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

### 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

#### **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 prov-

Referring to the initiatives taken by the government, the Chief Minister said that the anti smuggling

wing has been activated for prevention of the smuggling in Balochistan.

In addition to this, joint check posts have also been established all over the province, he added. While on the other

hand, marked reduction has been made in prices of the edibles following measures taken for control of the

Regarding the repatriation of illegal immigrants, special centers have been established for their assistance in the border areas, adding he informed.

He also said that every possible assistance is being provided to the immigrants repatriating to their country voluntarily.

The action would be



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

**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 Monday.

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.

The Governor said that 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



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 staying foreigners from the country after October 31st.

started for repatriation of the illegal immigrants after the given deadline, adding

he asserted About potential of the province in natural resources, the Chief Minister mentioned that the reservoirs of around 40 precious minerals have been discovered so far in the prov-

These resources are enough to meet the 50 to 100 years needs of the

The Chief Minister said that massive economic activities for the investment and means of employment for local population could be generated in the mineral resources sector.

Continued on page 2

#### Two soldiers embrace martyrdom ın Awaran District

RAWALPINDI (APP) Two soldiers embraced martyrdom during an exchange of fire with terrorists 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 se curity forces are determined to eliminate the menace o terrorism and such sacri fices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve, 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 joint search and rescue, as well as anti-submarine operations, the ministry said

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

The two countries are aiming to further deepen the 'China-Pakistan all weather strategic cooperative partnership and traditional friendship", and improve the level of actual combat training between

he two militaries, he said Last month, the PLA Air Force's J-16 fighter je 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

### Caretaker govt has no political agenda: Solangi

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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): of the Federal Cabinet presided 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, he added Continued on page 2

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

decade

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Interior, Senator Sarfraz Bugti Monday emphasized 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 to the Red Zone, where

their sit-in. Bugti underscored the prominent role of seasoned Politician Akhtar Khan ment in various governmental capacities over the last

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



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

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 in

ISLAMABAD (APP): Su- dermining the parliament 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

on consumers.

# **Deportation process** applies to all illegal foreigners: PM Kakar

If they wanted to return to Pakistan with the required legal documents and valid visas, there would be no restriction

LAHORE (APP): Care- all those undocumented taker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday reiterated that as per government's policy and relevant laws, they were sending back all the 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

and illegal foreigners. In an interaction with

the students of Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) during a special session, the prime minister elaborated that Pakistan had hosted more than 4 million Afghan refugees on its soil for the last 40 years under the Geneva 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 Paki-stan 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 Pakistan with the required legal documents and valid visas, there would be no restriction. Replying to a question regarding an incident involvng Afghan nationals, the

Continued on page 2



ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting of the Caretaker Federal Cabinet.

#### 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 Palestinian enclave with a ground assault that prompted more international calls for civilians to be protected. Israel's military said it had struck more than 600 militant targets over the past few days as it expanded ground operations in the Gaza Strip, where Palestinian civilians are in dire need of fuel, food and clean water as the war

enters its fourth week. "IDF troops killed dozens of terrorists who barricaded themselves in buildings and tunnels, and attempted 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 Hamas militants.

#### **Electricity price** likely to be increased by Rs 1.30

ISLAMÄBAD (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 electricity by one rupee and 30 paisa. The proposal would put an additional burden of 22 billion 56 crore rupees

The increase is being proposed to cover the cost of electricity theft and line losses, as well as to increase

ments towards protection

and safety needs of those

in vulnerable situations

#### 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**

OUETTA: 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 Hag Haggani and others participated in the conference.

The conference was organized by the Information Department, Government of Balochistan in collaboration with an organization.

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 several decades.

The immigrants are living in different parts of the country without any inconvenience, adding he pointed

However, the incumbent government has decided to repatriate those living illegally in the country.

He said that the repatriation of the illegal immigrants is in accordance with

the international laws. He said that the govern-Continued on page 2



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 Emer-

gency Operation Center (EOC), the campaign started in Awaran, Dera Bugti, Gwadar, Usta Muhammad, Hub, Jaffarabad, Khuzdar, 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 presence of the polio virus in environmental samples in different areas of the province including Quetta,

The EOC sources informed that it has been targeted to administer the antipolio vaccine to some 0.78 million children below five years of age in 10 districts where the campaign is being run presently.

Hub, Pishin and Hub.

#### front was tantamount to unlimits were not violated. electricity consumption. 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 interna-

tional principles. 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 prin-

The UNHCR had ap-

thorities to suspend the deportations as a November 1 deadline looms. "We have seen the press statement by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human

The Illegal Foreigners Spokesperson Mumtaz 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 pealed to the Pakistani au- Pakistan takes its commit-

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

to this end," she said.

### Inzamamul steps down as chief selector of men's cricket team

PCB says five-member committee constituted to investigate allegations of "conflict of interest" reported in media regarding team selection process

where he had an hour long

meeting with the Chairman

Management Committee

Zaka Ashraf. The Chairman

Zaka Ashraf informed

Inzamam of the constitution

of a fact-finding committee

to look into the matter.

Inzamam tendered his resig-

Board (PCB) has set up a

five-member fact-finding

committee to investigate al-

legations in respect of con-

flict of interest reported in

the media pertaining to the

issued by the PCB on Mon-

Minister Kakar further

said that the caretaker gov-

ernment would assist the

ECP with provision of fi-

nances and security for the

smooth process and as-

sured to fulfill their con-

and KP polls, the prime

minister said that the mat-

ter did not pertain to the

tenure of the interim set up and referred to Article 254

of the Constitution which

said that any delay or fail-

ure to comply with the le-

gal requirement as to time,

did not render an act in-

valid or unconstitutional

because it happened late.

Explaining his view in re-

sponse to a question by a

student, the prime minis-

ter said that in Pakistan

democracy was in the tran-

sitional period and it had

not been a settled one like

that of a European coun-

try where the democratic

system had taken a shape.

He said that for reaching

to their destination, well

defined principles should

be laid down beyond the

formed discourse instead

political dogfights on Tv

screens, he said and regret-

ted that certain social and

political trends, kind of

hate and abuse on social

media platforms, had be-

that state had its constitu-

tional rights and pointed out

Article 5 of the Constitu-

tion which demanded for

unconditional lovalty with

the state. He said that ev-

ervone had to follow sets

of rules and regulations oth-

erwise, it would lead to

There should be in-

political considerations

About delay in Punjab

stitutional duty.

According to handout

team selection process.

**QUETTA: Former Federal Minister Dr. Firdous** 

Ashiq Awan meeting with Caretaker Chief Minis-

**Deportation process....** 

ter Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

Earlier Pakistan Cricket

nation immediately.

Inzamam-ul-Haq stepped down as chairman of the national men's selection committee in the wake of conflict of interest alle-

He was appointed chairman of the national men's selection committee on August 7, 2023 while he was assigned the junior men's selection responsibility earlier this month.

The media reports alleged that Inzamam-ul-Haq was among one of the four directors of a UK-based. The company involved others who looked after interests of many of the Pakistan cricketers.

Inzamam said: "I am stepping down from the post to offer the PCB the opportunity to conduct a transparent inquiry about the conflict of interest allegations raised in the media.

"If the committee finds me not guilty, I will resume my role as the chief selec-

Continued from page 1

caretaker prime minister

said that he had already

given direction to the rel-

evant authorities of the in-

terior ministry to ensure

dignity of the repatriated

women and children as

there might be vulnerable

said that Pakistan had en-

tertained on its soil for de-

cades those Afghans that

had been registered as refu-

gees and compared the treat-

ment meted out to immi-

grants' boats in the Medi-

tained that in various ter-

rorists' incidents, certain

groups were involved and

referred to a suicide attack

in a mosque in Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa in which the

suicide bomber was identi-

fied from DNA tests as Af-

ghan national. He clarified

that all Afghans were not

terrorists but involvement

of certain groups in illegal

activities was a part of the

problem, adding it was the

prime responsibility of the

government to protect the lives of its people which

was also a constitutional

minister said that govern-

ments' policies were framed

after institutional inputs

from different institutions

and departments. Replying

to a student's question, he

said that the caretaker gov-

ernment was a product of a

constitutional order after

the former leader of the

house and leader of oppo-

sition in the previous Na-

tional Assembly adopted a

constitutional procedure

and agreed upon his nomi-

nation. He said that the pre-

vious parliament had

passed a law in which the

Election Commission of

Pakistan (ECP) was man-

dated to announce an elec-

the ECP and not of the

Caretaker Prime Minister

to set a date for the general

elections," he said, adding

"It is the mandate of

tion date.

The caretaker prime

obligation.

To a query, he main-

The prime minister

day, the committee will sub-The PCB, in a media remit its report and any reclease issued here on Monommendations to the PCB day, appreciated and ac-Management in an expeditious manner. knowledged Inzamam's decision to voluntarily step down during the on-going

The committee has been formed to look into the coninvestigation into the potenflict of interest allegations tial conflict of interest alleagainst Chairman of the Nagations. Earlier, Inzamamtional Men's Selection ul-Haq was summoned to Committee Inzamamul Haq the PCB headquarters Inzamamul

stepped down immediately as chairman of the national men's selection committee in the wake of conflict of interest allegations. He was appointed chairman of the national men's selection committee on August 7 2023 while he was assigned the junior men's selection responsibility earlier this month. The media reports alleged that Inzamamul Haq was among one of the four directors of a UK-based company. The company involved others who looked after the interests of many of the current Pakistan cricket team members.

#### **GPA** begins water supplying project to **Gwadar Free Zone North**

GWADAR (INP): Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) has set into motion water supplying project to Gwadar Free Zone North spreading over the area of around 2221 Completion

timeframe is scheduled in January 2024, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. Water will be supplied through two different sources. One source will be from 1.2 MGD seawater desalination plant recently completed on June 30 at Gwadar Port area.

Second source will be from old Airport' water supply line network with storage capacity of 5.6 million

The network is connected with Shadi Kor Dam and Sawar Dam. Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) already completed 158km pipeline from the Shadi Kor and Swad dams.

With the completion of water distribution project. two industries including Agvon and Hangeng will receive 400 cubic meters water per day. Other beneficiaries will be upcoming industries in Gwadar Free Zone North. Apart from East Sea Group, Acrez Mark, Essatex industries, Idrees Steel Bluemoon industries and Bari Textile have already submitted their investment plan.

#### Geo-political... Continued from page 1

He said that it is the endeavour of interim government to restore exemplary peace of the past and provide protection to the life and property of the masses.

He said Balochistan is the custodian of historic traditions and

come a part of their lives. great hospitality. Encouraging students to Meanwhile, the Addi take bold decisions and tional Chief Secretary engage in informed dis-Home, Zahid Saleem briefed the participants of course over various challenges being faced by the NSW about the overall law country, the caretaker and situation of the provprime minister stressed ince as well as about its geothat they should first exgraphical importance, ongoplore themselves and then ing development process search for in what they issues of governance helieved. To another query CPEC projects besides with regard to freedom of other important matters reexpression and rights, the lated to the province. prime minister mentioned

The participants also posed questions about different matters which were duly responded in detail.

occasion were the head of NSW Major General Muhammad Raza, Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan, besides other concerned high ups.



GWADAR: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Social Welfare & Special Education Shaina Khan presiding over a meeting



LAHORE: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar participates in an interactive session with the students of Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS).

the eighth wicket but Sri

Rahmanullah Gurbaz in

the first over but Rahmat

Shah (62) and Ibrahim

Zadran (39) calmed the

nerves with a 73-run part-

missed Rahmat but not be-

fore the batter had brought

up his second successive

fty of the tournament.

mixed caution with occa-

sional aggression in their

unbroken century stand to

take Afghanistan closer to

the target. ith victory in

sight, both decided to play

Azmatullah scored the

winning run when he at-

shots

Shahidi and Omarzai

Kasun Rajitha dis-

Afghanistan lost

250-mark.

