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dailyindisb@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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Bilawal vows to double wages, fight inflation, empower youth

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has expressed determination to establish a government prioritizing youth empowerment, poverty alleviation, and inflation control, with plans to double wages over a five-year period.

While addressing a PPP workers' convention in Abbottabad on Thursday, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari thanked the party's supporters, particularly the women, and highlighted the deep-rooted relationship between the PPP and the people spanning three generations. He also expressed gratitude for the warm welcome during his Khayber Pakhtunkhwa tour.

Bilawal acknowledged former President Zardari's accomplishments and the party's contributions, emphasizing the need to continue the mission of Quaid-e-Awam, Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, and Shaheed

Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. He called for a collective effort in the upcoming elections to implement the PPP's manifesto and ideology.

Addressing pressing issues like inflation and unemployment, Bilawal advocated for a new mindset and leadership focused on serving the people rather than engaging in divisive politics. He underscored the PPP's commitment to empowering farmers, workers, and the common people, proposing initiatives like the 'Kissan Card' and 'Benazir Mazdoor Card.'

He emphasized the PPP's historical role in combating poverty and called for a departure from past politics to pave the way for a prosperous, modern Pakistan.

Bilawal insisted on the people's right to choose their representatives. He criticized the politics of the past and stressed the need for a new political system that serves the people.



ABBOTTABAD: Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addressing to workers convention.

Border crossing made conditional with production of passport: Implementation on one document regime, passport on Intl. border with Afghanistan started: Jan

CT Minister Information says passport offices in Chaman and Killa Abdullah made fully functional; asserts everyone has to show passport for crossing border

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has stated that the Pakistan has successfully started implementation on the one document regime i.e., passport on international border with Afghanistan.

In an official statement issued here on Thursday, the Information Min-

ister said that the passport offices established in Chaman and Killa Abdullah are fully functional. He mentioned that 1,000 passport tokens have been issued from the Passport office operational in Chaman with some 200 passports also issued from there.

Similarly, some 150 passports have been issued from the Passport office op-



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs the 7th meeting of Apex Committee of SIFC.

PM directs all stakeholders to pursue SIFC initiatives to reap dividends

Army Chief reiterates army's resolve to 'backstop' govt initiatives for economy's recovery

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday directed all the stakeholders to vigorously pursue the Special Investment Facilitation Council's (SIFC) initiatives through a collaborative approach to reap the dividend in short to medium terms, besides initiating processes for long term endeavours in the larger national interest.

The prime minister said this while chairing the 7th meeting of the Apex Committee of SIFC that

was attended by the Chief of Army Staff, members of the federal cabinet, provincial chief ministers and high level government officials.

The meeting was held to review various initiatives being led through the SIFC forum, a PM Office press release said.

In the meeting, the ministries presented progress on projects identified in key sectors and gave plans to further improve the ecosystem for realizing the envisaged investments in a timely

manner. The committee showed extreme satisfaction on overall progress under the umbrella of SIFC, appreciated the enhancing level of engagements with friendly countries, both public and private entities, and the outreach strategy to proactively engage investors' community, which was translating in enhanced traction and approvals at domestic and global stages.

It reviewed progress on various measures under-

taken to improve investment climate and approved policy level interventions to further improve investors' confidence including repatriation of profits, strengthening domestic dispute resolution mechanism, infrastructural and human resource development, and speedy operationalization of EXIM Bank.

The committee also directed to make a comprehensive strategy to address oil and gas issues in a sustainable manner by investing in relevant industries.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister Prince Ahmed Ali Baloch presides over the meeting regarding Balochistan Digital Payment gateway.

SC rules May 9 riots took place due to non-implementation of Faizabad verdict

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): The Supreme Court has observed that due to the non-implementation of its 2019 Faizabad sit-in judgment by successive governments, the nation suffered consequences in the shape of the May 9 events.

The observations came as a three-member bench — headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, and comprising Justice Aminuddin Khan and Justice Athar Minallah — issued a written verdict of the November 15 hearing of the Faizabad sit-in case.

Referring to the days-long sit-in staged by the Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan (TLP) in 2017, the four-page order authored by CJP Isa noted that the February

2019 Faizabad judgment traced the history of orchestrated violent protests in Pakistan and sounded a warning for the future.

