise and announce their manifestos, launch their campaigns, interview candidates and issue tickets, and also to start mobilising their cadres to prepare voters for the big day.

Three months is not a lot of time, yet our politicians seem unable to shake out of their languor.

What do they know or suspect that is preventing them from going into election mode? Where are their workers' conventions, corner meetings and rallies? Where are the conspiracy theories and the wheeling and dealing that provide an endless stream of political commentary before every election?

The entire system seems to be suffering from some form of self-inflicted paralysis, waiting for something to give. One could conjecture from the inaction that, despite the ECP's assurances, the parties don't truly believe elections are around the

This uncertainty may be what is preventing them from opening their war chests and launching their campaigns in earnest. Campaigns do end up burning a lot of cash and no party would want to start spending before it knows for certain its 'investments' will not go to waste.

However, what our political leaders seem to be overlooking is the possibility that if they start moving according to the timeline the ECP has provided, the pressure to hold the much-delayed elections within the provided time frame will automatically start to build.

It will become much more difficult for the authorities to back out — if that is the fear — when political parties have already sunk their resources into the process. In such a scenario, the latter would resist and take action if their legitimate interests in the upcoming elections were threatened by any fur-

Therefore, it is not as if the only choice available to the parties is to wait. A grave injustice has already been done by the repeated violation of constitutional deadlines for elections.

Continuing to repeat the 'it is entirely up to the ECP to set a date' fallacy will only make parties culpable in denying the people their right to elect a government.

Persisting theories

litical negotiations, the cir-

the preponderance of po-

revelation that US intelli-

der the guise of a vacci-

nation programme. This,

after years of clerics

veil or sterilise Muslims.

that these theories often

beleaguered politicians.

have little control over

their actions or the poli-

cies they implement, poli-

ticians themselves exploit

conspiratorial rhetoric to

exert some influence over

national narratives. Imran

ample. Members of the

public who peddle con-

spiracy theories also ben-

efit in our politically dis-

torted context; perversely,

they give the marginalised

a sense of empowerment.

Khan offers the best ex-



Tuesday October 31, 2023

Huma Yusuf

How many conspiracy theories have you heard since Nawaz Sharif's return? There's the entrapment theory, the Sharif family schism theory, the counterpoint-to-Zardari theory, the coalition government theory, the election delay theory... Pakistan is

stranger to conspiracy theories. They have been a key feature of our public discourse. The more the political instability, the greater their proliferation. That fact that we are accustomed to these should not, however, distract from the fact that they offer warnings about the state of our democracy and civil society.

Conspiracy theories are a combination of inaccurate information, wilful disinformation rumour. They persist because they help to rationalise — however irrationally — a person's experience of state and society. The basis of most theories is that behind the structures of governance there exists a 'deep state', a small group of influential people who control government policy. In Pakistan, in the context of our 'hybrid democracy', this is not a far-fetched claim. Our local conspiracy theories therefore pertain not to the existence of a deep state, but to its motivations and

Additional factors, too, fuel conspiracy fires, the lack of a free media foremost among them. The censorship and distortion of the media, and the public's awareness that media sources may evate the validity of such and promote an 'us vs tesy Dawn

goals.

theories. The frequent use them' view of the political system and society. of back channels for po-Research documents cumvention of rule of law how conspiracy theories by state institutions, and can lead to violence because the sense of litical puppets create more disempowerment and space for conspiracy apathy they engender theories. Precedent becan only be overcome by yond the political arena revolutionary or violent also gives them a fillip: an means (again, remember obvious example was the where the PTI ended up) A strong civil soci-

gence had located Osama ety offers an antidote to bin Laden in Pakistan unconspiracy theories. As interlocutors between the public and its political representatives, CSOs theorising that vaccines are well positioned to call out conspiracy from truth. Indeed, their abilwere foreign ploys to sur-It also does not help ity to do so directly impacts the success of their serve the interests of our activities, which are primarily ai--m-ed at improv-When they are thwarted ing government policy, in furthering their own service delivery and accountability agendas, or when they

Ironically, some CSOs themselves have undermined through conspiracy theories: speculations that they are anti-national and beholden to external actors because they receive foreign funding. But they also face criticism on other counts, for example, that they are partisan political actors pretending to act in the public good.

The same efforts re-

If you are at the mercy of quired to debunk criticism of CSOs can help the system, but in your own community are able counter conspiracy theoto exert authority and ries and, ultimately build legitimacy by exstrengthen democracy. plaining the vagaries of CSOs should build their that system, you have capacity for fact checking found a voice — in that and information gathering and dissemination. moment you are empow-They should entrench in ered. And so it is that conspiracy theories perpetucommunities at hyper-loate, as we have seen lately. cal levels so that when Most Pakistani politithey counter theories cal stakeholders are comthey do not disempower placent about the conor discredit marginalised stant swirl of conspiracy citizens. By improving theories, but should be their own transparency wary. The political conseand building crosssectoral, pan-agenda quences are well known: partnerships, they can erosion of democratic systems and an apathy to comprehensively counter democracy among a pubskewed narratives. As polic that believes that the litical instability persists, real power brokers are init is important to clamp accessible and self-servdown on conspiratorial ing. Conspiracies are also fervour, and civil society not be wholly credible, el- ultimately reductivist, must play its part. -- Cour-

The killing air



Omar Mukhtar Khan

According to a recent World Air Quality report, Lahore recently bagged the dubious honour for the most polluted city of the world in 2022. With a population of some 15 million people, 6m foul-airemitting vehicles, and surrounded by partially regulated industry using tyres and wood as fuel, this is not surprising. However, Peshawar's rating as the fifth most polluted city in the world does come as a surprise, especially when you consider a population of only 4m people, 1m or so vehicles, and limited industry.