### Afghanistan beat Sri Lanka to boost World Cup semi-final bid

**Sports Desk** 

PUNE: Afghanistan defeated Sri Lanka by seven wickets in Pune on Monday to record their third win of the World Cup and maintain their hopes of a semi-final place.

Set 242 to win after a disciplined bowling display, Afghanistan finished on 242-3 with Azmatullah Omarzai unbeaten on 73 and captain Hashmatullah Shahidi 58 not out, the pair sharing an unbroken stand of 111.

Victory meant Afghanistan, who'd already beaten champions England, had won back-toback matches at the World Cup for the first time after they defeated Pakistan by eight wickets last time out. Afghan bowlers had laid the foundation of their victory when they bowled out Sri Lanka for a belowpar 241 in 49.3 overs.

Three of their top five batters, including Shahidi, then produced half-centuries in a clinical chase which they accomplished in 45.2 overs to move to the fifth place in the points table.

Azmatullah Omarzai (73) scored the winning run with Shahidi (58) looking on from the other

Put into bat, several Sri Lankan batters got their eyes in but could not tempted to hit a six and was dropped at deep quite capitalise on those midwicket

#### School in Gandawa GANDAWA (APP): After the fall of Dimuth Karunaratne in

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Jhal Magsi Ejaz Sarwar paid a surprise visit to Government the sixth over, Kusal Mendis (39) forged half-Boys Higher Secondary century partnerships with School Gandawa area of Pathum Nissanka (46) and Jhal Magsi district on Monday. He also asked ques-Sadeera Samrawickrama

DC pays surprise

visit to Govt Boys

(36) to steady the innings. At 134-2 in the 28th tions from students of different classes and over, Sri Lanka looked well placed to reach the checked the atten-275-mark but the plucky dance of teachers and urged the students to Afghans struck at regular intervals to peg them focus on their education because knowl-Angelo Mathews and edge is source of devel-Maheesh Theekshana opment of any nation and country. raised 45 quick runs for

On this occasion, the Principal of the con-cerned school, Qazi Khuda Baksh, made him Lanka still fell short of the inspect the various classrooms and gave a detailed briefing regarding the educational background of the school, the shortage of teachers and other prob-

lems.
The DC said that measures were being taken to improve quality education in respective of government schools for the interest of students' future.

#### **Decision of** repatriation...

Continued from page 1 ment has given relaxation to the undocumented foreigners. But, the government is firm to send the undocumented immigrants any-

way, he asserted. Jan Achakzai on the occasion said that the government of Balochistan is fully prepared to send the foreigners to their countries. He said that the deci-

sion of sending them (foreigners) has been taken for the country's security and betterment. However, the decision

would not have any impact on the registered immigrants, he made it clear. Other participants also

spoke and shared their views on the topic. They stressed that the

repatriation of refugees must be ensured respect-

Consultant Punjab Urban Unit Abid Hussain presenting a memorial shield to Director General

#### QDA Saadat Hassan Caretaker govt has no...

minister had issued special directives for ensuring repatriation of illegal immigrants in a dignified and re-

Repatriation Order, but

also monitoring the entire

accorded approval for pre-

senting a work plan before

the cabinet regarding the

matter so that it could be

ensured that all illegal im-

migrants left the country in

could only return to Paki-

stan through legal means, he

tions of the Ministry of

Interior, he said, the cabi-

net approved police station

status for 10 immigration

check posts of the Federal

Investigation Agency (FIA)

in accordance with the Pass-

mendation of the Aviation

Ministry, the cabinet ap-

proved international flight

operations for Fly Jinnah

airlines. Following this ap-

proval, the airlines could

now conduct flight opera-

tions to Afghanistan,

Bangladesh, Iraq, Malaysia,

Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia,

Thailand, Turkey, and the

He said on the recom-

port Rules of 2021.

The illegal immigrants

On the recommenda-

a phased-manner.

He said the PM also

spectful manner. Women and children would also be provided special care during the repatriation process, he said, adding directives had been issued that no state agency would exceed its authority at any stage of the process. The minister said the

Also present on the

#### **Continued from page 1** United Arab Emirates.

#### Solangi said the cabinet, Solangi said the prime

upon the recommendation of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs, approved signing of a cooperation protocol between Tajikistan's Ministry of Industry and New Technologies and Pakistan's Ministry of Maritime Affairs to en-

hance revenues and trade in the industrial goods and services sector. On the recommendation of the Ministry of Commerce, he said, the prime minister had directed to establish a special system for not only preparing the database of individuals being repatriated under the

cabinet gave its consent for the removal of Pakistan Steel Mills Corporation from the privatization programme, and directed the Ministry of Industries and Production to propose a future course of action regarding the matter. The minister said the

cabinet also granted an exemption to the Pakistan LNG Limited from rule numbers (1)13 and 35 of the Public Procurement Rules 2004 for procuring liquefied natural gas (LNG) from spot market from January

024 to June 2024. On the Cabinet Division's recommendations, he said, the cabinet exempted the Sui Southern Gas Company Limited from rules 9, 13, 35, and 40 of the Public Procurement Rules 2004 for the procurement of 20,000 metric tons

of spot LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas) cargo from November 2023 to March He said the cabinet also

confirmed the decisions made during the Cabinet Committee on Legislative Cases' meetings held on October 6 and October 27. The cabinet also reviewed the decisions of the

Economic Coordination Committee made on October 23 and directed the concerned to review the changes in the natural gas prices, he said, adding the Economic Coordination Committee was told to convene a meeting today on the matter to get its decisions ratified on the same

He said the cabinet approved the Hajj Policy 2024 on the recommendation of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony. Under a dedicated quota for Hajj 2024, a total of 179,210 pilgrims from Pakistan would be able to perform the pilgrimage.

Under the Hajj Policy 2024, the quota had been equally divided between the government and private schemes, he added. To facilitate pilgrims,

the minister said, a 20 to 25-day stay package would also be introduced, with the cost to be determined later. He said the 38 to 42

day Hajj package would account for Rs 1,065,000 for the Southern Region and Rs 1,075,000 for the Northern Region, which were Rs 100,000 less than those of the previous year.

The minister said the Road to Makkah Project facility would be available at the Islamabad Airport for Hajj 2024, and it would soon be extended to Karachi and Lahore airports

As regards the Pakistan International Airlines, he said steps were being taken to improve its situation.

To a query, he said illegal immigrants would be repatriated to their countries from the nearest holding

### PM assures govt support to promote locally-developed new crop varieties

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday assured of his government's support to promote the locally-developed new varieties of crop seeds of wheat, sugarcane, soybeans and others with a view to reducing dependence on imported ones.

The prime minister, while visiting the stalls of different agricultural products set up by the agriculture universities of the country at an exhibition here, assured that the government, through swift decision-making, would remove all the impediments to the introduction of new seeds.

During the briefing, he was told that the country's agricultural research entities had developed new seeds of wheat, sugarcane and soybeans which were climate resilient and had the potential of giving up to three times more yield by consuming far less water than the existing varieties. The prime minister,

who was accompanied by Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi equipment.

was told that the federal government would have to amend the rules to promote the locally-developed crop

To this, the prime minister assured that the government would make the required decisions within a

The prime minister, who interacted with the representatives of the universities, was told that a new heat-resistant wheat seed has been developed to provide three times more

It was said that the genetically modified soybean seed would help the country compete with the world market besides supporting its poultry industry and reducing the import of edible oil. Similarly, the new sugarcane variety would consume one-third water and reduce crop duration from 13 months to five years with far more yield.

The prime minister was also briefed on the production of olive, honey, and new varieties of cotton as well as the modern spray



LAHORE: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar meets Caretaker Chief Minister of Punjab Mohsin Naqvi.

#### **England coach Mott blasts World Cup dressing** room unrest claims

NEW DELHI (INP): En- that part. If you see our gland coach Matthew Mott said the team remains an 'incredibly tight-knit unit" despite a 100-run thrashing by India which condemned the defending champions to a fifth defeat at the World titled to his opinion. He's

Mott's claims came after former England captain Eoin Morgan insisted that there were splits in the camp which were causing the champions to under-perform. "I've never come across a sports team that has underperformed like this, given the level of expectation," 2019 World Cup winning skipper Mor-

gan told Sky Sports. 'There's something within the team that is definitely unsettled. I think there's something else going on – there has to be. Mott was quick to refute the claims. "I don't think that at all. I think anyone that's inside our tent at the moment would say that despite our results we're an incredibly tight-knit unit." he said.

"I can only say from my opinion the group's been incredibly strong in he said.

training sessions, they're full of fun. People are putting their arm around each other, trying to help them.'

Pressed on the topic and Mott said: "Eoin's enobviously been away for a couple of weeks with the birth of his child. "He hasn't been in and around the rooms, but I'll certainly take that up with him and have a chat to him."

Jos Buttler's England suffered a fifth loss in six games at the tournament to all but slip out of the semifinal race. Their bowlers kept India down to 229-9, but the batting once again collapsed to 129 all out against an Indian attack led by Mohammed Shami and

Jasprit Bumrah. England's batting folded for 156 in their previous loss to Sri Lanka, but Mott said the team will not throw in the towel in their next three matches. "I think it's tough. I'm sick of coming up and speaking to you guys about the same thing, but that's what professional sport is,"



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari meets PPP Central Information Secretary, MNA Shazia Marri during meeting held at Bilawal House in Karachi.



The Chairman Municipal Corporation Pishin intends to auction dead/irreparable items of Municipal Corporation Pishin the detail of

S.I	S.No Name of Item		Quantity
1.	Batt	ery	38 No (Tractor/Fire brigade/Suzki etc
2	Tyre		42 No (Tractor/Firebirgdae etc.
3	Scrap items		2000 KG
4	Dustbins		07 No
5	Tractor trolley		01 No
6	Street Lights body		100 No
7	Han	dcart Body	60 No

according to property rules 2019, 2. The bidders must denosit 25% of the reserved price as earnest money in the account of Municipa corporation Pishin, 3. The bidders must have valid registration certificates must be NTN holder. 4. The bidder must deposit Rs. 1000 in the account of Municipal Corporation for documents of auction 5. The detail of auction items can be obtained from the office of undersigned in the official working days /time. 6. The Auction will be held on 06-11-2023 in the office of Chairman Municipal Corporation Pishin time 11:00 am. 7. The successful bidders shall pick up scraped items within 10 days after full payment of auction

AB No.166/30-10-2023 🚭 www.dpr.gob.pk. 🔻 @dpr\_gob 🎯 dpr.gob 📝 @dgpr.balochista

Municipal Corporation Pishin

### Value-added textile exporters term | gas tariff hike disastrous for export

ISLAMABAD (INP): after deep thoughts consid-ECC's proposed exorbitant ering that to favouring and ECC's proposed exorbitant hike of 86.5% escalating existing tariff from Rs 1100 mmbtu to Rs 2050 mmbtufor export-industries is highly unjust and unwise which will sabotage the value-added textile ex-

The textile-export industries were battling hard amid economic uncertainty and global slowdown to sustain and survive, nevertheless, the proposed hike in gas tariff will push the export industries to the verge of closure creating new additional financial mess, further decline in export and massive layoffs. Gravity of situation demands prudent decisions, to support businesses to incentivize rather penalize, to ultimately revive

The Government's intention to control circular debt is appreciable, however, such initiatives and decisions should be taken

addressing one issue must not economically and financially disturb other factor having impact on national economy and export. To save two Government's owned companies (SSGC & SNGP) by escalating gas tariffs on the cost of entire

industry is highly deplorable. It will be highly detrimental for the sustainability and survival of industries. To end the circular debt to two companies, in this way, will create another circular debt for industries. Priorities to supply gas should be set on merit and fairness. Subsidy be given to deserving and underprivileged only not across the entire domestic sector which besides poor covers all the elite, affluent and privileged class as well. The indigenous gas reserves are fast depleting with major consumption in unproductive sectors. It is also a matter

some industries are exporting indigenous gas without value-addition and on other side the Government is importing RLNG. This precious resource must be spent on productive industrial use only. This was stated by Muhammad Jawed Bilwani, Chief Coordinator, Value-Added Textile Exporters Associa-

Jawed Bilwani stated that the Value-Added Textile Exporters have rejected and condemned the exorbitant hike in gas tariff proposed by ECC and it is not acceptable. In the proposed recommendations of tariff hike, those industries have been favoured who are exporting gas without value-addition. The Government should consider to evolve some mechanism and do some homework by checking and examining the high profit making industries going through their balance sheets and impose such high tariffs to those industries.



of concern that on one side

Ahmed Laghari posing for a group photo graph along with the participants after an event "PRCS Fund raising" at local hotel in Federal Capital.

