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Closing ceremony of 1st IAP exhibition & conference:

## Natural disasters caused losses due to our incompetence & backwardness, nothing else, says Governor

Malik Abdul Wali Kakar says big challenge to overcome serious energy crisis in country; urges engineers to guide converting manual system on solar system

**Independent Report** OUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that the natural disasters cause losses to us due to our incompetence and backwardness and nothing

If there is no rain in our areas then we suffer from drought and if there is more rains then we die of flash

The Governor pointed out that Ouetta is situated in the seismic zone, and if the construction of buildview the dangers caused due to the earthquakes, then it may cause human and financial losses at large

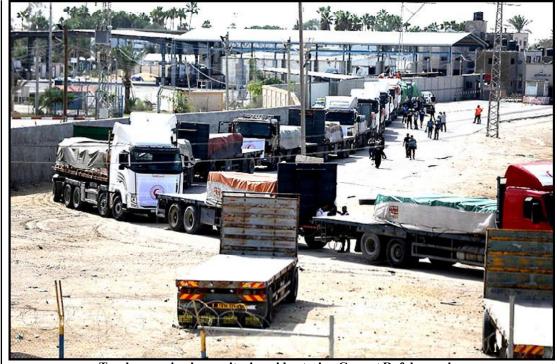
He mentioned that earthquakes also occur in the developed countries like Japan, but the losses are not caused to that extent due to active role of the scientists and architects there, what we face and suffer because of mild intensity earthquakes here.

The Governor was addressing the closing cer- the highly educated people

ings is not made keeping in emony of first construction and experts associated with material exhibition and condifferent professions have ference held under the ausjust forgotten to make difpices of Institute of Archiferentiation in fair and untects of Pakistan (IAP) here fair, right and wrong. at a local hall the other day.

They have also been He maintained that we deprived of the ability to can also improve the situasee beyond personal desires tion like other developed and interests, which is countries by developing equal to the collective misthe science and technology fortune. The Governor also and in this regard, the role pointed out that at the moment, there is a serious cri-

of engineers and architects. He regretfully pointed sis of energy in the counout that the greed and lust try, and obviously it is a big of money has increased in challenge for all of us to society to that extent that



Trucks carrying humanitarian aid entering Gaza at Rafah crossing

#### No justification to hold long march: BNP chief involved in land dispute with opponents, states Jan Achakzai

**Independent Report** 

Information, Jan Achakzai has stated that the Chief of Balochistan National Party (BNP) Sardar Akhtar Mengal is involved in a land dispute with his opponents. Sardar Akhtar Mengal is involved in a land dispute with his opponents

Akhtar Mengal to Sardar Akhtar Mengal to in Wadh. In an official state-

formation said that the government has made several attempts to mesend his representatives procession of BNP. to two of the meetings held so far.

ders of the Balochistan

High Court, which pro-QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information

postpone any public meeting in Quetta and ment issued here on assist the govern-Sunday, the Minister Inment in enforcing the court's orders. He said that there

was no justification of diate between the two long march of BNP. He parties, but Akhtar feared that there are Mengal has failed to chances of chaos in the The Information

Minister emphasized Furthermore, the that failure to respect the Section 144 was im- authority of the state posed in Quetta on or- will result in legal con- the Gaza Strip. sequences.

KARACHI: A large number of people participating in a rally to support Pales-

presiding officers, and 160,445 polling staff will be

appointed. In Sindh, 20,315

the province to 264,100.

Pakhtunkhwa, 16,525 pre-

siding officers, 100,085 as-

sistant presiding officers

and 50,045 polling staff will

be appointed, making a

combined total of 166,655

In Balochistan, a com-

Khyber

#### 55 killed in late-night Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip GAZA/JERUSALEM/ attack on Israel on October was injured.

WASHINGTON (Online): The Israeli army has announced to step up attacks ahead of the planned ground operation in Gaza.
At least 55 people were

killed in late-night Israeli strikes on the Gaza Strip, as the Israeli army issued a warning to Palestinians to move from northern Gaza to southern areas, warning them that they would become a "terrorist organization" if they stayed there they can be considered a companion of Hamas.

On the other hand, UN agencies have warned of the catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza. According to media reports, after Israel announced the escalation of attacks on Gaza, Hamas has said that around 55 people were killed in late-night Israeli attacks on

7, Israel has continued to carry out severe attacks on Gaza. Last night, more than 55 Palestinians were martyred as a result of Israel's bombardment.

The statement issued by the government added that more than 30 houses were destroyed in the Israeli attacks within a few hours after the Israeli army spokesman announced the increase in attacks. Syrian state media, cit-

ing military sources, reported that Israeli strikes had disabled two of Syria's main airports, with the Ministry of Transport diverting flights to Latakia.

Sources said in a statement issued by the official news agency 'Sana' that in tional airports of Damascus

Meanwhile, spokesman of the Israeli army, General Daniel Hagari, said that Israel will now intensify the bombing (of Gaza) in order to minimize the risks faced by its soldiers during the ground attack. He said that from today we will intensify the attacks. And reducing the threat, we will increase the attacks, so I have asked the residents of Gaza City to

continue moving south for their own safety. The message was delivered through pages embla-zoned with the name and logo of the Israel Defense Forces and audio messages

sent to mobile phones in Gaza. Warning, your presence there may put your life the morning, Israel's air in danger, anyone who strike targeted the interna- chooses not to move from northern Gaza to the southand Aleppo, resulting in the ern Gaza Strip may be condeath of a citizen at the sidered an accomplice of a Damascus airport. Another terrorist organization.

#### Sardar Akhtar Mengal leads BNP long march from Wadh to Quetta before reaching Quetta

**Independent Report** QUETTA: The President of Balochistan National Party (BNP), Sardar Akhtar Jan Mengal led the long march from his native area Wadh to Ouetta on Sunday.

The long march consisting of a number of vehicles led by Sardar Akhtar Mengal started from Wadh in the morning and reached Quetta in the late evening.

The leaders and members of central committee of the party and a large number of its workers were part

of the long march. The long march passed through the national highway and had brief stop overs in different areas including Khuzdar, Sorab.

They also joined the long march as it reached in their areas. After reaching in Quetta, the long march of BNP turned into a grand

public meeting at the Ayub

The local leaders and

workers of the party

warmly welcomed the par-

ticipants of long march.

Stadium. The participants of long march were carrying the party flags and the banners inscribed with the slogans against the deteriorated situation of Wadh and other issues. They alleged that the long march is against the po-

litical victimization of the party besides anti-Sardar Kalat, Khaliqabad, Akhtar Mengal Mangochar and Mastung the government. Akhtar Mengal policies of

#### Achakzai commends party workers, Ulemas, people for joining protest against Israel

**Independent Report** QUETTA: In the statement

from central press release of Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party the Chairman Mehmood Khan Achakzai has commended party workers, party officials, ulemas and people from all walks for conducting and joining the protests in support of Palestinians against Israel's aggression and Palestinian's genocide.

The statement said, the regarding the current situa- of war.

enduring peace and stability between Palestine and Israel. It is imperative for Secretary General of UN and the Members of Security Council for the cessation of hostilities between Israel and Palestine. Achakzai reiterated

tion of Palestine can ensure

that Two-State solution should be made basis for negotiation between Israel and Palestine. If peace is not reached it will impact stance proposed by the regional countries and Mehmood Khan Achakzai millions will suffer the brunt



#### organized by the Ahl-e-Haram **Aneeq urges Muslim nations** to halt Israeli commercial flights in their airspace

ISLAMABAD (APP): pressed. Minister for Religious Af- Minis mony, Aneeq Ahmed on Sunday urged the Muslim world to come together and take a stand for the cause of Palestine.

Ummah and Palestine Issue', organized by the Ahle-Haram - a religious organization, he emphasized that true believers should

Minister Aneeq highfairs and Interfaith Har- lighted the importance of Muslim solidarity with the Palestinian people, as several Western leaders extended their support to Israel. He questioned where Addressing a conference titled 'Unity of vering commitment to justhe Muslim world's unwa-

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq

Ahmed addressing a conference titled 'Unity of Ummah and Palestine Issue'

He said the European Union's decision to halt immediate aid to Palestine

Continued on page 2

#### unite and support the op-NCSW urges CJP to initiate effective measures to combat violence against women

ISLAMABAD (INP): Nilofar Bakhtiar, the chairperson of the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), has urged the chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) to take action to prevent the increasing incidents of violence against women.

In a letter to the CJP, the NCSW chairperson appealed for immediate and effective measures to reduce gender-based violence. Bakhtiar emphasised the need to protect the lives families, added Bakhtiar.

atrocities, mentioning incidents like the murder of Noor Muqaddam as a serious concern for women's safety and well-being in

of the victims of these

She also stressed that the only way to end this cycle of violence and atrocities was by ensuring immediate judicial accountability and delivering swift justice. A transparent judicial system and timely justice were crucial for women and their

#### PIA's financial crisis cancels dozens flights KARACHI (Online): Due to the financial crisis of Na-

tional Airline (PIA), 25 flights from all over the country have been canceled today (Sunday). 16 flights from Karachi to different airports have been cancelled.

Three Karachi Islamabad flights PK 300, PK 308 and PK 340 have been cancelled. Two Islamabad Karachi flights PK 301 and PK 369 have been canceled while Two Lahore to Karachi flights PK 303 have been cancelled. Three flights PK 302, PK 304 and PK 306 from Karachi to Lahore have been canceled while 6 flights to and from Karachi to Gwadar, Bahawalpur, Faisalabad have been cancelled.



KARACHI: Activists of Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party hold a protest in favor of their demands, outside press club, in Provincial Capital.

#### Solangi clarifies about live coverage of PML-N rally by PTV ISLAMABAD (APP):

Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Sunday gave an explanation on the live coverage of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz

public meeting in Lahore. In a statement on the social networking site X, he said that PTV had only three days ago, on the 16th anniversary of the Karsaz tragedy covered live the

speeches of all the leaders, including Bilawal Bhutto. It should be noted that Nawaz Sharif's address from the rally last night was broadcast live by almost all TV channels, in-

cluding PTV. However, PTV's live broadcast of Nawaz Sharif's rally was criticized by some persons on social

#### media. **BAP forms** parliamentary board for Quetta LB polls Independent Report

OUETTA: Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) has formed a parliamentary board for the local bodies elections slated to be held in Ouetta on No

vember 30, 2023. According to the party sources, the parliamentary board of BAP has been constituted with consultation of the central executive committee.

The board comprises Senator Naseebullah Bazai Senator Agha Muhammad Umar Ahmed Ahmedzai Mir Ejaz Khan Sanjrani and Senator Manzoor Ahmed Kakar

The board would be responsible to issue party tickets to the candidates.

#### tinians near Tower area. **ECP** enlists one million officers for upcoming general election duty officers, 310,968 assistant

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is gearing up for the upcoming general elections and plans to enlist nearly one million individuals to fill essential roles for the elections.

According to preliminary estimates, "There will be approximately 700,000 polling staff members, and the count may increase to around 900,000 to 1 million when including security personnel. The final number will be confirmed once the Election Schedule is announced," the ECP sources told on Sunday.

A list of presiding officers, assistant presiding officers and polling staff has been compiled, with a total of 10,7361 officers set to be deployed nationwide.

bined number of 50,491 of ficers will be designated. including 5,266 presiding In Punjab, approximately 54,706 presiding

officers, 30,150 assistant presiding officers and 15,075 polling staff. Delay in general election seems to manipulate polls results: Kundi

officers.

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Faisal Karim Kundi has said that a planned effort to manipulate the general elections seems to be behind reason for delay in

In a statement issued here on Sunday, he was of the view that the general elections should not be postponed on desire of a couple of political parties.

Faisal Karim Kundi emphasized that the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) decisions should be in line with the constitution, rather than influenced by the preferences of a select few.

Instead of continuously experimenting with the "selection" process, the ultimate decision should rest with the voters in a fair election, he pointed out.

bench led by CJP to hear case today ISLAMABAD (Online): A

**General elections** 

in 90 days:

Three-member

assigned election duties. In three-member bench the province, a sum total of headed by the Chief Jus-526,123 officers will be tice of Pakistan (CJP) will hear the case regarding presiding officers, 162,523 holding general elections in assistant presiding officers 90 days in the Supreme and 81,262 polling staff will Court from Monday (Tobe appointed, bringing the total number of officers in

Notices have also been issued to the parties in this Remember that Paki-

stan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Jamaat-e-Islami and the Supreme Court Bar Association filed applications in the Supreme Court for the date of holding general elections within 90 days of the dissolution of the National Assembly. President of the Su-

preme Court Bar Association Abid Shahid Zuberi had also challenged the decision of the Council of Common Interests (CCI) to conduct the general elections within 90 days and conduct elections under new constituencies in the petition filed under Article 184/3 of the Constitution.

In the petition filed in the Supreme Court, it has been argued that the notification issued in the light of the decision of the Council of Common Interests should be declared illegal.

# Independent

Monday October 23, 2023

## Miscellaneous

**Page** 

## Balochistan's Digital Revolution; Navigating the Road Map to 2030

By Manzoor Magsi In the vast landscapes of ture that spans across sec-Balochistan, a digital transformation is underway as we pave the way towards the Balochistan Digital Road Map 2030. With a focus on nurturing the IT industry, the province is witnessing the formulation of a comprehensive strategy that promises to re-

shape its future The successful implementation of real-time system management in health and education sectors has already demonstrated its transformative impact. Now, the time has come to extend the scope of this efficient system to other vi-

connected digital infrastruc-

A pivotal aspect of this roadmap is the establishment of a provincial-level database with a strong emphasis on ownership. A data bank of this magnitude is not just a repository of information; it's a tool for informed decision-makin. From public interest planning to meticulous budgeting, a data-driven approach opens doors to precision and efficiency.

The educational landscape is set to undergo a revolutionary transformation with the establishment of a comprehensive educa-

Lifecycle seamlessly tracking a student's journey from the first class to employment—a powerful tool for personalized learning

and future career planning.

The ambitious B-pay project for the collection of government revenue is under scrutiny, promising a thorough review of all aspects. This not only streamlines financial transactions but also ensures transparency and accountability.

Moreover,

roadmap envisions the application of innovative IT methods for performance evaluation. Embracing cutting-edge technologies will tal departments. The vision is clear – a seamless, inter-software like Student undoubtedly elevate the efficiency and effectiveness

tering a culture of continuous improvement Balochistan

marches towards its Digital Road Map 2030, it not only embraces technological advancements but also envisions a future where the digital landscape empowers its people, transforms governance, and propels the province into a new era of progress and prosperity. This writer is a former

Press Secretary to Chief Minister Balochistan and currently working as Assistant Director Public Relations at Government of Balochistan'

exports amplified signifi-

cantly not dollar inflow

strengthened massively,



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori addressing Sindh Premier League ceremony at

## Smuggling – rising up to a challenge

## Pakistan's coastal areas not to be impacted by VSCS: PMD

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) Sunday indicated that there will be no impact of the Very Severe Cyclonic Storm (VSCS) over Southwest Arabian Sea in any of the Pakistan's coastal area.

The PMD, which is continuously monitoring the situation said that the Severe Cyclonic Storm (SCS) "TEJ" over Southwest Arabian Sea moved further northwestward during last 12 hours, intensified rapidly into a Very Severe Cyclonic Storm (VSCS) and now lies cent red around Latitude 12.5 °N and Longitude 55.2 °E at a distance of about 530km south-southeast of Salalah (Oman), 1600km southwest of Gwadar and 1850km southwest of Karachi. Maximum sustained surface winds are 150-160 Km/h gusting 170 Km/h, sea conditions being phenomenal and maximum wave height is 35 feet around the system center.

