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Quetta

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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 province.

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 prices.

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

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 province.

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

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.

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Caretaker govt has no political agenda: Solangi

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): 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 country.

"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

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.

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

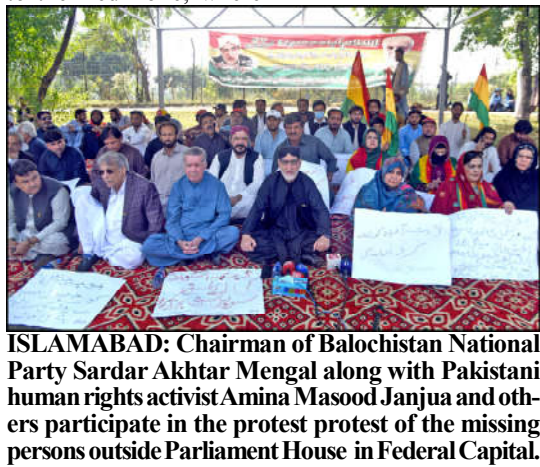
ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Interior, Senator Sarfraz Bugti Monday emphasized the need for negotiations to resolve ongoing sit-in outside the Parliament, led by the political party BNP-M and civil society members.

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

they continued to stage their sit-in.

Bugti underscored the prominent role of seasoned Politician Akhtar Khan Mengal in the protest, considering his party's involvement in various governmental capacities over the last decade.

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.



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

Justice Mansoor issues dissenting note in NAB amendment case

ISLAMABAD (APP): Supreme Court (SC) 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 front was tantamount to un-

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 limits were not violated.

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

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

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

The UNHCR had appealed to the Pakistani au-

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 Rights.

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

"The Government of Pakistan takes its commit-

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): Caretaker 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

all those undocumented 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 it.

He said more than 1 million foreigners had been

categorized as illegal who had been staying in Pakistan 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 involving Afghan nationals, the

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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 statement 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.

Conference on repatriation of illegal immigrants & strategy of Govt.

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

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

Independent Report

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

The Minister Information 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 out.

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-

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Electricity price likely to be increased by Rs 130

ISLAMABAD (INP): The price of electricity is likely to increase as the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) is considering a proposal to increase the price of electricity by one rupee and 30 paise. The proposal would put an additional burden of 22 billion 56 crore rupees on consumers.

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



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

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

QUETTA, Chaman, Pishin and Killa Abdullah.

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

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



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

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

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 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 peace.

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

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

Two soldiers embrace martyrdom in 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 terrorist found in the area. The security forces are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our 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 the two militaries, he said.

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



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.

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

LAHORE (APP): Inzamam-ul-Haq has stepped down 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 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 Pakistani 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 selector," he said.

The PCB, in a media release issued here on Monday, appreciated and acknowledged Inzamam's decision to voluntarily step down during the on-going investigation into the potential conflict of interest allegations. Earlier, Inzamam-ul-Haq was summoned to the PCB headquarters 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 resignation immediately. Earlier Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has set up a five-member fact-finding committee to investigate allegations in respect of conflict of interest reported in the media pertaining to the team selection process. According to handout issued by the PCB on Monday, the committee will submit its report and any recommendations to the PCB Management in an expeditious manner. The committee has been formed to look into the conflict of interest allegations against Chairman of the National Men's Selection Committee Inzamamul Haq. Inzamamul Haq 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.

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

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-to-back 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 below-par 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 end. Put into bat, several Sri Lankan batters got their eyes in but could not quite capitalise on those

starts. After the fall of Dimuth Karunaratne in the sixth over, Kusal Mendis (39) forged half-century partnerships with Pathum Nissanka (46) and Sadeera Samarawickrama (36) to steady the innings. At 134-2 in the 28th over, Sri Lanka looked well placed to reach the 275-mark but the plucky Afghans struck at regular intervals to peg them back. Angelo Mathews and Maheesh Theekshana raised 45 quick runs for the eighth wicket but Sri Lanka still fell short of the 250-mark. Afghanistan lost Rahmanullah Gurbaz in the first over but Rahmat Shah (62) and Ibrahim Zadran (39) calmed the nerves with a 73-run partnership. Kasun Rajitha dismissed Rahmat but not before the batter had brought up his second successive fifty of the tournament. Shahidi and Omarzai mixed caution with occasional aggression in their unbroken century stand to take Afghanistan closer to the target. 11th victory in sight, both decided to play their shots and Azmatullah scored the winning run when he attempted to hit a six and was dropped at deep midwicket.

