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dailyindisb@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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Health Card Programme launched in Balochistan finally; over 2.3 million families to get free medical facilities

Caretaker CM reiterates government's resolve to play wholehearted role and provide resources to make exemplary Health Card Programme

Independent Report
QUETTA: The much-awaited and ambitious Health Card Programme has been launched by the interim government in Balochistan finally.

The caretaker Chief Minister, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki formally inaugurated the programme at the Chief Minister's secretariat here on Friday morning.

Over 2.3 million families having computerized national identity cards (CNICs) with permanent residence of the province would benefit from the programme. The families would get free treatment for different diseases at over 1200 public and private hospitals all over the province.

The launching ceremony was attended by the caretaker Minister for

Health, Dr. Amir Muhammad Khan Jogezi, Minister Information, Jan Achakzai besides other members of the interim provincial cabinet and advisors to the Chief Minister, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Inspector General of Police, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh, administrative secretaries of the provincial government departments and other concerned high

ups and government functionaries.

Addressing the launching ceremony, Chief Minister said that the provincial government decided to provide free medical treatment facilities to all citizens of the province through the Health Cards.

He announced free medical treatment for the general public belonging to the province.



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki addressing the Balochistan Health Card launching ceremony.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting regarding progress of filling up of vacant seats for marginalized areas in civil bureaucracy through special examinations as well as rotation policy.

General elections' decision will be implement in the country: Anwar-ul-Haq

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar has said that he will implement the court decision regarding the holding of general elections in the country.

All political parties will get a level playing field in the elections: PM

He said that the consultation was definitely done, but the date of the elections was given by the Election Commission.

Illegal immigrant Afghans can return to their homeland and get a visa, said care taker prime minister. Talking to private TV, the caretaker prime minister said that no party has been stopped from holding rallies, they have to stay within the law.

To a question, he said illegal immigrants, Afghans can return to their homeland and bring visas.

The goal of deporting illegal residents is to regulate them. The government will not take over the business of a foreigner. The return of immigrants who today are bragging will be praised tomorrow. Caretaker Prime Minister said that it is a wrong impression that people's cases of May 9 incidents ended after holding a press conference. There are many people who are suffering cases despite condemnation. There is a big difference between detention for investigation and enforced disappearance. He said you cannot say that security agencies cannot interrogate. Do not call those who are picked up for investigation as missing persons. On another question, Anwar Haq Kakar said that the fate of Chairman Pakistan Cricket Board will decide after the World Cup.

Governor flays attack on security forces vehicles at coastal highway

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has strongly condemned the terrorists attack on the vehicles of security forces near Pasni and Ormara.

In a condemnation statement issued here on Friday, the Governor expressed condolence and sympathy with the bereaved families of the martyrs.

He also paid homage to the martyr security personnel and said that they embraced martyrdom in line of duty.

He also said that the sacrifices of martyrs would not go wasted and no one would be allowed to sabotage the peaceful situation of province.

Caretaker Minister Law & Prosecution meets Turkish Ambassador

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Law and Prosecution, Amanullah Kanrani called on the Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan, Dr. Mehmet Pecaci here at the Turkish Embassy on Friday.

During the course of meeting, the Minister Law discussed the matters of mutual interests as well as the potential of natural resources Balochistan has.

He described it very important and need of the hour to benefit from the opportunities of investment and excellent mutual harmony among masses. Mr Kanrani also termed the mutual relations between Turkey and Pakistan a beautiful bouquet of the brother Islamic countries.

Newly-appointed NHA Chairman assumes charge

ISLAMABAD (APP): Newly-appointed National Highway Authority (NHA) Chairman Arshad Majeed Mohmand on Friday assumed charge of his office.

Earlier on his arrival at the NHA headquarters, he was warmly received by the staff and officers. Arshad Majeed Mohmand, a Grade-21 officer of the Pakistan Administrative Service, has served as Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Petroleum, besides on key positions in KP and Baluchistan.

14 soldiers martyred as terrorists attack security forces' vehicles in Gwadar

CM slams attack on security forces vehicle: Terrorism incidents conspiracy to spoil peace of Balochistan: Domki

RAWALPINDI (APP): At least 14 soldiers embraced 'shahadat' when two vehicles of security forces moving from Pasni to Ormara in Gwadar District, were ambushed by the terrorists, Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Friday. "Sanitization operation is being carried out in the area and perpetrators of this heinous act will be hunted down and brought to justice," an ISPR press release said.

"Security forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the country and such sacrifices of our

brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve," it added.

Meanwhile, Balochistan Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki on Friday strongly condemned the attack on the vehicle of the security forces between Pasni and Ormara area of Balochistan.

In his statement, he said that attacking the security forces for protecting the lives and property of the people was a cowardly act which could not weaken the morale of the force and nation,

Chief Minister paid

tribute to the martyred youths in the attack and expressed his condolences to the families of the martyrs. He said that the incidents of terrorism were a conspiracy to destabilize the peace of Balochistan saying that the people and the security forces would root out sabotage and terrorism from the country.

The Chief Minister said that no one would be allowed to disturb the peace in the province, saying that the entire nation was proud of its security forces and stood with the security forces to strengthen the defence of the country.

Bomb blast kills 5, injures 24 in DI Khan

Four passer-by also killed, 15 cops, civilians injured in terrorist attack on police vehicle

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): At least five passers-by were killed and 24 others, including policemen and civilians were injured in a bomb blast targeting a police van in Dera Ismail Khan on Friday.

District Police Officer (DPO) Abdul Rauf Babar Qaisrani, while talking to media said, the blast occurred when a police convoy was going towards a check post near Tank Adda. He said that an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) planted in a motorcycle exploded near the police van through a mobile phone.

The five people killed on the spot were identified as Qamar Zaman, Izzat

Ullah, Siffat Ullah and two others. The injured were identified as Marzak Khan, Abdul Hameed, Muhammad Ishaq, Qudrat Ullah, Ameer hamza, Ehtesham, Shakeel, Rajab, Aman Ullah, Jalal Uddin, Hamd Ullah, Waqas, Nasir, Zubair, Maulana Abdul Sattar, Rahil Israel, Shereen Bibi, Yasmeen Bibi, Constable Rehman Ullah and Traffic Constable Naveed Akhtar.

The DPO condemned the attack and said that it was a cowardly act of terrorism. He said that the police were in a war against terrorism and would not be deterred by such attacks.