Due to persistent favorable environmental conditions (warm SSTs, low vertical wind shear and strong upper-level outflow), the system would intensify further into an Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm (ESCS) during the coming hours and keep moving in the northwest direction towards Yemen-Oman coast



LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi inspecting the under construction dual road to link Gujranwala with Lahore-Sialkot Motorway

#### Pakistan to host All Flags Together event to showcase cultural diplomacy, UN unity

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa- try event, but registration kistan is set to host the second edition of the All Flags Together (AFT) event on Thursday, November 2, at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) premises.

The event would be organized by Devcom-Pakistan in collaboration with the Ministry of National Heritage and Culture and the PNCA.

The AFT event is a daylong celebration of cultural diplomacy and UN unity. It will feature a range of activities, including a youth conference, an interactive panel discussion with experts, international food stalls, an art and craft exhibition, and a showcase of organizations' work, as per a news release on Sunis required

Executive Director of Devcom-Pakistan, Munir Ahmed emphasized that the AFT event is intended to support UN organizations and member states in their efforts to protect human rights, preserve cultural heritage, and promote peace through interfaith harmony, democracy, and development.

He stated, "Unity and understanding are essential in commemorating the UN day annually on October 24th to celebrate the anniversary of the entry into force of the UN Charter in 1945." The AFT event is designed as a daylong concept to bring together diplomats, expatriates, development and UN organizations, and local residents to foster cohesive and collaborative efforts in bridging the gap of bilateral and multilateral cultural understand-

The event is expected to draw over ten thousand participants, including diplomats, UN officials, youth, and citizens. It is a free-en-

#### Unnecessary, costly DISCOs Board meetings, AG Office

wants records

ISLAMABAD (Online): The expenditure of millions of rupees on unnecessary meetings of Discos Board. Auditor General Office has called for all the records.

Standing Committee Energy also seems unhappy with the performance of the board members.

Instead of including experts in the boards of electricity distribution companies, which were formed to improve the performance of the DISCOs, the appointment of members on political grounds has made them a huge financial burden for the DISCOs.

28.4 million rupees were spent on the meetings of HESCO and FESCO boards and the DISCOs could not get any benefit.

According to the documents released by the Auditor General, expenses of 24.1 million rupees have been incurred on the meetings of HESCO board members, while no decisions have been taken in these meetings to improve the performance

of the discos.

According to the documents, the HESCO board meeting was called 7 days before without issuing the agenda and the expenses in excess of the budget allocated for the board have been incurred while the board has also failed to take steps to get the company

out of losses. Board members of Faisalabad Electric Supply Corporation (FESCO) started holding two two meetings on same day without any agenda and millions of rupees were received in the name of TADA, about which the Auditor General Office requested all the

Suryakumar Yadav was

But Kohli kept his calm and along with the lefthanded Jadeja saw the team

#### yet we see some visible signs of economic improvement with exchange rate coming down, stock market showing upward trends and commodities prices stabi-Simply seeing the course of

events, there was not any rocket science behind this improvement only except the nationalist sentiment, firm commitment, strong resolve and proactive approach of the state. These were just a

couple of steps the caretaker government and the security institutions embarked on to successfully control the menace of smuggling on border crossings and tightening noose against the smugglers mafia.

Cartels involved in muggling of fuel, luxurious items and other daily use commodities were smashed through a zero tolerance policy of the State curbing US\$ millions on monthly basis cross border illicit

As a result of effective anti-smuggling drive, the exchange rate improved from \$315 to \$275 rupees per dollar and petrol price decreased to Rs 283 from Rs 330 per liter.

the flour and urea fertilizer covering approximately 44

ECP asks citizens to

register themselves as

voters by Wednesday

QUETTA (APP): Neither smuggling to Afghanistan, the price of flour dropped from Rs 10,000 to Rs 7,500 per 40 kg and that of Urea by Rs 500 to Rs 600 per

"The joint venture of the government and security agencies against the cartels continues unabated on all border crossing points," said Ali Mardan Domki, Caretaker Chief Minister of Balochistan. "Though, it was not an easy task to control smuggling, yet the state's firm resolve against such mafias helped us take them down with full force.'

"With a loud and clear message of penalizing state officials facilitating smuggling across the board and a policy of no mercy by the Prime Minister and the Army Chief boosted our morals to destroy syndicate vigorously," the Chief Minister remarked.

Although the provinces of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, bordering Afghanistan had been safe heavens for smugglers, yet the Balochistan province was strategically important sharing 1268 km border with Afghanistan and 909 km border with Iran. Besides, it also has a 760-kilometer-long coastline along the Arabian Sea.

The sparsely populated and largely barren Similarly, with checking province of Balochistan

percent of the total Pakistan land area (around 347,190 square kilometers) usually provided land routes to landlocked Afghanistan through Chaman and to Iran via Taftan.

Since only agriculture and livestock were the two main sources of livelihood majority Balochistan's poor populace, many among them were exploited by influential cartels to smuggle vehicles spare parts, blankets, cloth, tyres, cigarettes, chaalia, drugs, sugar, urea, fuel and non-custom paid vehicles through the porous

border for decades. The smuggling with neighboring countries had adversely affected the country's economy creating a vicious black market with the sources claiming the volume of goods smuggled into Pakistan increasing to 11.25 percent from 3.88 percent in recent years.

"The smuggling was the major contributor to economic downturn in the country as well as Balochistan," said Information Minister Jan Achakzai. "If the illicit cross border trade caused billions of rupee loss annually to Balochistan, its cumulative impact on national kitty was in trillions.'

He dispelled the impression that lower strata of society was the ultimate operations. Chief Collector healthy society.

beneficiary of smuggling and argued that out of total population only 10000 people were associated to fuel transport activities along Iran border, 5000 to 7000 people at Chaman border and around 6000 people were associated to this business across the

"Eighty to ninety percent of illegally earned money directly goes to the cartels and syndicate," the minister said. "Our stern action has smashed these cartels and we shall continue with it." Reiterating government

resolve to ensure alternate businesses for poor families who relied on smuggling, the minister said, it was only due to heavy losses to national kitty that a concerted strategy was formulated to tackle smuggling, trafficking and drug addic-

With the government statistics showing Rs seven billion Afghan reverse transit trade this year against Afghanistan's total imports of Rs two billion, ten joint check posts have been established in Balochistan jointly manned by NLC, FIA and Customs and Anti-Narcotics departments.

In addition, a Control Room has been established in Quetta to monitor and Customs Balochistan supervises the operation while Additional Secretary Home Department, DIG Police, representatives of Balochistan Frontier Constabulary and Intelligence Bureau will monitor opera-

tions as members. A similar control room headed by Commissioner has been established in Makran Division, to amplify anti-smuggling operation in South Balochistan.

There is no denying the fact that crackdown on smugglers in Balochistan had resulted in massive seizures of smuggled goods including 1,637 ton sugar worth Rs one billion that brought down the sugar price from Rs 250 to Rs 160

Similarly, through the holistic anti-smuggling campaign the authorities recovered 3400 kg narcotics, the ANF destroyed 3000 kg chemical/ crude ephedrine and 16 narcotics manufacturing installations in couple of weeks besides demolishing 48 drug compounds and wiping out drugs cultivation at 70 acres

No doubt it was a right action in right direction but what is direly needed is its continuation to save our economy and people from a total collapse and pave coordinate anti-smuggling way for a prosperous and



A 29-member delegation of Pakistan Institute of Labour Education and Research led by Executive Director Karamat Ali called on Chief Minister Sindh Magbool Bagar in Karachi today.

## Press bodies demand justice for 22 journalists killed in Israel-Palestine war

LAHORE (APP): International and local press bodies have expressed their concern over the killing of 22 journalists in the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine, calling for justice and an immediate investigation into the deaths.

At least 22 journalists were among more than 4,600 dead in Israel and Palestine since the war started on October 7, according to the Committee to Protect Jour-In a recent media state-

ment, the CPJ reported that of the 22 confirmed dead, 17 journalists were Palestinians, three were Israelis and two were Lebanese. Eight journalists were reported injured while three others were reported missing or detained

CPJ Middle East and North Africa programme coordinator, Sherif Mansour said in a statement emphasising journalists were civilians doing professional and important work during war times and must not be targeted by warring Journalists across the

region made great sacrifices to cover this heartbreaking conflict. All parties must take steps to ensure their safety, he said. In the ongoing Gaza conflict, more journalists have been killed during the past two weeks than since 2001 in the territory, Mansour said.

Meanwhile, the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) as well as the Palestinian Journalists Syndi-

cate (PJS) condemned the killings and attacks on journalists. Both the bodies called for an immediate investigation into their deaths by a global forum.

Lahore Press Club (LPC) general secretary this connection told APP here that reporters in Gaza are facing deadly weapons in the line of duty, adding many journalists under internet outages and Israeli siege, have also lost their offices, homes, and family members. Gaza health officials have confirmed that so far, Israel's airstrikes had killed 4,600 people and wounded more than 12,700, since October 7.

Saeed Jahan, alias Lala Asad Pathan, finance secretary, Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ), told APP that millions across the world were counting on reporters in the region to provide them with accurate information about the con-

Journalists, like all civilians, must be respected and protected, he said adding that the shooting of the reporters in Palestine is among the numerous killings of media workers worldwide, he added. To a query, Pathan expressed his concern over the killing of journalists and said that maintaining freedom of the press is essential for democracy and information or knowledge dissemination. Journalists must be able to safely complete their jobs, he said adding, but instead of protection, media workers worldwide are increasingly facing danger and even death, particularly in conflict zones like Palestine and in some other regions and countries around the world.

Meanwhile, CPJ published descriptions of the iournalists who have been killed, injured, detained, and missing so far in the ongoing war, that include, Ahmed Shehab, a journalist for Sowt Al-Asra Radio (Radio Voice of the Prisoners). Shehab was killed in an Israeli airstrike on October 12 that struck his house in the northern Gaza Strip, along with his wife and three children, according to a CPJ statement.

Salam Mema, freelance journalist and head of the Women Journalists Committee WJC) at the Palestinian Media Assembly, was confirmed dead a day later on October 13.

The body of Mema was recovered from the rubble three days after her home in the Jabalia camp, situated in the northern Gaza Strip, was struck by an Israeli airstrike on 10 October, CPJ said.

Likewise, on October 13. an Israeli airstrike also killed Reuters video journalist Issam Abdallah in Leba-

However, most recently, Khalil Abu Aathra. a video journalist affiliated with Al-Aqsa TV, was killed by an Israeli airstrike last Thursday with his brother in the southern Gaza Strip, according to the report of the committee.

#### ing, Ahmed noted. Kohli hits 95 as unbeaten India down New Zealand

DHARAMSALA (AFP/ APP):Virat Kohli hit 95 to lead India to a four-wicket victory over New Zealand and a fifth win in five matches at the World Cup on Sunday although the superstar batsman just missed equalling Sachin Tendulkar's record of 49 one-day international cen-

Fast bowler Mohammed Shami returned figures of 5-54 to help bowl out New Zealand for 273, a total India overhauled with 12 balls to spare in Dharamsala.

turies.

The Kiwis, who rode on Daryl Mitchell's 130 to post 273, suffered their first loss in five matches and are second behind leaders India in the 10-team table. An in-form Kohli, who

hit 103 not out in the pre- run out for two in his vious victory over maiden World Cup appear-Bangladesh, put on key ance after a mix up with partnerships including a 78run stand with Ravindra Jadeja, who hit the winning four in his unbeaten 39. Kohli fell to Matt

Henry in an attempt for the glory shot which would have given him another cen-

He leads the tournament batting charts with 340 runs.

Skipper Rohit Sharma (46) and Shubman Gill (26) provided a strong start in a stand of 71 before fast bowler Lockie Ferguson struck in his first two overs to remove the openers.

Kohli and Shreyas Iyer, who made 33, attempted to rebuild and did a good job despite fog halting play for about 10 minutes. Left-arm quick Trent

Boult sent back Iyer in his second spell, coming around the wicket with a bouncer and having the batsman caught out in the Kohli and KL Rahul,

who made 27, then ploughed on before left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner broke through and had Rahul trapped lbw.

Kohli and New Zealand sensed a turnaround.

Shami set up victory with his second five-wicket haul in World Cups after he helped restrict New Zealand despite Mitchell's fifth ODI ton.

#### Wednesday. alignment with their According to the ECP Computerized National official, the facilitation Identity Cards (CNICs) desks operated by the data by October 25, 2023.

Aneeq urges Muslim nations....

Continued from page 1 raised concerns about who

sion of Pakistan (ECP)

for registration of new

voters, correction of their

particulars and transfer

of votes will close on

registered as the process ment.

would take a stand against Israeli aggression. He said seven hospitals in Gaza had been closed, and the rest lacked basic facilities.

Minister Aneeq called upon Muslim nations to immediately suspend Israeli commercial flights in their airspace, besides urging the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to go beyond condemnation and take decisive action.

Prominent religious

leaders, including Mufti Gulzar Ahmed Naemi, Maulana Dr. Sher Muhammad Maulana Kashif Gulzar Naemi, Ayesha Syed, Zubaida Khatoon, Pir Syed Saadat Ali Shah, and Allama Shabbir Maismi, stressed the need for Muslim countries to unite and support the Palestinian cause while setting aside their differ-

They commended the Palestinians' unwavering determination and resistance, as the oppressed people continue to fight for

justice, not only for themselves but for the entire Muslim world. They called to boycott Israeli products and international organizations to take note of Israeli aggression echoed throughout the speeches.

Despite overwhelming media propaganda, Palestinian youth managed to expose the dark side of Israeli technology and the inhumane acts committed by Israeli forces, they added. They asked the leader-

ship of Muslim countries

to put their extravagant lifestyles on hold and make all-out efforts to stop the ongoing Israeli aggression causing death and destruction in the Gaza They emphasized the need for Muslim nations to set aside their personal in-

the Palestinian cause. They said this renewed spirit of commitment and solidarity was reminiscent of the Prophetic era and served as a beacon of hope for justice and peace in the

terests and unite on a com-

mon platform in support of



QUETTA: People are buying used warm cloathes fromk vendors at weekly

Daily Soice of Masse Independent

Monday October 23, 2023

## APITAL EWS

**Page** 03

## **HEC-World Bank project** achieves tremendous physical, financial targets

The Higher Education Development in Pakistan a five-year project (2019/20-2023/24) being implemented by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) with support from the World Bank to expand upon key higher education priorities in Pakistan, has achieved over 80 per cent of its physical and 70 per cent of financial targets.

This was revealed in the seventh HEDP Steering Committee (SC) meeting held at the HEC Secretariat

yesterday.
The Steering Committee is the highest forum of the project comprising senior officials from federal ministries, provincial higher education departments, vice-chancellors, and private sector representatives.

The committee members reviewed the progress made so far on the project.

Chairing the meeting, Executive Director HEC Mr Awais Ahmed termed the project a key investment for higher education supported by the World Bank and said that, like every project, this project also has yearly financial and physical targets.

"I am glad to share that the project has a good standing in achieving more than 80% of its physical targets and more than 70% of its financial targets," he underlined.

He explained that all the six components are progressing well on their deliverables, called performance-based conditionsmay it be research grants, quality assurance cells, IT initiatives, capacity building and financial autonomy.

He expressed his satisfaction that despite financial, procurement and procedural challenges, the project stands at good financial and physical

Project Coordinator Prof. Dr Mehmood ul Hassan Butt gave an overview of the HEDP project, its history, progress, plans, and the recently held World Bank Mission that improved the project ranking as satisfactory. He along with his team

briefed the committee on

the key project initiatives, including the physical and financial progress of all the 11 performance-based conditions. In addition, it was apprised that the project is based on the HEC Vision 2025 and is just a launching pad for several futuristic initiatives that eventually will be taken over by the HEC staff to sustain these initiatives. Technical heads of the project components updated members on the progress of each of the six components of the project including 28 Innovator Seed Funding grants awarded

ISLAMABAD: Activists of Youth Council Pakistan hold a peaceful protest to

promising future ahead for

the graduating students.