Index informs us that the life expectancy of citizens of Lahore and Peshawar would increase by six to eight years if we meet the World Health Organisation's air quality guidelines. Further, research on the health impact of air pollution suggests that children, the elderly and immunitycompromised people are disproportionately affected by breathing pol-

The Air Quality Life

luted air. A recent study by the International Growth Centre of the low-income areas of Lahore suggests that awareness around air pollution influences behaviour, and that people are more inclined to use masks or remain indoors during periods of high pollution.

Another study conducted Sustain-able Energy and Economic Development programme in Peshawar tells us that alm-o--st 60 per cent of the air pollution comes from transport-related activities, fol-

A similar study by Urban Unit, Punjab, suggests that almost 80pc of vehicles, and the rest from industry and agriculture. Interestingly, however, the focus of the government for reducing air pollution is on agriculture and industry and not transport.

Peshawar and Lahore shall need top-level political commitment, strong advocacy, administrative measures and financial resources. An excellent example of collaboration to tackle air pollution comes from Peshawar where a civil society initiative, ie, the Peshawar Clean Air Alliance, and the Environmental Protection Agency are collaborating with the Bank of Khyber and North Western Hospital to promote awareness and research on the issue.

In the short term, the governments need to explore following steps. One, instal standard air monitors covering the cities holistically and make results publicly available for informed decisionmaking by the public about their daily activities. Two, ensure the availability of Euro-IV- or V-compliant fuel in Peshawar and Lahore, at least during the smog season. This step is expected to have an immediate impact on air quality during the worst-affected months from November to February. Three, diesel-emitting public transport and three-wheelers are the worst polluters; enforcing a couple of diesel-free days every week on the main city roads would help greatly in this regard.

Four, the government should enforce the use of buses for school pickup and drop-off, or at lowed by dust, industry same measures should be Courtesv Dawn

and household wood taken for secretariat, hospital and factory staff.

Five, the government should explore odd and even number vehicle the air pollution in Lahore days on the roads, emanates from transport thereby reducing the number of vehicles on the roads on any given

Six, the government should launch a massive awareness campaign informing the public about air quality status in the The shift of the city, the impact on health needle on air pollution in and its economic costs to citizens, government's efforts and people, the

the efforts expected of the behavioural changes required, such as wearing masks, using public transport, etc. In the long term, the government sho---uld focus on en--suring a shift

to Euro-IV- or V-stan-dard cleaner fuel for the entire year; improving public transport connectivity all over Peshawar and Lahore so that people start using public transport more frequently; discouraging diesel-based public transport and allowing the retirement of these vehicles in the next five years; improving fuel and public transport standards, for which it needs to strengthen the vehicle emissions testing regime to ensure vehicles emitting hazardous pollutants are not allowed on the road; and embarking on a massive afforestation campaign, especially in Peshawar, in order to minimise dust-related air pollution.

We hear about air pollution every winter during the smog season but once the smog season is gone, the very useful noise around air pollution also subsides. It is time that people raised their voices so that all political parties make addressing air pollution an election campaign issue and governments take concrete steps to address air pollution least carpooling. The before it is too late. --

Commerce News

Clean energy Pakistan's top priority: Caretaker Minister

Caretaker Minister for level, he said. Energy Muhammad Ali has said that clean energy was the top priority of recently approved the Pakistan. He stated this National Electricity Plan while talking to the 2023 which provided Ambassador of Denmark to guidelines, implementation Pakistan Jacob Linulf who visited the Power Division here Monday, said a press

The minister said that the world was witnessing a much-needed transition towards clean energy in the wake of climate change. Pakistan, being more global climate change, has mitigate the Climate be beneficial for Pakistan

He said that the government of Pakistan had National Electricity Plan mechanisms and tools for the realization of the National Electricity Policy goals for the power sector. The Plan 2023 targets to have a share of 40 percent from renewables (including hydropower) by 2025 and 60 percent by 2030, he told. The minister said that vulnerable to impacts of the Denmark's support based on their expertise and experience would certainly

towards cleaner and greener energy mix and in fulfilling Pakistan's commitments towards Climate Change accordingly the government targets and Sustainable Development Goals.

update on Danish Energy Transmission Initiative (DETI) project was also discussed in the meeting. The ambassador

The brief of the

expressed his aim to take the cooperation between the two countries to the next

Shipping activity at

Port Oasim

KARACHI (APP): Three

minister on the importance of discussed the possible mapping out a plan in plan to expand sustainable collaboration with Denmark energy, particularly focusing on wind and

Power Sector plays an important role in Climate Change mitigation and is giving top priority to just

energy transition in Pakistan.

He said that the true

success of the transition was to have the real impact in the area of sustainable energy. The aim is to gradually decrease the tariff and move towards utilization of indigenous resources, he expressed. The minister stressed

as it has already completed



Demark to Pakistan, H.E. Jacob Linulf and his delegation. SBP maintains policy rate at 22%

PTCL Group adopts Red Hat hybrid cloud solutions to power digitalization

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's leading telecom and ICT services provider, PTCL Group (PTCL & Ufone 4G) announced today that it is leveraging Red Hat OpenShift, the industry's leading hybrid cloud Capex and Opex expenditure, improve efficiency with faster rollouts and automated application platform powered by Kubernetes and Red Hat Application Foundations.

These

Hat OpenShift, creates a platform that streamlines execution across the

pipelines, thus allowing businesses to accelerate innovation for gaining a competitive advantage.

The collaboration

Red Hat

application lifecycle. This helps reduce



comprehensive set of components for developing and modernizing software legacy to strengthen the Group's digitalization ambitions.