DC pays surprise visit to Govt Boys School in Gandawa

GANDAWA (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Jhal Magsi Ejaz Sarwar paid a surprise visit to Government Boys Higher Secondary School Gandawa area of Jhal Magsi district on Monday. He also asked questions from students of different classes and checked the attendance of teachers and urged the students to focus on their education because knowledge is source of development of any nation and country. On this occasion, the Principal of the concerned school, Qazi Khuda Baksh, made him inspect the various classrooms and gave a detailed briefing regarding the educational background of the school, the shortage of teachers and other problems. The DC said that measures were being taken to improve quality education in respective of government schools for the interest of students' future.

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, was told that the federal government would have to amend the rules to promote the locally-developed crop seeds. To this, the prime minister assured that the government would make the required decisions within a week. 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 equipment.



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): England 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 Cup. Mott's claims came after former England captain Eoin Morgan insisted that there were splits in the camp which were causing the champions to underperform. "I've never come across a sports team that has underperformed like this, given the level of expectation," 2019 World Cup winning skipper Morgan 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 that part. If you see our 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 entitled to his opinion. He's obviously 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 semi-final 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," he said.



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



QUETTA: Former Federal Minister Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

Deportation process....

Continued from page 1
Caretaker prime minister said that he had already given direction to the relevant authorities of the interior ministry to ensure dignity of the repatriated women and children as there might be vulnerable groups. The prime minister said that Pakistan had entertained on its soil for decades those Afghans that had been registered as refugees and compared the treatment meted out to immigrants' boats in the Mediterranean Sea. To a query, he maintained that in various terrorist incidents, certain groups were involved and referred to a suicide attack in a mosque in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in which the suicide bomber was identified from DNA tests as Afghan 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 obligation. The caretaker prime minister said that government's policies were framed after institutional inputs from different institutions and departments. Replying to a student's question, he said that the caretaker government was a product of a constitutional order after the former leader of the house and leader of opposition in the previous National Assembly adopted a constitutional procedure and agreed upon his nomination. He said that the previous parliament had passed a law in which the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) was mandated to announce an election date. "It is the mandate of the ECP and not of the Caretaker Prime Minister to set a date for the general elections," he said, adding if he was mandated under the constitution, he would have given the same. Prime Minister Kakar further said that the caretaker government would assist the ECP with provision of finances and security for the smooth process and assured to fulfill their constitutional duty. About delay in Punjab and KP polls, the prime minister said that the matter 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 failure to comply with the legal requirement as to time, did not render an act invalid or unconstitutional because it happened late. Explaining his view in response to a question by a student, the prime minister said that in Pakistan democracy was in the transitional period and it had not been a settled one like that of a European country where the democratic system had taken a shape. He said that reaching to their destination, well defined principles should be laid down beyond the political considerations. There should be informed discourse instead political dogfights on TV screens, he said and regretted that certain social and political trends, kind of hate and abuse on social media platforms, had become a part of their lives. Encouraging students to take bold decisions and engage in informed discourse over various challenges being faced by the country, the caretaker prime minister stressed that they should first explore themselves and then search for in what they believed. To another query with regard to freedom of expression and rights, the prime minister mentioned that state had its constitutional rights and pointed out Article 5 of the Constitution which demanded for unconditional loyalty with the state. He said that everyone had to follow sets of rules and regulations otherwise, it would lead to chaos and anarchy in a society.

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 acres. Completion timeframe is scheduled in January 2024, Gwadar 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 MGD. 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 Hangang 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 that Balochistan is the custodian of historic traditions and great hospitality. Meanwhile, the Additional Chief Secretary Home, Zahid Saleem briefed the participants of NSW about the overall law and situation of the province as well as about its geographical importance, ongoing development process, issues of governance, CPEC projects besides other important matters related to the province. The participants also posed questions about different matters which were duly responded in detail. Also present on the occasion were the head of NSW Major General Muhammad Raza, Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan, besides other concerned high ups.

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

Abid Hussain, Consultant Punjab Urban Unit, presented a memorial shield to Saadat Hassan, Director General of the QDA. The shield was presented in recognition of the QDA's commitment to providing water supply to the Gwadar Free Zone North.



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

Caretaker govt has no... Continued from page 1

Solangi said the prime minister had issued special directives for ensuring repatriation of illegal immigrants in a dignified and respectful 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 prime minister had directed to establish a special system for not only preparing the database of individuals being repatriated under the Repatriation Order, but also monitoring the entire process. He said the PM also accorded approval for presenting a work plan before the cabinet regarding the matter so that it could be ensured that all illegal immigrants left the country in a phased manner. The illegal immigrants could only return to Pakistan through legal means, he added. On the recommendations of the Ministry of Interior, he said, the cabinet approved police station status for 10 immigration check posts of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in accordance with the Passport Rules of 2021. He said on the recommendation of the Aviation Ministry, the cabinet approved international flight operations for Fly Jinnah airlines. Following this approval, the airlines could now conduct flight operations to Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iraq, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Turkey, and 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 day. 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 also. 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 centers.