### **Creating safer digital space:** TikTok holds mental health awareness workshop

TikTok, the world's leading short-form video platform, held a Mental Health Awareness Workshop as part of TikTok's wellbeing c a m p a i g n , #MentalHealthAwareness -Better Together, aimed at

World Mental Health Day (WMHD) is observed each year in the month of

October, serving as a global platform to address the significance of mental health and the challenges it poses in contemporary society said a news release. theme, "Mental Health is a universal human right," em-

This year's WMHD phasizes the importance of equitable access to mental health services. TikTok took this opportunity to engage its community and

ISLAMABAD (APP): around mental well-being, empowering individuals to discuss and address these crucial topics.

In addition to WMHD, October is also recognized as National Cyber Bullying Awareness Month. TikTok extended raising awareness about its campaign to create a mental health issues and safer and more positive promoting digital literacy in digital environment for all

The key objectives of

the Mental Health Awareness Workshop included engaging with the TikTok community, creating a welcoming space for creators to express their concerns, and generating valuable content related to mental health awareness.

The event featured renowned TikTok creators and mental health professionals, fostering an atmosphere of collaboration and learning. Notable particiArzu Fatima, Areesha (LittleKhanWanderLust) Danial Sheikh, as well as Ola Doc Psychologist and Sexologist Tahira Malik. Stand-up comedy sessions by Mir Zohair Ali and Shehzad Ghias provided a touch of humor to the pro-

The highlight of the event was a panel discusators explored critical questions related to digital safety and mental health and shared their experiences in tackling the online chal-

TikTok remains committed to promoting digital safety, and mental well-being, and fostering a supportive and inclusive community. The success of the Mental Health Awareness Workshop in Lahore underscores the importance of open dialogue and collabo rative efforts to address these crucial issues.

#### promote an open dialogue pants included Kazi Akber, **Police implement 'Knock** the Door' campaign to ensure public safety

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Th 'Knock the Door' campaign, initiated under the guidance of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, is currently underway, focusing on the registration of house servants

and tenants. A police spokesperson confirmed on Monday that comprehensive nature of this campaign, involving proactive street-level and door-todoor efforts by various teams from the Islamabad Capital Police.

The efforts aimed to ensuring the registration of tenants and domestic workers and also addressing concerns expressed by the residents, he added. In a recent develop-

ment, the Counter Terror-

ism Department (CTD) Islamabad has successfully registered data pertaining to 190 house servants employed in 433 houses within the jurisdiction of the Bara Kahu Police Sta-

He said the primary objective of this campaign is to foster a secure environment in the federal capital by proactively managing law and order. By registering tenants and domestic workers, the authorities aimed not only to monitor potential troublemakers but also to prevent individuals engaged in suspicious activities.

Furthermore, the public is encouraged to request proper identification from any individual dressed in civilian attire who arrives at their residence for data collection purposes.

#### **Qureshi files** post-arrest bail in IHC

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa-kistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Vice Chairman Shah Mehmood Qureshi on Monday filed an application with the Islamabad High Court (IHC) seeking post-arrest bail in different

cases registered against him.
IHC Chief Justice Amir Farooq heard the application with objections.

The chief justice observed that there were objections on the application that the documents attached were not in order. He directed the appellant to arrange the documents in order and submit the same

Qureshi's lawyer Ali Bukhari pleaded the court to hear the matter as it was

The chief justice observed that the notices would be issued once the appellant arranged the documents in order



ISLAMABAD: A worker busy fixing pedestrian bridge at Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed Road in the Federal Capital.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Health Services Dr. Nadeem Jan calls on the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

### Govt to recruit hospital heads as per rules: Nadeem

ISLAMABAD (APP): prove the health system." Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan on Monday said that the recruitment of heads of major hospitals would be undertaken as per recruitment rules.

The minister, in a media briefing, said that recruitments would be made strictly on merit following due process and proce-

"We make it clear we are working in accordance tiary and secondary levels with law and all the recruitments will be made on merit

want transparency to im- at the Pakistan Institute of

Supreme Court (SC) while

dismissing the appeal plea

against determination of

cost of land for district hos-

pital Multan maintained

apparently no mistake was

made in determination of

Chief Justice of Pakistan

Qazi Faez Isa took up the

case for hearing Monday.

Punjab told court in his ar-

guments that district col-

lector determined the cost

of land as Rs 10000 per

marla. Referee judge in-

A 3-member bench of

Advocate General

SC presided over by the cision.

cost of land.

SC rejects appeal against

determination of cost of

land for hospital Multan

ISLAMABAD (Online): Rs13000 per marla

creased the cost to upheld LHC decision.

ISLAMABAD: Dr Luay Shabany, country repre-

sentative of UNFPA called on President AJK

**CCP** sets up new

department for robust

market surveillance

Nation pays tribute to

'Dildar Pervaiz Bhatti's on

his 29th death anniversary

ISLAMABAD (APP): Renowned TV and radio presenter Dildar Pervaiz Bhatti

After one year, he joined Historical Government College Lahore and

from the Pakistan Bureau

on all essential products,

and various sectors of the

economy to identify collu-

sive practices and cartels.

smoking guns.

In line with the inter-

started his new life. His career in the en-

tertainment industry

the Pakistan Television

tunity to host a university

Takra' which made him a

Bhatti also hosted the grammes 'Mela',

programmes 'Mela', 'Yadish Bakhair' and

'Panjnad' which gave him

huge fame and respect

worldwide

Corporation Lahore.

It will also obtain data

of Statistics.

poor nations.

Berister Sultan Mehmood Chaudary.

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has

launched a new Market In-

telligence Unit (MIU), its

objective is to create ad-

vanced technological and

data analytical capabilities

to assess the market data

to identify collusive prac-

the previous approach of

reactive enforcement to

proactive enforcement, said

a press release issued here.

signed an MOU with the

Urban Unit in Punjab. CCP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Re-

was remembered on his

29th death anniversary on Monday where social

media users and people

from all walks of life

have paid rich tributes

to his unforgettable ser-

vices in the entertainment

Gujranwala on November

30, 1948, and got his early

education in the same city.

Dildar received many tro-

phies by winning debating

contests throughout his

school and college days, the

PTV news channel re-

reer as an English lecturer

at Government College

Bhatti started his ca-

He was born in

industry.

CCP has already

It's a transition from

He said that necessary instructions to initiate process for filling of the posts of various cadres had been He said, "The govern-

utmost transparency and merit in recruitments. He said steps had been taken to increase facilities in the public sector hospi-

He said load on terhad increased and now "we

are managing this issue". He said an MRI ma-Dr Nadeem said, "We chine had been inaugurated

Rs 13000 per marla.

13000 per marla after re-

mistake in referee judge de-

Medical Sciences (PIMS) to facilitate patients.

Dr Nadeem Jan said that he received complaints that the MRI machine at the hospital was out of order for the last four years and patients had to go to priment believes in upholding vate hospitals for MRI. "On which I had given

a deadline to the administration to make the MRI machine functional," the minister added. He said that health

sector reform was his top agenda and mission. He added without re-

forms, improvement and development in the health sector was not possible.

#### **NUST seeks** donations for Gaza's emergency relief efforts

Lahore High Court (LHC) ISLAMABAD (APP). The National University of too upheld the cost of land Science and Technology (NUST), maintaining its The court remarked the referee judge determined previous tradition of carrythe cost of land as Rs ing out relief efforts for those in distress, is actively viewing the record. What is collecting donations for Gaza's emergency relief ef-

Advocate General According to an offi-Punjab replied another case cial of the university, the of this nature is pending in Student Affairs Directorate of the university is actively engaged in seeking dona-

This case be heard by clubbing it with the case tions for Gaza's emergency pending hearing in SC. relief efforts. The court dismissed The division has Punjab government plea and

asked the citizens to donate urgently needed items, including cereals, powdered milk infant formi fee mixture, biscuits. chocolates, cooked rice cooked chicken or meat, cooked vegetables, fruits, and water purification tablets, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap bars, hand sanitizers, moisturizers, a box of bandages, shampoos, sanitary napkins, pampers for children (different sizes), washing soap or powder, medicines related to surgery, trauma, orthopedic, infection, wounds, and general medi-

The university has urged the public to join its efforts to support this noble cause by extending donations and helping bring relief to those in need.

#### **Bugti extends** condolences to Maulana Tariq on tragic loss The collusions and cartels

**of his son**ISLAMABAD (APP): In a drive the prices up in the economy maximising their heartfelt message, Minister profit at the expense of for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti Monday expressed The history of market his condolences to reabuse is as old as the marnowned religious scholar kets itself. Unscrupulous Maulana Tariq Jamil and players have become sohis family following the phisticated and leave no tragic demise of his son, Asim Jamil. The loss of a young son, Bugti emphawill also be obtaining data on all essential commodities uill gather economic data. sized, brought unimaginable sorrow and grief to the Maulana.

He prayed for the departed soul's peace and the family's strength to bear this irreparable loss with equanimity and fortitude.

#### Solangi grieved over demise of Maulana Tariq Jamil's son

started with Radio Pakistan ISLAMABAD (APP): in the early 70s, when he Caretaker Minister for Inhosted a programme 'Sohni formation and Broadcasting Dharti'. He also worked in Murtaza Solangi on Sunday expressed deep grief and sorrow over demise of Asim Bhatti got an oppor-Jamil, son of a prominent religious scholar Maulana challenge-style TV show Tariq Jamil. The minister, in a condolence message, household name of that conveyed sympathies to the bereaved family and time. It was the first quiz programme in the Punjabi

said he shared their grief. He also prayed to the Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage and fortitude to the bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss.

### **QAU** to host seminar on **FATF's upcoming on-site** evaluation of India

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Quaid-e-Azam University is hosting an international seminar on November 1, to discuss the expected outcomes of the FATF's on-site evaluation of India scheduled during the next month

A delegation from Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the global money-laundering and terrorist financing watchdog, will visit India for an on-site evaluation in November as a part of its ongoing assessment.