QUETTA: Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari meeting with Balochistan Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

Right of Pakistan to expel illegal immigrants: Jan Achakzai dispels impression of forced expulsion of Afghan refugees from Pakistan

CT Minister Information says efforts expedited to repatriate illegal immigrants honourably; over 100,000 CNICs blocked in province; around 50,000 immigrants repatriated so far

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has categorically dispelled the impression about forced expulsion of Afghan refugees and made it clear that only the illegal immigrants are being repatriated to their countries and that in an honourable manner.

While addressing press conference along with the Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat here at the Quetta

Press Club on Friday afternoon, the Minister Information said that the statement of Afghan Defence Minister is sorrowful that Pakistan is expelling the Afghan refugees forcefully. He made it clear that only those illegal immigrants are being repatriated, who belong to any country.

He said that it is right of Pakistan to expel the illegal immigrants, and adding he mentioned that it is sort of kindness that they (illegal immigrants) are be-

Asad Qaiser arrests from Bani Gala

ISLAMABAD (Online): Former Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser has been arrested from Bani Gala.

Asad Qaiser has been arrested on charges of corruption. Anti-corruption officials have arrested him from Bani Gala.

Asad Qaiser Guju Khan Medical College Swabi is nominated for corruption in procurement of medical equipment.

Jan, Zubair slams attack on security forces

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai and the Minister for Home, Mir Zubair Jamali have strongly condemned the terrorist attack on the security forces on the coastal highway Makran.

In the separate condemnation statement issued here on Friday, Jan Achakzai and Zubair Jamali paid homage to the security personnel martyred in the terrorism attack.

They expressed condolence with the bereaved families of the martyrs.

They said that the terrorists want to destroy peace of the province.

ECP notifies Feb 8 as date for polls SC orders govt to ensure elections on February 8

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa has remarked general election will take place on February 08 by the grace of Almighty Allah. He gave these remarks while presiding over 3-member bench of Supreme Court (SC) during the hearing of multiple pleas seeking timely elections within 90 days of the dissolution of the assemblies. The document signed by president Arif Alvi on holding polls within 90 days in the country was presented in the SC.

A reply duly signed by officer of grade-22 from President house was filed in the court. President assented to February 8, 2024 for holding general election. Election Commission (EC) presented the notification on holding election on February 08 in the SC.

The court disposed of all the petitions with the order of the court. The court issued written order for wrapping up petitions seeking holding election within 90 days.

It has been said in written order one Prime Minister (PM) was removed through vote of no confidence in the near past. Vote of no confidence led the country to political crisis. SC took suo motu notice on political matter. President dissolved National Assembly (NA) after no confidence motion. It was unconstitutional process. President cannot dissolve assembly on the advice of PM after no confidence motion.



ISLAMABAD: The Honorable Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Qazi Faez Isa administering the oath of office to Honorable Justice Irfan Saadat Khan, Acting Chief Justice of the High Court of Sindh as Judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan at the Supreme Court.

Balochistan facing natural disaster for past decades including drought: Governor

QUETTA (APP): Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar on Friday said that unfortunately, Balochistan has been facing natural disasters for the past several decades, including drought.

Earthquakes and floods have been frequent, resulting in large-scale damage to both the agriculture and livestock sectors.

Modern science and technology have enabled mankind to minimize the risks and damages faced by natural disasters with its comprehensive strategy and timely planning, he said.

He expressed these views while talking to Chairman of Pakistan Red Crescent Society, Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari called on him at Governor House here. Chairman of Red Crescent Balochistan Taki Shafiqat Longove was also present in the meeting.

Balochistan Governor said that there was a strong possibility that mankind

would become stronger and more stable in the near future saying that the landlords and poor farmers of the entire province were going through a lot of difficulties and they should be provided with a special package including cheap electricity and quality seeds. He said that to deal with any possible future emergency, we have to plan long-term and short-term and to increase the capacity of the people working in the relevant institutions.

A large number of volunteers will have to be created at the Union Council level. It is a fact that political organizations can also play an effective role in highlighting the voluntary spirit and sense of community and welfare activities and service, he mentioned.

He said that it was a tragedy for people all over the world that even after taking a long journey of evolution and development, people have not yet succeeded.



QUETTA: Balochistan Caretaker Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai addresses to media persons during press conference, at QPC



QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafiqat meeting with Caretaker Provincial Home Minister Capt (ret) Muhammad Zubair Jamali.

Solangi for media's role to reverse negative impacts of climate change

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister of Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Friday urged official media to join hands with private media houses to create awareness about negative impacts of climate change.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of establishment of climate change desk at PTV, he said today the first step had been taken by PTV management for which it deserved appreciation. Lauding the PTV management for acting swiftly, he said that the climate change desk has been established and connected with regional stations and dedicated reporters have been appointed.

The minister urged the private media to adopt this model on coverage of climate change issues.

The minister issued directives to Ministries of

Climate Change and Information and Broadcasting to work together on this front.

He said that Information Service Academy should start providing training to reporters, researchers on this subject.

Murtaza Solangi also called for mobilization of social media and other digital platforms in fight against climate change. He said that the journalists working in climate change desk should visit the regions affected by climate change and meet the local people.

He proposed that media persons should also engage parents, teachers and experts in different fields as entire society has to be mobilized regarding climate change.

The minister said that climate change was a big threat for the planet earth establishment of Climate Change Desk in PTV was a great step in the right direction.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Finally, a date

A meeting held between the Election Commission of Pakistan and President Arif Alvi has yielded a specific date for the next general elections: Feb 8, 2024. Earlier in the day, the ECP had informed the court that it had scheduled the date for Feb 11, but was told to consult the president.

The agreement has come as a relief to those who believed that polls would not be held anytime soon. No doubt, it is very welcome news, even if it means that the ECP will once again be breaking its word as the date represents a slight delay from the 'end of January' timeline, which the electoral body gave in late September and affirmed last week.

It also represents a 95-day violation of the deadline to hold elections according to the Constitution. The court, while hearing the matter, had rubbished the assertion of the law ministry and ECP that the president had no authority to give election dates.

It seems this matter has now attained finality. While dictating the court's order, Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa said that whatever date is decided by the ECP and the president will have to be implemented. "The final date for polls will be announced from the Supreme Court," he said.

This should be the cue for the ECP and all political parties to begin election preparations in earnest. The former has three months to ensure a 'free, fair, impartial and inclusive election'.

It seems like a tall order, given the prevailing political climate and parties' repeated complaints about being denied a level playing field. The political parties, too, need to regroup, vet their candidates, organise campaigns and start mobilising voters for the big day. Because so little has been done in preparation for the exercise up till now, they have a long and bumpy road ahead of them. The Supreme Court has given them a head start, and they should take advantage of it.