Foundations can be used architecture, but also with applications that run provide advanced cloud on-premises or in the cloud when combined with Red

will not only help PTCL Group transition its applications towards a more robust and scalable Red Hat Application microservices-based

services

customers

ships namely, SSL Mumbai, Asia Inspire and Victoria Kosan, carrying Container, Palm Chemicals, berthed at Qasim

International Container Terminal, Liquid Cargo Terminal and EngroVopak Terminal respectively during last 24 hours.

Meanwhile three more ships, AAI Evolution. Bellini and PVT Flora with Wheat, Gasoline and Chemicals are also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port during the same period. A total of eight

ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships, Amala and Rhapsody left the port on today morning, while three more ships, SSL Mumbai, Woohyun Sky and Indian Goodwill are expected to sail on today afternoon.

Cargo volume of 81.402tonnes, comprising 78,916tonnes imports cargo and 2,486 tonnes export cargo carried in 33 Containers (0 TEUs Imports and 33 TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours. There are twelve ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them two ships, Discovery and Nordic Basel & another ship.

PPL's AGM approves 15 percent cash dividend KARACHI (APP): The paid for the year was 25

Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) on Monday approved financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, together with the auditor's report and also approved a final cash dividend of 15 per cent on both ordinary and convertible preference shares in its 72nd annual general meeting at a local

per cent. Presiding over the meeting, Chairman PPL Board of Directors Shahab Rizvi welcomed shareholders to the meeting.He appreciated management and staff's efforts in achieving extraordinary financial

results as well as

operational milestones

during 2022-23 despite a

The total dividend challenging business

Food Minister for creating awareness about water conservation

Caretaker Minister for National Food Security and emphasized the pressing importance of disseminating awareness regarding water conservation among the masses in order to achieve sustainable growth in the agricultural sector and bolster overall economic development.Addressing High the inaugural session of "PRE-COP28 Accelerating The Water-Food-Climate Nexus Transformation Pathways for Pakistan" he

ISLAMABAD (APP): said that every member of society has to play its due role in conserving precious Research Dr Kausar water and its resources to Abdullah Malik on Monday maintain food safety and security in the country.

British Commissioner Jane Marriott OBE, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands Henny Fokel De Vries, Ambassador of Poland Maciej Pisarski, Deputy Commissioner Australia High Commission Danielle Cashen, Mission Director USAID Kate Somvongsiri and Director General International Water.

owing to global uncertainties (APP): account deficit, stabilising conflict in the Middle East KARACHI Despite expectations of foreign exchange reserves, downward inflationary improved fiscal and

outlook in the coming months, the State Bank of Pakistan, Monday, cautiously decided to Monday, maintain the policy rate at 22 percent owing to recent volatility in global oil prices as well as the increase in gas tariffs. The Monetary Policy Committee of SBP, which met here to decide about the policy rate, noted that encouraging Kharif crop estimates, narrowing the current

primary balance and positive developments, said a statement issued here. The developments. MPC expects inflation to adjustments in fuel prices,

makes its outlook even more uncertain." the MPC observed and emphasized downward inflation on continuing with the tight expectations were some monetary policy stance in the light of these

The MPC also noted decline significantly in that targeted fiscal October 2023 and onward, consolidation in the first owing to downward quarter, improvement in market availability of key easing prices of some major commodities and the food commodities, and a alignment of interbank and favorable base effect. open market exchange rates "However, global oil prices may offset the impacts of remain quite volatile and the oil and gas price hike.

Gold rates dip by Rs.1,200

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.1,200 and was sold at Rs.212,100 on Monday compared to its sale at Rs.213,300 the previous day of trading.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.1,028 to Rs.181,842 from Rs. 182,870 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs.166,688 from Rs.167,631, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs.2,550 and Rs.2,186.21 respectively.

Tractor assembling witnessed 6.71pc growth in two-months

ISLAMABAD (APP): 31,085 jeeps and cars.As Local tractor assembling, during the first two months of the current financial year, grew by 6.71 percent as compared to the assembling of the corresponding period of last year. During the period under review, the local assembling of jeeps and cars decreased by 53.91 percent as about 14,328 against the assembling of of last year.

against the corresponding period of last year, domestic jeeps and cars assembling reduced by 39.01 percent in August 2023 as compared to the same month of last year. During the period from July to August 2023, about 6,217 tractors were locally assembled as against the assembling of 5,826 jeeps and cars assembled as tractors of the same period

Punjab approves 4-month budget; election to be on time: Amir Mir

Caretaker Punjab cabinet approves Rs 2076.2b budget for another four months

Independent Report LAHORE: Caretaker Punjab Information Minister Amir Mir said on Monday that in its 31st caretaker provincial approved budget of Rs 2076.2 billion for the next four months i.e. November

2023 to February 2024. Addressing a press conference after the cabinet meeting here, he added that Rs 351 billion have been earmarked development expenditure,

while Health sector would get Rs 208 billion, Education sector Rs 222.2 billion, Services sector Rs 218.5 billion, while Rs 83 billion allocated for wheat loan and Rs 80 billion for debt repayment to federal institutions. The budget also includes Rs 400 million for the evacuation of foreigners residing illegally in Punjab after

Amir Mir said that elections would be held on time. Out of 50,000 polling stations in Punjab, 7,000 have been declared sensitive. During the election, more than 260,000

men would perform their duties. Accusations by political parties are common before elections, he responded to a question.

He mentioned that previously, the caretaker government had presented the budget for the last four months in June, which was approved for expenditure until October 31 In the preceding four-

month budget, Rs 325 billion were allocated for development, of which Rs 131 billion have been utilized. In the upcoming four months, Rs 10 billion would be spent on agricultural projects, Rs 2 billion on information 10.2 billion on construction November 1, 2023 to implemented at sensitive February 29, 2024, he maintained. The Punjab

that a meeting between the staff to address any Chief Commissioner and the Election Commission.

police cops and more than 145,000 Rangers and Army Chief Minister along with cabinet members took place to review election preparations.