The FATF team will carry out an assessment of anti-money laundering and terror financing measures taken by the country. According to the media reports, India's assessment will be based on 11 immediate outcomes laid down by FATF, including stringent anti-money laundering and counter-terror financing frameworks.

Being held by QAU's School of Politics and IR Department, the seminar will be attended by around 300 PhD scholars, renowned journalists and international delegates. The prominent key speakers include Federal Interior Minister Sarfaraz Bugti, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Finance Dr. Wagar Masood Khan, Professor Dr. Baqir Malik of Concordia University, Canada, President of the National Youth Alliance Kamran Saeed Usmani, Zee News analyst Dr. Raja Kashif Janjua and UNODC National Consultant in Cybercrimes and Forensics Fateh ud din B. Mehmood. Pakistan Bureau Chief of Almayadeen, Beirut Baker Younis, Barra Khalid of Al Araby TV Channel, Qatar and Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal of QAU are also among the speakers.



**ISLAMABAD:** Caretaker Minister for Energy Muhammad Ali had a meeting with Ambassador of the United Stated of America to Pakistan H.E. Donald Blome at Power Division. Areas of mutual interest were discussed in the meeting.

### **Court seeks arguments** from chairman PTI counsel in Nikkah during iddat case

ISLAMABAD (Online): case against Imran Khan District court has sought arguments from the lawyer of chairman PTI in Nikkah during Iddat case against Imran Khan and Bushra

Assistant lawyer to chairman PTI counsel Sher Afzal Marwat said petition has been filed seeking adjournment of the hearing.

The court adjourned hearing of the case till November 04. Non Shariah nikkah

and Bushra Bibi came up for hearing before District and Sessions Court Islamabad Monday. Civil judge Qudrat Ullah heard the plea seeking early hearing of the

Assistant lawyer to PTI chairman counsel Sher

Afzal Marwat appeared in the court taking the plea Sher Afzal Marwat is outside the country till November 04.

### Islamabad's Soan Zone police nabbed 2,505 accused during 2023

**Independent Report** ISLAMABAD: Islamabad's Soan Zone Police made significant strides in curbing criminal activity during the current year, resulting in the apprehension of 2,505 individuals, including 267 members of 115 criminal gangs.

This successful operavarious illicit items such as cation of crime within the vehicles, motorcycles, city.

drugs, liquor and weapons with ammunition.

Police spokesperson said on Monday that increased vigilance and proactive measures were in direct response to the directives issued by the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, tion led to the recovery of who emphasized the eradi-



Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Latif Akbar giving a shield to the retired Secretary Public Health Chaudhry Muhammad Bashir on the retirements.

### **Students completes** Russian language course at AIOU

Ambassador of Russia to Pakistan, Danila Ganich Monday appreciated the initiative of the Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) to teach foreign languages. "Pakistan-Russia relations will improve by teaching Russian language to Pakistani children" the ambassador said addressing the ceremony of distribution of the first batch of Russian language course at AIOU.

ISLAMABAD (APP):

"Learning the Russian language in a short period of three months has made it clear that there is no shortage of talent among Pakistani people", he said. Speaking on the occa-

Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood said that by learning foreign languages, students will get better educational and job opportunities abroad He said that teaching language is the most difficult task, and the teachers of the Russian ter of the university did a wonderful job in teaching the Russian language.

Language and Culture Cen-

While congratulating the students, Dr. Nasir said you are our ambassador and now you must play a role in strengthening the relations between the two countries. It is pertinent to mention here that AIOU in collaboration with the Ural State Pedagogical University (USPU) of Russia has established "Russian Language and Culture Center for Pakistan " in AIOU which offers a three-month Russian language course. In the first batch, 117 students completed the course.

Russian language in-structors, Dr. Roman Porozov, Dr. Zavialova Natalia, Dean, Faculty of

Sciences, Prof. Dr. Irshad Ahmad Arshad and Dean, Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Dr. Shah Mohyuddin Hashmi were also present at the ceremony.

# Daily Soice of Masse Independent

Tuesday October 31, 2023

### 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 Pakistan's population is endless stream of political com- under the age of 18, as per the latest Unicef report mentary before every election? the latest Unicef report. Additionally, a report by

The entire system seems to the NGO, Sahil, reveals that from January to June be suffering from some form of self-inflicted paralysis, waiting and 53 cases of child sexual abuse and 53 cases of child portage. for something to give. One could and 53 cases of child pornography were reported the Anti-Rape Crises Cell conjecture from the inaction that, despite the ECP's assurances, the parties don't truly believe elections are around the corner.

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 ment theory, the Sharif family schism theory, the leaders seem to be overlooking is the possibility that if they start moving according to the timeline the ECP has provided, to conspiracy theories. the pressure to hold the muchdelayed 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 further delay.

Therefore, it is not as if the a small group of influential only choice available to the parties is to wait. A grave in- the context of our 'hybrid justice 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 the lack of a free media foreset a date' fallacy will only make parties culpable in de- the media, and the public's nying the people their right to awareness that media sources may not be wholly elect a government.

# Nawaz Sharif's comeback



Maleeha Lodhi

The one thing demonstrated by Nawaz Šharif's return from self-exile is that political leaders can never be written off in Pakistan's rollercoaster politics. The country's political history is punctuated by dramatic reversals in the political fortunes of leaders.

Like other politicians who made remarkable comebacks, Sharif has also been a political survivor. Over two decades ago, when he was exiled following a military coup, many believed this would mark the end of his political career. That didn't happen. He returned to win the 2013 election and become prime minister for the

After four years abroad, he is now back to participate in the election, expected in January 2024, and make a bid for prime

ministership for the fourth functional policies and po-

Sharif's long career in politics has seen many highs and lows. He was never able to complete any of his terms as prime minister as he was ousted either by the military or the president (when that office had the constitutional power to do so). The last time he was

prime minister, he was forced to step down in 2017 after his disqualification on dubious grounds by the Supreme Court and his falling out with the military establishment. His party survived its leader's many trials and troubles, but when challenged by Imran Khan's PTI, Sharif's absence from the country proved damaging for PML-N. Even though the party

led the PDM coalition that assumed power after Khan's ouster, his brother Shehbaz Sharif neither had the popular appeal nor political skill to effectively lead and reinvigorate the party.
PML-N lost consider-

able ground in its stronghold of Puniab owing to its poor management of an economy mired in the worst crisis in the country's history, although this was the cumulative result of years of dys-

litical instability. Incumbency nonetheless exacted a

Mounting inflation fuelled public discontent and eroded PML-N's support, while the party itself bedivided and came factionalised. But the party has also seen longer-term decline in support. From a high of 59 per cent of the popular vote polled in Punjab in 1997 (in the National Assembly election), the party got 47pc in the 2013 election and 35pc in 2018. Although the last election was disputed, PML-N still managed to secure a large number of seats.

This presents Sharif with the challenge of reinventing the party and overhauling it — in terms of impurpose and organisation. It needs a new narrative that can capture the public imagination and is predicated on the future, not the past. It is no longer enough to work networks of rural and urban notables or 'electables' who use their local power or biradari connections to rally support.

PML-N was always adept at this, but in Pakistan's changed environment, it is insufficient to deal

with new dynamics. PML-N needs to fashion a message to inspire voters that offers policy solutions to Pakistan's problems. The party also needs to reconfigure its team and not just rely on faces from the

In his very first public address on his homecoming, Nawaz Sharif spent a good deal of time on the past recalling the injustice meted out to him, the personal price he and his family paid and his contributions to the country's infrastructure and economic development when in power. He also made it clear

that serving the people, not revenge, would be his mission, and pledged to rebuild Pakistan. He referred to the economic challenge but didn't say how he planned to address this and other problems, leaving that for another day. This is what people expect to hear in the election campaign, which will be crucial for PML-N's

What Nawaz Sharif will realise in the coming days is that he has returned to a very different Pakistan — politically, socially and economically. The country is deeply polarised with a fragmented polity.

Khan's populism, PTI's continuing popularity and its anti-establishment politics have transformed the political landscape. So has its mobilisation of

youth, who will be a key factor in elections, especially as young people now constitute 47pc of the electorate. An assertive urban middle class that wants a bigger voice in politics and governance has also created a new political dynamic. So has social media. PML-N will have to discard its traditional ways of doing politics if it is to be in sync with these changes

Then there is the hybrid political system in place today in which the civil-military power balance has shifted decisively to the military. Adapting to this will be another challenge for Sharif, who in his Lahore speech adopted a conciliatory tone urging "harmony among institutions".

Nawaz Sharif has also returned in a very fraught economic environment. The country narrowly averted debt default just months ago. The economy is still on life support. The need for continuing fiscal tightening seriously limits

any government's ability to ease people's economic plight in the near term.

The PML-N leader also has to deal with legal problems, as he has convictions in two cases he describes as politically moti-

vated. These convictions mean he cannot contest elections and is disqualified from holding public office. Appeals filed by his legal counsel in the Islamabad High Court to set aside these convictions are expected to be heard in coming weeks.
The disqualification

issue may involve a somewhat longer legal process that ultimately involves the Supreme Court overruling its earlier decision that disqualified Sharif for life. If that happens, the law passed by parliament reducing the disqualification period to five years will kick in and Sharif will be eligible for public office.

While he enjoys the establishment's support, Nawaz Sharif has a slew of imposing challenges to negotiate. This suggests his arduous journey back to power has only just begun. -- Courtesy Dawn

### PECA and



Rida Tahir

In today's world, children face new unconventional challenges posed by the rise of digital technology. This exposes children to digital risks such as cyberbullying and sexual abuse, which were not comprehensively covered by the legal system of Pakistan even though Pakistan ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (OPSC) back in July 2011. About 45 per cent of

across Pakistan.

The legal system must recognize the vulnerability of child survivors/ victims as well as the witnesses and provide protective procedures to recognize their special needs. Therefore, it is essential to ensure that our children are provided adequate protection mechanisms in cases of online gender-based vio-

Recently, the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act 2016 (PECA) was amended through the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Act 2023 (2023 Amendment) with the aim to extend comprehensive protection against online violence to children. The 2023 amendment was published in the gazette of Pakistan on July , 2023 The 2023 amendment

is the latest federal law governing sexual violence in Pakistan. Earlier, the Anti-Rape (Investigation and Trial) Act and the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act and which protective, in- who makes complaints of 2021 (which re-defined the definition of rape in the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) were enacted. Additionally, four separate rules were notified under the Anti- outline the pre-existing

and Medico-Legal Rules, Trial Procedure Rules, Investigation Rules 2022 and the Sex Offenders Register Rules 2023. It is strongly recommended that when the rules are being drafted under PECA's 2023 amendment, the pre-existing legal framework is integrated within them with strong linkages to provide a well coordinated response by the criminal justice systen (CJS) actors

The linkages are crucial. This is because a victim/survivor may have gone through online and physical abuse at the same time For example, if a perpetrator is abusing the victim survivor and also recording the abuse through electronic means, he/she is not only committing a crime under PECA and its 2023 amendment but also a physical form of sexual violence under the Anti-Rape Act 2021. It can become difficult for the CJS actors to understand how to proceed vestigation and trial mechanisms to adopt.

Therefore, while providing an analysis on the 2023 amendment. I will also mechanisms stipulated under the Anti-Rape Act 2021

and the rules framed within it. It is important to understand the comprehensive applicability of PECA to outline its significance. PECA is applicable to the whole of Pakistan, every citizen of Pakistan wherever s/ he may be and also to every other person for the time being in Pakistan. It also applies to any act committed outside Pakistan by any person, if the act constitutes an offence under PECA and affects a person, property, information system or data located in Pakistan, as per Section 1 of PECA 2016.