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

NOTICE FOR AUCTION OF DEAD/IRREPARABLE ITEMS		
The Chairman Municipal Corporation Pishin intends to auction dead/irreparable items of Municipal Corporation Pishin the detail items are as:		
S.No	Name of Item	Quantity
1.	Battery	38 No (Tractor/Fire brigade/Suzuki etc)
2.	Tyre	42 No (Tractor/Firebrigdae etc
3.	Scrap items	2000 KG
4.	Dustbins	07 No
5.	Tractor trolley	01 No
6.	Street Lights body	100 No
7.	Handcart Body	60 No

Terms and condition. 1. The process of auction will be carried out according to property rules 2019. 2. The bidders must deposit 25% of the reserved price as earnest money in the account of Municipal 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 scrapped items within 10 days after full payment of auction.

CHAIRMAN
Municipal Corporation Pishin

AB No. 166/30-10-2023
www.dpc.gov.pk @dpc_gov @dpc_gov @dpc_gov @dpc_balochistan

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

ISLAMABAD (INP): ECC's proposed exorbitant hike of 86.5% escalating existing tariff from Rs 1100 mmbtu to Rs 2050 mmbtu for export-industries is highly unjust and unwise which will sabotage the value-added textile exports.

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 economy.

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

after deep thoughts considering that to favouring and 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 of concern that on one side

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 Associations.

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.



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): 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 procedure.

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

Dr Nadeem said, "We want transparency to im-

prove the health system." He said that necessary instructions to initiate process for filling of the posts of various cadres had been issued.

He said, "The government believes in upholding utmost transparency and merit in recruitments."

He said steps had been taken to increase facilities in the public sector hospitals.

He said load on tertiary and secondary levels had increased and now "we are managing this issue."

He said an MRI machine had been inaugurated at the Pakistan Institute of

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



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari posing for a group photo 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

ISLAMABAD (APP): TikTok, the world's leading short-form video platform, held a Mental Health Awareness Workshop as part of TikTok's wellbeing campaign #MentalHealthAwareness - Better Together, aimed at raising awareness about mental health issues and promoting digital literacy in this vital area.

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.

This year's WMHD theme, "Mental Health is a universal human right," emphasizes the importance of equitable access to mental health services. TikTok took this opportunity to engage its community and promote an open dialogue

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 its campaign to create a safer and more positive digital environment for all users.

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 participants included Kazi Akber,

Arzu 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 proceedings.

The highlight of the event was a panel discussion, where experts and creators explored critical questions related to digital safety and mental health and shared their experiences in tackling the online challenges.

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 collaborative efforts to address these crucial issues.

SC rejects appeal against determination of cost of land for hospital Multan

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) while dismissing the appeal plea against determination of cost of land for district hospital Multan maintained apparently no mistake was made in determination of cost of land.

A 3-member bench of SC presided over by the Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa took up the case for hearing Monday.

Advocate General Punjab told court in his arguments that district collector determined the cost of land as Rs 10000 per marla. Referee judge increased the cost to

Rs13000 per marla. Lahore High Court (LHC) too upheld the cost of land Rs 13000 per marla.

The court remarked the referee judge determined the cost of land as Rs 13000 per marla after reviewing the record. What is mistake in referee judge decision.

Advocate General Punjab replied another case of this nature is pending in SC.

This case be heard by clubbing it with the case pending hearing in SC.

The court dismissed Punjab government plea and upheld LHC decision.



ISLAMABAD: Dr Luay Shabany, country representative of UNFPA called on President AJK Berister Sultan Mehmoood Chaudhary.

CCP sets up new department for robust market surveillance

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 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 here.

CCP has already signed an MOU with the Urban Unit in Punjab. CCP will also be obtaining data on all essential 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 international approach, MIU will gather economic data.

Nation pays tribute to 'Dildar Pervaiz Bhatti's on his 29th death anniversary

ISLAMABAD (APP): Renowned TV and radio presenter Dildar Pervaiz Bhatti 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 services in the entertainment industry.

He was born in Gujranwala on November 30, 1948, and got his early education in the same city. Dildar received many trophies by winning debating contests throughout his school and college days, the PTV news channel reported.

Bhatti started his career as an English lecturer at Government College Sahiwal.

After one year, he joined Historical Government College Lahore and started his new life.

His career in the entertainment industry started with Radio Pakistan in the early 70s, when he hosted a programme 'Sohni Dharti'. He also worked in the Pakistan Television Corporation Lahore.

Bhatti got an opportunity to host a university challenge-style TV show 'Takra', which made him a household name of that time. It was the first quiz programme in the Punjabi language.

Bhatti also hosted the programmes 'Mela', 'Yadish Bakhair' and 'Panjnad' which gave him huge fame and respect worldwide.