Now that the fog has lifted, the ECP will be under constant scrutiny. It wilfully violated the Constitution on multiple occasions this year, justifying each violation with the excuse that it was necessary in order to hold elections that could pass a high standard of fairness.

If, after all these violations, the participating parties are still denied an equal opportunity to present their case to the public, then all of it will have been for nothing. It must, at the very least, demonstrate that it was acting in good faith.

There is also talk about giving the delay in elections legal cover under Article 254. However, this should not mean that those who conspired to violate the Constitution are let off without penalty. The consequences must be severe and exemplary for all involved.

Growing millions



Zubeida Mustafa

One of the major factors contributing to the environmental crisis in Pakistan is the unbridled population growth rate. Environmentalists generally focus more on issues such as climate change and global warming caused by carbon emissions, which are the result of industrialisation, deforestation and water mismanagement. It must, however, be noted that rapid population increase is at the root of all these evils. Moreover, it also has a negative impact on human development, both individually and collectively.

More shocking than the country's astounding fertility rate is the government's indifference vis-à-vis the demographic problem. We are way behind many developing states that have a phenomenal record in curbing their population growth rate. We are the fifth most populous state in the world today. I believe this is the major cause of our underdevelopment as it is not possible to meet the basic needs of the whopping numbers who constitute Pakistan today, plus the six million or so who join their ranks every year.

The census in 2023 recorded our population at 241m, an increase of 33m in just six years since the previous head count of 2017. The growth rate was 2.55 per cent. Unless drastic measures are taken the numbers will grow. As Thomas Malthus has reminded us again and again, population grows geometrically while food production increases arithmetically. If this pattern continues for

too long then famine, conflict and epidemics intervene to restore the balance.

To give one an idea of how this is reflected in the people's lives take a look at this data. Today, the Total Fertility Rate (the average number of children that married women of reproductive age have) stands at 3.6. It should be 1.9 if we want our population size to be stationary. The contraceptive prevalence rate is 34pc, which includes the 10pc who claim to use conventional methods that are not reliable. Worse still is the high unmet need of 17pc, denoting couples who do not want to have more children but do not have access to contraceptives. The government has failed in all respects due to a lack of political will, corruption and ineptitude. Also at work is the planners' inability to understand the relationship between family planning and the empowerment of women. The fact is that underpinning our population programme is the low status of women in Pakistan. That creates pressure on mothers of girls to continue bearing children until two sons are born. Sons are regarded as status symbol for a family.

Interestingly, some NGO members in the family planning sector tell me that the latest trend among women who have had some education and are working is to opt for a small family, even if it means forgoing sons. The problem is that even these women generally have no control over decision-making in their homes and are as powerless in the latter as they are in society. Hence their wish with regard to family size does not prevail. It seems so unfair that women have to submit to their menfolk's dictat even though the burden of pregnancy and child-rearing falls on the

mother.

Yet our population planners are blind to this new trend. Small wonder the focus is heavily on women who are at the receiving end of all counselling on the use of contraceptives and the importance of planned families. Why are men not mobilised and made aware of how our rapidly growing population is creating problems for them as well as for the country?

There is growing evidence that mindsets can be changed by talking to people and giving them the space to talk about their views regarding their problems and how they can be resolved. This dialogue is important if solutions to people's problems are to be found and awareness created. True, these are issues of a very personal nature but they have a direct bearing on people's lives.

Hence the need of the hour is to make the subject of family planning a priority and part of the national discourse. Its implications must be discussed freely in all private and public forums. The focus should be on the 6m babies born each year. They have basic rights which neither the state nor the parents can fulfil. That makes their lives brutish. The newborns add to the backlog of poverty, illiteracy and disease, and also make development an impossible task. Ironically, this is happening in a country that is already child-unfriendly and where children are maltreated and abused.

Were the caretaker government to launch a national discourse on the population issue on various public platforms and get population departments to pull up their socks, a useful beginning could be made. -- Courtesy Dawn

Sectarian harmony



Jan-e-Alam Khaki

Gilgit-Baltistan was recently in the news because of a sectarian standoff. Luckily, the ulama in GB agreed to put their sectarian differences aside and help the regional government maintain law and order. The move reflected the wisdom of the religious leaders of two communities, who in the spirit of true Muslim brotherhood, decided to resolve mutual differences through dialogue and discussion.

But putting aside sectarian strife means that it has only been suppressed temporarily. How can communities in GB (and maybe elsewhere) resolve thorny faith-related issues on a long-term basis?

As an editorial in this paper rightly points out: "Communal differences may only be a trigger for the protests, as there are several underlying factors in GB fueling disaffection in the region." Among these underlying factors is the sociocultural landscape.

GB comprises several breathtaking valleys. The region may appear like a monolith, but in fact, it is not one. Its population comprises various, distinct cultures in terms of language, outlook and faith traditions. Its religious landscape comprises four major Muslim communities — Sunnis, Shias, Ismailis and Noor Bukhshis, often found in clearly defined areas. However, many villages and towns host mixed populations. There are many intercommunal marriages, but the atmosphere is generally very peaceful. For example, in my village in Hunza, there were a few members of the Sunni community and

around a dozen Shia families some decades ago, but incidents of violence were unheard of.

They were well integrated in the same village as was the case in other villages of GB. Issues would randomly crop up in the relatively urban city of Gilgit where many communities live and earn, vying for a few jobs. The area is now a hotbed of political activity often influenced by the political orientations of southern Pakistan. This external factor often makes GB, metaphorically speaking, a 'seismically active' zone. The rise and fall of rival political parties have a direct bearing on GB politics.

Added to this factor is the contentious issue of GB's political position. Afzal Shigri, who belongs to the area, rightly calls it "a constitutional black hole", which is neither fully integrated with, nor fully independent of, Pakistan, but often referred to as a 'disputed area', leading to a confused political status. It has no representation in the federal constitutional bodies, such as the National Assembly or Senate, or access to Supreme Court, due largely to disputed relations. For as long as the area was undereducated, there was little turmoil. But gradually political consciousness rose and as of now, there are more educated and enlightened youth. As they become intellectually astute, they also acquire political sensitivity and are, therefore, in ever-louder voices, demanding a constitutional status for GB.

Sectarian differences also erupt on the pretext of some provocative issue or the other, or because of adverse statements from popular religious leaders, and can add to existing tensions. Historically, differences over the interpretations of faith have existed for a long time. Though in many regions these dif-

ferences have subsided, and there is some semblance of communal harmony, contentions still exist. However, people have learnt to manage their disagreements to live peacefully.