In the 2023 amendment, under Section 2(via), 'child' has been defined as "a person below the age of eighteen years." This is a good addition as it is in line with Article 1 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

Additionally, the definition of a 'complainant' has been inserted through Section 2 (via) of the 2023 amendment as "any person any offence... and includes a victim, or an individual having substantial reasons to believe the offence is being committed or likely to be committed and any authority referring the complaints for investigation.

This will increase the reporting of the GBV crimes against children to ensure that the perpetrators are held accountable. Moreover, serious of-

fences against children have been defined for the protection of children from online GBV. This includes 'child sexual abuse content' and sexually explicit conduct'. defined under Section 2 (vib) and (xxviia). New sections 22A (online grooming, solicitation and cyber enticement), 22B (commercial sexual exploitation of children) 22C (use of information system for kidnapping, abduction or trafficking of minors) and

(cyberbullying) have also

been inserted through the

2023 Amendment. Importantly, Section 30 titled 'power and procedure to investigate' has been amended. In addition to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), the police have also been authorized to PECA. In that case, the police are bound to refer the matter relating to the offence under PECA immediately to the FIA, for 'technial opinion and investigation'

The federal and provincial governments may also constitute a joint investigation team (JIT). The JIT will include five members headed by an investigating officer not below the rank of BS-18, as per Section 30 (2) of the 2023 amendment. Moreover, the investigating officer or the JIT has been mandated to complete the investigation within fortyfive working days, as per Section 30 (3) of the 2023

However, under Sec-

amendment.

tion 9 of the Anti-Rape Act 2021, Special Sexual Offences Investigation Units (SSOIUs) were mandated to achieve the objective of establishing special investigation teams in sexual violence crimes. According to Section 9 (3) of the Anti-Rape Act 2021, the offences over which SSOIUs have jurisdiction to investigate are divided into two categories. The offences in Schedule I include (but are not limited to): 292-B (child pornography), 292-C (punishment for child pornogtake cognizance under raphy). These two sections were omitted from the PPC by the 2023 amendment. Therefore, the JIT under the 2023 amendment must be linked with SSIOUs under the Anti-Rape Act 2021 through a coordination mechanism. -- Courtesy

# **Persisting theories**



**Huma Yusuf** 

How many conspiracy theories have you heard since Nawaz Sharif's return? There's the entrapcounterpoint-to-Zardari theory, the coalition government theory, the election delay theory.

Pakistan is no stranger 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 and 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', people who control government policy. In Pakistan, in 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 goals.

Additional factors, too, fuel conspiracy fires, most among them. The censorship and distortion of credible, elevate the valid-

frequent use of back channels for political negotiations, the circumvention of rule of law by state institutions, and the prepondercreate more space for conspiracy theories.

Precedent beyond the political arena also gives them a fillip: an obvious example was the revelation that US intelligence had located Osama bin Laden in Pakistan under the guise of a vaccination programme. This, after years of clerics' theorising that vaccines were foreign ploys to surveil or sterilise Muslims.

that these theories often serve the interests of our beleaguered politicians. When they are thwarted in furthering their own agendas, or when they have little control over their actions or the policies they implement, politicians themselves exploit conspiratorial rhetoric to exert some influence over national narratives. Imran Khan offers the best example.

It also does not help

Members of the public who peddle conspiracy theories also benefit in our politically distorted context; perversely, they give the marginalised a sense of empowerment. If you are at the mercy of the system, but in your own community are able to exert authority and build legitimacy by explaining the vagaries of that system, you have found a voice — in that moment you are empowered. And so it is that conspiracy theories perpetuate, as we have seen lately.

Most Pakistani political stakeholders are complacent about the constant swirl of conspiracy theories, but should be wary. The political consequences are well known: erosion of democratic systems and an apathy to democracy among a public that believes that the real power brokers are inaccessible and self-serving. Conspiracies

also ultimately

ity of such theories. The reductivist, and promote an 'us vs them' view of the political system and society. Research documents how conspiracy theories can lead to violence beance of political puppets cause the sense of disempowerment and apathy they engender can only be overcome by revolutionary or violent means (again, remember where the PTI ended up).

A strong civil society offers an antidote to conspiracy theories. As interlocutors between the public and its political representatives, CSOs are well positioned to call out conspiracy from truth. Indeed, their ability to do so directly impacts the success of their activities, which are primarily ai--m-ed at improving government policy, service delivery and accountability.

Ironically, CSOs themselves have been 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

The same efforts required to debunk criticism of CSOs can help counter conspiracy theories and, ultimately, strengthen democracy. CSOs should build their capacity for fact checking and information gathering and dissemination. They should entrench in communities at hyperlocal levels so that when they counter theories they do not disempower or discredit marginalised citizens. By improving their own transparency and building cross-sectoral, pan-agenda partnerships, they can comprehensively counter skewed narratives. As political instability persists, it is important to clamp down on conspiratorial fervour,

and civil society must play

its part. -- Courtesy Dawn

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-air-emitting 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 indus-

The Air Quality Life 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, re-

search on the health impact of air pollution suggests that children, the elderly and immunity-compromised people are disproportionately affected by breathing polluted air. A recent study by the

International Growth Centre of the low-income areas of Lahore suggests that awareness around air polinfluences lution behaviour, and that people are more inclined to use masks or remain indoors during periods of high pol-

Another study conducted by the 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, followed by dust, industry and household wood burn-

The killing air

A similar study by Urban Unit, Punjab, suggests that almost 80pc of the air pollution in Lahore emanates from transport vehicles, and the rest from industry and agriculture. Interestingly, however, the focus of the government for reducing air pollution is on agriculture and indus-

try and not transport.

The shift of the needle on air pollution in 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 decision-making by the public about their daily Two, ensure the avail-

ability of Euro-IV- or Vcompliant 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 threewheelers 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 least

carpooling. The same measures should be taken for secretariat, hospital and factory staff.

TheNews

Five, the government should explore odd and even number vehicle days on the roads, thereby reducing the number of vehicles on the roads on any given day.

Six, the government should launch a massive awareness campaign informing the public about air quality status in the city, the impact on health and its economic costs to citizens, the government's efforts and the efforts expected of the people, the behavioural changes required, such as wearing masks, using public trans-

port, 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

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 before it is too late. -- Courtesy Dawn

what America tells them to

do. The Ambassador also

said that Pakistan has a lot

of potential for future

growth. Germany's point

of view on Israel's

statement that the United

Nations is ending, the

Ambassador replied that

the end of the United

Nations can only occur

when all of its members

decide to leave it, which is

something he did not see.

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

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

Minister Amir Mir said on Monday that in its 31st caretaker 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

Independent Report million for the evacuation month budget, Rs 325 October 31.

October 31.

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 police cops and more than 145,000 Rangers and Army 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

LAHORE: Caretaker of foreigners residing billion were allocated for Punjab Information illegally in Punjab after development, of which Rs illegally in Punjab after 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 technology projects, Rs 10.2 billion on construction and repair of roads and buildings, and Rs 50 billion for social protection initiatives. This budget covers the period from November 1, 2023 to February 29, 2024, he maintained.

He told media men that a meeting between the Election Chief Commissioner and the Chief Minister along with cabinet members took place to review election



LAHORE: Punjab Governor Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman distributing

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

court on Monday sent phone, and its forensic former chief minister Punjab Chaudhry Parvez that all preparations were Elahi to jail on 14-day in place to take Parvez judicial remand in a case of Elahi to his house in Gujrat illegal appointments in the in connection with

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 ACE's prosecutor argued that the candidates were appointed in violation of the merit in the Punjab Assembly, during Parvez Elahi's tenure. He submitted that the case was registered after

audit. He also submitted investigations but his health deteriorated and he was taken to the doctor. Now the investigation wanted to take him to his

house in Gujrat, he added. At this stage, Parvez Elahi's counsel opposed the remand plea and requested the court to turn

down it. The court after hearing detailed arguments of the parties, reserved its verdict on the remand plea. However, later, the court sent Parvez Elahi to jail on judicial remand while announcing the reserved verdict. The ACE Punjab alleged had

Chaudhry Parvez Elahi He submitted that recruited 12 Grade-17 physical remand was officers in the Punjab



KARACHI: Muslim League (PML-N) Sindh President, Shah Muhammad Shah along with others addresses to media persons during press conference held at Karachi press club.

### LCCI organizes seminar, panel discussion on **Breast Cancer**

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) organized a seminar/panel discussion on Breast Cancer here on

Monday. LCCI President Kashif Anwar was the chief guest while LCCI Executive Committee Member Fareeha Younas, entrepreneurs, Life Coach, Business Strategists and Change Specialist Ali Murtaza, Cardiologist, Integrated Medical Care Hospital Dr. Gohar Saeed, Medical Oncologist at SKMCH&RC Dr. Umm-e-Kalsoon Awan, Oncologist, Anmol Hospital Dr. Hira Healthcare Professional Global Development Consultancy Dr. Arooj Fatima Gillani, Asst. Prof Anatomy, AIMC, Jinnah

Mudassir, CEO Pink Ribbon Omer Aftab, Capt. Dr. Kashifa Ehsan and LCCI Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt also spoke on the occasion. The seminar was attended by large number of businessmen, professors, doctors, paramedics and people from all segments of society.In his address, LCCI President Kashif Anwar thanked the First Lady Mrs. Samina Alvi for making this important topic public as before the people were shy to talk about breast cancer. He said that the disease should be prevented before it spread and emphasized the importance of timely diagnosis. He said that it is also the responsibility of parents to check their children and if they see any Hospital Dr. Sitwat such changes in them.

#### Governor takes notice of 11 drown in boat capsize

KARACHI Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori on Monday took notice of a boat capsize in which 11 people had drowned in Nara Canal. He directed the

Commissioner Sukkur to utilize all resources to search for the drowned

#### Dera police repulse terrorist attack on police station

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): The district police have repulsed a terrorist attack on a police station late Saturday night.

According to police, 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

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. The police cordoned off the area and started a search operation as the exchange of fire ceased.

#### Two-day **'Pakistan** Literature 2023' festival concludes

SUKKUR (APP): A two day "Pakistan Literature Festival 2023" with the joint cooperation of Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi and IBA Sukkur University Monday concluded after a discussion and suggestions on the science and literature, culture, history and movement of Sindh.

The people including well-known writers, poets, singers, university students, participated in large numbers, literary discussions with literary and political figures, including mushaira, musical programs, books, clothes and colors reflecting Sindhi culture. Handicrafts stalls became the center of attention of the participants.In the closing President Arts Council Muhammad Ahmad Shah Mayor Sukkur Arslan Islam Sheikh.

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

### Kashmiris to commemorate Jammu Martyrs Day on Nov 6 with due respect and honor

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): November 1947. Adequate arrangements are being made to observe Jammu Martyrs Day on both sides of the line of control in Jammu and Kashmir and rest of the world on 6th of November with due solemnity and 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 city and week-long ruthless genocide maneuvered and executed by the despotic ramed dogra ruler's force

These martyrs 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 reverence to commemorate moving for migrating to the adjoining Sialkot city of the newly-born separate homeland of the Muslims of the subcontinent -Pakistan.

This year too, the Jammu Martyrs Day is At least seven lakh of being observed at the time when the Kashmir freedom has reached at its climax surroundings were following the massive mercilessly killed during a continual freedom struggle amidst the State-wide anti-India protests by the people of the curfewclamped and locked-down and gangsters besides the bleeding Indian occupied armed Hindu fanatics in the state of Jammu and first and second week of Kashmir.