Tuesday October 31, 2023

The Chief Election Commissioner expressed satisfaction with the performance of the caretaker government of Punjab, citing that Mohsin Naqvi' government as an exemplary model for caretaker chief ministers in other provinces. He reiterated that elections would be held on schedule, and both the Punjab government and the Election Commission collaborate to ensure transparent elections.

The upcoming elections in Punjab would encompass constituencies of the technology projects, Rs National Assembly and 297 constituencies of the and repair of roads and Punjab Assembly, with buildings, and Rs 50 billion 50,000 polling stations for social protection established in Punjab. initiatives. This budget Additional security covers the period from measures would be

He told media men government would provide Election shortage reported by the



LAHORE: Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi signing documents of provincial budget with a total outlay of Rs 2076.2 billion for another four months.

Dera police

Court sends Parvez Elahi to jail on judicial remand in illegal appointments case

LAHORE (APP): A local that the candidates were court on Monday sent appointed in violation of former chief minister Punjab Chaudhry Parvez Elahi to jail on 14-day judicial remand in a case of illegal appointments in the inquiry.

He submitted that Punjab Assembly.

Earlier, the Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) Punjab officials produced Parvez Elahi before duty Judicial Magistrate Amir Raza on expiry of his physical remand term. The ACE requested

the court to extend Parvez Elahi's physical remand for another 10 days. The health deteriorated and he ACE's prosecutor argued was taken to the doctor.

repulse terrorist attack on police station DĒRA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): The district police the merit in the Punjab

have repulsed a terrorist attack on a police station late Saturday night.
According to police, tenure. He submitted that the case

about 40 unknown militants stormed Hathala police station with modern weapons late at night. The police promptly and effectively retaliated

and an exchange of fire continued for around 40 minutes. As a result, the attack was successfully repulsed by the valiant police

personnel however the terrorists managed to escape while taking full advantage of the darkness. No casualty occurred due to the attack.

Man died of electrocution in Pindigheb

ATTOCK (Online): A man has died of electrocution in village Kunnt in the limits of Pindigheb Police station on Monday, Police and hospital sources said.

According to the sources, 25 years old Muhammad Khalid was working on the roof of his under construction house when he accidently touched the electricity line passes through roof resultantly he

Kashmiris to commemorate Jammu Martyrs Day on Nov 6 with due respect and honor MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): week-long

control in Jammu and Kashmir and rest of the world on 6th of November with due solemnity and reverence to commemorate the supreme sacrifices of lives given by the Muslim inhabitants of Jammu on this day of November 6th in 1947 while migrating to then newly-born homeland

Muslim residents of newly-born separate Jammu city and homeland of the Muslims surroundings were of the s mercilessly killed during a Pakistan.

Pakistan.

Adequate arrangements are genocide maneuvered and being made to observe executed by the despotic Jammu Martyrs Day on ramed dogra ruler's force both sides of the line of and gangsters besides the armed Hindu fanatics in the first and second week of November 1947.

These included 2.50 Muslim inmates of Jammu city and adjoining areas who were martyred by the dogra forces and their armed gangsters 6th of November 1947 while they were moving for migrating to the At least seven lakh of adjoining Sialkot city of the were of the subcontinent -

LHC seeks more arguments on petitions about sugar pricing

UK to hold emergency

response meeting on

threat of terrorism

Monday to discuss the ism as the government

domestic security risk from the Israel-Hamas conflict.

Robert Halfon told

since a deadly rampage rently regard the threat

likely.

LONDON: Britain will Scroll to continue

bench on Monday adjourned the hearing of petitions,

prices, till November 7. parties on the next hearing. sugar and the cane The bench, headed by Justice Ali Baqar Najafi, any power in this regard, heard the petitions filed by he added.

convene a meeting of the government's CO-

BRA emergency re-

sponse committee on

Antisemitic and

Islamophobic incidents

have surged in Britain

by Hamas gunmen in

Israel on Oct. 7 sparked

retaliatory attacks on

Gaza. Massive pro-Pal-

estinian demonstra-

tions have been held in

London and other ma-

jor UK cities, while Jew-

LAHORE (APP): A Lahore sugar mills against the High Court (LHC) division notification. During the proceedings, the counsel for sugar mills argued that challenging the Punjab the cane commissioner government's notification could control sugar prices authorising the cane only whereas price commissioner to fix sugar controlling and price fixing were two different things. The court sought The market forces more arguments from determine the prices of

"We have to make

Britain's MI5 intel-

ligence agency cur-

to the country from ter-

rorism as substantial,

meaning an attack is

higher categories of

threat level - severe,

meaning an attack is

frequent, not rarely with

the use of firearms," the

statement.Police said they

detained two people Satur-

day from Kosovo who are

suspected of smuggling mi-

grants and supplying them

There are two

sure that British sys-

tems are safe and secure

from the threat of terror-

Times Radio.

LAHORE: Punjab Governor Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman distributing National Christian Award amongst the participants on their best performance

CJ, PHC stresses for impartiality of judges ABBOTTABAD (APP): the High Court and lower

Chief Justice, Peshawar courts, members of the High Court (PHC) Justice Pakistan Bar Council and Ibrahim Khan here on the KPK Bar Council, as Monday stressed for the well as senior and junior impartiality of Judges to lawyers, police officers, ensure justice to the and administrative

reception hosted by the the vital role judges for District Bar Association in stegthenging judiciary his honor.Justice Ibrahim system of the country. emphasized fundamental importance of the rule of law and the from lawyers and that they separation of powers in

their system. The ceremony was operating within the realm

officials.