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. Waqar 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 States 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): District court has sought arguments from the lawyer of chairman PTI in Nikkah during Iddat case against Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi.

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

case against Imran Khan 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 case.

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

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 operation led to the recovery of various illicit items such as vehicles, motorcycles,

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 (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, who emphasized the eradication of crime within the city.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker Legislative Assembly Azad 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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Language and Culture Center of the university did a wonderful job in teaching the Russian language. 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 instructors, Dr. Roman Porozov, Dr. Zavalova 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.

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

Speaking on the occasion, 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

Bugti extends condolences to Maulana Tariq on tragic loss of his son

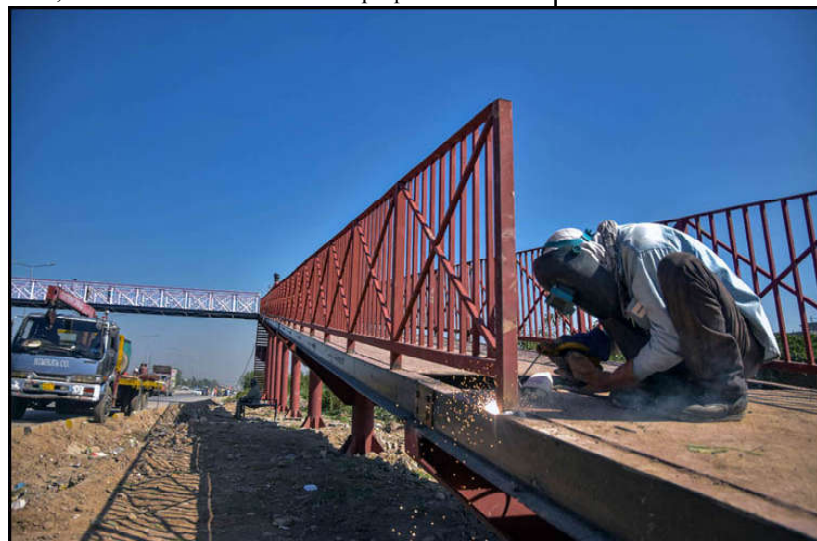
ISLAMABAD (APP): In a heartfelt message, Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti Monday expressed his condolences to renowned religious scholar Maulana Tariq Jamil and his family following the tragic demise of his son, Asim Jamil. The loss of a young son, Bugti emphasized, brought unimaginable sorrow 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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Sunday expressed deep grief and sorrow over demise of Asim Jamil, son of a prominent religious scholar Maulana Tariq Jamil. The minister, in a condolence message, conveyed sympathies to the bereaved family and 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.



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

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

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

Independent Report
LAHORE: Caretaker Punjab Information Minister Amir Mir said on Monday that in its 31st meeting, caretaker provincial cabinet 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 for development expenditure, while Health sector would get Rs 208 billion, Education sector Rs 222.2 billion, Services sector Rs 218.5 billion, while Rs 83 billion allocated for wheat loan and Rs 80 billion for debt repayment to federal institutions. The budget also includes Rs 400

million for the evacuation of foreigners residing illegally in Punjab after 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.

In the preceding four-

month budget, Rs 325 billion were allocated for development, of which Rs 131 billion have been utilized. In the upcoming four months, Rs 10 billion would be spent on agricultural projects, Rs 2 billion on information 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 Chief Election Commissioner and the Chief Minister along with cabinet members took place to review election preparations.



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): 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 reverence to commemorate the supreme sacrifices of lives given by the Muslim inhabitants of Jammu on this day of November 6th in 1947 while migrating to their newly-born homeland Pakistan.

At least seven lakh of Muslim residents of Jammu city and surroundings were mercilessly killed during a week-long ruthless genocide maneuvered and executed by the despotic raged dogra ruler's force and gangsters besides the armed Hindu fanatics in the first and second week of

November 1947.

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 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 being observed at the time when the Kashmir freedom has reached at its climax following the massive continual freedom struggle amidst the State-wide anti-India protests by the people of the curfew-ramped and locked-down bleeding Indian occupied state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Germany's stance on Middle East conflict coincides with NATO's stance, says envoy

KARACHI (APP): The German Ambassador to Pakistan Alfred Granas on Monday said Germany has been maintaining diplomatic and investment relations with Pakistan for 70 years and considers this region a very important region.

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

environmental fields. Germany is now closing down nuclear and shifting to renewable energy.

Replying to a question he said supplying weapons to Ukraine is not against the German 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 president because Germany will have to forego its welfare support program and spend more money on defence expenditure.

The Ambassador warded off the question that European leaders don't

think for themselves and do 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.

In reply to a question regarding CPEC, the Ambassador said that nobody could blame Pakistan for accepting the investment; however, the benefits and costs of the strings attached to it are for Pakistan to decide.