### CJ, PHC stresses for impartiality of judges

ensure justice to the

He said at the reception hosted by the the vital role judges for District Bar Association in stegthenging judiciary his honor.Justice Ibrahim system of the country.

separation of powers in were ready

attended by judges from of the law.

with board members was also present.

LHC seeks more

arguments on petitions

about sugar pricing

LAHORE (APP): A the cane commissioner Lahore High Court (LHC) could control sugar prices

division bench on Monday only whereas price

adjourned the hearing of controlling and price fixing

notification authorising the determine the prices of

cane commissioner to fix sugar and the cane

petitions, challenging the

Punjab government's

sugar prices, till November

more arguments from

parties on the next hearing.

The bench, headed by Justice Ali Baqar Najafi,

heard the petitions filed by

sugar mills against the

notification. During the

for sugar mills argued that

proceedings, the counsel

The court sought

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, administrative officials.

The CJ pointed out

emphasized the He stated that judges fundamental importance of could not conceal anything the rule of law and the from lawyers and that they

KARACHI: Karachi Council of Foreign Relations (KCFR) held a talk on

Pakistan - Germany Relations at Quaid e Azam House Museum. Mr. Alfred

Grannas, Ambassador of Germany, Ms. Nadira Panjwani, Chairperson KCFR,

Rudiger Lotz, Ph. D.Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany

were two different things.

The market forces

commissioner did not have

any power in this regard, he added.

Punjab government had

given powers to the cane

commissioner to fix sugar

prices in violation of the rules. Subsequently, the

bench adjourned further

proceedings November 7.

He submitted that the

#### down nuclear and shifting to renewable energy. Replying to a question he said supplying ply weapons to Ukraine is not against the German

Germany's stance on Middle

East conflict coincides with

NATO's stance, says envoy

KARACHI (APP): The environmental fields. think for themselves and do

Germany is now closing

constitution. Germany is in

NATO and that's its stance

on Israel coincides with

NATO's stance. He said

that there is no consensus

on European Defense as

proposed by the French

Pakistan Alfred Granas on Monday said Germany has diplomatic and investment relations with Pakistan for 70 years and considers this region a very important

German Ambassador to

He said this while addressing a meeting with the Karachi Council of Foreign Relations (KCFR).

He said that Germany has given 150 million dollars in aid to Pakistan and that Germany's balance of trade with Pakistan is favourable to both countries. Germany has been

collaborating in the electronics, medical, and

#### Murder convict sent to gallows in Attock

ATTOCK (Online): A local court in Attock on Monday sentenced a convict to death for murdering a man over some old feud in the limits of Hassanabdal Police station on January 14 this year.

The session judge also imposed a fine of Rs 0.5 million on the accused identified as Syed SardarHussain Shah, a native of Bhoigar village. According to the FIR registered under section 302 and 34 of Pakistan Penal Code (PPC), the accused shot were ready for a man in some old feud accountability while in the limits of The ceremony was operating within the realm | Hassanabdal Police station during this year

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

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

headquarters hospital

where he pronounced dead.

Police registered a case and

launched

He was taken to tehsil

received electric shock.

According to the

hospital sources said.



MOHENJO DARO: A tourist delegation from Russia are visiting and expressed keen interest in the historical ruins of the World Heritage Monuments of Mohenio Daro.

### IPO DG says: Use of technology for innovation crucial for social advancement

Intellectual Property Organization Pakistan Director General Shazia Adnan has said, the use of technology for innovation in today's fast-paced, globally-linked society is crucial for social advancement, economic growth and the research development ecosystem. However, the activities and initiatives led by research and innovation encourage the culture of innovation and technology

She expressed these views while addressing the inaugural session of a training seminar on Technology Search and Development Technology and Innovation Support Centres (TISCs)

commercialization.

in Pakistan' organized by Intellectual Organization (WIPO), IPÓ Pakistan and Higher **Education Commission** (HEC) here at University of Management and Technology (UMT) on Monday. Mr. Marco Aleman, Section Head, Information Technology Section, IP for Innovators Department (IPID), World Intellectual Property Organization (WÎPO), Geneva Mussadiq Hussain, Technology Information Section, IP for Innovators Department (IPID), (WIPO), Geneva Haris Khan, HEC representative Islamabad, Prof Abid HK

Shirwani, Co-Founder,



LAHORE: Members of All Pakistan Clerk Association (APCA) are holding protest demonstration against Israeli cruel and inhumane acts and express unity with the innocent people of Palestine, at Lahore press club.

### **IGP** for strict security for anti-polio drive

KARACHI (APP): commandos in all such Inspector General of Police union councils. Along with (IGP) Sindh Riffat the concerned police and Mukhtar Raja on Monday commandos, plain clothed ordered police to ensure strict security measures for deployed in sensitive union the five-day long anti-polio councils He said all the during random snap

security steps for the drive checking, picketing and should be made stricter with coordination at police stations level, according to spokesman for Sindh The provincial police

chief said security should be provided to polio teams on the basis of inner and outer cordon in possible sensitive union councils. He said special

be ensured at all levels.

properly.

District SSPs should monitor the security measures themselves and responsibilities should be make the concerned SHOs

personnel should also be

patrolling, strict vigilance should be maintained,

suspicious activities

should be monitored

communication and information sharing should

The IGP ordered that

Riffat Mukhtar said

investigation. FAISALABAD: Students participating in a rally to express solidarity with

Palestinians organized by Department of Political Science & International Relations at Government College Women University Faisalabad (GCWUF). assigned to police to be present in the areas.

# Clean energy Pakistan's top priority: Caretaker Minister

Caretaker Minister for Pakistan, being more Energy Muhammad Ali has vulnerable to impacts of the said that clean energy was the top priority of

He stated this while talking to the Ambassador of Denmark to 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

ISLAMABAD (APP): wake of climate change. global climate change, has also to adapt to and mitigate the Climate Change at the country level, he said.

He said that the government of Pakistan had recently approved the National Electricity Plan 2023 which provided guidelines, implementation mechanisms and tools for the realization of the towards Climate Change National Electricity Policy targets and Sustainable

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 Denmark's support based on their expertise and experience would certainly be beneficial for Pakistan in making the transition

towards cleaner and greener

energy mix and in fulfilling

Pakistan's commitments

Development Goals

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

The ambassador expressed his aim to take the cooperation between the two countries to the next level.

minister discussed the possible plan to expand sustainable energy, particularly focusing on wind and solar energy.



KARACHI: President Dr. Arif Alvi meeting with the members of National Ideas Bank (NIB) at Governor



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi giving award to Senior Journalist Mr. Hanif Khalid along with Governor Sindh Muhammad Kamran Khan Tessori and President Islamabad chamber of Commerce & Industry Ahasan Zafar Bakhtawari during the Life Time Achievement Award Ceremony for Senior Journalist Mr. Hanif Khalid (Resident Editor Daily Jang) and other Business Role Model organized by Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

### **President says:** Focus on IT, artificial intelligence can open new avenues of prosperity

KARACHI President Dr Arif Alvi on collaboration with industry Monday said that focusing on information technology and the artificial open up new avenues of development

prosperity in the country. expressed these views as a delegation of National organization of the second Ideas Bank led by Hassan Syed called on him here in Ideas Bank in the field of

president informed decisions and

(APP): Ideas Bank to increase and other stakeholders.

He stressed that unconventional methods intelligence sector could can be used to resolve problems in industrial and activity.

> president congratulated delegation on the successful technology.

technology could play an into the members of the important role in making National Ideas Bank for The establishment of solving local problems move faster in the right through IT and artificial ction. intelligence-based He urged the National technology.

### Business community's role, imperative for economic development: Solangi

for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Monday said the business community was playing a pivotal role in the development of economy with the promotion of meeting with office bearers of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), he said the economy was invigorated only with business and investment activities.

ISLAMABAD (APP): including the promotion of Caretaker Federal Minister business activities in the business activities in the country. The caretaker government, the minister assured would ensure full support to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry in this regard. He said with the support of business and enterprises in the Chamber, maximum the country. During a cooperation would be provided government to resolve the major problems of the business community. He remarked that national development was linked with the prosperity of the The meeting business community. In deliberated upon multiple order to enhance the



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik addressing the "PRE-COP28 Accelerating The Water-Food-Climate Nexus Transformation Pathways For Pakistan' organized here at local hotel.

### Tractor assembling witnessed 6.71pc growth in two-months

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 assembling of jeeps and assembling of jeeps and last years decreased by 53.01 cars decreased by 53.91 percent as about 14,328 ieeps and cars assembled as against the assembling of of last year.

ISLAMABAD (APP): 31,085 jeeps and cars.As 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 tractors of the same period

#### **NTDC** secures land for 220kV **Grid Station in** Gujranwala

LAHORE (APP): National Transmission Company (NTDC) has successfully acquired 369 kanal (46.125 acres) land for construction of a 220 kV grid station in Gujranwala.

According to NTDC spokesman here Monday, Land Acquisition Collector (NTDC) awarded land measuring of 369 kanals under Section-11 on October 26, 2023, which is the final stage of land acquisition under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 He also awarded Director General (Land) emphasised that data and certificates of appreciation NTDC, was also present

The establishment of 220 KV grid station at Gujranwala would improve the voltage profile of the area, and also benefit the commercial and agricultural consumers and help meet the growing demand for electricity in the area.

#### **PSX** witnesses bullish trend. gains 539 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Monday, gaining 539.09 points, a positive change of 1.06 percent, closing at 51,482.93 points against 50,943.84 points the previous day. A total of 286,621,604 shares valuing Rs11.445 billion were traded during the day as compared to 350,834,756 shares valuing Rs10.607 billion the previous day.

As many as 351 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 232 of them recorded gains and 100 sustained losses whereas the share price of 19 companies remained unchanged. The three toptrading companies were Refinery with 32,398,721 shares at Rs.10.30 per share, Bank of Punjab with 20,348,145 shares at Rs.4.14 per share and WorldCall Telecom with 15,202,972 shares at Rs.1.29 per share.

#### Rupee sheds 37 paisa against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP) Pakistani Rupee on Monday witnessed 37paisa depreciation against US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs280.94 against the previous day's closing of Rs280.57.However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs 280.6 and Rs 283.1 respectively. The price of the Euro increased by 23 paisa to close at Rs296.40 against the last day's closing of Rs296.17, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen gained 01 paisa to close at Rs 1.87; whereas a decrease of 12-paisa

#### SBP maintains policy rate at 22% owing to global uncertainties here. The MPC expects open market exchange rates may offset the impacts of

downward inflationary outlook in the coming months, the State Bank of Monday, cautiously decided to 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 account deficit, stabilising foreign exchange reserves, improved fiscal and primary balance and downward inflation expectations were some positive developments,

inflation to decline significantly in October 2023 and onward, owing to downward adjustments in fuel prices, easing prices of major commodities, and a favorable base effect. "However, global oil prices remain quite volatile and the conflict in the Middle East makes its outlook even more uncertain," the MPC observed and emphasized on continuing with the tight monetary policy stance in the light of these developments. The MPC also noted that targeted fiscal consolidation in the first quarter, improvement in market availability of key commodities and the said a statement issued alignment of interbank and

completion of the upcoming IMF-SBA review would help unlock other multilateral and bilateral financing, the committee ascertained. that expectedly rose in September 2023 may decline in October and then maintain a downward trajectory, especially in the

oil and gas price hike. A

successful and timely

Headline inflation second half of the fiscal year, the MPC noted adding that the recent volatility in global oil prices as well as the increase in gas tariffs from November 2023 pose some risks to the FY24 outlook for inflation and the current

### **PPL's AGM approves** 15 percent cash dividend

KARACHI (APP): The efforts in achieving Pakistan Petroleum extraordinary financial 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  $72^{nd}$  annual general meeting at a local

paid for the year was 25

Presiding over the

results as well as operational milestones during 2022-23 despite a challenging business environment He reaffirmed the board's commitment to

maintain the highest standards of safety, corporate governance and accountability to ensure sustainable growth for PPL The total dividend and also thanked for the year was 25 shareholders for their

MD and CEO PPL meeting, Chairman PPL Imran Abbasy highlighted Board of Directors Shahab the company's key shareholders to the 23, notably the highestmeeting. He appreciated ever profit-after-tax of Rs. management and staff's 98 billion in PPL's history.