Together, these matters exacerbate sectarian strains in some places, and have even made religion an ultra-sensitive subject though it does not affect any community's interests directly as state policies are based on non-sectarian strategies. Religion, which should, first and foremost, try and achieve the objective of bringing humanity together, has now become for many, including in GB, a factor in discord.

In my opinion, the first step towards peace would be for the ulama of all schools of thought to refrain from stirring up emotions with rhetorical and hyperbolic speeches that can lead to ill feelings for each other. We should resist the temptation to scratch old wounds, which can kindle new conflicts. The good news is that many seasoned ulama are now taking a more positive approach towards other communities, and hopefully, this trend will persist into the future.

GB, in sum, is on the highway of development — this is a strong motivation for higher education, women empowerment, greater upward mobility of its educated class, the cost-effective use of agricultural products. So, staying on this path of development is in the best interest of all communities. Therefore, communities should be proud of helping, rather than, hurting each other in the 21st century's global village. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

SBP, AMF ink MoU to facilitate cross-border remittances

Independent Report

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) on Friday inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to facilitate cross-border remittances between the Arab region and Pakistan through formal channels.

The MoU was signed by Director General Chairman of the Board of AMF Dr Abdulrahman Bin Abdullah Al Hamidi and SBP Governor Jameel Ahmad in a ceremony hosted by the Arab Monetary Fund in Abu Dhabi, an SBP press

release here said.

The AMF and the SBP, under the MoU, would establish a framework of cooperation between Bona, the cross-border payment system operated by the AMF owned Arab Regional Payments Clearing and Settlement Organization (ARPCSO) and Pakistan's Instant Payment System Raast.

"The initiative will benefit individuals as well as businesses not only through instant, safe and cost-effective cross border payments, but also by strengthening economic,

financial, and investment ties between the Arab countries and Pakistan," the press release said.

Dr. Abdulrahman Hamidi, commenting on the MoU, said that the strategic collaboration with Raast underscored Bona's commitment to continue connecting different regions together and reinforcing economic, financial, and investment ties between the Arab region and its main global partners. "This resonates with the shared vision of innovating cross-border payment solutions to offer safe and efficient cross-

border instant payments access for individuals and corporates", he added.

Vowing to increase cross-border remittances by reducing costs and processing times Dr Hamidi said that the initiative confirmed the global character of Bona which adhered to the highest compliance standards to connect the Arab region with its main global partners in line with the vision of its founders.

The SBP governor, speaking at the occasion, termed the MoU a significant strategic achievement.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Privatisation, Fawad Hasan Fawad chairing a meeting with FA on FWBL.



ISLAMABAD: Secretary of the Board of Investment at the Prime Minister's Office, Muhammad Sohail Rajput, engaged in a productive meeting with the esteemed delegation led by Chief Representative, Yasumitsu Kinoshita from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

NDRMF, OGDCL sign MoU

ISLAMABAD (APP): To promote socially responsible and environmentally friendly practices in the field of oil and gas exploration and production in line with the sustainable development goals, the National Disaster Risk Management Fund Oil & Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) agreed to work on joint projects. An MoU signing ceremony in this regard here, in which Bilal Anwer CEO NDRMF and Ahmed Hayat Lak Managing Director/CEO of OGDCL signed the

agreement. Under this partnership, NDRMF intends to establish its linkages with OGDCL for larger cooperation and linkages for research and capacity development activities for socially responsible and environmentally friendly adaptations in the field.

Collaborating for knowledge exchange and capacity building in the areas of climate change, and disaster risk reduction, through the holding of seminars, workshops and events on areas of mutual interest will play a vital role in achieving the objectives.

HESCO recovers 151 million rupees in recent actions

HYDERABAD (APP): Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (HESCO) recovered more than 151 million rupees during the ongoing operation against defaulters and electricity thieves in the region, on 02 November, out of which 150.1 million rupees were collected from defaulters and more than one million rupees were received as fines. According to the HESCO spokesperson, in recent actions, the power supply was disconnected from four transformers.

MoNFSR says: Enough wheat stole of 6.9mmt in country for local consumption

ISLAMABAD (INP): Ministry of National Food Security and Research has said that there was enough wheat stock of 6.934 million metric tons in the country to tackle local dietary needs, besides keeping the strategic stocks as well as maintaining supply and demand smooth in local markets to provide the commodity at reasonable

prices. In a statement issued on Friday, the MoNFSR said, "Out of the total stocks, Punjab's wheat reserves comprised over 4.021 million tons, Sindh has 0.817 million tons, whereas Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has 0.227 million tons of grains that were enough to meet local consumption of flour and other byproducts during the season."

BOI Secretary hails JICA's role for Pakistan economic development

ISLAMABAD (APP): Secretary of the Board of Investment, Muhammad Sohail Rajput on Friday appreciated the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for its cooperation in different sectors for economic development of Pakistan.

He was talking to the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) delegation, led by Chief Representative, Yasumitsu Kinoshita which called on him, said a

press release issued here.

The BOI secretary said that JICA's mission was to play a pivotal role in bolstering Pakistan's economic infrastructure, enhancing the investment landscape, and fostering regional connectivity for a brighter future.

The meeting marks the beginning of a promising journey to fortify partnership and explore new avenues of collaboration between BOI and JICA.

Rupee sheds 89 paise against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Friday witnessed 89-paise depreciation against US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs284.31 against the previous day's closing of Rs283.42. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs282.35 and Rs285.1 respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by Rs1.65 to close at Rs302.08 against the last day's closing of Rs 300.43, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

PSX gains 466 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) gained 466.28 points, a positive change of 0.89 per cent on Friday, closing at 53,123.04 points against 52,656.76 points the previous day.

A total of 509,113,372 shares valuing Rs.15,586 billion were traded during the day as compared to 475,085,837 shares valuing Rs. 14,578 billion the previous day.

PTCL accords grand reception to newly elected office bearers of CBA

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's largest telecommunications and ICT services provider, PTCL held a grand reception in honor of the office bearers of PTCL Workers Union. Ittehad Federation, the Collective Bargaining Agent (CBA), who recently won it through a nationwide referendum. The ceremony

democratic tradition of protecting employee rights, and integrating their voices in crucial policy-making to ensure their well-being. At the ceremony, PTCL management warmly welcomed the newly elected CBA, who expressed their happiness and hoped for the continuation of cooperation between the



was graced by the presence of the guest of honor, Syed Sagheer Bukhari, Senior Programme Officer at the International Labour Organization (ILO), Country Office Pakistan, along with senior PTCL officials and newly elected office bearers and labor leaders from across the country.

The recent referendum is a continuation of PTCL's

union and PTCL for their shared growth and prosperity.