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

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

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

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

The ACE requested the court to extend Parvez Elahi's physical remand for another 10 days. The 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 inquiry.

He submitted that physical remand was required for recovery of

Parvez Elahi's mobile phone, and its forensic audit. He also submitted that all preparations were in place to take Parvez Elahi to his house in Gujrat in connection with investigations but his 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 had alleged that Chaudhry Parvez Elahi recruited 12 Grade-17 officers in the Punjab Assembly against merit.

Governor takes notice of 11 drown in boat capsizing

KARACHI (APP): Governor Sindh, Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori on Monday took notice of a boat capsizing in which 11 people had drowned in Nara Canal.

He directed the Commissioner Sukkur to utilize all resources to search for the drowned people.

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 minutes.

As a result, the attack was successfully repulsed by the valiant police personnel however the terrorists managed to escape while taking full advantage of the darkness. No casualty occurred due to the attack. 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 University Sukkur 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 sessions, debates, discussions with literary and political figures, including mushaira, musical programs, books, clothes and colors reflecting Sindh culture. Handicrafts stalls became the center of attention of the participants. In the closing ceremony, President Arts Council, Muhammad Ahmad Shah, Mayor Sukkur Arslan Islam Sheikh.

CJ, PHC stresses for impartiality of judges

ABBOTTABAD (APP): The High Court and lower courts, members of the Pakistan Bar Council and the KPK Bar Council, as well as senior and junior lawyers, police officers, and administrative officials.

The CJ pointed out the vital role judges play in the steghtening judiciary system of the country.

He stated that judges could not conceal anything from lawyers and that they were ready for accountability while operating within the realm of the law.

The ceremony was attended by judges from

the High Court and lower courts, members of the Pakistan Bar Council and the KPK Bar Council, as well as senior and junior lawyers, police officers, and administrative officials.

The CJ pointed out the vital role judges play in the steghtening judiciary system of the country.

He stated that judges could not conceal anything from lawyers and that they were ready for accountability while operating within the realm of the law.

The ceremony was attended by judges from



KARACHI: Karachi Council of Foreign Relations (KCFR) held a talk on Pakistan - Germany Relations at Quaid e Azam House Museum. Mr. Alfred Granas, Ambassador of Germany, Ms. Nadira Panjwani, Chairperson KCFR, Rudiger Lotz, Ph. D. Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany with board members was also present.

LHC seeks more arguments on petitions about sugar pricing

LAHORE (APP): A Lahore High Court (LHC) division bench on Monday adjourned the hearing of petitions, challenging the Punjab government's notification authorising the cane commissioner to fix sugar prices, till November 7.

The court sought 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 proceedings, the counsel for sugar mills argued that

the cane commissioner could control sugar prices only whereas price controlling and price fixing were two different things. The market forces determine the prices of sugar and the cane commissioner did not have any power in this regard, he added.

He submitted that the Punjab government had given powers to the cane commissioner to fix sugar prices in violation of the rules. Subsequently, the bench adjourned further proceedings until November 7.

Man died of electrocution in Pindigheb

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

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

He was taken to tehsil headquarters hospital where he pronounced dead. Police registered a case and launched further investigation.



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

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

LAHORE (APP): Intellectual Property Organization (IPO) 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 and development ecosystem. However, the activities and initiatives led by research and innovation encourage the culture of innovation and technology commercialization.

She expressed these views while addressing the inaugural session of a training seminar on 'Technology Search and Development of Technology and Innovation Support Centres (TISCs) in Pakistan' jointly organized by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), IPO 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 (WIPO), Geneva Muzzadiq Hussain, Head, Technology Information Section, IP for Innovators Department (IPID), (WIPO), Geneva Haris Khan, HEC representative Islamabad, Prof. Abid HK Shirwani, Co-Founder, Director-General.

IGP for strict security for anti-polio drive

KARACHI (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh Riffat Mukhtar Raja on Monday ordered police to ensure strict security measures for the five-day long anti-polio drive.

He said all the security steps for the drive should be made stricter with coordination at police stations level, according to spokesman for Sindh Police.

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 responsibilities should be assigned to police

commandos in all such union councils. Along with the concerned police and commandos, plain clothed personnel should also be deployed in sensitive union councils.

Riffat Mukhtar said during random snap checking, picketing and patrolling, strict vigilance should be maintained, suspicious activities should be monitored properly.

The IGP ordered that communication and information sharing should be ensured at all levels.

District SSPs should monitor the security measures themselves and make the concerned SHO to be present in the areas.



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 Saied, Medical Oncologist at SKMCH&RC Dr. Umm-e-Kalsoon Awan, Oncologist, Anmol Hospital Dr. Hira Butt, Healthcare Professional Global Development and Consultancy Dr. Arooj Fatima Gillani, Asst. Prof Anatomy, AIMC, Jinnah Hospital Dr. Sitwat

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 such changes in them.