#### 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 Rs.167,631, the All Sindh Sarafa Association reported. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs.2,550 and The price of gold in the



with the ambassador of Demark to Pakistan, H.E. Jacob Linulf and his

### **CCP** sets up new department for robust market surveillance

ISLAMABAD (APP): Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has launched a new Market Intelligence Unit (MIU), its objective is to create advanced technological and data analytical capabilities to assess the market data to identify collusive practices. It's a transition from the previous approach of reactive enforcement to proactive enforcement, said a press release issued

CCP has already signed an MOU with the Urban Unit in Punjab. CCP commodities from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. It will also obtain data on all essential products, and various sectors of the economy to identify collusive practices and cartels.

The collusions and cartels drive the prices up in the economy maximising their profit at the expense of poor nations. The history of market abuse is as old as the markets itself. Unscrupulous players have become sophisticated and leave no smoking guns. In line with the

Shipping activity at **Port Qasim** 

KARACHI (APP): Three ships namely, SSL Mumbai, Asia Inspire and Victoria Kosan, carrying Container, Palm oil and Chemicals, berthed at Oasim International Container Terminal, Liquid Cargo Terminal and EngroVopak Terminal respectively during last 24

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



FAISALABAD: Laborers are busy in their work at textile factory along the Maqbool road in City.

### PTCL Group adopts Red Hat hybrid cloud solutions to power digitalization

**Independent Report** SLAMABAD: 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 application platform powered by Kubernetes and Red Hat Application transition its legacy

This helps reduce Capex and Opex expenditure, improve efficiency with faster rollouts and automated pipelines, thus allowing businesses to accelerate innovation for gaining a competitive advantage. The collaboration will not only help PTCL Group Foundations. These are a applications towards a



components for developing microservices-based to strengthen the Group's digitalization ambitions.

and modernizing software architecture, but also provide advanced cloud services customers Red Hat OpenShift

Red Hat Application Foundations can be used with applications that run provides a cloud-native, on-premises or in the cloud unified platform that enables when combined with Red Hat OpenShift, creates a organizations to quickly platform that streamlines build, deploy, run and execution across the manage applications across application lifecycle. manage applications across a hybrid cloud.

### **Food Minister for** creating awareness about water conservation

ISLAMABAD (APP): British Caretaker Minister for Commissioner National Food Security and Marriott Research Dr Kausar Abdullah Malik on Monday emphasized the pressing importance of disseminating awareness conservation among the masses in order to achieve sustainable growth in the agricultural sector and bolster overall economic development.Addressing the inaugural session of PRE-COP28 Accelerating The Water-Food-Climate Nexus Transformation Pathways for Pakistan", he said that every member of society has to play its due role in conserving precious water and its resources to minimum quantity of

Ambassador of the Kingdom 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 Management Institute (IWNI) Mark Smith were also present on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, Kausar Abdullah said that the government

also worked on laser land

leveling to utilize a



maintain food safety and water in the irrigation

ISLAMABAD: People purchasing secondhand shoes at a roadside stall in the Federal Capital.

### **Pak earns \$136.880m by** exporting transport services during July-August

ISLAMABAD (APP): \$20.070 million during the Pakistan earned US \$136.880 million by different providing transport services in various countries during the first two months of the current fiscal year (2023-24) as compared to the corresponding period of last year. This shows a decline of 9.96 percent as compared to \$152.020 million earned through the provision of services during the corresponding months of the fiscal year (2022-23), the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

During the months under review, the exports of sea transport services witnessed a decrease of 44 percent, going down from \$35.840 million last year to

months under review.

Among the sea transport services, the exports of freight services dipped by 69.74 percent from \$28.120 million last year to \$8.510 million whereas the exports of other sea transport services however increased by 49.74 percent from \$7.720 million to \$11.560 million current year, the PBS data revealed.

The exports of air transport witnessed nominal decline of 1.23 percent going down from \$112.050 million last year to \$110.670 million during July-August 2023. Among the air transport services. the exports of passenger services decreased by 1.77 percent.

# Xi stresses Chinese women to start 'new family trend'

President Xi Jinping said women have a critical role and must establish a "new trend of the family", as the nation grapples with an aging population and record decline in the birth

Xi in comments, published by the state news agency Xinhua on Monday, said the role of women had been part of a discussion with the new leadership team of the All-China Women's Federation, which operates under the Communist Party.

Doing a good job in women's work is not only

Monitoring Desk
HONG KONG: Chinese 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

marriage rates because official policies make it hard for single women to have children.

China's National Bureau of Statistics in January reported the first population drop in six decades and the country's population is rapidly age-

In the last two years, authorities across China have unveiled measures to lift the country's birth rate including financial incentives and boosting childcare facilities.

The state media has often linked population development to the strength and "rejuvena-



Smoke rises over Gaza, as seen from Israel's border with Gaza, in south-

### Mexican president blasts critics after deadly hurricane

**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. Hurricane pounded Acapulco with winds of 165 miles per hour (266 kmph) on Wednesday, flooding the city, tearing roofs from 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.

residents in hard-hit neighborhoods, struggling to find food and water, have accused the government of not delivering sufficient aid.

Lopez Obrador on Saturday issued a 24-minute video on social media to update the country on the situation. He devoted much of it to attacking critics he accused of trying to exploit the situation ahead of next year's presidential election. "They circle like vultures, they don't care about people's pain, they want to hurt us, for there to have

been lots of deaths," he said. Lopez Obrador, 69, said media outlets seeking to smear his government had exaggerated the toll, but that Security Minister Rosa Icela Rodriguez would provide an update on casual-Looting has continued and ties "without lying."

### Thousands of Ukrainians run to commemorate those killed in the war

Monitoring Desk KYIV: Around 2,000 Ukrai-

nians ran a one-kilometer race on Sunday in Kyiv, wearing bibs displaying the name of a person instead of

Each runner chose one person to whom they dedicated their run. Spouses, children, friends, siblings, neighbors, and colleagues ran for someone they knew who either was killed, taken captive or injured during Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine.

The crowd cheered the runners, and many in the audience wept while waiting for participants at the finish line. Amid the lively backdrop of Ukrainian songs, joy and sorrow intermingled in the air as life carried on despite the war.

The organizers of the run called it the "World's Longest Marathon" — "because no race has lasted as long as Ukraine has been fighting for its freedom."

13,000 Around people across the world registered for the event. Those competing remotely could run any distance they wanted and were encouraged to post about it on social media.

The race was hosted by Nova Post, Ukraine's most prominent private delivery company, with the dual purpose of honoring the defenders and raising funds to bolster Ukraine's air defense system.

'We want to thank and support our defenders, doctors, rescuers, sappers, and volunteers — all the strong and resilient marathoners who do not stop even for a moment for the sake of each of us," said the project description.

Nova Post has delivered starter kits to 65 countries across all continents, said Inna Popereshniuk, cofounder of Nova Post. She dedicated her race to six colleagues who were killed and 17 injured in a Russian attack on the Nova Post depot in the Kharkiv region on Oct. 21. Volodymyr Rutkovskyi, a 31-year-old veteran, completed the course walking. In mid-June, he sustained a severe injury when a Russian projectile struck his right leg during Ukraine's counteroffensive in the Zaporizhzhia region.

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

FLORIDA: 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 bleed ing 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

As soon as the shooting began, people ran for their lives and the clubs and bars were closed.

#### French army minister to visit Lebanon amid rising regional tensions

**Monitoring Desk** 

Sebastien Lecornu, France's minister of the armed forces, will meet with officials in Lebanon from Wednesday, including caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati as well as visit a base of United Nations peacekeepers, his cabinet an

nounced on Sunday. The trip comes amid rising border tensions between the crisis-shaken Arab country and its southern neighbour Israel since the start of the Gaza conflict earlier this

The minister seeks to reaffirm France's "commitment to the stability of Lebanon", his office told news agency AFP in a statement later confirmed to Reuters by his spokesperson.



People sit amid the rubble of a building in the aftermath of an Israeli strike on Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip.



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** 

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 Shaban Ahmed, a pub-

lic servant who works as an engineer and has five children, described the Israeli

day, I discovered that my cousin has been killed in an air strike on their house on Friday," Ahmed, who stayed in Gaza City de-Ahmed, who spite an Israeli warning to evacuate south, told Reuters

'We only knew today.

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 chief military spokesperson 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 attacks as "doomsday".

"This morning, Sun"This morning, Sun-

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 Oct

Palestinians were struggling to find loved ones in the bloody chaos as the growing humanitarian crisis squeezed Gaza. One woman looking for one of her sons stood over rubble in Gaza City and cried out: "I don't know where he is."

In another part of Gaza, people looked for survivors after Israeli air strikes in the Al-Nasir neighbourhood. People pulled a body from the rubble as smoke bil-

#### **Deaths in India train** collision rise to 13 **Monitoring Desk** have been killed and 50 oth-

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-gation found that "human error" had led to the collision, the railway ministry said in a statement. "Thirteen passengers

ers 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 wrote on social media.

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.

#### China fetes American veterans of World War II known as 'Flying Tigers'

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: China on Monday feted two American veterans of World War II as Washington 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.



Rescue workers and police officials stand next to damaged coaches following a collision between two passenger trains in Vizianagaram district in the southern Andhra Pradesĥ state, Ĭndia.

#### G-7 nations back strong supply chains for energy and food despite global tensions

**Monitoring Desk** 

economy officials from the Group of Seven wealthy democracies strengthened their pledge Sunday to work together to ensure smooth supply chains for essentials like energy and food despite global uncertainties. The nations promised

trading system based on the rule of law and enhancing economic resilience and cials said in a joint state- man rights.

ment. Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa, who cohosted the two-day event in the western city of Osaka, pointed to Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the Israel-Hamas war as the latest threats to stable energy and food supplies.

'We nations that share important values have to maintain "a free and fair a position of responsibility amid growing uncertainties," she said in closing the meeting, stressing democeconomic security," offi- racy, inclusiveness and hu-

### Nepal's mountains have lost one-third of their ice, UN chief says

**Monitoring Desk** KATHMANDU: Nepal's snow-capped mountains have lost close to one-

third of their ice in over 30 years due to global warming, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Monday after a visit to the area near Mount Everest, the world's highest peak.

Climate scientists say the earth's temperature has increased by an average of 0.74 degrees Celsius over the past 100 years, but warming across South Asia's Himalayas has been greater than the global av-

Glaciers in Nepal, wedged between two major carbon polluters - India

faster in the last decade than in the previous one, the U.N. chief said in a video message after visiting the Solukhumbu region.

"I am here today to cry out from the rooftop of the world: stop the madness," he said, calling for an end to "fossil fuel age" with the warning that melting glaciers would mean swollen lakes and rivers sweeping away entire communities, and seas rising at record

Glaciers in the Hindu-Kush Himalaya could lose up to 75% of their volume century's end due to global warming, scientists said in a report published in June this year.