Assembly, during Parvez

was registered after

physical remand was

required for recovery of

Parvez Elahi's mobile

phone, and its forensic

audit. He also submitted

that all preparations were

in place to take Parvez

Elahi to his house in Gujrat

in connection with

investigations but his

Elahi's

The CJ pointed out

He stated that judges could not conceal anything were ready accountability while

attended by judges from of the law. International News

Xi stresses Chinese women to start 'new family trend'

Monitoring Desk HONG KONG: Chinese President Xi Jinping said women have a critical role and must establish a "new

in various fields.

trend of the family", as the nation grapples with an aging population and record decline in the birth rate.

Xi in comments, published by the state news agency Xinhua on Monday, said the role of women had been part of a

China Women's Federation, which operates under the Communist Party. Doing a good job in women's work is not only

related to women's devel-

discussion with the new

leadership team of the All-

opment, he said but also related to "family harmony, social harmony, national development and national progress"

It is necessary to "actively cultivate a new culture of marriage and childbearing strengthen guidance on young people's view on marriage, childbirth and family," he said.

Factors including high childcare costs, career hindrance, gender discrimination and not wanting to get married have deterred many young Chinese women from having chil-

The number of births is closely tied to



China's Central Military Commission Vice Chairman Zhang Youxia and Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu arrive for the Beijing Xiangshan Forum in Beijing, China.

Looking for loved ones amidst Gaza debris

Monitoring Desk GAZA:

Bombarded Gazans searched for loved ones and heard news of family members killed as communications gradually returned to the enclave on Sunday after a near total blackout as Israel's troops and armour pushed into the besieged enclave.

The fighting intensified on Friday night as Israeli forces waged ground operations in Gaza in what Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu described as the second phase of the war aimed at "crushing

engineer and has five children, described the Israeli attacks as "doomsday"

"This morning, Sunday, I discovered that my cousin has been killed in an air strike on their house on Friday," Ahmed, who stayed in Gaza City despite an Israeli warning to evacuate south, told

chief military spokesper-

Shaban Ahmed, a public servant who works as an son has declined to say whether Israel was behind the telecommunications blackout but said it would do what it needed to protect its forces.

Israeli air strikes have been pounding Gaza City since Oct 7, and according to Ahmed, the strikes on Friday from air, sea and the ground continued non-stop for hours.

The health ministry in Gaza said on Sunday a total of 8,005 people there had been killed since

Palestinians were struggling to find loved ones in the bloody chaos as the growing humanitarian crisis

squeezed Gaza. China fetes

known as

'Flying Tigers' **Monitoring Desk** BEIJING: China on Monday feted two American veterans

ton and Beijing look to past collaboration for inspiration on improving today's strained ties. McMullen, who is in his late 90s, and Harry Moyer, who turned 103 on Monday, are among the few surviving members of a U.S. Army Air Force command that helped China battle Japan and became popularly known as the Flying Tigers.

vigils for hostages who cal, meaning an attack were taken by the miliis highly likely in the near future. Hundreds of Serbian police deploy in border zone with Hungary after

deadly shooting among migrants

ish groups have held highly likely, and criti-

Monitoring Desk BELGRADE: Hundreds of Serbian officers were dis-

patched Saturday into a border area with Hungary, where they detained several people after a shooting between migrants killed three people and injured one, police said.

Reports of violence and gun battles have become common near the border between Serbia and European Union member nation Hungary. Thousands of migrants have been camping in the area, looking for ways to cross with the help of people smug-

Interior Minister Bratislav Gasic, who visited the area, pledged that we will not move from here until every person responsible for any criminal act or incident is removed.'

aimed at "curbing irregular migration and raising the level of security in this part of the country, where clashes among migrants are well as other details, still unclear, they said.

with weapons. Officers also found 54 Turkish passports, the statement added. Late on Friday, police reported detaining four Afghan and two Turkish nationals suspected of unlawful possession of guns and explosives. It was not immediately clear whether any of the detained people will be charged with the

shooting that took place

The suspected clash between groups of migrants happened in abandoned farming warehouses near the village of Horgos. Police said the injured migrant received medical aid and an investigation was ongoing to establish what happened. The nationalities of the victims and the injured migrant, as

earlier on Friday. Police actions are well as other details, were

passenger trains in Vizianagaram district in the southern Andhra Pradesh state, India. Mexican president blasts critics after deadly hurricane

Rescue workers and police officials stand next to

damaged coaches following a collision between two

Monitoring Desk MEXICO: The death toll from a devastating hurricane this week in the Mexican beach resort of Acapulco has risen to 39, the government said on Saturday, as President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador accused his opponents of exaggerating the scale of the disaster.

winds of 165 miles per hour (266 kmph) on city, tearing roofs from sufficient aid.

homes, stores and hotels, submerging vehicles, and severing communications as well as road and air connections. The government, which previously reported 27 deaths with four others missing, has so far released little information about the dead and injured. Looting has continued Hurricane Otis and residents in hard-hit pounded Acapulco with neighborhoods, struggling to find food and water, have accused the govern-Wednesday, flooding the ment of not delivering

Two killed, 18 hurt in Florida gunfight **Monitoring Desk**

In the last two years,

authorities across China

have unveiled measures to

lift the country's birth rate

including financial incen-

tives and boosting

often linked population

development to the strength and "rejuvenation" of the country.

The state media has

childcare facilities.

have children.

Gunfire erupted in the midst of Halloween festivities early on Sunday around a clutch of bars and clubs in the Florida city of Tampa, leaving at least two people dead and 18 others injured, police

Videos posted on social media site X showed a chaotic scene of crowds of people running through the streets with the sound of at least a dozen shots ringing out. The videos showed police scrambling to give aid to costumed victims bleeding on the sidewalks.