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).

Clean energy Pakistan's top priority: Caretaker Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Energy Muhammad Ali has said that clean energy was the top priority of Pakistan.

He stated this while talking to the Ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan Jacob Linulf who visited the Power Division here Monday, said a press release.

The minister said that the world was witnessing a much-needed transition towards clean energy in the

wake of climate change. Pakistan, being more vulnerable to impacts of the 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 National Electricity Policy

goals for the power sector. The Plan 2023 targets to have a share of 40 percent from renewables (including hydropower) by 2025 and 60 percent by 2030, he told. The minister said that 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 towards Climate Change targets and Sustainable

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.

The 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 House.



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 (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday said that focusing on information technology and the artificial intelligence sector could open up new avenues of development and prosperity in the country.

The president expressed these views as a delegation of National Ideas Bank led by Hassan Syed called on him here in Karachi.

The president emphasized that data and technology could play an important role in making informed decisions and move faster in the right direction.

He urged the National

Ideas Bank to increase collaboration with industry and other stakeholders.

He stressed that unconventional methods can be used to resolve problems in industrial activity.

The president congratulated the delegation on the successful organization of the second competition of National Ideas Bank in the field of technology.

He also awarded certificates of appreciation to the members of the National Ideas Bank for solving local problems through IT and artificial intelligence-based technology.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister 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 business and enterprises in the country. During a meeting with office bearers of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), he said the economy was invigorated only with business and investment activities.

The meeting deliberated upon multiple issues and initiatives

including the promotion of 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 the Chamber, maximum cooperation would be provided by the government to resolve the major problems of the business community. He remarked that national development was linked with the prosperity of the business community. In order to enhance the exports,



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

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

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 of last year.

SBP maintains policy rate at 22% owing to global uncertainties

KARACHI (APP): Despite expectations of downward inflationary outlook in the coming months, the State Bank of Pakistan, 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, said a statement issued

here. The MPC expects inflation to decline significantly in October 2023 and onward, owing to downward adjustments in fuel prices, easing prices of some major food 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 alignment of interbank and

open market exchange rates may offset the impacts of oil and gas price hike. A successful and timely completion of the upcoming IMF-SBA review would help unlock other multilateral and bilateral financing, the committee ascertained. Headline inflation that expectedly rose in September 2023 may decline in October and then maintain a downward trajectory, especially in the 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 account.

PPL's AGM approves 15 percent cash dividend

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

The total dividend paid for the year was 25 per cent.

Presiding over the meeting, Chairman PPL Board of Directors Shahab Rizvi welcomed shareholders to the meeting. He appreciated management and staff's

efforts in achieving extraordinary financial results as well as operational milestones during 2022-23 despite a 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 and also thanked shareholders for their support.

MD and CEO PPL Imran Abbasi highlighted the company's key achievements during 2022-23, notably the highest-ever profit-after-tax of Rs. 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 from Rs.167,631, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs.2,550 and Rs.2,186.21 respectively. The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$14.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Energy Muhammad Ali in a meeting with the ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan, H.E. Jacob Linulf and his delegation.

CCP sets up new department for robust market surveillance

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 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 here.

CCP has already signed an MOU with the Urban Unit in Punjab. CCP will also be obtaining data

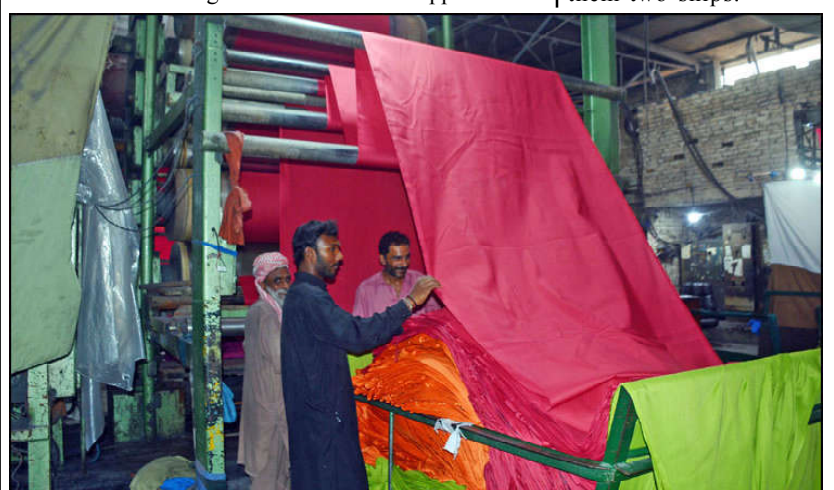
on all essential commodities from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. It will also obtain data on all essential products, and various sectors of the economy to identify collusive practices and cartels.