Senior Programme Officer, International Labour Organization (ILO), Country Office Pakistan, Syed Sagheer Bukhari cited ILO conventions on workers' rights and quoted examples of how unions and administrations worldwide ensure mutual growth and prosperity through effective cooperation.

Naqvi expresses concern over massive increase of burning crops stubble in Indian Punjab

Independent Report
LAHORE: Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has expressed his deep concern over up to 740 percent increase over burning of crops stubble in the Indian Punjab.

In a statement on Friday, he said that according to an authentic report of American institution NASA, an alarming increase has occurred with regard to burning of crops stubble in the Indian Punjab. According to the pictures

released by NASA, a 740 percent increase in the burning of crops stubble incidents in only a single day is highly alarming. The reports of NASA and pictures give ample proof of Indian apathy.

The CM stated that smog has risen to an alarming level owing to burning of crops stubble on such a mega scale in the Indian Punjab. The prime reason for the rise of smog in Lahore is due to burning of crops stubble at a mega scale in the Indian Punjab. The continuous increase in

the pollution rate in Lahore owing to Indian environmental aggression is highly worrisome and alarming, he added.

The CM apprised that the Punjab government is adopting every step which is humanly possible to combat the hazards of smog. Eyes, breathing and E&T ailments are on the rise due to smog. The people especially children and elders should use masks so as to protect themselves from the detrimental effects of smog, he added.

Factories causing air pollution be sealed: LHC

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has ordered to seal factories causing air pollution. A single bench of LHC led by Justice Shahid Karim took up the petition filed by a citizen Ferooz Haroon on hearing Friday.

Commissioner Lahore Muhammad Ali Randhawa also appeared in the court. The court while ordering to seal the factories causing air pollution remarked the factories which are emitting black smoke be sealed. These will not be

de-sealed unless owners of these factories submit affidavit. They should give this affidavit that if violation is committed again then factories will be demolished.

Commissioner Lahore told the court action will be taken indiscriminately against vehicles emitting smoke. We have directed traffic police vehicles causing smog be impounded.

The court remarked during the hearing of the case now we are going on right track.

Five vehicles with smuggled goods seized

DG Khan (APP): Anti smuggling squad recovered multiple kinds of utility items worth about Rs. 10 million during a crackdown here on Friday.

The squad being constituted by DPO seized about five vehicles plying on different routes and foiled smuggling. DPO Ahmed Mohiuddin said in this regard that as many as 384 bags stuffed with non-custom paid items including dry milk, cigarettes, gutka, almond, Chinese salt, Iranian shopping bags etc.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali addressing inaugural ceremony of a road inside Johns Cathedral church at Peshawar cantonment.

KP Governor inaugurates road at Johns Cathedral church

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali here on Friday inaugurated a road inside Johns Cathedral church at Peshawar cantonment which completed at a cost of over Rs7million.

He said our relations with Christian community was based on respect, and the minorities communities settled in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were highly respectable for others.

The Governor said the services of Christian community were highly praiseworthy for the country including Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa, says an official statement.

The Christian community is very peaceful that always played a significant role in the province's development and their welfare and uplift was top priority of the Government. The constitution of Pakistan has ensured protection of the personal and religious rights of all minorities, he said. He said, this is our duty to stand with the state of Pakistan and to serve it with best of our abilities and professional commitment.

PIA's flight schedule not restored fully, 19 more flights cancel

KARACHI (Online): The flight schedule of PIA could not be fully restored, 19 more flights were canceled today (Friday), while the number of canceled flights of PIA has reached 754 in 17 days.

The canceled flights today include PK 368, 369 from Karachi to Islamabad and PK 536, 537 from Sukkur.

Dammam to Karachi PK 242, Islamabad to Sukkur PK 631, 632 have also been canceled while Islamabad to Quetta flights PK 325, 326 could not fly.

CM KP chairs meeting to discuss matters relating to evacuation of illegal foreigners

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Caretaker Chief Minister, Muhammad Azam Khan here Friday chaired a cabinet meeting to discuss matters relating to the evacuation of foreigners residing illegally in the province.

The meeting was attended by caretaker cabinet members, Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, Additional Chief Secretary for Interior Abid Majeed, relevant administrative secretaries and officials.

The meeting was briefed about arrangements made for the repatriation of illegal immigrants. Chief Minister Muhammad Azam Khan expressed his satisfaction with the administration's efforts to facilitate the return of illegal immigrants to

their countries and the facilities being provided to them holding centres.

He commended the role played by various departments and institutions including district administration and police in providing facilities and accommodations to returning migrants.

The Chief Minister directed that voluntarily returning illegal immigrants be treated with respect ensuring special care to them during repatriation. He emphasized transparency and called for maintaining a detailed record of both regular and emergency expenses.

He stressed strict adherence to rules and regulations governing these expenses and the development of mechanisms to ensure transparency.



KARACHI: SSP Irfan Bahadur presents flowers bookie to younger Afghan girl after transported by police in a bus to shift them in a deportation center in Provincial Capital.

Punjab Governor says: Overseas Pak playing vital role in the stability of the country's economy

Independent Report
LAHORE: A delegation of overseas Pakistanis from Saudi Arabia called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at the Governor's House, here on Friday.

During the meeting, the delegation expressed satisfaction over the political and economic stability in Pakistan.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that overseas Pakistanis are the valuable asset for the country, who are playing an important role in the stability of the

country's economy by sending remittances. He said that whenever the country faced difficult times, be it floods or earthquakes, Pakistanis living abroad always came forward and helped their countrymen.

The Governor Punjab said that economic and political stability in the country is the harbinger of a bright future. He said that the journey of development will start again in the country. He further said that the young generation is the most valuable asset of the country.

13 more dengue cases reported in 24 hours

RAWALPINDI (APP): As many as 13 more dengue cases were reported in Rawalpindi during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 2,382 in the district.

District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr Sajjad Mehmood, Friday said among the new cases, eight cases had arrived from Potohar town urban and five from Municipal Corporation Rawalpindi.

He added that 50 patients were admitted to district hospitals of which 40 were confirmed cases while 2,341 were discharged after treatment.

Dr Sajjad informed that the district administration had registered seven FIRs.



ISLAMABAD: British High Commissioner to Pakistan Jane Marriott addressing during inaugural ceremony of 9th Islamabad Literature Festival at Fatima Jinnah (F-9) Park in Federal Capital.

International News

Putin says some Western weapons for Ukraine are ending up in the Taliban's hands

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday that some Western weapons supplied to Ukraine were finding their way to the Middle East through the illegal arms market and being sold to the Taliban.

"Now they say: weapons are getting into the Middle East from Ukraine. Well of course they are because they are being sold," Putin said. "And they are being sold to the Taliban and from there they go onto wherever."