"However, the concerns expressed by us almost 5 years ago were disregarded by successive governments. Review petitions and applications were filed and these were not fixed for hearing, which hindered the Judgment's implementation," it added.

The verdict further noted that no responsibility was affixed, nor was anyone held accountable for the violence of the past.

"It is not surprising that violence continued to be perceived as a permissible means to attain one's goals. Victims of those

striving for an independent judiciary, an inclusive and tolerant Pakistan were disregarded without justice; the nation suffered the consequences, as evident from the recent events of 9 May 2023," the CJP said in the judgment. The May 9 events referred to the violent protests that broke out almost across the country following the arrest of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan in a corruption case from the premises of Islamabad High Court (IHC).

The violent protesters ransacked and attacked the defence and public installations in various parts of the country, prompting the authorities to take stern action against the rioters.

Our struggle is for oppressed, down trodden and Pakhtun is one of them: Achakzai

Says solution of myriad Pakistan's problems lies to the principles of civilian supremacy



Independent Report
LORALAI: The solution of Pakistan's myriad problems lies to the principles of civilian supremacy and adhering to the constitution in letter and spirit by all the institutions and power centers of the state. On Thursday, Chairman of Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party Mahmood Khan Achakzai said this while addressing several public meetings in the vicinities

and later a huge public gathering in the city of Lorelai.

If the affairs of a village cannot be run effectively and harmoniously without adhering to certain charter or conventions, how one can even think to run a state successfully to realize the aspirations of its citizens, he asked.

Mere holding elections and shepherding the turncoats in a certain direction is

a futile exercise which neither brought stability nor prosperity in the past, how the results of such exercise can be different in the future, Achakzai questioned.

In 1950s, only to deprive people from the basic right of self-rule through electing their representatives, the power to be devised the world notorious formula of parity to equalize minority with a majority, and after the dismemberment of the country they resort to political and election engineering. Achakzai bemoaned. The fate of this country and the plight of the people cannot be turned around until and unless giving the inviolable right of self-rule to the people by electing their representatives freely with the sole right to hold them accountable.

Present conditions are self-inflicted wound, laments Nawaz Sharif

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan's currency, economic and the system has devastated, and prices increased by five-fold, former prime minister Nawaz Sharif said on Thursday.

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's supreme leader was addressing officials of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) today.

"It is our responsibility and duty to emancipate the people from price hike and poverty," Nawaz Sharif, who returned from self-exile in London on October 21, addressing to businessmen said.

"People want education, health facilities and development," he said. "It is their right, and it is re-

sponsibility of the state to provide these facilities," PML-N leader said.

Nawaz claimed that Pakistan became 24th largest global economy between 2013 to 2017. "We kept the US dollar static at Rs 104 rate for four years. The dollar would have dropped to Rs40 to 50 if our policies and development process were not interrupted," he claimed.

"Today we are desperate for one billion dollars, it is self-inflicted harm we committed to us," he said. "These miserable conditions are consequence of our own decisions," he lamented.

"The policy rate has soared to 22 percent, which was 6.25 during our tenure," he said.



LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) supreme Nawaz Sharif, Former Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, former finance minister Ishaq Dar, Chief Organizer PML-N Maryam Nawaz, during their visit to Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Intelligence reports Terrorists are in contact with foreign nationals residing in Pakistan illegally: FO

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan has said that it has intelligence information that terrorists are in contact with foreign nationals residing in Pakistan illegally.

"International institutions of justice will have to be active on Israeli war crime. Israeli army is perpetrating atrocities against unarmed people of Palestine.

Attacking hospitals is brazen violation of human and war laws, this was said by Foreign Office (FO) spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch during her weekly briefing here Thursday.

We have asked Afghan interim government to take action against terrorists targets on the basis of intelligence reports, she added.

Massive reduction in expenses as Pakistan unveils Hajj policy 2024

ISLAMABAD (Online): Hajj 2024 will be digitalized wherein Hajis will get an internet-free mobile application, unlimited free call package introduced.

Religious Affairs minister Aneeq Ahmed on Thursday announced the 2024 Hajj policy.

Aneeq Ahmed said that Hajj 2024 will be digitalized wherein Hajis will

get an internet-free mobile application that could be used without internet and through an arrangement unlimited free call package will be provided to Hajis.