The images came as a grim reminder of the last year's tragedy in Seoul when a stampede during Halloween festivities left nearly 160 people dead.

However, police said a fight between two groups broke out around 3am in the historic neighborhood of Ybor City, where hundreds of people filled the

gation found that "human As soon as the shooterror" had led to the colliing began, people ran for their lives and the clubs and bars were closed

Reuters. "We only knew today. off from the Israel cut us off from the world in order to wipe us out, but we are hearing the sounds of explosions and we are proud the resistance fighters have stopped them at meters distance." Israel's

Deaths in India train

collision rise to 13 **Monitoring Desk** ANDHRA PRADESH: At least 13 people were killed

and around 50 injured when two trains collided in southeast India, officials said on Monday, updating an earlier toll of eight. The accident occurred

late on Sunday after one of the passenger trains overshot a signal between the towns of Alamanda and Kantakapalle in Andhra Pradesh state A preliminary investi-

sion, the railway ministry said in a statement. "Thirteen passengers

have been killed and 50 others are injured. Rescue operations are going on," top local government official Nagalakshmi S. told reporters. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he had spoken with the country's railway minister about the "unfortunate" derailment. 'Authorities are providing all possible assistance to those affected," Modi

India has one of the world's largest rail networks and has seen several disasters over the years, the worst in 1981 when a train derailed while crossing a bridge in Bihar state

wrote on social media.

American veterans of World War II

of World War II as Washing-

President for promoting tele-medicine and tele-health services in Pakistan

Says doctors should bridge up awareness gap to overcome health challenges

KARACHI (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi has called for promoting tele-medicine and tele-healthcare platforms to improve the outreach of healthcare services to low-income areas of the country. He said that digital platforms could enhance the reach of health services to far-flung areas, besides providing timely advice to people and helping promote preventive healthcare solutions in Pakistan.

The President made these remarks while addressing a ceremony titled "Spirit of Female Entrepreneurship and Medical Leadership of Female Doctors" organised by Sehat Kahani, in Karachi. Sehat Kahani's CEO, Sara Saeed Khurram, COO & Co-founder of Sehat Kahani, Dr Iffat Zafar, and other medical professionals working in the field of tele-healthcare services attended the event.

Addressing the event, try, besides lauding their the President said that nations failed due to lack of education and health facilities, adding that Pakistan needed to focus more on disease prevention rather than curing the diseases. He also regretted that 28 million children were out of school in the country.

The President highlighted that women in our country faced different hurdles in society towards their participation in mainstream economic activities. He stressed the role of institutions in creating greater opportunities to empower and educate women. President Dr Arif Alvi appreciated Sehat Kahani's active role in transforming society with better opportunities for female doctors.

He also acknowledged Sehat Kahani's role in providing a pathway for women to serve their coun-

focus on tele-medicine and tele-health care services. The President said that communication was the key to bringing betterment to society. He also emphasized initiating conversations at home as a step towards the solutions of issues such as mental health and well-being and other health-related issues. He said that the government launched a helpline through

lenge of mental health and the people, who were facing mental illness or any depression condition could use it. He said that Hamraaz was launched during the tenure of the previous government. The President also presented shields to the doctors in the field of medicine, from various

specialisations, serving all

application titled

'Hamraaz' to meet the chal-



OUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki and Major General Muhammad Raza exchanging souvenirs during visit of participants of National Security Workshop (NSW) to Chief Minister's Sec-

Prince Ahmed chairs CFP meeting to enable Govt to deliver services faster

Excise and Small Industries Prince Ahmed Ali Ahmadzai on Monday the Provincial Cloud First Policy (CFP) Meeting in which the cloud-first policy was reviewed to enable governments to deliver services faster and more efficiently with increased transparency and collabo-

Minister for Information and supporting IT investand Public Relations Jan ment and streamlining IT Achakzai, Caretaker Adviser for Minerals Muhammad Umair Muhammad Hassani, Secretary Science and Technology Muhammad Ayaz Mandukhel, Secretary Planning Lal Jan Jaffer, Additional Secretary Finance Hameedullah Nasir at-

tended the meeting. The meeting was given a detailed briefing on

ing, Prince Ahmed Ali said that the adoption of cloudfirst policy by the govern-ment and public sector agencies would transform public sector services, saying that it has the potential to improve service delivery and reduce the cost of taxpayer funds.

He said that the aim of the policy is to attract domestic and foreign in-Caretaker Provincial vestment in digital services procurement in the province, which may allow departments to adopt a cloud

He said that the approval of the policy reflects the government's continuous efforts to digitize Pakistan, which has seen rapid growth in recent years, for public administration, the policy is a welcome step towards better performance and citizen service delivery



QUETTA: Secretary Health Abdullah Khan meeting with Caretaker Provincial Minister for Health Dr. Amir Muhammad Khan Jogezai

CEC, CM Punjab jointly chair meeting about election

LAHORE (APP): Chief place. Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja convened a meeting on Monday with Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi and cabinet members to deliberate on ensuring free, fair

and impartial elections. The meeting, jointly chaired by CM Punjab Mohsin Naqvi and CEC Sikandar Sultan Raja at the CM Office, was also attended by ministers. A comprehensive review was conducted, assessing the arrangements made by the Election Commission and gauging the readiness of the Punjab government for the upcoming general elections. Participants were briefed on

The caretaker Punjab government and the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) affirmed their commitment to ensure peaceful, impartial, and fair elections. It was decided that the Punjab government would designate a focal person for coordination with