Since Russia sent troops into Ukraine on Feb. 24 last year, Western powers have sent Ukraine tens of billions of dollars worth of weapons in an attempt to defeat Russian troops. Ukraine says it keeps

tight control over any weapons supplied to it, but some Western security officials have raised concerns and the United States has asked Ukraine to do more to tackle the broader issue of corruption.

In June 2022, the head of Interpol, Jürgen Stock, warned that some of the advanced weapons sent to Ukraine would end up in the hands of organised crime groups.

A report about the Ukraine war and the illegal arms trade by the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime said in March that there was "currently no substantial outflow of weapons from the Ukrainian conflict zone."

"However, every precedent suggests that, espe-

cially if the threat is not addressed proactively and imaginatively, when the current war ends, Ukraine's battlefields could and will become the new arsenal of anarchy, arming everyone from insurgents in Africa to gangsters in the streets of Europe," the report said.

The eight biggest Western donors to Ukraine led by the United States have made military commitments to Ukraine totalling at least 84 billion euros (\$90 billion), according to the Kiel Institute for the World Economy, which tracks donors. U.S. military support includes 160 155mm howitzers, 109 Bradley fighting vehicles, more than 111 million rounds of small arms ammunition and 38 high mobility artillery rocket systems.



A man carries away an injured girl following an Israeli strike on the Bureij refugee camp, in Gaza Strip.

Hezbollah leader says Hamas Oct 7 assault was '100pc Palestinian'

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Celebratory gunshots rang out over Beirut as thousands packed into a square in the Lebanese capital's southern suburbs on Friday to watch a televised speech by Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of the Lebanese Hezbollah group. It was Nasrallah's first public remarks since the beginning of the Israel-Hamas war, sparked by the Palestinian militants' deadly Oct 7 incursion into southern Israel.

The speech came a day after the most significant escalation in clashes between Hezbollah and Israeli forces on the border since the war started and on the same day as a visit to Israel by the top US diplomat, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to urge protections for civilians in the fighting with Hamas, as Israeli troops tightened their encirclement of Gaza City.



Members of Tunisia's parliament hold the Palestinian flag as they observe a minute of silence for civilian deaths in the Gaza Strip.

Bahrain halts trade ties with Israel; envoys return

Monitoring Desk
MANAMA: Bahrain's parliament said on Thursday that the Gulf state's ambassador to Israel had returned home and economic ties had been suspended in protest over the Israeli aggression in Gaza.

However, the government did not confirm the moves, and Israel said it had received no word of any such actions, saying its relations with Bahrain were "stable".

In its statement, the parliament—a consultative body with no powers in the area of foreign policy—said the moves "confirmed Bahrain's historic position in support of the Palestinian cause".

"The Council of Representatives affirms that the Israeli ambassador in the kingdom of Bahrain has left Bahrain and the kingdom of Bahrain has decided on the return of the Bahrain ambassador to Israel," the parliament said in a statement. "The cessation of economic relations was also decided," it said, without making clear who had made the decision.

Abdulnabi Salman, parliament's first deputy speaker, confirmed the decision, saying the "ongoing conflict in Gaza cannot tolerate silence".

Israel's foreign ministry said in a statement: "We would like to clarify that no notification or decision has

been received from the government of Bahrain and the government of Israel to return the countries' ambassadors. Relations between Israel and Bahrain are stable." The parliament's statement was not carried by the kingdom's state television or its official news agency.

Any suspension of diplomatic and economic ties, if confirmed, would mark a significant setback for Israel.

Bahrain, which is home to the US Navy's Fifth Fleet, is a signatory of the Abraham Accords, a series of normalisation agreements between Israel and several Arab nations signed in 2020.

Fire at drug rehabilitation centre in Iran kills at least 32: report

Monitoring Desk
TEHRAN: At least 27 people died in a massive fire that broke out at a drug rehabilitation centre in northern Iran early on Friday, the judiciary said.

"Twenty-seven have died and 12 others were taken to hospital after a fire erupted at a drug rehabilitation centre in Langarud," a city in Gilan province north of Tehran, said the judiciary's Mizan Online news website, quoting provincial chief

justice Esmail Sadeghi. The cause of the fire was not immediately clear but Sadeghi said an investigation "was under way," according to Mizan, which said the centre could accommodate up to 40 people.

Local ISNA news agency shared footage of the fire which lit up the night sky and sent huge plumes of smoke into the air.

Other images showed the heavily damaged site after the fire was contained.

Japan, Philippines agree to hold talks on reciprocal troops pact

Monitoring Desk
MANILA: The leaders of Japan and the Philippines on Friday agreed to start negotiations on a reciprocal troop access deal, strengthening military cooperation amid rising maritime tensions in the region and an increasingly assertive China.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said he and President Ferdinand Marcos Jr had agreed to work together closely with the United States, and, in a veiled reference to China, shared concern about "unac-

ceptable" attempts to "unilaterally change the status quo by force" in the East and South China Seas. "A further decision was made to start negotiations on a reciprocal access agreement and we agreed to further strengthen trilateral cooperation," Kishida, who was on an official visit to the Philippines, told a joint press conference. Both the Philippines and Japan, two of the United States' closest Asian allies, have taken a strong line against what they see as aggressive behaviour by Chinese.



Japan Prime Minister Fumio Kishida signs the guestbook beside Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos at Malacanang Palace in Manila, Philippines.

Islamophobia won't be allowed to take root, says US President

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden said on Thursday that his administration wouldn't watch silently as Muslims in America are targeted by hate-mongers.

The White House announced on Wednesday the administration will develop a strategy to counter Islamophobia in the United States. "We can't stand by while hate against Muslims, and those wrongfully perceived to be Muslim, including Arabs and Sikhs, is given oxygen," President Biden said in his statement.

"Silence is complicity. We won't be silent," he said, adding that his administration was developing a national strategy to counter Islamophobia and related forms of hate. Vice President Kamala Harris said taking on hate was a national priority and that's why "we are developing a strategy to combat Islamophobia". "This action is the latest step forward in our work to combat a surge of hate in America," she said.

The strategy is a joint effort led by the Domestic Policy Council and the White House National Security Council. It aims to create a comprehensive and detailed plan to protect Muslims and those perceived to be Muslim "because of their race, national origin, ancestry, or any other reason, from discrimination, hate, bigotry, and violence."

IMF assured of no 'new tax amnesty' as talks underway

LAHORE (INP): The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has assured the International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission visiting Pakistan of not introducing 'any new tax amnesty scheme' as talks underway for the next installment of \$710 million this week.