The Chief Guest for this

grand occasion was the es-

the Director of the

Islamabad Campus, ex-

tended a warm welcome to

all the distinguished guests

and congratulated the stu-

dents on their commendable

FAST University is re-

He emphasized that

accomplishments.

Dr. Waseem Shahzad,

teemed Dr.

Mubarakmand.

show Solidarity with Palestinian people in front of NPC.

74th Convocation:

**FAST-NUCES** confer

degrees to 778 graduates

ISLAMABAD (APP): cellence, resilience, and the

FAST-NUCES, during its

74th Convocation cer-

emony held here yesterday,

witnessed the conferral

PhD, MBA, MS, and BS degrees of 778 graduates from the FAST School of

Computing, FAST School

of Management, and the

Department of Electrical

gious ceremony, as many as

19 Gold medals, 14 Silver

medals, and 16 Bronze

medals were also presented

to high-achieving students.

During this presti-



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker federal Health minister Dr Nadeem Jan leads advocacy walk to end polio.

## **Minister for National Health Services says** Govt announces three-pronged strategy to eliminate polio virus

**Independent Report** ISLAMABAD: Minister for National Health Services Dr Nadeem Jan has announced the three-pronged strategy to successfully interrupt the circulation of polio virus in the country and include in the ranks of the polio-free country.

Addressing a cer-emony in Islamabad today, he said localized operational hubs are being established in Bannu as three out of four polio cases have been surfaced over there. He vowed to make these hubs wellresourced by providing additional resources and

Renowned

film director,

producer

Hassan Tariq

remembered

ISLAMABAD (APP)

Renowned film director

film producer and screen

writer Hassan Tariq was

remembered on Sunday on

the occasion of his birth

1934 in Amritsar, he

shifted to Pakistan after the

partition. He started his

career as an assistant direc-

tor. His first film as direc-

tor was Neend in 1959

which proved successful

and he became a success-

ful director. He made

around 40 films in Pakistan

film industry including

Anjuman, Kaneez, Baharo

Phool Barsao, Suriya

Bhopali, Tehzeeb, Mera

Ghar Meri Jannat, Sangdil

and Devar Bhabi.

Born on October 22,

anniversary.

Highlighting the effectiveness of an integrated approach to combat the circulation of polio virus, the Health Minister said polio drops are being administered to the children less than five years country wide with the supplementary doses of vital vitamins.

Nadeem Jan said government has devised a communication strategy with the major focus to remove all the misconceptions in the minds of general public related to the inoculation of polio drops.

Paying rich tribute to Pakistan Polio Programme

the polio workers, who are ners such as Rotary, WHO, UNICEF and BMGF. Adoffering voluntary services by putting their lives into the risk, he said their serdressing the participants, vices will be used further in Minister for Health Dr nutrition, family planning Nadeem Jan said that chiland Health Hygiene after the dren are our future, and the eradication of polio virus in the country. APP adds: An government will leave no stone unturned to ensure awareness walk was held on that the disability-causing poliovirus does not remain Sunday to end polio in connection with World Polio a threat to their wellbeing. Day, which was observed on

Dr Nadeem Jan said, "This walk is a testament The walk brought toto our commitment and the gether hundreds of particitireless efforts and resilience pants from the Ministry of of our healthcare heroes who Health, students, civil socontinue to immunize chilciety, the leadership of the dren, even in the most challenging circumstances.

## Masjid closure, ban on prayers for Palestine

ISLAMABAD (APP): Muhammad Farooq Rehmani, Chairman of the J&K People's Freedom League and a leading figure in the Hurriyet Conference, strongly condemned the second-week closure of Jamia Masjid Srinagar and the ban on praying for Palestine, deeming it a cruel act.

## Rehmani strongly condemns Jamia

He issued a statement in which he denounced the house arrest of Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and the curbs



ISLAMABAD (APP): Se- said. "We will launch a nior leader of Pakistan massive campaign for the League-N, Muhammad Zubair on Sunday said that Nawaz Sharif is committed to bringing prosperity for the people of Pakistan

Ex-Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has given a candid road map to the nation, he said while talking to a private television chan-

Pakistan had made fast progress under the leadership of Nawaz Sharif, he next elections, "he said. The people will vote for Nawaz Sharif on the basis of the historical track record of development works across the country, he hoped. Commenting on the

October 24 every year.

election date, he said the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), is an independent institution and it is the duty of the election commission to announce the exact date for general



ISLAMABAD: Picnickers are enjoying Sunday holiday at Shahdara picnic point during pleasant weather in Federal Capital.

#### nowned for its dedication This momentous to academic excellence, inevent served as a vibrant novation, and commitment to producing future leaders. showcase of academic ex-Islamabad fogging drive in full swing to

control dengue ISLAMABAD (APP): On MCI, UAS teams and other the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon, health teams under the supervision of the Director Health Services Metropolitan Corporation are continuing the anti-dengue fogging process in various areas of the city.

In a recent drive, fogging was carried out in Government Schools G-7/3, G-7/4, G-7/1 and G-7/2 of Islamabad, which includes DHS, DHO Office, Additional Deputy Commissioners. Assistant Commissioners and Magistrates. Health Department teams,

departments.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner Islamabad said that all possible resources will be used to control the deadly virus in Islamabad.

He added that the rural area of Islamabad is among their priorities and every possible step to protect the lives of the citizens is their priority.

The Deputy Commissioner further said that due to the increasing dengue fe-ver in Islamabad, it is also necessary to follow precautionary measures to prevent the dengue virus

#### **IRSA** releases 89,800 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP) Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Sunday released 89,800 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 66,400

According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1528.85 feet and was 130.85 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet.

The water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 33,100 cusecs and 35,000 cusecs respec-



ISLAMABAD: A vendor is displayed decorating fancy lighting items on his push cart attraction for customers in night hours at Karachi Company area in the Federal Capital.

## Three wanted members of burglar's gang held; cash recovered

**Independent Report** ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police Sumbal police team arrested three wanted members of a burglar gang involved in numerous burglary activities and recovered cash from their possession, a public relations officer said.

He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police has intensified crackdown ments in order to eliminate tion is underway.

the crime from the city. Following these directions, the Sumbal police team used technical and human resources and succeeded in apprehending three wanted members of a burglar gang involved in numerous burglar activities in various areas of the Sumbal police station jurisdiction. The accused were identified as Mujeeb Sultan, Shehroz and Shoaib. Police team also recovered cash from their possession. Cases were registered against the nabbed acagainst the criminal ele- cused and further investiga-

#### **CDA retrieves 750** kanals land in Sector I-12

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has retrieved as many as 750 kanals of its precious land from the land grabbers in Sector I-12/1,2 and 3 of the federal capital during the last week.

"The authority has launched a comprehensive trieved and handed over for operation to curb encroachments in the federal capital on the directives of CDA Chairman Capt® Anwar ul Haq," an official told APP on Sunday.

He said that the Enforcement Directorate of CDA had launched the operation in collaboration with various departments near NUST University, Sector I-12 against an illegal Afghan settlement es- public passages.

tablished over an extensive

The official said that heavy machinery was used during the operation, resulting in the demolition of numerous rooms and livestock enclosures. During the operation.

750 kanals of land were rerapid developmental projects. Similarly, taking strin-

gent action against encroachments on Simly Dam Road, Karnal Sher Khan Avenue, Maandi Mor Margalla Town Phase-2 and Murree Road, the authorities removed additional sheds and fruit stalls on both the sides of the road while clearing

#### Call for infrastructure up-gradation to **boost tourism**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Infrastructure including roadways, airports and public transit systems should be upgraded to facilitate easier access to different tourist sites which promote tourism in the country at large. Talking to APP here on

Sunday, a tourist Aleena Khan said that enhancing the country's infrastructure by upgraďing transportation networks will facilitate national and international visitors. She said that she vis-

ited different places in Azad Jammu and Kashmir along with her family and found roads in dilapidated condition and faced miseries and hardships by commuting from one site to another. Khan said Pakistan

has rich tourism potential which attracts most domestic and foreign dignitaries to come to visit the country. She stressed the need

to improve road infrastructure as a large number of international tourists are thronging to the country to eniov their trip or make the journey memorable. Another tourist Ahsan

Ali said that developing a strong infrastructure would pave the way to encourage tourists to visit various recreational and religious sites, adding that tourism is contributing a lot in economic growth as well.

He said that infrastructure including air, ground, port and tourism services like hotel rooms and car rental services plays an important role in travel.

#### NCHR, IOM Pak sign MoU to protect human rights of migrants

The National Commission Human (NCHR) and the International Organization for Migration (10M) Pakistan have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) here Sunday to strengthen the cooperation and collaboration on initiatives relating to the promotion and protection of the human rights of migrants, especially those in vulnerable

The MoU signifies the commitment of both organizations to prioritize the well-being and human rights of migrants, recognizing that while migration in the context of globalization brings significant opportunities, it is critical to facilitate the safe, orderly, and regular movement of

Under the MoU, the NCHR and IOM Pakistan will engage in joint activities aimed at generating evi- ter future.

ISLAMABAD (APP): dence and research, imreach and providing policy advice in line with the priorities of the Government

of Pakistan. Rabiya Javeria Agha, Chairperson NCHR, highlighted the lack of rights for migrants and the dangerous journeys they

undertake stated 'The Greek migrant's boat disaster was a heartwrenching reminder of the risks people take in their desire to seek a better fu-

She said with over 2,000 lives lost in the Mediterranean this year alone, irregular migration demands our immediate attention. Through collective efforts, we can work towards a safer and more compassionate approach to migration, one that upholds the wellbeing and dignity of those in search of a bet-



ISLAMABAD: Visitors looks cars and scooter during cars and bikes show at lake view Park in

#### **ISSI** to inaugurate 'ASEAN Corner' today

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) has established an 'ASEAN Corner' which will be inaugurated in a formal ceremony by the Foreign Min-ister and ASEAN Envoys on Monday.

The inauguration would be followed by a Roundtable Discussion, titled: "Forging Partnerships: Exploring the Future Prospects of Pakistanevent is being organized by ISSI's China Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC).

The establishment of that a deeper understanding of ASEAN and its role, and connectivity across diverse regions.

place and relevance in the region and the world is of crucial importance.

The initiative, agreed between ISSI and ASEAN Committee in Islamabad (ACI) during their structured interaction in January 2023, is part of the efforts to forge a closer partnership between Pakistan and **ASEAN** 

ASEAN and Pakistan share a long-standing and growing relationship, built ASEAN Relations. The on the pillars of economic cooperation and regional stability. Pakistan's strategic location as a bridge between South Asia and the ASEAN Corner' at ISSI is Middle East complements based on the conviction ASEAN's focus on trade

## Campaign of Islamabad police to register tenants in full swing

**Independent Report** ISLAMABAD: The cam-

paign of Islamabad Capital Police - Knock the Door for the registration of emplovees and tenants in full swing and teams are visiting door to door for the purpose 1.

According to police spokesperson, the teams from the police department are actively engaged in door-to-door visits to ensure the registration of tenants and domestic workers and to address any issues faced by the residents.

The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of Islamabad has successfully registered data for 210

house servants from 435 houses within the jurisdiction of the Bara Kahu Police Station as part of this campaign during last 24

The primary objective of this initiative is to enhance security measures and maintain law and order in the federal capital. The registration of tenants and domestic workers is intended to enable close monitoring of potential miscreants and prevent any suspicious activities.

Citizens are encouraged to ask for the identity of any person visiting their homes in civilian attire for data collection purposes.



ISLAMABAD: An elderly vendor waiting for customers to sell different shapes balloons while sitting at roadside in Federal Ĉapital.

## Refugee Scientists can apply for COMSTECH **Fellowships by Nov 15**

COMSTECH, the OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technical Cooperation, has invited submissions of applications for the first cycle of the "COMSTECH Science in Exile Fellowships Program for Displaced and Refugee Scholars and Scientists" by November 15, 2023.

The fellowships program aims to support displaced and refugee scientists to stay up-to-date in their field, maintain meaningful careers, and be in a position to help rebuild their countries, once conditions allow. Until then, these professionals can be valuable assets for the countries in which they arrive. The COMSTEČH Science in Exile Fellowship Program would provide scholarships to displaced and refugee scholars and scientists who have not yet found a safe and long-term host country an opportunity to pursue their studies/research, at institutions/universities of the **COMSTECH Consortium** of Excellence (CCoE).

## Daily soice of Masse Independent

Monday October 23, 2023

## Closer to midnight

For a world already in flames, a fresh nuclear arms race would be an unmitigated catastrophe. Yet the growing gulf between Russia and the US — fuelled primarily by the Ukraine crisis — means that cooperation on nuclear arms reduction has practically stalled, been in self-imposed exile with both states eyeing years, was transformed each other with suspicion. A significant recent from electoral contests into a free man. His arrival was development in this regard came in the shape of Russia's State Duma voting to revoke Moscow's across the country. In a remarkable public address, he ratification of the Com- assured the establishment that he harbors no intenprehensive Nuclear Test tions of seeking political revenge. While outlining his Ban Treaty. As the name economic agenda, he pledged to continue with his of the 1996 document vent the testing of atomic cussing foreign policy, he emphasized the futility of maintaining are stated in when discussing foreign policy, he emphasized the futility of maintaining are stated. suggests, it seeks to preweapons worldwide. All nuclear powers have cated for breaking the cycle largely respected the status quo, with no tests in decades, with the excep- prosperity. Although not explicitly stated, he alluded tion of North Korea, to the consequences of which tested devices in downfall three times and 2017. Russia has not tested nuclear weapons since the end of the Soviet Union. But with protocols, and exuberance conveyed a resounding growing tension between Moscow and Washington, there is a danger that einuclear posture. Russia is believed to possess the world's largest stockpile of nukes, followed by the US. However, Washington The recent visit of Prime Minister Anwaar ul Haq Additionally, socio-eco-operation in the informahas little moral ground to criticise the Russians on the CTBT move as unlike strategic partnership between the two nations. Moscow, it never ratified the treaty. Earlier this porting each other's interests, particularly on senyear, Russia also with-sitive issues like Taiwan, drew from the bilateral matters of sovereignty New START treaty it had signed with America.

While there is no need (BRI), which both countries consider a notant for panic, both Russia and driver of global economic the US need to give top growth and a platform for international collaborapriority to maintaining the nuclear status quo, and preferably one day reducing their massive stockpiles. During the Cold War high-quality development there were too many in- across multiple sectors, including infrastructure, stances where a nuclear exchange was closely

averted.

The current global situation is just as — if not more — unstable, which Gwadar a high-quality port, a regional trade hub, means that efforts at arms control and preventing point. Infrastructure development is another key the resumption of nuclear testing should be redoubled by the international community. Paki- enhancing connectivity stan also lives in a 'nuclear neighbourhood', and renewed arms tests velopment, with a focus may further vitiate the the inclusion of thirdsituation in South Asia. Therefore, instead of roll- plans for crop cultivation, pest control, and cols, these must be digital economy takes strengthened by states.