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 international approach.

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 Qasim International Container Terminal, Liquid Cargo Terminal and Engro Vopak Terminal respectively during last 24 hours.

Meanwhile three more ships, AAI Evolution, Bellini and PVT Flora with Wheat, Gasoline and Chemicals are also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port during the same period. A total of eight ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships.



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

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's leading telecom and ICT services provider, PTCL Group (PTCL & Ufone 4G) announced today that it is leveraging Red Hat OpenShift, the industry's leading hybrid cloud application platform powered by Kubernetes and Red Hat Application Foundations. These are a comprehensive set of

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 transition its legacy applications towards a more robust and scalable



components for developing and modernizing software to strengthen the Group's digitalization ambitions.

Red Hat Application Foundations can be used with applications that run on-premises or in the cloud when combined with Red Hat OpenShift, creates a platform that streamlines execution across the application lifecycle.

microservices-based architecture, but also provide advanced cloud services for its customers.

Red Hat OpenShift provides a cloud-native, unified application platform that enables organizations to quickly build, deploy, run and manage applications across a hybrid cloud.

Food Minister for creating awareness about water conservation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for National Food Security and Research Dr Kausar Abdullah Malik on Monday emphasized the pressing importance of disseminating awareness regarding water conservation among the masses in order to achieve sustainable growth in the agricultural sector and bolster overall economic development. Addressing 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 maintain food safety and security in the country.

British High Commissioner Jane Marriott OBE, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands Henny Fokel De Vries, Ambassador of Poland Maciej Pisarski, Deputy High Commissioner Australia Danielle Cashen, Mission Director USAID Kate Somvongiri and Director International Water Management Institute (IWMI) 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 minimum quantity of water in the irrigation sector.



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): Pakistan earned US \$136.880 million by providing different 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 \$20.070 million during 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'

Monitoring Desk
HONG KONG: Chinese 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 rate.

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 related to women's devel-

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 and 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 children.

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 ageing.

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 "rejuvenation" of the country.



Smoke rises over Gaza, as seen from Israel's border with Gaza, in southern Israel.

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 Otis 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. Looting has continued and

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 be hundreds 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 casualties "without lying."

Thousands of Ukrainians run to commemorate those killed in the war

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Around 2,000 Ukrainians ran a one-kilometer race on Sunday in Kyiv, wearing bibs displaying the name of a person instead of a number.

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."

Around 13,000 people across the world registered for the event. Those competing remotely could run any distance they wanted and were encour-

aged 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 Popershniuk, co-founder 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.



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

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

Shaban Ahmed, a public servant who works as an engineer and has five children, described the Israeli attacks as "doomsday".

"This morning, Sun-

day, I discovered that my cousin has been killed in an air strike on their house on Friday." Ahmed, who stayed in Gaza City despite an Israeli warning to evacuate south, told 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 been pounding Gaza City since Oct 7, and according

to Ahmed, the strikes on Friday from air, sea and the ground continued non-stop for hours.

The health ministry in Gaza said on Sunday a total of 8,005 people there had been killed since Oct. 7.

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 billowed.

Deaths in India train collision rise to 13

Monitoring Desk
ANDHRA PRADESH: At least 13 people were killed and around 50 injured when two trains collided in southern 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 investigation found that "human error" had led to the collision, the railway ministry said in a statement.

"Thirteen passengers

have been killed and 50 others are injured. Rescue operations are going on," top local government official Nagalakshmi S. told reporters.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he had spoken with the country's railway minister about the "unfortunate" derailment. "Authorities are providing all possible assistance to those affected," Modi 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.



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

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

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: Trade and 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 to maintain "a free and fair trading system based on the rule of law and enhancing economic resilience and economic security," officials said in a joint statement.

Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa, who co-hosted 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 a position of responsibility amid growing uncertainties," she said in closing the meeting, stressing democracy, inclusiveness and human rights.

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 in 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.

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 averages.

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

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 sinks.

The announcement came on the final day of the Congo Republic-hosted 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 Asia.

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 Korea with thousands of oth-

ers 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 Korean 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 COBRA 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 vigils for hostages who were taken by the militants.

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"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 likely.

There are two higher categories of threat level - severe, meaning an attack is highly likely, and critical, meaning an attack is 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, police said.

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

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 force said in a statement. Police said they

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 said.

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

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.

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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 Benjamin Netanyahu has called the second phase of a three-week old war.

"Stop the Gaza Genocide," read one banner.

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," Omar Haymour, vice secretary general of the Jamaa Islamiya, told the crowd, urging Cairo to open the Rafah border crossing for humanitarian aid to Gaza.

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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.

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.