An IMF review mission landed in Pakistan on November 2 and reviewed the country's progress on targets set in a \$3 billion programme approved in July this year to bail out the struggling economy.

The IMF executive board had approved the nine-month standby arrangement (SBA) with Pakistan "to support its economic stabilisation

programme". Following the approval by IMF board, the lender disbursed an installment of \$1.1 billion to Pakistan.

If the second quarterly review is successful, it will allow for the release of the second tranche worth \$710 million.

Sources said that the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), in its first meeting with IMF review mission, presented a report regarding the tax performance of July-September.

The report encompassed revenue target, payments of refunds and tax rebates as dictated by the IMF during its previous meeting with Pakistan delegation.

The report mentioned that the target of income tax refunds during the period of July-September has been achieved.

The revenue board also assured the delegation of achieving the revenue target of Rs9.415 trillion. Moreover, the review mission was also assured of not introducing 'any new tax amnesty scheme'.

The FBR report stated that income tax refund payments were being gradually reduced according to the plan. The board did not give tax exemption during the first July-September quarter as agreed in the loan programme.

It is pertinent to mention here that the caretaker

government and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) kicked off the much-awaited loan review talks.

A day earlier, interim Finance Minister Shamsah Akhtar briefed the International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission on the steps being taken by the government to "improve the economic situation".

A statement issued by the Ministry of Finance said that the finance minister welcomed the delegation and shared progress on the SBA.

"The minister briefed the mission on fiscal measures being taken by the government to improve the economic situation," the statement said.



QUETTA: View of business activities seen closed due to shutter-down strike called by political parties against deportation of Afghan Refugees, in Quetta.



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari talking to media persons after inaugurating ceremony of Free Diagnostic Lab set up by JDC Foundation Pakistan.

Alliance with Tehreek-e-Insaf has not been decided: Bilawal

KARACHI (Online): Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that the decision of alliance with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has not been taken.

All political parties, including PTI, should join the democratic charter.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that you all have a blessed election month, the election will be held on February 8, and the PPP will form the government.

It would have been better if the Supreme Court (SC) did not have to inter-

vene for the election, the People's Party did not get a level playing field in any election, so they do not have hope. He expressed these views while talking to journalists in Karachi. In response to a question asked about the eviction of immigrants, he said that no political party can support any illegal activity.

Bilawal Bhutto said that we are currently seeing the genocide of Palestinians on social media, the rulers of the world are silent but the people are not.

According to spokesperson Bilawal House,

Bilawal Bhutto also visited the residence of former President People's Party Central District Sohail Ansari.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also issued a condolence message for the late Sohail Ansari's widow Nasira Sohail and said that the late Sohail Ansari endured the hardships of the dictators era. He said that Sohail Ansari held the flag of Bhuttoism till his last breath, his struggle is exemplary for the PPP workers, his sacrifices for the supremacy of democracy and constitution will not be forgotten.

PM directs Holding of regular CSS special exams to fill up posts reserved for minorities, marginalized areas

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Friday directed the formulation of a comprehensive policy for the appointment of competent civil servants in remote areas of the country including Balochistan.

He also ordered the restoration of rotation policy of civil servants in line with its original spirit and to ensure its strict implementation.

The prime minister was chairing a meeting to review progress on filling up vacant seats reserved for marginalized areas in civil bureaucracy through special examinations as well as rotation policy.

PM Kakar directed to regularly hold the competitive examinations to fill the vacant seats in civil bureaucracy reserved for minorities and people from marginalized areas.

He stressed persistent awareness campaigns to encourage minorities to participate in the competitive examination for government jobs. The prime minister said the country's constitution provides equal rights and opportunities to minorities and people belonging to underprivileged areas. He said the govern-

ment was fully committed to ensuring equal opportunities for progress for every citizen. The meeting was briefed about the recently held special examination of the Central Superior Services (CSS). It was informed that 15,000 candidates appeared in the examination, out of which 3,500 belonged to Balochistan. The examination has over 60 seats reserved in quota for Balochistan. The meeting was attended by PM's Adviser Ahad Khan Cheema, the PM's secretary, the Secretary Establishment, and the Secretary Federal Public Service Commission.

President directs FIO to ensure conflict of interest disclosure before selling policies

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday asked the Federal Insurance Ombudsman (FIO) to ensure that insurance companies disclosed the conflict of interest to the purchaser of the insurance policy before selling the policy as there had been instances of grave mis-selling of policies which required a serious re-look at product structure and front-loaded commission of the agents of insurance compa-

nies. He gave these directions while deciding upon a representation filed by the Pak-Qatar Family Takaful Ltd (the petitioner company) against the order of the Federal Insurance Ombudsman (FIO). As per details, Anwar ul Haq (the complainant) had alleged that he purchased the Kafalah Takaful Plan from the petitioner company in February 2017 for the sum assured of Rs 4.5 million and an annual premium.

AJK PM meets with UNFPA delegation to discuss dev. projects

MIRPUR (AJK): (APP) The Country Director of UNFPA, Dr. Luay Shabaneh on Friday led a delegation to call on the Prime Minister of Azad Jammu Kashmir, Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, in the federal metropolis to discuss UNFPA's projects in the AJK State.

Dr. Shabaneh briefed the Prime Minister on UNFPA's ongoing projects in AJK, which are focused on accelerating action to end children's marriages, controlling population growth, and curbing mortality rates at birth. He also expressed

UNFPA's willingness to play a more significant role in the development of various sectors in Azad Kashmir and announced the launch of a comprehensive package for this purpose next year.

Prime Minister Haq appreciated UNFPA's contributions to public welfare projects in the region and assured the delegation of his government's full cooperation and support. He also directed the formation of a special contact group to coordinate all matters with UNFPA.



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Domki presenting shield to Asadullah Kakar Chief Executive Officer Balochistan Health Card.

Only PML-N has ability to steer country out of crises: Nawaz

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Quaid and former prime minister Mian Nawaz Sharif has said that his party has the ability to steer the country out of crises and put it on the path to development.

Talking to the party workers at Jati Umra here on Friday, he said the time was not far away when problems of the people would end, the country would be freed from the vortex of inflation and unemployment and Pakistan would once again take the path of development.

Nawaz Sharif said that the PML-N had always served people with dignity and dedication and preferred national interest over personal interest. He added that whenever his party got

a chance to serve people, development graph of the country showed an upward trajectory. The PML-N had laid the network of development projects in the country in each of its tenure, he added.