## Return of Nawaz Sharif, a day of hope



By Qamar Bashir Press Secretary to the President (Rtd); Former Press

Minister at Embassy of Pakistan to France; Former MD, SRBC

Imran Khan and the PTI. Nawaz Sharif, who had in London for over four from a declared absconder and disqualified for life marked with grand receptions by associates, loyal followers, and the public, prior policies, likely with the same team. When dismaintaining an antagonistic stance toward neighboring nations. Instead, he advoof dependency and harnessing Pakistan's abundant natural, divine, and human resources for progress and those responsible for his warned against a repeat scenario for the fourth time. His confident demeanor, the warm reception at the airport, official message: Nawaz Sharif has returned to the political arena with renewed vigor, especially with his poten-

tial challengers neutralized. In a remarkable turn of events, a fate that appeared nearly impossible just a few months ago was transformed into a potential reality. The same strategy that was once employed to turn the judiciary, laws, and constitution against Nawaz Sharif was now used in reverse, effectively altering the constitutional landscape and institutions to his advantage. This remarkable shift allowed him to return from exile, fully exonerated and free of any

charges, akin to a rebirth.

Nawaz Sharif, who

had been a vocal and staunch opponent of the Establishment, had consistently held them respon-The tables turned swiftly sible for engineering his reand unexpectedly against moval in 2017. He accused them of colluding with the judiciary to convict him in multiple corruption cases, leading to his lifetime disqualification from politics and subsequent exile in London. Surprisingly, the enduring animosity was set aside, and both sides forgave and forgot. The Establishment, despite its longstanding enmity, became Nawaz Sharif's proponents, facilitators, and supporters in his journey back to power. This once again exemplifies that, much like in international relations, in domestic politics, there are no permanent friends or permanent en-

This seemingly implausible turn of events was achieved through the unwavering determination, resilience, intelligence, and leadership of Maryam Nawaz, and none other. Her steadfast narrative, echoed by all PML(N) leaders without exception, maintained that their leader had been innocent from the very outset. They contended that during Nawaz Sharif's tenure, the country had made significant progress and was poised for remarkable growth. They argued that a dubious plan was concocted as an experiment to elevate Imran Khan to power. To pave the way for his ascent, baseless and frivolous cases were fabricated against Nawaz Sharif. Ultimately, through collusion and subjugation of the

fied for life on charges that belied constitutional and legal principles, effectively casting aside the foundations of justice.

Their demand is straightforward: the reversal of all unconstitutional, unlawful, and arbitrary actions that had been used to remove Nawaz Sharif from power. They seek to rectify the injustices committed against him and the nation, restoring him to the same position from which he was ousted. Moreover, they call for an examination of all omissions and commissions that facilitated the rise of the PTI and the placement of Imran Khan

This once seemingly impossible and unattainable narrative was gradually woven into reality through the sheer merit of Maryam Nawaz Sharif, who displayed remarkable grit, te-nacity, courage, and determination even in the face of daunting and formidable adversity. She orchestrated the political landscape with exceptional finesse, strategically positioning her power players and leveraging them effectively and intelligently. Her moves were marked by mastery, precision, and creativity, all executed at the right moments with strength and meticulous calibration to achieve the desired outcomes.

First, she succeeded in fully exonerating her father, Nawaz Sharif, while confining Imran Khan to a political cage, dismantling his party, removing him from the mainstream media, ensnaring him in numerous legal entanglements, and rendering his return seemingly impossible—much like how Nawaz Sharif's return appeared infeasible

just days ago. Once she had silenced Imran Khan, she adeptly shaped public opinion, maintained the core party leadership largely intact with a few notable exceptions, managed to keep the establishment content, curtailed her father's outbursts against the establishment, adroitly manipulated the media landscape, and kept potential contenders for the

premiership at bay.

Nawaz

Sharif was well aware that her father's once-impossible return to Pakistan was riddled with uncertainties and complicated by legal issues, with a looming risk of his arrest shortly after setting foot in the country. This apprehension was explicitly articulated by the caretaker interior minister, who initially stated that Nawaz Sharif, being a convicted individual, was likely to be apprehended upon his return. However, following stern rebuke from PML(N) leadership and reprimand from the estab-

lishment, the minister

promptly retracted his ini-

tial statement

One of the primary challenges Maryam Nawaz Sharif faced was gaining the support of a truncated parliament, which consisted of numerous parties, some of which had a history of in-tense rivalry with the PML(N), particularly the PPP. Maryam strategically utilized parliament to pass crucial laws, including the Supreme Court Practices and Procedure Act of 2023, which provided her father with an opportunity to appeal his conviction and lifetime disqualification. She was well aware that these laws could not supersede or bypass the constitution, but this was a necessary step to pave the way for Nawaz Sharif's return. Collaborating closely with the establishment, Maryam secured a safe return for her father, facilitated his protective bail, and set the stage for his reentry into politics and a potential fourth term as

In exchange for this favor, the PML(N) granted the establishment an extensive range of powers, legitimizing their involvement in civilian matters. This involved appointing both active and retired military officers to key civilian positions and providing legal cover for their roles in financial and economic disci-

Prime Minister.

The Official Secrets (Amendment) Act, 2023 broadens the definition of national security breaches and grants intelligence agencies the authority to conduct raids and detain individuals. The Pakistan Army (Amendment) Act, 2023

allows the military's intelligence agencies to search individuals or places without a warrant and criminalizes defamation of the armed forces. The National Security Act, 2023 establishes a National Security Council and provides the government with the power to detain those deemed threats to national security. The amendments to the Board of Investment Act, 2023 include involving the army chief in trade and investment decisions, and the National Logistics Corporation Act, 2023 gives the army a monopoly on logistical support. The E-Safety Bill, 2023 addresses online offenses,

(Amendment) Bill, 2023

refines existing frame-

In tandem with these efforts, Maryam successfully lobbied for a significant softening of the Accountability Law, leading to the dismissal of numerous NAB cases against her family, including allegations of financial corruption, money laundering, and misuse of public funds. This led to the exoneration of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the dismissal of a seven-year prison sentence and a substantial fine for Maryam herself, and the clearance of Suleman Shehbaz in a money laundering case. A reinvestigation by the FIA also found Shehbaz Sharif and his son Hamza "innocent" in another money laundering case. These calculated moves were instrumental in achieving her objectives.

Simultaneously, while skillfully negotiating with the establishment, Maryam engaged in a determined campaign against a noncompliant judiciary. She openly defied the Supreme Court's directive to hold Punjab Assembly elections within 90 days of dissolution, effectively sowing divisions among Supreme Court judges and emboldening other stake-holders to disregard the court's orders. This strategic maneuver created a pretext for delaying the elections, ensuring that the PML(N) could participate when fully prepared and in a position of strength, align-

cal objectives.

Edited with the trial version of Foxit Advanced PDF Editor

The Pakistani government employed a multi-faceted approach to manipulate the media landscape in favor of the Pakistan Muslim League (N) (PML-N) and against Imran Khan. This strategy included media censorship through various coercive tactics, offering financial incentives to compliant outlets, appointing PML-N sympathizers to key media positions, legally harassing critical jour-nalists, and even resorting to violence and intimidation. As a result, the media's bias in favor of the PML-N was palpable in their coverage of Imran Khan, often while the Cantonments depicting him negatively while downplaying or ig-noring stories critical of the PML-N

Having brought her father back safely, Maryam has now set the stage for Nawaz Sharif to make his move. However, the path ahead is riddled with complexities, and the outcome remains uncertain. Nawaz Sharif, who has had a tumultuous history with the Pakistani military, having been ousted from power on three occasions, will need to tread carefully and find common ground with the military if he aims to secure a fourth term as Prime Minister.

Addressing Pakistan's pressing economic challenges, including high inflation and a growing debt burden, will be paramount in improving the lives of ordinary citizens. The deeply divided political landscape in Pakistan necessitates Sharif to build a broad coalition, reaching out to opposition parties and finding consensus on a range of

Moreover, considering his age and past health issues, Sharif's physical well-being will be a critical factor in managing the demands of the office.

In the face of these multifaceted challenges, Nawaz Sharif's future as Prime Minister hinges on his ability to unite the nation and effectively navigate these complexities. Failure to do so could once again lead to his removal from office by the military, mir-

boost their own econo-

mies but also open up op-

portunities for interna-

tional cooperation and de-

## ther state could alter its Digital Economy 2.0: A Game Changer for Pakistan

China and Pakistan's new phase of relations is focused on both economic growth and technological advancements, working together to create a world where technology enhances lives, fosters innovation, and unites nations.

#### **Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani**

Kakar of Pakistan to China underscores the enduring friendship and China and Pakistan share a commitment to supthe South China Sea, and and territorial integrity. At the core of this diplomatic engagement is the Belt and Road Initiative tries consider a potent tion. Central to their collaboration is the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project under the BRI. The leaders are determined to take CPEC to new heights, focusing on energy, and trade.

A significant aspect of this partnership is the development of Gwadar Port, a pivotal node in cross-regional connectivity. The two nations are set to fast-track its development, aiming to make and a vital connectivity facet, with various projects, such as the ML-1 upgradation, Karakoram Highway realignment, and the D.I. Khan-Zhob Road Project, all geared toward and driving socio-eco-nomic growth. Cooperation extends to renewable energy and industrial deon win-win outcomes and party investors. The agricultural sector is also center stage in their partall nership, with cooperation

on IT industry develop-

ment and digital infra-

nomic initiatives under the CPEC Working Group aim to enhance social and economic benefits. Both nations are eager to facilitate business exchanges and enhance bilateral people-topeople interactions while boosting cross-border trade, exemplified by the year-round operation of the Khunjerab pass. Financial cooperation and currency swap agreements are set to further strengthen their economic collaboration, while space science and technology cooperation will advance outer space exploration. The leaders engaged in discussions on the situ-

ation in Jammu and Kash-

mir, emphasizing peaceful resolution in line with international agreements. Terrorism remains a common concern, and both countries are committed bolstering their counter-terrorism efforts. Deep concerns over the Israel-Palestine conflict were expressed, with a shared call for an immediate ceasefire and a twostate solution. Their shared vision emphasizes peace, development, equity, justice, democracy, and freedom in their global initiatives. Defense and security cooperation is pivotal in maintaining regional peace and stability. Their support for the United Nations and a

commitment multilateralism underpin their diplomatic endeavors. Both the nations pledge to enhance coordination on Afghanistan to ensure regional peace and stability, sealing their commitment to a future of mutual cooperation and

understanding. China and Pakistan Pledge to Elevate Digital Cooperation for a Shared Digital Future. In a joint press statement released on 20th October 2023, during the recent diplomatic visit of Prime Minister Islamic Republic of Pakistan Mr. Anwaar ul Haq Kakar to China, both nations unveiled an ambi-

tion technology (IT) industry and digital infrastructure development. This strategic partnership will extend to cutting-edge technologies and capacity building for IT services, all with the aim of fostering high-quality development within the digital economy. The collaboration signifies a milestone in the enduring China-Pakistan friendship, further solidifying their allweather strategic cooperative partnership.

The move towards strengthening coopera-tion in the IT sector reflects the commitment of both China and Pakistan to drive innovation and digital transformation in the new era. The two nations share a vision of a shared digital future that will propel Pakistan into the digital age and facilitate comprehensive economic growth and

progress. Indeed the Digital Economy is a Key Driver of Growth. Truly, the digital economy stands as a formidable engine propelling global growth into the future. In this age of technological marvels, China and Pakistan have joined hands in a visionary partnership, acknowledging the profound impact of the digital realm on the world's economic landscape. It's a recognition that transcends borders and speaks to the very heart of their collaboration – the digital domain as a pivotal catalyst for

progress This venture is more than just a bilateral agreement; it's a platform for international harmony and collaboration, echoing the harmonious melody of progress that spans the globe. With this partnership, the two nations are sowing the seeds of collective advancement and working towards a shared dream of a digital future that

knows no boundaries. In the digital age, the concept of a connected world becomes a living re-

ality. The digital economy is more than a driver; it's a vehicle steering us towards a new era of shared prosperity. China and Pakistan, in their shared vision, are constructing a framework that nurtures global economic synergy. This is a symphony of collaboration that harmonizes diverse nations and leads them towards the common goal of develop-

As this digital journey unfolds, the building blocks of this brave new world come together. It's a world where geographical limitations fade into insignificance, where cooperation transcends borders, and where economic growth becomes a collective endeavor. In their pursuit of a shared digital future, China and Pakistan are not merely nurturing their own economies but are also unlocking the door to international cooperation

and progress.
Within this grand design, the focus on digital infrastructure is paramount. The infrastructure they are constructing is more than just wires and data centers; it's the bedrock of modernization and technological evolution. The digital highway they envisage stretches beyond their own borders; it's a route of opportunity for international cooperation and development. This infrastructure is the bridge that connects nations in the digital realm, uniting them in a shared journey towards a brighter future.

Furthermore, this partnership extends its embrace to cutting-edge technologies. In a world that is constantly evolving, innovation is the key. By engaging in joint research, technological exchange, and capacity building, China and Pakistan are planting the flag of progress on the peaks of innovation. They understand that breakthroughs in areas like artiintelligence, blockchain, and quantum computing are not just ambitions; they are ne-

cessities future. And in the digital era, services are king. China and Pakistan are working together to enhance the quality and capacity of IT services. It's not just about offering convenience to their citizens; it's about elevating their position in the global digital landscape. By doing so, they not only offer better digital services but also become influential players in the global digital arena. This collaborative

commitment between

China and Pakistan is not

just about economic growth. It's about mutual benefit and shared prosperity. The narrative goes beyond their own borders; it's about enriching the lives of their citizens and contributing to the grand tapestry of global digital development. They are not building a digital future for themselves alone; they are crafting a world where digital advancements uplift societies, drive innovation, and unite nations. This is a story of global proportions, one in which the boundaries of possibility are defined by the extent of our collective imagination. In their partnership, we find the embodiment of a digital tomorrow that stretches beyond horizons, beyond borders, and beyond limits. China and Pakistan recognize the significance of the digital economy as a potent driver of global economic growth. Through this cooperation, they are creating a plat-form for international economic synergy, fostering common development

humanity. The effort of building "Digital Infrastructure" is for Prosperity. Both the nations are keen to accelerate the development of digital infrastructure, paving the way for modernization and technological advancement. The digital highway they aim to construct will not only

across the globe, and con-

tributing to the realization

of a community with a

shared digital future for

velopment. One of the key aspects of this cooperation is the focus on cutting-edge technologies. By engaging in joint research, technological exchange, and capacity building, China and Pakistan are positioning themselves at the forefront of technological innovation. They recognize that breakthroughs in areas like artificial intelligence, blockchain, and quantum computing are pivotal for their continued growth. As part of collaboration, both nations will work together to enhance the capacity and quality of IT services. This will not only provide their citizens with access to improved digital services but will also bolster their role in the international digital landscape. The joint commitment of China and Pakistan to digital cooperation is built on the principles of mutual benefit and shared pros-

Their combined efforts seek to enrich the lives of their citizens, contribute to global digital development, and lay the foundation for a digital future that transcends boundaries.

The new phase in China-Pakistan relations represents not only their commitment to economic and technological growth but also their shared vision for a world in which digital advancements uplift societies, drive innovation, and unite nations. As both countries journey into this digital age, the world watches with anticipation to witness the fruits of their collaborative endeavor in creating a digital tomorrow that knows no bounds. The writer is a former banker and Secretary General of the Pakistan China Friendship Association, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chapter. He is also a foreign affairs analyst and senior media consultant based in Peshawar, Pakistan. You can reach him at

Edited with the trial version of **Foxit Advanced PDF Editor** 

## Baqar directs for implementation | of Rs 32000 wage, immediate action against tanker mafia

KARACHI (APP): that the minimum wage Caretaker Sindh Chief was announced to be Rs Minister Justice (Retd.) Maqbool Baqar has directed the Secretary of Labour Department to implement Rs 32000 the minimum labour wage and directed the Deputy Commissioner of District Korangi for action against tanker mafia within two hours.He issued these directives while chairing a meeting of the Sindh Labour Department and a 29-member delegation of Piler led by its Executive Director Karamat Ali at the Chief Minsiter House here on Sunday.