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

He also acknowledged Sehat Kahani's role in providing a pathway for women to serve their country, 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.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate on Monday expressed concerns over Israeli atrocities against innocent people of Palestine and urged for immediate ceasefire and providing essential humanitarian aid to alleviate their suffering. The House reiterated the necessity for international bodies to uphold justice and support the establishment of a free Palestine.

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

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

The Senator emphasized the pressing need for immediate action, urging all stakeholders, including the United Nations and other international agencies, to actively engage in resolving the conflict and supporting the people of Palestine.

Highlighting the escalating humanitarian crisis, he stressed the importance of granting the people of Palestine the fundamental right to live in peace within an independent state. Expressing solidarity with the Palestinian cause, Senator

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

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

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

It has been said in Prime Minister (PM) office report it does not see daily matters of secret agencies.

Justice Babar Sattar of IHC heard the petitions against summoning of Najam ul Saqib son of former Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) by parliamentary committee in audio leaks case and summoning of Bushra Bibi in FIA on the matter of audio leak of Bushra Bibi with Zulfi Bukhari by clubbing the both.

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 the orders of committees become ineffective.

Pakistan, US enjoying long-lasting educational ties: Masood

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 disciplines in leading US universities.

He said it is a great opportunity for Pakistani students and professionals to visit the United States 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 study and professional experiences.



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

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 Russia.

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

Prince Ahmed chairs CFP 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 collaboration.

Caretaker Provincial Minister for Information and Public Relations Jan Achakzai, Caretaker Adviser for Minerals Muhammad Umair Muhammad Hassani, Secretary Science and Technology Muhammad Ayaz Mandukhel, Secretary Planning Lal Jan Jaffer, Additional Secretary Finance Hameedullah Nasir attended the meeting.

The meeting was given a detailed briefing on cloud policy.

Addressing the meeting, Prince Ahmed Ali said that the adoption of cloud-first 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 investment in digital services and supporting IT investment and streamlining IT 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.



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

Over Rs. 1.2 billion recovered from defaulters; 278 connections suspended; 7 transformers removed as QESCO drive continues

Independent Report QUETTA: At least 278 electricity connections were 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 province.

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 city.

The QESCO spokesman said that in all 1369 applications have been submitted 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 fine.

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

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.

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

LAHORE (APP): Gwadar Port and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) 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 Commerce and Industry) Secretariat 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 especially Balochistan can 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.

He said that Balochistan is richly endowed with natural resources. The province possesses many minerals including coal, sulphur, chromium, iron ore, barytes, marble, quartzite, and limestone. Balochistan has the largest reserves of copper and gold in the world and is also blessed with huge oil reserves. Though rich in mineral resources, so far Balochistan'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 saying that Gwadar is not only the heart of CPEC, it is also the heart of Asia. It is a doorway, a gateway to Asia and combined with Chahbahar these are only two entries to Asia.

PTI challenges Maulana Fazl to contest election against Imran

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

He held the popularity of Imran Khan has rendered Maulana Fazlur Rehman senseless.

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

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



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Information Jan Achakzai inspecting class room during his visit to Pak Girls High School

Raja pays tributes to forces for successful operation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf on Monday paid tributes to security forces for conducting successful operation against terrorists in Kharo, Balochistan. He in his message issued here, paid homage to Naib Subedar, Asif Irfan and Sepoy Irfan Ali who martyred while bravely fighting against the terrorists. He extended his condolence and sympathy to the families of the martyrs and prayed high ranks for martyrs.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi said on Monday that senior journalist Haneef Khalid was the "shining star of the journalist community" and recognition of his services was overdue. Addressing a special ceremony at the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) to confer the Lifetime Award on Haneef Khalid, the minister said he started his over 50 years illustrious journalistic career as a reporter and desk editor.

Along with being a representative of the journalist community, Haneef Khalid was a "business ambassador" for the media industry and he performed that role in the best possible manner, he added.

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

QUETTA (APP)-Levies force arrested five thieves and recovered stolen rice worth of Rs, million along with stolen truck from their possession in a Karizai Dheeraj Kalra area of Pishi district on Monday.

According to Levies sources, on special directive of Deputy Commissioner Pishin Captain Retired Jameel Ahmed Baloch, Levies Force team led by Assistant Commissioner conducted raid at a place and apprehended four alleged thieves named Bashir Ahmed, Najeeb Ahmed, Manzoor Ahmed and Hikmatullah and seized rice worth of Rs, million along with stolen truck.

The levies source said that these alleged accused had snatched a loaded truck with rice few days and they were also wanted of Khanuzai's Levies Station.

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 of 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: Secretary Health Abdullah Khan meeting with Caretaker Provincial Minister for Health Dr. Amir Muhammad Khan Jogezeai

CEC, CM Punjab jointly chair meeting about election

LAHORE (APP): Chief 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 place.

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 Sikandar Sultan Raja. ECP members of provinces are also present