CEC Sikandar Sultan Raja underscored the proximity of general elections, emphasizing the collective responsibility to ensure that they are conducted freely and fairly within the stipulated time frame. The caretaker Punjab government will receive complete support in conducting transparent elections

Pak, Russia agree to strengthen

cultural ties

(SLAMABAD (APP) Russian Ambassador to Pakistan, Danila V Ganich, met with the Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Jamal Shah and discussed matters of mutual interest related to the cultural relations between Pakistan and Rus-

Speaking on the occasion, Jamal Shah said substantial potential exists for collaboration between the two nations.

his visit to Pak Girls High School

PTDC planning

to establish TIC

at Gwadar

airport for

tourists

ISLAMABAD (APP)

The Pakistan Tourism De-

velopment Corporation

(PTDC) was planning to

establish a modern Tourist

Information Center (TIC) at

New Gwadar International

Airport to facilitate the for-

eign and local tourists about

Monday, a PTDC official

said the establishment of

TIC would provide com-

prehensive information to

tourists thronging to Paki-

stan from various countries

to enjoy the beauty of rec-

reational sites of

Balochistan. An official said

that TIC would not only

play a pivotal role in pro-

moting tourism globally but

would also emphasize the

need for state-of-the-art fa-

cilities. He highlighted the

growing significance of

Gwadar as a tourist desti-

nation, attracting visitors

from across the country and

around the world. He said

that Caretaker Minister of

State for Tourism Wasi Shah

was committed to construct

Tourist Information Center

Talking to APP here on

their destination.

recognized seats of learning and hone their skills for bet-WASHINGTON (INP): the United States Masood ter service delivery. On Pak-US relations

the Ambassador said that the two countries have recalibrated their relations after post-withdrawal period and have been making efforts to strengthen their

partnership in critical areas.

The Ambassador urged the public sector professional to keenly observe study and learn best practices, being followed by the US public sector institutions for improved ser-

vice delivery.

The Program brings mid-career professionals from developing countries, including Pakistan, to the United States for a year of to visit the United States study and professional experiences.



of female doctors organized by Sehat Kahani.

Court gives one week time to federation to file reply on matter of audio leaks

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has given one month time to federal government to file reply on the matter of audio leaks.

Justice Babar Sattar remarked how is electronic surveillance being conducted. Who is doing it. Pakistan Communication Authority (PCA) is saying it has not given permission to any one. The audio of judge of Supreme Court (SC) and family of former chief justice leaked. Doing it without taking state into confidence is horrific decision. Who is competent authority with reference to

It has been said in the orders of committees Prime Minister (PM) office become ineffective.

Pakistan's Ambassador to

Khan has stated that Paki-

stan and United States have

long-standing educational

ties and have been making

efforts to strengthen their

partnership in critical areas. Interacting with a

group of 15 mid-career Pa-

kistani professionals in

Washington, from public

and private sector, who are

currently visiting the United States under Hubert

Humphrey Fellowship

Program and pursuing their

studies in various disci-plines in leading US univer-

He said it is a great opportunity for Pakistani

students and professionals

and benefit from globally

long-lasting educational

ties: Masood

report it does not see daily matters of secret agencies. Justice Babar Sattar of region's growth and change. HI (M) Lt. Gen. IHC heard the petitions against summoning of

Najam ul Saqib son of former Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) by parliamentary committee in audio leaks case and summoning of Bushra Bibi in FIA on the matter of audio leak of Bushra Bibi with Zulfi tariat on Monday. Janjua said, "Gwadar Bukhari by clubbing the

Amicus curie Raza Rabbani filed written reply saying court should not see this matter. The matter should have been returned to committee. With the dissolution of assemblies, all Pakistan, US enjoying

PTI challenges Maulana Fazl to contest election

against Imran Khan. He held the popular-ity of Imran Khan has rendered Maulana Fazlur Rehman senseless.

He went on to say Maulana Fazlur Rehman himself is playing part of like Jewish agent. People have already rejected such

Gwadar Port, CPEC playing great role in region's growth, change: Janjua

Port and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) are playing increasingly important roles in the

(Retd.) Nasser Khan Janjua expressed these views in an interactive session on "CPEC-Global perspective & Place of Pakistan" here at at PCJCCI (Pak-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry) Secre-

is the gift of Allah to all of us; to the entire Asia and the world. We have to reap the benefit of this gift of God and we have to make things happen. CPEC is half of the dream another half resides in Afghanistan, Central Asian republics and Russia and another half goes to Europe.'

Pakistan is connecting around 86 countries and especially Balochistan can become an "Industrial

against Imran

PESHAWAR (Online): PTI leader barrister Muhammad Ali Saif while reacting to Maulana Fazlur Rehman statement has challenged him to contest election

hollow allegations.
The burial of politics of Maulana Fazlur Rehman will take place on election day, he underlined.

Raja pays

tributes to

forces for

successful

operation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf on

Monday paid tributes to

security forces for conduct-

ing successful operation

against terrorists in Kharo.

Balochistan. He in his mes-

sage issued here, paid hom-

age to Naib Subedar, Asif

Irfan and Sepoy Irfan Ali

who martyred while

bravely fighting against the

terrorists. He extended his

condolence and sympathy

to the families of the mar-

tyrs and prayed high ranks for martyrs.

connecting Gwadar Port with the northwestern part of China is the goal of the CPEC, a large-scale infrastructure project framework. Transportation, energy, communications, and even cross-industry collaboration are all included. With an expected investment of billions of dollars, the CPEC aims to modernize energy infrastructure, construct industrial zones, and connect various modes of transportation, he added. He said that Balochistan is richly endowed with natural resources. The province possesses many minerals including coal, sulphur, chromium, iron ore, barytes, marble, quartzite, and limestone. Balochistan has the largest reserves of copper and gold in the world and is also blessed with huge oil reserves. Though rich in mineral resources, so far Baluchistan's contribution to the economy of Pakistan has not been high, he added.