Piler discussed labour women and submit a issues with the chief report. He further said that minister. The delegation told him that the welfare surprise visits to private of the workers had been affected due to the continuous transfers and postings in the labor department. On that the Caretaker Chief Minister directed the labour department from making unnecessary appointments and transfers. He was informed that 25000 minimum wage was still in effect. The delegation said Department.

32000, which has not yet been implemented.

The chief minister directed the Secretary Labour to implement the minimum wage Rs 32,000 through the circulation of the Cabinet. He was informed that the women were discriminated in industries and they were either laid-off or fired at age 45. The Caretaker CM was also informed that the female workers were paid less than male workers. The chief minister

directed the Labor Secretary to end the The delegation of discrimination against he himself would pay industrial areas to review the implementation. On the occasion, the

Secretary Labour complained of shortage of officers in the Labour Department.

Baqar directed the Sindh Public Service Commission (SPSC) to speed up the recruitment process in the Labour

govt on October 24

constitution by blatantly

defying the United Nations

Resolutions on Kashmir

which determine the grant

determination to the

people of the disputed

Jammu and Kashmir state

through a free and fair

plebiscite granting

Kashmiris the above right

to decide about their

destiny. The Founding Day

of Azad Jammu Kashmir

government is observed

every year to celebrate the

founding anniversary of

Azad Jammu Kashmir

government formed this

them with respect."

Ayesha Baligh said

that the parents expect

their children to take care

of them in their old age. She

said that the majority in

our society respect their

parents and take good care

of them, but unfortunately,

there are people who

ignore their parents and

Punjab said that in most

cases, it is the cold

behaviour of the children

that forces the parents to

go to old age homes. She

said that it is not an easy

Begum Governor

consider them a burden.

right of self

76th Founding Day of the status

renewal of pledge to

continue Kashmir freedom

struggle till it reaches to its

logical end through

liberation of the Indian

Illegally occupied part of

the internationally-acknowledged disputed

Himalayan State, besides

to lend all of due

contributions for the

progress and prosperity of

anniversary of the emergence of the AJK

government is being

observed when India,

Avesha Baligh has said that

the only selfless relationship in the world is

meeting with women living in old age home who called

on her here at Governor

House Lahore on Sunday,

she said that the parents

have many rights over their

children. She said that in

our religion, there is a

special emphasis on the

children to treat their

parents with kindness and

Allah Almighty says:

Speaking during a

that of parents.

This year too, the

through her shameful, government forr forced, sinister unlawful day 76 years ago.

Parents, only selfless

relation in the world:

Ayesha Baligh

Independent Report of them reaches old age, do LAHORE: Wife of not be rude to them nor

Governor Punjab, Begum rebuke them, and treat

the liberated territory.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Labour Department had already sent a request to the SPSC for the appointments a year ago. It was informed that only a few factories were registered with SESSI.

The caretaker chief

minister directed SESSI to reconcile the records of registration of factories with EOBI. He directed the Secretary Labour to activate labour directorate to obtain data of industrial and domestic workers. The CM directed the Labour Department to submit a report on the death of two children due to fire in the factory warehouse on August 17. He also directed to prepare a concept paper for family welfare to end child labour. 'I want the children to be safe from labour', he said. The CM directed to present proposals for further improvement labour laws.

It was informed that there was no water supply in the labour colony area the site while the Worker Welfare Board had paid Rs160 million to the Water Board.



memory of Palestinians martyred in Israeli attacks at Governor House.

## Akbar Chowk flyover project to be open for traffic in November: CM Naqvi

**Independent Report** AHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, during a visit to Akbar Chowk flyover project here on Sunday, announced that the facility would be opened for traffic by mid

of November.

The CM inspected various sections of flyover. One side of the flyover has been completed. Naqvi inspected the construction work on the project and ordered for early completion and restoration of the College Road as well. He ordered for completing the asphalt work on the bridge at the earliest.

Commissioner Lahore/DG LDA gave a demonstrations briefing about the project. inappropriate and wrong,

PESHAWAR (APP): The

proved to be a game changer for the stability

and development of the

economy in the province, KP Caretaker Advisor for

Power, Energy, and Mineral Development, Dr Sarfaraz Ali Shah, said

while chairing a high-level

Shah said that the energy

(PEDO), is a profitable

province, he added.

Dr Syed Sarfaraz Ali

very important. The future. subsidiary of the Energy P a k h

meeting.

The contractor apprised construction privatisation of schools is activities and completion of the project. Later, talking to the media, he said all political leaders were being provided security according to the police standards operating (SOPs). procedures Security was also being provided at Zaman Park, he added. The PTI chairman

The caretaker CM said that teachers had been released across Punjab and no one would be allowed to close educational institutions. To engage students in protest

It is a major source of

of rupees, he said. Under

the supervision of PEDO, work is currently underway

on 42 energy projects for

including hydro and solar

of these projects, they will

prove to be a game changer

for the stability and development of the

Pakhtunkhwa

first time in order to

system in the province.

After the completion

transmission

power, he said.

PEDO a major source

of income as billions

annually for province

energy projects will have annual income of billions

sector in the province is province's economy in the very important. The future. Khyber

and Power Department,
Pakhtunkhwa Energy
Development Organization
(PEDO) is a profitable

organization in the improve the electricity

was also provided required security, nagvi said.

baseless, he said. The CM said that not only he himself but ministers and the chief secretary were also conducting visits. "It is my foremost priority to ensure well-being of people. We will ensure timely completion of development projects," he promised. The construction and repair work of 100 hospitals across Punjab would be completed by January 31, he said and added that measures were being taken for improvement of 750 police stations. Special attention was being paid to completion of development projects.

#### Mayor **Inaugurates new** carpeted road in Qasimabad

HYDERABAD (APP): Mayor of Hyderabad Kashif Ali Shoro has inaugurated construction work of a new carpeted road from Al Raheem Villas to Suleman Pathan Goth of UC-147 Qasimabad.

According to the information provided by the municipal department, a cost of 923.11 million rupees will be spent on the

Kashif Shoro on the occasion, said that the journey of development will continue following the advice of Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and we will continue to lay the net of more development works.

### Govt to focus on technical, experimental education

1Independent Report PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa caretaker Minister for Sports, Youth Affairs, Science, and Information Technology, Dr. Najibullah Khan Marwat, said on Sunday that teachers of scientific subjects should focus on technical and experimental education away from traditions.

Through this, the students can enlighten the name of the country and the nation in science and technology, he added. Without the hard work of teachers in educational institutions, students cannot play a significant role in learning science and technology, which are essential for students to acquire in today's era.

In the current race for technology, it is imperative to give special attention to science and information technology education, he said. He said science and technology education have become the backbone of the economic stability and development of the country

Caretaker students.

Provincial expressed these views while addressing the ceremony of a two-day capacity-building training workshop for teachers and lecturers of different educational institutions of science subjects at Roots Millennium

attended by Secretary Science and Information Technology Zakaullah Khattak, Director General Sajjad Hussain Shah, School Principal Tehmina participants, teachers, and students in large numbers.

Addressing the ceremony as a special guest, Caretaker Minister Dr. Najibullah Khan Marwat said that teaching is a great and important field that can make any country stand in the ranks of developed countries.

"If teachers can't deliver education to their students in a real and true sense and have no vision and spirit of purpose in teaching, then there will be no transformation of



PESHAWAR: Employees of reading Hospital are demonstrating outside the press in support of their

## **CM** orders completing civil works by Dec 31

**Independent Report** LAHORE: Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited Agriculture, Food & Drug Authority's head office on Sunday and inspected finishing work, being carried out at different sections on various floors

of the building. He also inspected the equipment purchased for the labs and directed to with regard to resolving complete civil work on the affairs of the Authority. building with a high

quality.

the Authority's Head Office and was given a briefing about matters pertaining to human resource and purchase of machinery. Mohsin

ordered to constitute a committee under the leadership of Chairman Planning & Development Board. The committee would take prompt steps

Secretary Communication & Works gave a briefing to the CM assigned a deadline to complete 100 per cent work on the whole building to the CM regarding civil works. Additional Chief Secretary, by December 31. He also (Home), Secretaries of presided over a meeting at C&W, Health, Information.

#### Actors, celebrities express solidarity with Palestinians on social media

LAHORE (APP): Pakistani and international actors and celebrities on Sunday expressed their support for Palestinian them. My God, I am people and children on social media.

Mobeen, Saba Qamar and Yumna Zaidi took to social media and expressed solidarity with Palestine. Taking to X, formerly Twitter, Pakistani star Saba Qamar wrote, "From Khan the River to the Sea, Palestine will be free! InshaAllah".

In her social media post, actor Armeena Khan

said Palestinians are the bravest people on planet earth. "Zero support and the entire world against terrified for the little children about to lose their Showbiz stars of lives", she wrote on X. The Pakistan, including most popular singer of Armeena Khan, Dananeer Pakistan music industry, Atif Aslam, won the hearts of his fans by donating Rs15 million to the victims

However, prominent Pakistani actress Mahira Khan faced the consequences of her unwavering support for Palestine, as her Instagram account was "shadow-



**LAHORE:** A motorcyclist purchasing a helmet

#### LAHORE: Begum Governor Punjab Ayesha Baligh in a group photo with women living in the Old Age Home at Governor House All set to celebrate 76th **ANF** seizes 106 kg drugs in Founding Day of AJK

11 operations RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 11 operations across the MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): act of August 5, four years All is set to celebrate the ago, scrapped the special country managed to recover over 106 kg drugs emergence of Azad internationally-government of the State of acknowledged disputed and arrested 13 accused including a woman, said an Jammu and Kashmir on Himalayan state of Jammu Headquarters October 24. Tuesday, with and Kashmir through spokesman here on a great enthusiasm and devotion coupled with the 35-A of her own

He informed that 504 grams heroin was recovered from the possession of a passenger, arrested at Islamabad International Airport. The accused, a resident of Wehari, was leaving for Bahrain by flight number In another operation,

a raid was conducted on a courier office Rawalpindi and 18 grams weed sent from UK was recovered from a parcel.

#### **PDMA** prepares winter contingency planning

The purpose of preparing a comprehensive strategy is to reduce the risk of disasters and provide timely response, the Director General told

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Disasters Management Authority is preparing a winter contingency plan, Director General Planning PDMA, Jannat Gul Afridi said here on Sunday.

media men. D i s t r i c

administration, provincial line departments, federal departments, golf program, humanitarian partners are being included in the plan, DG PDMA said. Planning is being done to deal with the possible threats of snowfall, rains, landslides and other natural calamities in winter and to reduce the losses, he said.

## 11 dead, 1238 injured in 1133 road accidents in Punjab

**Independent Report** LAHORE: At least eleven

persons were killed and 1238 injured in 1133 road accidents in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours.

people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 555 victims with minor injuries were treated at the medical teams thus and Multan with 80 reducing the burden of accidents and 91 victims.

Hospitals.

HYDERABAD: Activists of Mutehda Qumi Movement Pakistan hold banners

and placards during a rally against Israeli aggression in Palestine, outside

Furthermore, the analysis showed that 578 drivers, 42 underage drivers, 178 pedestrians, and 493 passengers were among the victims. The Out of these, 683 statistics show that 260 accidents were reported in Lahore which affected 264 persons placing the provincial capital at top of the list followed by 85 in incident site by rescue Faisalabad with 85 victims

#### 204 new cases LAHORE (APP): Punjab

**Punjab reports** 

is still in the grip of dengue fever, with 204 new cases reported on Sunday. According to the

latest data from the Health Department, a total of 7,827 dengue cases were reported across 36 districts in Punjab this year.

Leading unfortunate tally is Lahore, reporting a staggering 3,212 cases, followed closely by Rawalpindi with 2,055, Multan with 814, Faisalabad with 335 and

#### Gujranwala with 548 cases. **from a roadside vendor in the city.** Social norms in cross hairs with growing use of cyberspace

ISLAMABAD (APP): Social media has become an undeniable force in today's interconnected world, redefining the realm of communication altogether with millions shifting to this mode of sharing information.

But, this remarkable connectivity comes at a grave cost threatening the very essence of our social harmony eroding face-toface interactions and further weakening personal relations.

Privacy breaches and online harassment are another dark side of cyberspace that becomes a major source of spreading disinformation,

making it the most pressing issue for the whole world. Users are growing on

social media networking websites like X (previously called websites like X (previously called Twitter), Facebook, Messenger, WeChat, ShareChat, Instagram, Zone, Weibo, VK, Tumblr, Baidu Tieba, LinkedIn, YouTube, QQ, Quora, Telegram, WhatsApp, Signal, LINE, Snapchat, Pinterest, Viber, Reddit, Discord. TikTok. Microsoft Teams and many more with each passing day with these sites making access easy

for millions across the

world including Pakistan.

According

Telecommunication been striving to create an Authority (PTA), enabling environment for YouTube tops the list of social media platforms having 71.7 million users followed by Facebook with 57.5 million users. Snack

Video and Snapchat

occupy third and fourth

positions respectively

with 20 million and 18.8

million users.
TikTok has 18.3 million users followed by Instagram with 15.6 million. In Pakistan, LinkedIn has 7.6 million subscribers with Bigo and Likee having 4.2 million users and X 3.4 million

As this phenomenon

enabling environment for social media users in the

country.

"PTA's support and facilitation of social media in line with the government's 'Digital Pakistan' vision had created an impact on improving meaningful connectivity and reducing usage gaps," remarked PTA Director Public Relations Malahat Obaid.

consistently encouraging social media companies to register with the authority as per Removal and Blocking of Unlawful Online Content

(Procedure, Oversight, and Safeguards) Rules, 2021," she said. She informed that the

authority has consistently been utilizing print and electronic media and SMS services to educate people for productive, responsible, safe, and legitimate usage of social media platforms. But, besides several

positive aspects of social media use, research and studies have also highlighted its multiple been negative impacts like media cyberbullying, the spread misinformation of addiction, the decline in face-to-face communication.



GILGIT: VC Karakoram International University Attaullah Shah and Director Gilgit Institute of Nuclear Medicine Oncology and Radiotherapy Dr. Asif Jillani signing MOU between KIU and GINOR at KIU.

## OMMERCE EWS

Page 06

Edited with the trial version of

## **Businessmen for easing** import as Afghan transit trade thru Pak rises to \$7.3b

Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) suggested the government to reduce the tariff rates on smuggling prone items to the lowest level to curb smuggling, as Afghanistan's imports through Pakistan under the transit trade facility has gone up nearly two-thirds to \$7.3 billion in the last fiscal year.
The FPCCI former

held at Hyderabad press club.

the Federation of Pakistan

Chambers of Commerce

and Industry (FPCCI) for

the upcoming polls of 2024 Muhammad Ali Sheikh has

called for taking corrective

measures as rapid escalation in debt is widely

seen as unsustainable, yet

Quoting the State

Bank of Pakistan report,

federal government's debt

has soared by Rs14.5

trillion, constituting a

substantial 29.2% rise

compared to the same

period last year. He said

that the debt burden is

because of insufficient tax

betterment of tax

collection, exemplary

punishments should be

awarded to tax evaders and

their helpers by checking

Saleha Hassan, in an

interview with APP on

Sunday stated that people

who pay taxes expect

facilitation in return

besides money collected

from them could be spent

on welfare of the country.

government should impose

ban on imported cosmetics

and promote locally

manufactured beauty

products to save foreign

exchange which would help

Pakistan-made

strengthening the economy.

cosmetics are equally good

for women and they

should avoid buying

She suggested that the

President Business

tax evasion.

increasing

forced the government to Arab Emirates.

gradually

Ali Sheikh terms counter

steps vital as debt

escalates rapidly to Rs64tr

ISLAMABAD (INP): borrow from the domestic

Presidential candidate of and external resources to

serious steps are now vital September quarter to curb this alarming amounted to \$3.527bn

trajectory, by keeping check on government expenditure and high cost expension of the compared to just \$2.234bn of the same period last year, an increase

of debt servicing, as the federal government debt recorded by the EAD in

has surged to a staggering Rs64 trillion. September came in at \$321 million against \$316m in

the FPCCI Presidential candidate nominated by at \$2.89bn in July soon

the BMP, said that the after Pakistan reached an

revenue collection that and \$1bn by the United

**Exemplary sentence sought for** 

tax evaders, their helpers for

improving country's economy

MULTAN (APP): For imported items. Our

improvement in financial country does not need

health of the country and parlors, rather it needs

Forum Multan Chapter, entrepreneurs should be

remarked.