#### Pope calls for **Israel-Hamas** ceasefire, hostage release

**Monitoring Desk** VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis on Sunday called for a ceasefire in the war between Israel and Hamas and

renewed an appeal for the release of hostages held by the militant group in Gaza "Let no-one abandon the possibility of stopping the weapons," he said at his weekly blessing in St.

Peter's Square. "Ceasefire ... we say 'ceasefire, ceasefire' Brothers and sisters, stop War is always a defeat, always," he added.

#### Home countries of major rainforests agree to work together to save them Monitoring Desk

BRAZZAVILLE: Countries that are home to the world's three major rainforests agreed to cooperate to overcome deforestation and safeguard biodiversity but fell short of a concrete alliance to protect the vital carbon

The announcement came on the final day of the Congo Republichosted Three Basins summit, which brought together presidents, NGOs, technical experts, and finance sector officials to strengthen governance and preservation of the Amazon, the Congo basin, and forests in Southeast

### A Japan court says North Korea is responsible for the abuses of people lured there by false promises

**Monitoring Desk** 

TOKYO: A Japanese high court on Monday said the North Korean government was responsible for the human rights abuses of plaintiffs who said they were lured to the North by Pyongyang's false promise of living in "paradise on Earth," a decision praised as a victory by survivors and their supporters.

"The ruling showed that a Japanese court can rule on North Korea's human rights violations, one that could have a significant impact," said a lawyer for the plaintiffs, Kenji Fukuda. The four plaintiffs, including ethnic Koreans and Japanese, moved to North Koers under a 1959-1984 program in which the North promised free health care, education, jobs and other benefits. But they said none of that was available and they were mostly assigned manual work at mines, forests or farms and forced to live in harsh conditions.

Originally, five plaintiffs filed a lawsuit in 2018 with the Tokyo District Court seeking 100 million yen (\$900,000) each in compensation for "illegal solicitation and detainment." The district court acknowledged in a March 2022 ruling that the plaintiffs had moved to North Korea because of false information provided by the North and a pro-North Korea with thousands of oth- rean organization in Japan.

### **UK to hold emergency** response meeting on threat of terrorism

**Monitoring Desk** 

LONDON: Britain will convene a meeting of the government's CO-BRA emergency response committee on Monday to discuss the domestic security risk from the Israel-Hamas conflict.

Antisemitic and Islamophobic incidents have surged in Britain since a deadly rampage by Hamas gunmen in Israel on Oct. 7 sparked retaliatory attacks on Gaza. Massive pro-Palestinian demonstrations have been held in London and other major UK cities, while Jewish groups have held Advertisement

Scroll to continue We have to make sure that British systems are safe and secure from the threat of terrorism as the government always does," higher education minister Robert Halfon told

Times Radio. Britain's MI5 intelligence agency currently regard the threat to the country from terrorism as substantial, meaning an attack is

There are two higher categories of threat level - severe, meaning an attack is highly likely, and critivigils 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

**Monitoring Desk** BELGRADE: Hundreds of Serbian officers were dispatched Saturday into a border area with Hungary, where they detained several people after a shooting between migrants killed three people and injured one, po-

lice 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. Police actions are

aimed at "curbing irregular migration and raising the level of security in this part of the country, where clashes among migrants are frequent, not rarely with the use of firearms," the said in a statement. Police said they statement said.

detained two people Saturday from Kosovo who are suspected of smuggling migrants and supplying them 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 earlier on Friday.

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 well as other details, were still unclear, they

Police raided the area and seized two automatic rifles and ammunition. They also found 79 migrants and transferred them to reception centers, the

### **Protesters rally in** Beirut in solidarity with **Gaza Palestinians**

**Monitoring Desk** BEIRUT: Several thousand people took part in a rally in central Beirut on Sunday in support of Palestinians in Gaza, with

organisers urging Arab countries to end efforts to normalise ties with Israel and calling on Syria to join the war.

The rally was jointly organised by the

Palestinian group Hamas which controls Gaza and by the Lebanese Sunni Islamist Jama'a Islamiya, a group inspired by the Muslim Brotherhood, took place near Martyrs Square.

Advertisement Scroll to continue

Protesters waved Palestinian flags and the flags of the al-Qassam brigades, the armed wing of the Hamas movement, at the rally, which came as Israeli forces expanded their ground operations in Gaza, part of what Prime Minister Beniamin Netanyahu has called the second phase of a three-week old war.

"Stop the Gaza Genocide," read one

Protesters also chanted: "God is our aim jihad is our way.

"We tell Egypt, you

have the best opportunity today to reclaim the leadership of the Arab, Islamic world in taking a clear and bold stance," Haymour, vice secretary general of the Jamaa Islamiya, told the crowd, urging Cairo

to open the Rafah bor-

der crossing for hu-manitarian aid to Gaza. Advertisement · Scroll to continue The group said its armed wing carried out a rocket attack targeting Israel during the latest clashes on the Lebanese border, where Iranian-backed Hezbollah has also been exchanging fire with Israeli

forces in recent weeks. Haymour called on Arab countries that

have signed peace deals with Israel to expel Israel's ambassadors and urged Syria, which does not have a peace agreement with Israel, to join the war alongside Hamas.



KARACHI: President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing during an event on the Spirit of female Entrepreneurship and Medical Leadership of female doctors organized by Sehat Kahani.

### **Senate voices concern for** Gaza, calls for immediate ceasefire, humanitarian aid

to the Gaza crisis

The Senator empha-

sized the pressing need for

immediate action, urging all

stakeholders, including the

United Nations and other

international agencies, to

actively engage in resolving

the conflict and supporting

lating humanitarian crisis,

he stressed the importance

of granting the people of

Palestine the fundamental

right to live in peace within

an independent state. Ex-

pressing solidarity with the

Highlighting the esca-

the people of Palestine.

ISLAMABAD (APP): pital staff were died. The Senate on Monday expressed concerns over Israeli atrocities against innocent people of Palestine and urged for immediate Taking part in debate, ceasefire and providing es-Leader of the House Senator Ishaq Dar brought attention to the urgent Gaza sential humanitarian aid to alleviate their suffering. The House reiterated the issue, underscoring his proactive efforts to address the necessity for international bodies to uphold justice matter. He revealed that he and support the establishhad dispatched a letter on October 19, advocating for ment of a free Palestine. a Senate session dedicated

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 of Geneva Convention and UN Resolution on Palestine, and especially barbaric Israeli airstrikes on Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza hence hundreds of innocent people, patients and Hos-

Dar condemned the relentless Israeli bombing, which It also reiterated the government of Pakistan to had led to the tragic loss of describe efforts made by over 8,000 lives, predomi-Pakistan in this scenario. nantly 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 violation of humanitarian norms. In response, Leader of the Opposition, Dr. Shahzad Waseem, emphasized Pakistan's deep historical and religious affiliation with Palestine, condemning the atrocities committed against the innocent Palestinian populace. He echoed the sentiments of the global community, emphasizing the need for unrestricted protests, both within Pakistan and abroad, to highlight the gravity of the situation.

#### PTI challenges Maulana Fazl to contest election against Imran

PESHAWAR (Online): PT leader barrister Muhammad Ali Saif while reacting to Maulana Fazlur Rehman statement has challenged him to contest election against Imran Khan.

He held the popular ity of Imran Khan has rendered Maulana Fazlu: Rehman senseless.

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

The burial of politics

of Maulana Fazlur Rehman will take place on election day, he underlined.

his visit to Pak Girls High School

Raja pays

tributes to

forces for

successful

operation

ISLAMABAD (APP)

Speaker National Assem-

İy Raja Pervez Ashraf on

Monday paid tributes to

security forces for conduct-

ng successful operation

against terrorists in Kharo

Balochistan. He in his mes

sage issued here, paid hom-

age to Naib Subedar, Asia

Irfan and Sepoy Irfan Al

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

matters of secret agencies. Justice Babar Sattar of IHC heard the petitions against summoning of

report it does not see daily

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

### Pakistan, US enjoying long-lasting educational ties: Masood

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

remarked how is electronic

surveillance being con-

ducted. 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 deci-

sion. Who is competent

authority with reference to

Justice Babar Sattar

WASHINGTON (INP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Masood Khan has stated that Pakistan 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 Pakistani 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

recognized seats of learning and hone their skills for better 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 service 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.

### **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.

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 high-

lighted 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-

Addressing the event, try, besides lauding their 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 an application titled 'Hamraaz' to meet the challenge 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

across Pakistan



and Major General Muhammad Raza exchanging souvenirs during visit of participants of National Security Workshop (NSW) to Chief Minister's Sec-

#### Pak, Russia agree to strengthen cultural ties

ISLAMABAD (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



meeting to enable Govt to deliver services faster QUETTA (APP)-Provincial Caretaker Minister of 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 Ad-

viser 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 cloud policy.

ing, Prince Ahmed Ali said that the adoption of cloudfirst policy by the government 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 model.

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.



OUETTA: 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 security measures in

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

the ECP. 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.



LAHORE: Caretaker Minister of Punjab Cabinet led by Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi meeting with Chief Election Commissioner

#### 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

**QUETTA: Former Federal Minister Dr. Firdous** 

**Independent Report** QUETTA: At least 278 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

The QESCO spokesman said that in all 1369 mitted for legal action against the power pilferers in different police and levies stations.

However, 386 FIRs were registered against the 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

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.

LAHORE (APP): Gwadar especially Balochistan can

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

are playing increasingly important roles in the region's growth and change. HI (M) Lt. Gen. (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 Com-

merce and Industry) Secre-

Port and the China-Pakistan

Economic Corridor (CPEC)

tariat on Monday.

Janjua said, "Gwadar 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

become an "Industrial Hub" of Asia. He said that 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. said 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 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 saving 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

### Haneef Khalid a 'shining star of media community': Solangi

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

Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadsaid 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 (ICCI) to confer the Life- sible manner, he added.

Khalid, the minister said he started his over 50 years ilcasting Murtaza Solangi lustrious journalistic career as a reporter and desk edi-

Along with being a representative of the journalist community, Haneef Khalid was a "business ambassador" for the media industry and he performed Commerce and Industry that role in the best pos-

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

of Deputy Commissioner Pishin Captain Retired Jameel Ahmed Baloch, Levies Force team led by Assistant Commissioner con-

apprehended four alleged thieves named Bashir manzoor Ahmed and Hikmatullah and seized rice worth of Rs, million along

tion.

#### PTDC planning to establish TIC at Gwadar airport for tourists

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) was planning to establish a modern Tourist Information Center (TIC) at New Gwadar International Airport to facilitate the foreign and local tourists about their destination. Talking to APP here on

Monday, a PTDC official said the establishment of TIC would provide comprehensive information to tourists thronging to Pakistan from various countries to enjoy the beauty of recreational sites Balochistan. An official said that TIC would not only play a pivotal role in promoting tourism globally but would also emphasize the need for state-of-the-art facilities. He highlighted the growing significance of Gwadar as a tourist destination, 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 at Gwadar airport.

#### QUETTA (APP)-Levies ducted raid at a place and force arrested five thieves and recovered stolen rice worth of Rs, million along Ahmed, Najeeb Ahmed, with stolen truck from their possession in aKarizat Dheeraj Kalra area of Pishi district on Monday. with stolen truck. According to Levies sources, on special directive that these alleged accused

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

The levies source said

Sikandar Sultan Raja. ECP members of provinces are also present