HI (M) Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Nasser Khan Janjua mentioned, "We can develop four cities on the them to the last.

LAHORE (APP): Gwadar Hub" of Asia. He said that coastal line of Balochistan and it will definitely help us in maintaining the economic stability of Pakistan. Balochistan can also boost its export competitiveness and achieve sustained economic development by taking advantage of the trade and investment possibilities brought forth by Gwadar Port and the CPEC." He concluded by saying that Gwadar is not only the heart of CPEC, it is also the heart of Asia .It is a doorway, a gateway to Asia and combined with Chahbahar these are only two entries to Asia.

"So we should initiate rapid development in this region so that it can boost

trade relations," he added. Nasser Khan Janjua also expressed solidarity with Palestine and condemned Israel for violating Geneva Conventions grossly with relentless barbaric and inhuman bombardment on civilians. He said that the entire nation of Pakistan stands with the innocent people of Palestine and would support



QUETTA: Former Federal Minister Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Over Rs. 1.2 billion recovered from defaulters: 278 connections suspended;

7 transformers removed as OESCO drive continues

Independent Report
QUETTA: At least 278
The QESCO spokesman said that in all 1369 electricity connections applications have been subwere disconnected and seven transformers were removed on non-payment of the utility bills and arrears as the campaign against defaulters and pilferers remained continued

in the province on Monday. According to the spokesman of QESCO, the power connections of the defaulters were removed in different areas of the prov-

While on the other hand, seven transformers were removed in Loralai. Pishin and Khaliqabad areas of the province.

In all, 53 more shunt and tempered meters were also removed in the Quetta mitted for legal action against the power pilferers in different police and levies stations. However, 386 FIRs

power pilferers in all areas of the province under supervision of the company. A sum of Rs. 180 .72 million were recovered on account of detection and

were registered against the

Similarly, Rs. 1.2 billion were also recovered from 56,546 defaulters so

The campaign against the power pilferers and defaulters would remain continued in the province in future as well, the spokesman maintained



QUETTA: Central Anjuman-e-Tajran President, Abdul Rahim Kakar along with Abdul Qahar and others addressing All Parties Conference against customs and police, at Quetta press club.

Five thieves held stolen rice cost of Rs, mln along with truck in Pishin

Commerce and Industry that role in the best pos

(ICCI) to confer the Life-sible manner, he added.

QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Information Jan Achakzai inspecting class room during

Haneef Khalid a

'shining star of media

community': Solangi

force arrested five thieves and recovered stolen rice worth of Rs, million along with stolen truck from their possession in aKarizat Dheeraj Kalra area of Pishi district on Monday.

Caretaker Federal Minister

for Information and Broad-

casting Murtaza Solangi

said on Monday that senior

journalist Haneef Khalid

was the "shining star of the

journalist community" and

recognition of his services

was overdue. Addressing a

special ceremony at the

Islamabad Chamber of

According to Levies sources, on special directive of Deputy Commissioner Pishin Captain Retired Jameel Ahmed Baloch, Levies Force team led by As-

QUETTA (APP)-Levies ducted raid at a place and apprehended four alleged thieves named Bashir Ahmed, Najeeb Ahmed, manzoor Ahmed and Hikmatullah and seized rice worth of Rs, million along

Khalid, the minister said he

started his over 50 years il-

lustrious journalistic career

as a reporter and desk edi-

representative of the jour-

nalist community, Haneef

Khalid was a "business am-

bassador" for the media in-

dustry and he performed

Along with being a

that these alleged accused had snatched a loaded truck with rice few days and they were also wanted of Khanuzai's Levies Sta-

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate on Monday exwith stolen truck. pressed concerns over Is-The levies source said raeli atrocities against innocent people of Palestine and urged for immediate ceasefire and providing essential humanitarian aid to alleviate their suffering The House reiterated the necessity for international

> ment of a free Palestine. The special session was requisitioned to debate the current situation in Palestine and the House started debate on a motion under rule 218 which was jointly moved by Senators of all political parties in the House. The motion condemned the Israeli atrocities and aggressive actions against the innocent Palestinians and willing violation

and support the establish-

of Geneva Convention and United Nations and other UN Resolution on Palestine, and especially barbaric Israeli airstrikes on Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza hence hundreds of innocent people, patients and Hospital staff were died.

Senate voices concern for

Gaza, calls for immediate

ceasefire, humanitarian aid

It also reiterated the government of Pakistan to describe efforts made by bodies to uphold justice Pakistan in this scenario. Taking part in debate, Leader of the House Senator Ishaq Dar brought attention to the urgent Gaza issue, underscoring his proactive efforts to address the matter. He revealed that he had dispatched a letter on October 19, advocating for a Senate session dedicated to the Gaza crisis.

The Senator emphasized the pressing need for immediate action, urging all

international agencies, to actively engage in resolving the conflict and supporting the people of Palestine.
Highlighting the esca-

lating humanitarian crisis, he stressed the importance of granting the people of Palestine the fundamental right to live in peace within an independent state. Expressing solidarity with the Palestinian cause, Senator Dar condemned the relentless Israeli bombing, which had led to the tragic loss of over 8,000 lives, predominantly comprising innocent children and women. He lamented the recent bombing on a hospital, resulting in the devastating loss of more than 500 individuals, including patients and medical staff, calling it a stark violastakeholders, including the tion of humanitarian norms.

sistant Commissioner conat Gwadar airport

LAHORE: Caretaker Minister of Punjab Cabinet led by Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi meeting with Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja. ECP members of provinces are also present