Businessmen Panel (BMP) Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar observed that the total elimination of smuggling only through administrative measures at the borders was difficult and the remedy lies in reducing incentive for smuggling by reducing tariff rates.

Smuggling is eating vitals of Pakistan economic fabrics and needs to be curbed through fiscal and administrative measures.

HYDERABAD: Flour Mills Owners Social Welfare Association leader, Hajji

Muhammad Memon addresses to media persons during press conference

finance the soaring fiscal

on Foreign Economic Assistance (FEA), the Economic Affairs Division

(EAD) said against its annual target of \$17.6bn,

total FEA in the July-

Major FEA during

agreement with the

International Monetary

Fund (IMF) for a fresh

short-term program. This

FEA is in addition to

\$1.2bn released by the

IMF on July 13 as the first

tranche of the \$3bn Stand-

By Arrangement (SBA)

qualified teachers", she

Replying to

question, the women

entrepreneur noted that the

government should make a

law under which industrial

asked to contribute up to

40 percent of their income

to health and education

sectors of the country for

and

progress

prosperity. Land reforms

and taxation on agriculture

will also be helpful in

strengthening the economy,

she added. She appreciated

the government's initiative

of launching crackdown on

smugglers which resulted in

weakening of dollar against

Pakistani rupee and seizing

of Iranian diesel. Answering

to another question, Saleha

Hassan, who is also

Chamber of Commerce

member

of Multan

In its monthly report

products uncompetitive and discourages legal imports thus make colossal losses to the trade. industry and government exchequer.

Despite efforts of Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) with limited resources cannot control smuggling form boarders of Iran and Afghanistan.

This will result in higher government revenue, provide impetus to local industry and

opportunities.

said elimination of smuggling, which is causing loss of billions of dollars to the national exchequer, could

help reduce dependence on debts. Mian Anjum Nisar said that the government could save billions of dollars annually by eradicating the menace of smuggling. Then there would be no need for dependence on loans to meet the budget deficit.



ISLAMABAD: New elected acting President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce presenting a shield to Secretary General Central Tanzeem Tajiran Pakistan Syed Abdul Qayyum Agha during his visit of Chamber.

## association ink MoU to improve relations

Exporters Association the increase in business (PCMEA) have inked a costs, particularly related Memorandum

The agreement was signed during a visit by LCCI President Kashif Anwar to the PCMEA where the association's Senior Vice Chairman Usman Ashraf welcomed him. Kashif Anwar also visited the Carpet Training Institute (CTI) and observed the intricate process of handcrafting carpets.During the visit, LCCI President Kashif community and the Anwar highlighted the importance of robust trade

of to utilities. However, he a more favorable business environment. underscored that continued government policies in the same vein would further strengthen the rupee's value. The LCCI president said that it was imperative to reduce input costs and utility prices for exports to

thrive. He underlined the significance of fostering a strong partnership between the business government, adding that a stronger rupee is crucial for

The purpose of the

establishment of the

Centre is the facilitation of

industrialists in getting,

electricity and gas

Talking to APP, the CEO KP-EZDMC Javed

Iqbal Khattak said that the

Centre has been established

in a new building

constructed by the

company from ts own

resources. He said that

similar facilitation centers

have been established in all

other industrial zones of

the province to provide

guidance to industrialists

and facilitate them in

resolution of their problems. The CEO

further said that the

Company is constructing

#### make Rawat vegetable & fruit market **functional**

RAWALPINDI (APP)

establishment of vegetable G.T.Road near Chak Beli permanent

Rawalpindi is a big city and there was a dire need to set up a vegetable and fruit market in the town, he added. Establishment of

employment opportunities

## Pakistani delegation to visit Kyrgyzstan, fostering bilateral trade and collaboration

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Kyrgyzstan Trade House Meher Kashif Younis on Sunday said a high-level Pak delegation of pharmaceutical and surgical instruments will visit Kyrgyzstan on November 6 for three days to explore the possibilities of investment avenues, joint ventures, promotion of bilateral trade and

collaboration. Talking to a delegation of exporters led by Ms Maheen he said this initiative signifies our commitment to enhancing

economic cooperation and fostering meaningful relationships, said a news **Authorities** 

directed to

Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Liaquat Ali Chatta has directed the authorities to make vegetable and fruit market in Rawat fully functional on October 23, Monday.

He said the land had been allocated for and fruit market in Rawat. The vegetable market would temporarily be se up in Union Council Rawat at Chani Alam Sher, Main Mor, the Commissioner vegetable and fruit market would be established after completion of Rawalpindi Ring Road project, he informed.

vegetable market would only provide



He said he firmly believed that by working together, we can tap into the immense potential that pharmaceutical and surgical instruments sectors. Collaborative efforts in these areas can lead to

ultimately benefiting both our economies. He said an upcoming significant event holds the promise of strengthening the ties between the two Muslim countries and fostering

the exchange of knowledge,

technology, and resources,

counterparts to identify synergies and establish fruitful partnerships, he

Meher Kashif Younis said he is fully confident that this visit will pave the way for enduring partnerships and contribute significantly to the growth of our respective industries.

He said he would support and cooperate in facilitating the interactions between the visiting delegation and key stakeholders delegation Kyrgyzstan.



LAHORE: A man is looking to buy ties at road side

## **Banking Mohtasib provides** Rs 972.33 million relief to banking customers

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Banking Mohtasib Pakistan provided monetary relief of an amount of Rs 972.33 million to the banking customers by disposing 18,431 complaints during the first nine months of the current calendar year.

From 1<sup>st</sup> January to 30<sup>th</sup> September, the should immediately Mohtasib received 21,852 approach the nearest complaints, including from Prime Minister's Portal.

protecting the people from fraudulent activities which are rampant now a days, Mohtasib, Sirajuddin Aziz emphasized upon the banking customers not to disclose their personal and financial credentials to any third person. On receipt of suspicious calls, they approach the nearest branch of their bank or contact the helpline of the

With a view to

#### bank, he added Railways earn over Rs 6 million from saloons

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways has generated revenue worth Rs 6,340,156 million through utilizing its 23 saloons and inspection coaches for commercial purposes, during the last three and half years.

"At present, Pakistan Railways has only 23 saloons and inspection coaches with different dignitaries of the country who are entitled to use these saloons when needed," an official in the Ministry of Railways told

Giving the details, he said, "Two highly luxurious coaches have been allocated for the Prime Minister's Secretariat while four coaches have been allocated for the Minister for for Principal Officers, he Railways, Secretary/ added.

Chairman of Railways, and another senior official in the ministry.

The official said, "Only one saloon has been allocated to the federal government while one each has been allocated to the Governors of Sindh, governments." Balochistan, Punjab, and

In addition, eight saloons had been allocated Headquarters Lahore, in which one each would be marked to Chief Executive Officer/General Manager (BS-22), Additional General Manager BS-21, Inspector General Railway Police, Government Inspector, and four salons were allocated

#### Nearly 3.19m 5G base stations built in China by September

ISLAMABAD (APP): China had built 3.19 million 5G base stations by push to propel the digital and transformation of the real economy, showed official data. Each 10,000 Chinese said Zhao Zhiguo, spokesperson for the China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology.

The country has also made active contributions to formulating 5G global last month, it was in ministry said.

possession of 42 percent of the world's standard essential patents declared

according to the ministry.

The third year into a three-vear nationwide program to promote the application of 5G, the technology is now integrated into around 70 percent of China's standards. By the end of economic sectors, the

for 5G technology, People's Dailly reported. the end of September in its Developing intelligent telecommunications infrastructure like 5G base stations has facilitated people had 22.6 5G production and enriched stations by last month, lives across China,



Memorandum of to utilities. However, he utilities to white the stability of the Pak relations, here at PCMEA relations, here at PCMEA representations of the property of the p office on Sunday.

relations between various trade organizations and chambers. He emphasized materials.

**IFC** goes operational at Hattar SEZ

PESHAWAR

Development

Economic

problems.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Management Company

(KP-EZDMC) inaugurated

industrialists and investors

in resolution of their

inaugurated by the KP

Caretaker Minister for

Industries, Commerce and

Technical Education, Dr

Aamir Abdullah, the other

day, said a press release

Executive Officer (CEO)

KP-EZDMC Javed Iqbal

Khattak, members Board

of Director (BoD) and

officials of the company, a

industrialists and local

number

investors were also present all infrastructure.

issued here on Sunday.

Besides,

(APP):

Zones

an Industrial Facilitation connections, water supply,

Centre (IFC) at Hattar company registration,

(SEZ) to facilitate and provision of other

services

Vice President (VP) Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Amer Majeed Sheikh and Chairman AirSial Fazal Jilani participated in the swearing-in ceremony as the special guests. Vice President (VP) Sialkot Chamber of

Al-Raziq Trust

oath-taking

at SCCI

SIALKOT (APP): Ai

oath-taking ceremony of

Sialkot, a cĥaritable

organization established

for public welfare, was

held at the Sialkot Chamber

of Commerce and Industry

"Al-Raziq Trust'

Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Amer Majeed Sheikh, presenting the note | Special Economic Zone opening of bank accounts of thanks, said, "The main objectives of the trust are to encourage women to participate in business activities, provide them with business skills and support them in finding jobs, provide blood and treatment facilities for children suffering from thalassaemia important welfare and social objectives like promotion of education."

He appeal to the business community of and philanthropists to fully cooperate with individuals and institutions who have dedicated their lives to service to humanity.

## Inflation

PESHAWAR (APP): The wave of inflation could not be reduced in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as the prices of basic commodities remained the same.

Tomato is being sold at Rs 150 per kilogram, onion Rs 110, green pepper and capsicum Rs 140 rupees per kg while the price of ginger is all time high and it increased into 1400 per kg and garlic 540, lemon 150, potato 130 cabbage 100, Tenda 140 Frashbean 160, turnip 100 okra 140 rupees are being sold per kg.

Fruit prices are not per kg, apples Rs 240 pomegranates Rs 260 and remains at Rs 120 per dozen in the fruit market.

## continue in KP

decreasing and the citizens are also worried about it as grapes are sold at Rs 330 pomegranates Rs 140 per kg. The price of bananas



MULTAN: Farmer busy in leveling his farm field with the help of tractor for next crop.

## German solar industry looks to rise again

APP): A decade after a wave of bankruptcies all but wiped out the German solar industry, the sector is looking to reestablish itself in the face of stiff competition from abroad.

Overproduction in China and massive government subsidy programmes in the United States mark the struggle to stay profitable for a business that used to boom in Germany.

In Bitterfeld-Wolfen, a solar cell plant opened in 2021 by the Swiss group Meyer Burger on the site of defunct German producer Q-Cells is a sign of a possible renaissance. We managed to

recruit a number of former employees in the sector, and we are benefitting from their know-how," the director of the Meyer Burger factory, Jochen Fritsche, told AFP.

BITTERFELDWOLFEN(AFP/ eastern German city, a million of the blue cells roll off the line each day, ready to be assembled into the modules that make up solar panels. Production at the factory largely automated, with just some 50 employees overseeing the non-stop manufacturing process via computer screens.

QUETTA: Venders selling fresh vegetables on the footpath creating problems

First, the silicon wafers that form the basis of the cells are dipped in a chemical solution. Then they are given a reflective grey coating, dried and cut

The outcome of this high-precision industrial process—the details of which are closely guarded by Meyer Burger—is a cell which is said to yield 20 percent more energy than the competition.

Technology is the core of our business and it's what is allowing us to sche, told AFP. rebuild production in At the plant in the Europe," Gunter Erfurt.

#### for pedestrians need the attention of concern authorities. Excise dept achieves over 54pc property tax target

in first quarter MULTAN (APP): Excise,

Taxation and Narcotics Department has collected over Rs 480 million property tax in first quarter which is over 54 percent of the annual property tax target.

Official sources of Excise Department told on Sunday that all Excise and Taxation Officers, Excise Inspectors and other staff worked hard in the beginning of the financial year to collect maximum property tax. Multan district has set a target of Rs 870 million in line with property tax in current financial year. Citizens have deposited over Rs 367.6 million through Epay and over Rs 11.63 million through banks during above said period. While special discount was also given by the provincial

government

#### Daily doice of Masse Independent

Monday October 23, 2023

## **International News**

**Page** 07

## **US dispatches Mideast military** assets, Israel pounds Gaza, targets in Syria, Lebanon

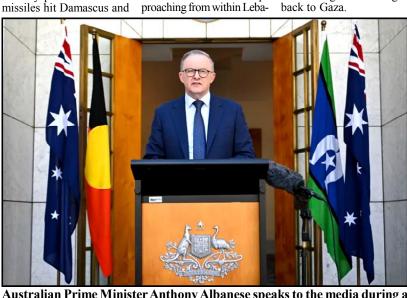
Monitoring Desk GAZA: Concerns about the risk of the Israel-Hamas war mushrooming into a wider Middle East conflict rose on Sunday with the U.S. sending more military assets to the region as Israel pummelled Gaza overnight and hit Hamas supporters in Lebanon and Syria. Gaza's Health Ministry said 266 Palestinians, including 117 children, had been killed by Israeli air strikes in the past 24 hours in the enclave, to which Israel laid "total siege" after a deadly mass infiltration into Israel by Hamas gunmen on Oct. 7. In neighbouring Syria - where Hamas's main regional backer Iran has a

military presence - Israeli

Aleppo international airports early on Sunday, putting both out of service and killing two workers, Syrian state media said.

Along Israel's northern border with Lebanon, where Iran-backed Hezbollah has skirmished increasingly with Israeli forces in support of Hamas, the Israeli military said it struck several Hezbollah targets overnight, including what it called a compound from which a missile had been fired at one of its drones. In later incidents, Israeli forces struck three groups of fighters who launched or were preparing to launch anti-armour missiles across the border, the military said, adding that it also shot down a drone approaching from within LebaAntony Blinken cautioned Lebanon's caretaker prime minister that the Lebanese population would be affected if his country were drawn into the Israel-Hamas war, the State Department said. With violence around its heavily guarded borders increasing, Israel on Sunday added 14 communities close to Lebanon and Syria to its evacuation plan in the north of the country.

Israel began unrelenting air strikes on Gaza to its southwest after Hamas militants breached the border and carried out a shock rampage through nearby communities, killing 1,400 people, mainly civilians and taking 212 hostages back to Gaza.



Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese speaks to the media during a press conference at Parliament House in Canberra.

## US, UK back Canada in dispute with India over diplomats

**Monitoring Desk** WASHINGTON: The

United States and Britain have urged New Delhi not to insist Canada reduce its diplomatic presence in India and expressed concern after Ottawa pulled out 41 diplomats amid a dispute over the murder of a Sikh separatist.

Canada has alleged Indian involvement in the June murder in a Vancouver suburb of Canadian citizen and Sikh separatist leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar, whom India called a "terrorist." India denies the al-

We are concerned by the departure of Canadian diplomats from India, in response to the Indian government's demand of Canada to significantly reduce its diplomatic presence in India," US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said.