The former premier said that only PML-N could get the country out of all crises if given an opportunity to form the government after elections. He said after getting people's votes, they would work day and night to include Pakistan in the ranks of developed countries. Mian Nawaz Sharif asked workers to start vigorous public relations campaigns in preparation for the elections, saying that his party would clean sweep the upcoming general elections across the country.



QUETTA: Afghan Nazim of affairs posted in Quetta Gul Hassan called on Caretaker Provincial Information Minister Jan Achakzai.

Jan Achakzai tells Afghan Nazim Umoor in Quetta: Pak 2nd homeland of Afghans, wants to expand mutual relations at diplomatic level: Achakzai

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Minister for Information Balochistan, Jan Achakzai has stated that Pakistan is second homeland of Afghans and we want to expand mutual relations with Afghanistan at the diplomatic level.

He said that Pakistan is a hospitable country and as such we would continue hospitality of the Afghan refugees.

He said that Afghans are our brothers and our culture of the hospitality would remain continued.

Jan Achakzai said that

there are around 1.7 million illegal immigrants in Pakistan and those having UNHCR's cards would not be bothered at all.

These views were expressed by the Minister Information while speaking to the Afghan Nazim Umoor based in Quetta, Gul Hasan, who called on him here at his office on Friday evening.

During the course of meeting, there was consensus on increasing two-side engagement between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Jan Achakzai took the Afghan diploma into confi-

dence over the matter of repatriation of illegal immigrants.

The Minister Information said that the flag meetings would also remain continued with Afghan authorities at the border.

He mentioned that state of Pakistan has decided to expel the illegal foreigners, which is its right.

He said that Pakistan has the full right to make policies and implement the decisions.

He assured that the decision is not against any specific community, rather it is for all illegal foreigners.

Jamali stresses need to pay special attention on security of immigrants' evacuation places

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali has underlined the need to pay special attention on the security of places from where the Afghan refugees are being evacuated.

He also stressed that it should be our responsibility to give priority to safely repatriate the illegal immigrants to their country.

In this regard, special measures are unavailable to improve security arrangements.

The Minister Home was speaking to the Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat and Deputy Commissioner Saad bin Asad who called on him separately here at his office on Friday. During the meetings, the overall law and order situation was discussed and reviewed.

The Minister Home on the occasion expressed concern over the recent incidents of law and order and directed to take concrete measures for improving law and order situation.

Mehmood Achakzai will hold a press conference on 5th of November

Independent Report QUETTA: In the statement from Central press release of Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party it was stated that the Chairman Mehmood Khan Achakzai will hold a press conference on 3:00pm, Sunday 5th of November in Quetta.

Mehmood Khan Achakzai will address the press on Pakistan's trade policy with Afghanistan, Afghan Refugees problem, and Chaman sit-in. The party has requested print, electronic, and social media activists to join the press conference.



ISLAMABAD: British High Commissioner to Pakistan Jane Marriott gossips in happy mood with Caretaker Information Minister Murtaza Solangi during 9th Islamabad Literature Festival at Fatima Jinnah (F-9) Park in Federal Capital.

Public holiday on Nov 9 on account of Iqbal Day

LAHORE (Online): Federal government has announced public holiday on November 9 in the perspective of Iqbal Day.

The cabinet division accorded approval to public holiday on November 9 due to Iqbal Day.

Notification of gazetted holiday has been issued. "November 9, Thursday, will be a public holiday across the country.



LAHORE: Sardar Awais Laghari meeting with President PML-N Shahbaz Sharif.

Pakistan needs super system, not superstar, for prosperity: Tareen

HAFIZABAD (INP): Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) chief Jahangir Tareen stated on Friday that the country doesn't need a superstar; instead, it requires a super system for its development and prosperity.

Tareen's statement was evidently directed at the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman. While addressing a rally in Hafizabad, Tareen offered

hope to the people of Pakistan, urging them not to be disappointed, as the need of the hour was to unite all political parties.

He deplored the damage caused to Pakistan due to the conflicts among political groups, and stressed that it was not the personalities

but the people and the country that mattered the most.

Special cleansing campaign initiated in province including Quetta City: Noor Pirkani

QUETTA (APP): Municipal Secretary Noor Ahmad Pirkani on Friday said that a special cleaning campaign has been started across the province including Quetta city from November 1 to 30. He expressed these views while talking to a delegation of journalists here.

Secretary Noor Ahmad Pirkani said the Provincial Local Government Minister Sheikh Mehmoodul Hasan Mandukhel had issued or-

ders to start a one-month special cleaning campaign across the province. Under which a special cleaning campaign has been started from November 1 to 30, during which, along with cleaning in other areas of the province including Quetta, the piles of garbage will be removed and they could be disposed of.

He said that strict instructions have been issued to all chief officers and local councils to ensure a spe-

cial cleanliness drive, during this campaign, measures should also be taken to highlight the importance of cleanliness among the people. He said that a spraying and special dog-killing campaign was also being started in Quetta city to eradicate mosquitoes.

He said that the staff of the Quetta Metropolitan Corporation, including the Municipal Corporation should ensure attendance at their places of posting.

PTI chairman files bail plea in SC in cipher case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chairman PTI Imran Khan has filed bail plea in Supreme Court (SC) in cipher case.

Chairman PTI has submitted bail plea under article 185 of the constitution.

The petition said cipher case was instituted on political grounds. High Court could not bring the political grounds of the case under consideration.

The petition further said the ill-intent of FIA which is subordinate to interior ministry is very clear. Cipher and foreign funding cases indicate malafide intent of FIA.

The court was requested to release the accused on bail in the case.

Jl Emir for establishment of Pak-Afghan commission on repatriation of refugees

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Sirajul Haq has proposed the establishment of a Pak-Afghan commission aimed at formulating a viable plan for the repatriation of Afghan refugees to their home country.

In his address to a gathering on Friday, he warned against the propagation of propaganda and conspiracies by adversaries of both nations regarding the refugee issue. Haq welcomed the Election Commission's election schedule, which was released following a meeting with the president and in compliance with the directives of the Supreme Court. He emphasized that both the parliament and the top court should issue clear

guidelines for the execution of all future elections, strictly adhering to the timeline stipulated in the constitution. Expressing the desire for the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to operate independently in both administrative and financial realms, Haq underscored the need for the commission to ensure that every contestant adheres strictly to the election code of conduct. The Jl chief demanded the rulers of Muslim world make practical step to save Gaza from Israeli atrocities. "Are you (Muslim rulers) waiting for the complete destruction of Gaza and genocide of Palestinians?" He said the approval of the 14.5-billion-dollar aid by the US House of Representatives.



QUETTA: Secretary C&W Qambar Dashti inspecting the ongoing developmental projects of Quetta Zone.