Washington has said it took Canada's allegations seriously and, along with London, urged India to cooperate with Canada in the murder probe even as Western powers have been re-

Analysts say the US and the UK do not want to damage ties with India, which they view as a counterbalance to their main Asian rival China.

luctant to openly condemn

But Friday's state-Department and Britain's Foreign Office have been the most direct criticism by Washington and London of New Delhi thus far in this

"We do not agree with the decisions taken by the Indian government that have resulted in a number of Canadian diplomats departing India," a spokesperson for Britain's Foreign Office said.

## Storm triggers floods, power cuts in Northern Europe

**Monitoring Desk** STOCKHOLM: Deadly Storm Babet unleashed extensive flooding and damaged towns in Den-mark and Norway on Saturday, while continuing to sweep across

Three people died in Scotland and England and families were trapped in flooded homes on Friday as the storm battered Britain and Ireland. After it made landfall in Scandinavia, the storm triggered a sharp rise in water levels in towns in southern Denmark, flooding the first floor of homes which were left without power for several hours.

Water levels in several Danish towns exceeded their normal height by more than two metres (seven feet), levels normally only reached once every hundred years, according to Denmark's DMI weather service. "We are having to clear large quantities of water from the towns, especially in south-ern Jutland," Mar-tin

**Emergency Management** Agency told the Ritzau news agency. Fishing boats were left stranded or about to sink in the port town of Rodvig, according to photos from Danish media. In southern Norway,

up to 20,000 residents were

merous trains.

Vendelbo of the Danish

without power after strong winds blew roofs off buildings and downed trees and power masts, but the Norwegian news agency NTB said the situation was improving. The storm continued to wreak havoc in the UK, with London's King's Cross station forced to close on Saturday afternoon to prevent passengers massing on platforms after the cancellation or delay of nu-

Network Rail said on X, formerly Twitter, that London North Eastern Rail-



A couple and their dog are rescued by a coastguard team from a flooded street in Brechin, Scotland.



#### China, Philippines trade accusations over South China Sea clash

In the incident early on

**Monitoring Desk** 

BEIJING: China and the Philippines traded accusations over a collision in disputed waters of the South China Sea as Chinese vessels blocked Philippine boats supplying forces there on Sunday in the latest of a series of maritime confrontations. The two countries

have had numerous run-ins in the South China Sea in recent months, especially in the disputed Second Thomas Shoal, part of the Spratly Islands.

The Philippines has sent supplies to troops stationed on a rusted World War Two-era transport ship used as an outpost on the shoal, prompting China's coastguard to repeatedly deploy vessels to block the resupply mis-

Sunday, China's coastguard said there had been a "slight collision" between one of its ships and the Philippine boat while the coastguard was "lawfully" blocking the boat from transporting "illegal construction materials" to the warship. Manila responded by

condemning "in the strongest degree" the "dangerous blocking manoeuvres" of the Chinese vessel.

China's "dangerous, irresponsible and illegal actions" were "in violation of Philippine sovereignty, sovereign rights and juris-diction", Manila's Task Force for the West Philippine Sea said in a statement.

Beijing claims sovereignty over almost the entire South China Sea, including parts of the exclusive economic zones of Brunei,

Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam. The Permanent Court of Arbitration in 2016 said China's claims had no legal The United States ex-

pressed support for the Philippines, denouncing China's "disruption of a legal Philippine resupply mission" "We stand with our

#FriendsPartnersAllies in protecting Philippine sovereignty and in support of #FreeAndOpenIndoPacific,"

Ambassador to the Philippines MaryKay Carlson posted on X, the platform previously known as Twitter.

The Canadian and Japanese embassies in Manila also expressed support for the Philippines and alarm over the collision.

Russia's FM

Tehran on

#### India says relations with Lavrov to visit Canada passing through difficult phase Monday - RIA

**Monitoring Desk** 

order NEW DELHI: India on **Monitoring Desk** Sunday said its relationship NEW YORK: The New with Canada is passing York judge presiding over through a difficult phase and there had been "contin-Donald Trump's civil fraud trial fined the former US ued interference" by Canapresident \$5,000 on Friday dian personnel in New for not complying with a Delhi's internal affairs. partial gag order and threat-

ened him with possible jail Prime Minister Justin time for future violations. Judge Arthur Engoron Trudeau last month sugordered the 77-year-old gested Indian agents might have been involved in the Trump to pay the fine within the next 10 days to June murder of a Sikh sepathe New York Lawyers ratist leader in British Ĉo-

Fund for Client Protection. "Make no mistake: fuments from the US State | ture violations, whether in tentional or unintentional, will subject the violator to far more severe sanctions,' Engoron said in a court filing. "(These) may include, but are not limited to, steeper financial penalties, holding Donald Trump in contempt of court, and possibly imprisoning him pursuant to New York Judiciary Law," the judge added. Engoron slapped a limited gag order on the former president on Oct 3 after he insulted the judge's principal law clerk in a social media post.

Trump fined

\$5,000 for

violating gag

#### Iran sentences women journalists on charges over Mahsa Amini protests

**Monitoring Desk** TEHRAN: An Iranian

Revolutionary Court has handed out long prison sentences to two women journalists over their coverage of the death in custody of Kurdish-Iranian Mahsa Amini last year, state media reported on Sunday. The death of 22-year

old Amini last September while in the custody of the morality police for allegedly violating the Islamic dress code unleashed months of mass protests across Iran, marking the biggest challenge to Iran's clerical leaders in decades. Iran's state news

agency IRNA said Niloofar Hamedi and Elaheh

#### we have are with a certain ported, citing ministry segment of Canadian polispokeswoman tics and the policies which flow from that," India's for-Zakharova. Lavrov said on eign affairs minister S. The Indian govern-Thursday there was seri-Jaishankar said at an event. ment is angry that Canadian Canada had to withdraw 41 of its diplomats

from India on Thursday as New Delhi decided to unilaterally revoke their official diplomatic status.

**Monitoring Desk** lumbia. India denies the allegation. "The relationship MOSCOW: Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov right now is going through will visit Iran's capital Tehran on Monday, statea difficult phase. But I do want to say the problems run RIA news agency re-

ous risk that the Gaza conflict will become regional, and Russia is in contact with Turkey over the matter, the Interfax news agency reported.



family at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem.

## Turkiye to take part in Ukraine peace talks

**Monitoring Desk** KYIV: Turkiye will take

part in peace talks next week to discuss ways to end the Ukraine conflict, Presi-dent Volodymyr Zele-n-sky said on Saturday, after speak-ing with Turki-sh counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The Mediterranean

isla-nd of Malta announced it would host a round of Ukraine peace talks on Oct 28-29, after similar meetings in Jeddah and Copen-hagen earlier this year. "We discussed the next

round of the Peace Formula

talks in Malta," Zelensky said after a call with Erdogan. Turkiye will participate, adding its authoritative voice and stance," Zelensky said. Russia is not expected to take part in the talks, which Zelensky hopes will rally support for his own peace plan. Similar talks were held in Copenhagen in June and in the Saudi city of Jeddah in August. Řepresentatives from

around 40 countries inclu-ding China, India, the United States and Ukra-ine took part in the Saudi summit, which did not result in a final declaration.

## 'Heartbreaking' life-or-death decisions for Gaza's doctors

**Monitoring Desk** NEW YORK: Hospitals across the Gaza Strip are scrounging for fuel stocks to keep the lights on in critical wards and continue to save the lives of the relent-

less stream of wounded pa-

Serious shortages in other supplies, including ventilators, are forcing medical teams to prioritize the lives of those who can be saved for certain over severe cases that require complex care, said Dr. Mohammed Qandeel, who works in the Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis.

"It's heartbreaking, he told The Associated Press. "Every day, if we receive 10 severely injured patients, we have to manage with maybe three or days," he said.

five ICU beds available. We have to choose who must face death, or manage them in regular wards or do some limited care because we think as a medical team, between two patients in a life-threatening situation, we have to give the ventilator to the patient who has a higher chance of improving

Many departments in the hospital are plunged in darkness as medical staff allow electricity only in critical departments where patients risk death without it. On Friday the hospital was on its last stock of fuel, but managed to get another tank from UNRWA's existing stock on Saturday, said Qandeel. "This amount should last for three to five

in 24 hours.

#### Two killed in clashes between Iraqi army and Kurdish Peshmerga security sources

**Monitoring Desk** MOSUL: One Iraqi soldier was killed and a fighter of the Kurdish Peshmerga forces also died on Sunday as the two sides clashed in a mountainous northern area, Iraqi and Kurdish security sources said. Fighters of the

Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) had evacuated positions near the town of Makhmour on Saturday

#### Taiwan couple embraces garbage wedding shoot **Monitoring Desk**

NANTOU COUNTY: A Taiwanese couple decked out in a tux and gown embrace in front of a mountain of trash in an unorthodox wedding photo - one the environment-conscious bride hopes will discourage her guests from generating unnecesary garbage. Greenpeace cam-

paigner Iris Hsueh and her fiance are having their "environmentally friendly wedding" in January, and have asked guests to bring their own containers for taking home leftovers.

Deciding that showing not telling — was a more effective communication method, the Taipei-based couple travelled three hours south for a photo shoot in

#### China says it uncovered another spying case in US

**Monitoring Desk** agency said on Sunday a Chinese citizen who worked for a defense institute had been accused of spying for the United States and his case had been transferred to a court in the southwestern city of Chengdu for trial. The case s the latest to underscore Beijing's heightened commitment to national security, its expanded anti-spying laws and crackdown on domestic corruption.

Chinese state broadcaster CCTV said in a television report that a man surnamed Hou who worked at an undisclosed defense institute was sent in 2013 as a visiting scholar he was coerced into reveal- at "his company".

ing Chinese state secrets.
China's Ministry of State Security released a statement with the report on its WeChat social media account on Sunday, saying "espionage activities go hand in hand with deception, temptation, and conspiracy." The university was not named in the statement or media report. CCTV said a U.S. professor close to Hou introduced him to someone who claimed to be an employee of a consulting company, but was actually an American "intelligence officer" using the company as his cover, CCTV said.

In the ensuing months as they became more friendly, the intelligence officer approached Hou to to a U.S. university, where become a consulting expert

#### **Turkiye sends** humanitarian aid plane to Egypt for Gaza

**Monitoring Desk** ISTANBUL: Turkiye sent a plane with a medical team and supplies to Egypt on Sunday carrying humanitarian aid for Gaza, Turk-ish Health Minister

Fahrettin Koca said. "Our plane took off to help Gaza. The presidential plane filled with medicine and medical supplies, carrying 20 specialist doctors, departed from Ankara to Egypt," Koca said in a post on social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter. The footage shared by the minister showed boxes marked with their contents being loaded onto a Turkish presidency plane. "Our team will determine the necessary medicine, medical supplies and devices for the people of Gaza and carry out feasibility studies of field hos-

pitals to be set up at Egypt's El Arish Airport and Rafah Border Crossing," Koca said in a post late on Saturday.

Rafah is the main route in and out of the Gaza Strip that is not controlled by Israel, which has said it will allow no aid to enter from its territory until Hamas releases the hostages it took during its attack on Oct. 7.

It says aid can enter through Egypt provided supplies do not end up in the hands of Hamas.

Koca also said on Saturday that three cargo planes are scheduled to be sent to El Arish Airport carrying medicine, medical supplies and devices in addition to a ship carrying field hospital equipment and ambulances, once arrangements have been made with the relevant authorities.

## Cairo Peace Summit ends without breakthrough

**Monitoring Desk** 

CAIRO: Arab leaders at a Cairo summit on Saturday condemned Israeli bombardment of Gaza as Europeans said civilians should be shielded, but with Israeli and US officials absent there was no agreement towards containing the vio-

Egypt, which called the meeting and hosted it, said it had hoped participants would call for peace and resume efforts to resolve the decades-long Palestinian quest for state-

hood. But the meeting ended without leaders and foreign ministers agreeing a joint statement.

United Nations Secretary Gene-ral Antonio Guterres pleaded for a "humanitarian ceasefire" in Gaza to end "this godawful nightmare"

Guterres said the Palestinian enclave of 2.4 million people was living through "a humanitarian catastrophe", with thousands dead and more than a million displaced. The grievances of the

Palestinian people are legitimate and long" after "56 years of occupation with no

end in sight", the UN chief

He stressed that the Hamas raid "can never justify the collective punishment of the Palestinian people".

Gaza's health ministry said on Saturday Israel'Iranian female journalists awarded up to 7year sentences for covering

Mahsa Amini death s air and missile strikes had killed 4,385 Palestinians since the Hamas raid on Oct 7

While Arab and other Muslim states called for an immediate end to Israel's offensive, Western countries mostly voiced more modest goals such as humanitarian relief for civilians. Jordan's King Abdullah denounced global silence about Israel's attacks, which have killed thousands in Hamas-ruled Gaza and made over a million homeless, and urged an even-handed approach to the Israeli-Palestinian issue. "The message the Arab world is hearing is that Palestinian lives matter less than Israeli ones," he said,

adding he was outraged and

grieved by acts of violence

waged against innocent ci-

#### vilians in Gaza. Indonesia presidential candidate Prabowo picks Jokowi's son as running mate

**Monitoring Desk** JAKARTA: Indonesia's defence minister and presidential candidate Prabowo Subianto on Sunday announced incumbent leader Joko Widodo's eldest son as his running mate for next

year's election. The choice of Gibran Rakabuming Raka, 36, could be a boost for Prabowo's campaign due to Jokowi's huge popularity, even amid outrage this week over a court decision to change an eligibility requirement that would have prevented Gibran from running. Speaking after a meeting of his party and its coalition partners, Prabowo told a press conference there had been an agreement to nominate him as presidential candidate and Gibran Rakabuming Raka as

vice presidential candidate. The world's third-largest democracy will hold simultaneous presidential and legislative elections on Feb. 14, with nearly 205 million of Indonesia's more than 270 million population eligible to vote. Prabowo, 72, has led most opinion polls this year, including two this week, albeit by a narrow margin over the rulparty's Ganjar

Pranowo, a former Central Java governor, with ex-Jakarta governor Anies Baswedan a distant third. Ganjar and Anies, both

54, had signed up for the race on Thursday, the opening day of registration for presidential candidates. Jokowi said this week he had no involvement in presidential candidates, but political insiders have said the outgoing leader is seeking to retain influence and has been covertly marshalling support for former rival Prabowo, having earlier appeared to have backed Ganjar as the candidate of his PDI-P party.

Asked about the possibility of his son's nomination earlier on Sunday, President Jokowi said he will be "leaving it to the political parties' coalition,' adding that a parents' job is to pray for their children and give their blessings.

The alliance with Gibran could transfer some of Jokowi's support base to Prabowo and in turn boost the outgoing leader's chances of determining his own legacy by ensuring completion of key economic programmes he initiated, some analysts say.

## Ashrafi calls for global support for Palestine, unity among Muslims

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa- eration (OIC) to provide a nizations to investigate the Ummah. kistan Ulema Council Mahmood Ashrafi unequivocally expressed support for Palestine and called on the global community to acknowledge the rights of the Palestinian people.

He, addressing a recent conference organized to express solidarity with Palestinian people under the auspicious of Pakistan Ulema Council here, raised questions about the alleged military aggression in Syria and Lebanon and said Pakistan stood with Lebanon, Iraq, Iran, and Syria, in case of any aggression from Is-

Ashrafi hinted that if this war continued, it would not be confined to Egypt and Lebanon, it would ultimately engulf the entire

He called on the Organization of Islamic Coop-

roadmap for the Palestinian cause urging everyone to break their silence, warning that "if Palestinian children are targeted today, it may be children from other regions tomorrow." With the Presidency of the OIC now in the hands of Saudi Arabia, he expressed hope that it would take concrete steps to support Palestine.

He mentioned that Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir reiterated Pakistan's position in the Corps Commander Conference the other day, reemphasizing their unwavering support for Palestine. Highlighting the enduring blockade of Gaza, he said it had been a prison for sixteen years raising questions about the incident on October 7, which he attributed to the denial of Palestinian due rights.

Ashrafi called for international human rights orga-

MULTAN: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Chief, Siraj-ul-Haq along with others addresses

Sirajul Haq questions government's

response to Turbat killings

government's response to

gunmen killed six construc-

tion workers and injured

two others in a pre-dawn

attack on their camp near

Turbat in Balochistan's

labourers were sleeping in

an under-construction

house when they were at-

tacked, resulting in six in-

condolences to the grieving

The JI chief expressed

said the

the Turbat killings.

Kech district.

stant deaths.

Police

questioned the

On Oct 14, unidentified

to media persons during press conference, held in Multan.

and

hospital attack in Gaza, stressing that the suffering of Muslim children remained unseen. He emphasized that children were children, regardless of their origins expressing concerns over America's intention to cover up this disastrous in-

He acknowledged improved relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran and Syria and Arab nations. He reaffirmed the commitment to maintaining unity within the Ummah, rejecting any sectarian division. "We will not allow anyone to divide the Muslim Ummah based on the Shia-Sunni divide,' he stated. He emphasized the importance of global unity among Muslims and discouraged any division, highlighting the need to stand up against imperialism and extremist groups that aimed to divide and weaken the Muslim

He lamented the ab-

sence of visits from the

president of Pakistan, the

chief minister or the gover-

nor to condole the impov-

erished families who had

labourers had gone to Balochistan to make a liv-

ing, not to engage in politi-

cal activities or commit rob-

criticised the police and

poor. He claimed that when

the mother of a poor per-

son cried out for justice,

they seemed to turn a blind

First-ever

literary

symposium to

be held today

Qazi, Dr Abdul Rauf Rafiqi,

Dr. Irfan Ahmed Baig, Agha

Gul, Professor Khursheed

Afroz, Major (Retd) Nadir

Hussain Zamarud, and oth-

ers would be participating

in the symposium. This

symposium would also

provide an opportunity to

the students to participate

in a literary event.

eye to her pleas.

He said that these

The JI chief also

lost their loved ones.

Ashrafi warned that colonial powers sought to establish extremist organizations to disrupt the unity of Islamic countries, referencing bomb blasts and terrorist attacks as part of this He shared insights into past attempts to incite religious tensions in Pakistan,

rious designs. to protest the violence against Muslims in various regions including Kashmir,

Palestine, and other parts

of the world.

noting that the national security institutions and scholars had worked together to thwart such ne-In his closing remarks, Ashrafi called for a boycott of Israeli products and expressed that Muslim nations should come together

conspiracy.



HYDERABAD: Leaders and members of Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM-P) are holding protest demonstration against Israeli cruel and inhumane acts and express unity with the innocent people of Palestine, at Hyderabad press club.

#### Pakistan suggests reforms in UNSC to end Gaza, other global clashes

NEW YORK (INP): Pakistan has stressed the need to revive the two-state solution to the Palestinian crisis for durable peace in the region at the United Na-

Speaking in a debate on the contributions of regional mechanisms for peace and security in the Security Council, Pakistan's Ambassador to the UN, Munir Akram said the twostate solution is the only option for a durable peace in the Holy Land.

He expressed the hope that after the Security Council's failure, the General Assembly will take action and demand an immediate ceasefire; full, unhindered, and sustainable humanitarian access to the suffering people in Gaza, and ensure that they are not odic elections.

displaced within or outside Speaking about the Security Council's shortcomings, Munir Akram said these arise mainly due to

the veto power of the five permanent members. He said the Security Council, which has the primary responsibility to promote world peace, has failed to "stop the slaughter in Gaza", as it also

failed in Jammu and Kash-

The Pakistani envoy said the Security Council's failures can be addressed by making it more representative and democratic, by enlarging the voice of the majority of small and mediumsized states, and more accountable through the democratic method of peri-

#### **CT Minister Information hails** most successful visit of PM Anwaar Kakar to China

**Independent Report** QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has emphatically welcomed the most successful visit of Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar to

media, accusing them of favouring the rich over the Minister said that the caretaker Prime Minister reiterated Pakistan's pledge to the timely completion of China – Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) besides wholeheartedly advocating the need of collective efforts for regional coordination and prosperity. During the visit, the caretaker Prime Minister made assurance to complete the CPEC projects. Jan Achakzai mentioned that the Prime Minister visited China on the invitation of Chinese

President. Besides participating and addressing the Belt and Road Initiative in China, the caretaker Prime Minister Mr Kakar also had meet-

what the world of Islam

needs Salahuddin Ayyubi

today. The United Nations,

European Union, OIC and

human rights organizations

should stop the brutal op-

pression of Israel on Pales-

pressed by Central Vice

President Balochistan

Awami Party (BAP) Sena-

tor Samina Mumtaz Zehri

while condemning the on-

going persecution of Pales-

tinians and the deaths due

to heavy shelling by the

rael has taken control of the

United States, India, and

the United Kingdom, all

She said that while Is-

as a result of Israeli merci-tioned.

usurper Israel.

These views were ex-

Prime Minister of China as well as the President of Russia, and other government and state functionaries of different countries including the leaders of Communist Party.

The caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq In an official statement Kakar also briefed the Chineed here, the Information nese traders about the initiatives of Pakistan for economic and financial stability besides the vision of his country about comprehensive and sustainable devel-During his visit, the

Prime Minister also presented the salient features of Pakistan's investment friendly policies which include the establishment of special investment facilitation council. The special investment

facilitation council would perform as one window platform to facilitate the foreign investors. The provincial Minister Information especially hailed the 20 agreements and memorandum of understanding being with the President and tween the two countries. UN failed to stop

hospitals, and refugee

Mumtaz Zahri further said

that the loss of innocent

lives in Palestine is a mat-

ter of concern for Muslim

Muslim Countries (OIC)

should immediately use its

influence to play an effec-

tive role for the immediate

cessation of hostilities and

the protection of innocent

Palestinians. The United

Nations Security Council

whose primary responsibil-

ity is to promote world

peace, but unfortunately, it

has failed to prevent atroci-

ties and massacres on the

The Organization of

# MIRPIR (AJK): (APP):

and lecturer at Balochistan University of Information Technology Engineering and Management Sciences, Ms. Urooj Khan, called on President Azad Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry at Jammu Kashmir House in the federal metropolis on Sunday. Ms Khan briefed the

AJK President on this occasion about the ongoing cooperation between the students and youth of Balochistan and Azad Kashmir in social and cultural fields. Speaking on the occasion, Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry said that it was gratifying to note that the youth of Balochistan and Azad Jammu Kashmir were working together to foster cooperation in different fields of life.

#### **Fawad Chaudhry** meets Tareen

LAHORE (APP): Former information minister Fawad Chaudhry met Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) Patron-in-Chief Jahangir Khan Tareen on Sunday.

tary Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan told APP that Aun Chaudhry was also part of the meeting. She said the meeting discussed political situation in the country and the upcoming general elec-

Sources said Fawad Chaudhry would become active in politics from the IPP platform now after keeping in low profile for many months. To a query Dr Firdous said her party would continue extending unwavering support to de-mocracy in the country, and added that the party leadership was dedicated to addressing problems and is-

#### in Palestine, Israel talks world to come forward to eries of Palestinians people

Acting Ambassador of Palestine Nader Al Turk has lauded China for showing its readiness to play a constructive role in easing tensions between Palestine and Israel and promoting peace talks. Addressing a webinar

titled, "War Crimes Gaza: The impact, consequences, and international response & responsibility", the envoy called out the "double standards" of the so-called civilised world and international organisations responsible of ruthless killings of innocent children, women and elderly men living in Gaza, said a press release issued here on Sunday.

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The webinar was jointly hosted by the Center of South Asia and International Studies (CSAIS) Islamabad and the Institute of Legal Studies Lahore.

Nader shared the perpetual miseries of Palestinians and called for immediate justice in terms of two state solution, guarantor of durable peace and stability in the Middle East a rest of the world.

He urged to regional countries and the Muslim elaborated the historic mis-

stop Israel from state terrorism and indiscriminate bombardment on civilian society and installations in

Interestingly he maintained that his country did not have any religious or ethnic issue with Jews but facing lots of onslaughts from the fanatic Zionists, creating serious issues for humans and humanity.

Palestine envoy lauded

China for promoting peace

He rightly highlighted the biased stance of the USA, UK and some western countries strongly supporting Israelis and ironically honoring their false, fake and fabricated propaganda and tall claims like assignation of children and attack on hospital in Gaza by Palestinians themselves. Furthermore, he shared that in persuasions of naked aggression Israeli forces attacked on Orthodox Church showing no respect to other religions. Nader the DHM was confident that patience, determination, and plight of Palestinians will be awarded very soon and they will be free in their actions and homes. Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan in his speech starting from 1947.

Dr Khan was of the opinion that the land of unlimited prophesies, holy personalities and places was under fire again because of indiscriminate bombardment of Israel air force even on civilian population. Unfortunately Gaza has become the biggest modern day jail for the 2.6 million helpless Palestinians he

While mentioning the sufferings of Palestinians he said that "Gaza is besieged and bleeding and more than 4500 people have so far been killed. Immense collateral damage has been done converting buildings and apartments into debris"

"The Israel forces have been wagging unstoppable human siege, brutality, drastic demographic decomposition, social and political marginalization, alienation, and ruthless killing" he further said. He labeled the socalled Century Deal or Abraham Peace Deal as total disasters. It has undermined the basis of a two-state solution and to cut off the continuity of the old state of Palestine he



#### AJK and Balochistan vouth for cooperation on Social media begins

:Prominent social activist

IPP Information Secre-

sues of the public

#### 16 more arrested as crackdown against illegal immigrants continues in metropolis illegal immigrants so far, the

**Independent Report** QUETTA: As many as 16 more illegal immigrants were arrested as crackdown against them remained continued in the provincial metropolis on Sunday.

The police sources informed that the arrests of undocumented immigrantsall Afghan nationals-were made from different localities in the metropolis.

The sources informed that the cases were registered against the arrested

sources informed According to a senior police official, over 270 il-

legal immigrants have been arrested so far. Those arrested were deported to their country,

the police official informed. Needless to mention here is that the crackdown is continued by the police and local administration against the undocumented immigrants on directives

of the provincial govern-In all 52 cases have been registered against the state's policy to repatriate all the illegal ones till October 31, 2023. ment in light of the state's

#### DC chairs meeting to improve law & order situation in Duki

QUETTA (APP)- Deputy Commissioner Duki Captain ® Fayyaz Ali presided over a meeting to improve law and order situation in the district on Sunday. District Chairman Haji

Khairullah Nasir, Assistant Commissioner Chautali Ghulam Mustafa Baloch, Rasaldar Levies Israr Ahmed Tareen and Sardarzada Jahanzaib Khan Nasir participated in the meeting.

In the meeting, a plan of action was drawn up regarding the incident that occurred due to firing over a land dispute at Jhalar and the injury of Sardar Akbar Khan Nasir and his bodyguards and the death of one bodyguard.

District Chairman Haji Khairullah Nasir proposed to establish a temporary Levies checkpoint at Jhalar to maintain peace and order between the parties.

Duki Captain (Rtd) Fayyaz Ali while addressing the meeting said that to maintain peace and order, all possible measures would be taken to maintain law and order situation by establishing a temporary Levies checkpoint in Jhalar. He said that the government would take strict ac-

On this occasion,

Deputy Commissioner

tion against the people who attacked by firing tomorrow and arrest them and present them before the He said that the parties

should work with patience and present their case in a legal way, fighting and arguing is not the solution to the problems.

The district administration will take all possible measures in cooperation with the police to maintain law and order situation, he

#### vulnerable in the country, tims **Local racer Jeeyand Hoth wins** Gwadar off-road Jeep rally: Magsi remained runner-up

He argued that there representative had offered

tection for the rights of the families of the shooting vic-

**Independent Report** QUETTA: The local racer of Gwadar, Jeeyand Hoth won the Gwadat off-road Jeep Rally that come to an

SHUJAABAD

Jamaat-e-Islami chief

Sirajul Haq expressed deep

concern over the alarm-

ing surge in crimes across

Pakistan on Sunday, stat-

ing that incidents involving shedding the blood of

the weak, burning the houses of the vulnerable

and kidnapping anyone's

daughter had become dis-

turbingly common in the

these views during his visit

to the residence of a victim

was a severe lack of pro-

of the Turbat shooting

The JI chief conveyed

end in Gwadar on Sunday. The eminent racer and political and tribal personality and former Minister, Nawabzada Nadir Magsi finished runners-up in the Gwadar off-road Jeep rally. Another local racer

from Gwadar, Abdul Rehman Kalmati remained third in the Jeep rally. While the winner Jeeyand Hoth finished the

race in 1 hour and 37 minutes covering the 250-kilometer track, Nawabzada Nadir Magsi took 1 hour race and Abdul Rehman fin-

final and closing round of

and 47 minutes to finish the rally in the port city.

ished it 1 hour 58 minutes. At least 200 racers including 10 foreigners featured in the Gwadar off-

ing the event.

road jeep rally. The senator Kohda day). According to the chairman of BRG, Sheikh Fareed, the prominent lit-Addressing the final erary personalities including Dr. Firdous Anwar

round ceremony, Kohda Babar congratulated the position holders of the rally and appreciated the organizer for successfully hold-

He said that the organizers provided excellent opportunity to the people of Gwadar and other areas to witness the thrilling jeep

**Independent Report** QUETTA: The first ever literary symposium is scheduled to be held under the auspices of Balochistan Writers Guild at the Sagiba Girls College today (Mon-

Babar was chief guest at the

#### Tareen says PPP playing role for keeping peace, dev. of country for public interest

People's Party (PPP) Quetta Division President Khair Muhammad Tareen on Sunday said that the PPP was playing importance role for maintaining peace development of the country for public interest.

Today is not the time for chaos, the PPP will get success by taking full part in local body elections of

views while talking to a delegation of party workers called on him at the PPP Quetta Division of-

He said that the PPP is the only political party which is always serving the people regardless of caste

He said that the Pakistan People's Party is ready

to participate in the general

He expressed these elections and the party would not back down from the demand to hold the general elections within the stipulated period.

He said that the party is active and organized in Balochistan, as the People's Party has achieved great success in the local body elections across the province, the party would gain great success in Quetta elec-

tions as well.



KARACHI: Police personals stands alert during Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen march toward the US consulate during protest rally against Israeli airstrikes on Gaza, and to show solidarity with Palestinian people, in Provincial Capital.

#### 282 MW clean, green energy to be added to national grid by 2024

Muslims in Gaza are dying citizens of Gaza, she men-

carnage in Gaza

QUETTA (APP): This is less airstrikes of mosques,

ISLAMABAD (APP): At HND Energy (Pvt) Ltd, least 282 megawatts (MW) of clean and green energy will be added to the national grid system through solar, wind, and biomass by 2024.

Sharing details of the projects, official sources said that out of a total of 282 MW, 150 MW would be added to the system through solar, 100 MW through wind while remaining 32 MW from biomass.

They said that 150 MW through three solar projects including 50 MW Meridian Energy (Pvt) Ltd,

and Helios Power (Pvt) Ltd was likely to start supplying electricity in the next month. Similarly, 50 MW each Independent Power Producers (IPPs) wind projects- Western Energy (Pvt) Ltd and Transatlantic Énergy (Pvt) Ltd were in different stages of devel-

opment, they said. They said that 32 MW Shah Taj Sugar Mills Ltd based on biomass would start generating by January