Pakistan to Saudi Arabia Hajj 2024 cost Aneeq Ahmed said that last year's Hajj cost Rs11075000 but this year's Hajj will cost 1075000.



QUETTA: President Balochistan Labour Federation Khan Zaman meeting with Caretaker Provincial Minister for Information Jan Achakzai regarding problems of BDA employees.

Dr. Jogezai says: Health system to be strengthened with vertical programs in rural areas

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Health, Dr. Ameer Muhammad Khan Jogezai has emphasized that the health system would have to be strengthened with support of the vertical programmes in the rural areas. He said that the people come to the government hospitals with the hope of better treatment facilities, and if they return back disappointed, then we have no right to remain in power.

It is our duty to come up to come up the expectations of masses by improving the healthcare system in the province, maintained the Minister Health in an official statement issued here on Thursday.

Dr. Ameer Muhammad Jogezai said that the improvement is being brought in the government hospitals utilizing the available resources in the right direction and as such all issues being faced would be resolved gradually.

He also said that it is our responsibility to provide healthcare facilities to everyone without any discrimination. He said that all employees including subordinate staff to the higher officers are public servants and negligence to duty is just intolerable. He said that while the government is determined to provide best healthcare facilities to the masses, no negligence is tolerable in this regard.



QUETTA: Additional Chief Secretary Home Zahid Saleem meeting with Secretary Finance Babar Khan.

Digital Payment Gateway discussed: Digitalisation important need of hour, Prince

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information Technology, Prince Ahmed Ali has stated that the digitalisation is an important need of the hour, and the government wants to introduce automatic and effective system of E-payment to facilitate the masses.

The provincial Minister was presiding over the meeting about digital payment gateway here on Thursday.

There was also detailed discussion on the system of E-payment, departmental matters and related issues for facilitation of the general public. Those who were in the meeting were included Vice Chancellor Balochistan University of Informa-

tion Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS), Dr. Khalid Hafeez, Secretary IT, Ayaz Khan Mandokhail, DG IT, Irfan Baseer while the high ups of firm providing services for E-payment system and its implementation participated in the meeting through video link. The meeting decided to make payment on the portal and security system more effective bringing about transparency in the mechanism of E-payment.

It was also decided to present once again the mechanism about E-payment in any of the government department after consultation with the IT department and Finance Department in next meeting.

Solangi says: Resolving issues of GB journalists top priority

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Information Minister Murtaza Solangi has said that resolving the issues faced by journalists of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and promoting journalism was top priority. He expressed these views while talking to a media delegation from Gilgit-Baltistan which called on him in Islamabad.

Murtaza Solangi appreciated the active role being played by the journalists of GB in highlighting the positive identity of the region. The journalist community of GB was making efforts for resolution of public issues.

Three police constables kidnapped in Turbat

TURBAT (INP): Unidentified gunmen on Wednesday took three constables hostage who were deputated at a police check post in Turbat, Balochistan, officials said. Constables Naeem, Nadeem and Sameer were on duty at the Singani Sarmomin police check-point when armed men took them away at gunpoint. The attackers also snatched two sub-machine guns and magazines from the policemen, officials added.

Police and security personnel rushed to the site and launched a search operation. No arrest has so far been reported.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Repeat telecast

Six years may have passed since the engineering experiments that spoiled the 2018 general election, but no lessons have been learned and little has changed. With another poll approaching, old turncoats are now being ushered to the ranks of a new 'chosen one'. The opportunists, too, seem to have sensed the mood and will soon start rushing to pay obeisance to the PML-N's rising sun. With a new 'selected' being prepared to take Imran Khan's place, one cannot help but feel sorry for the PPP and the others who had cast their lot with the Pakistan Democratic Movement. After all, wasn't the entire raison d'être of the movement to prevent undemocratic forces from planting deeper roots in the political landscape?

Instead, the same forces seem to have ended up taking an even more central role in national-level decision-making. As for the PDM's component parties, they are now being co-opted into what looks like 'hybrid 2.0', or being turned against each other.

Considering how the 2018 election played out, it seems unlikely that 2024 will yield any different results. Whoever will take over will constantly be looking over their shoulder, wondering when the winds of favour will start blowing in a different direction.

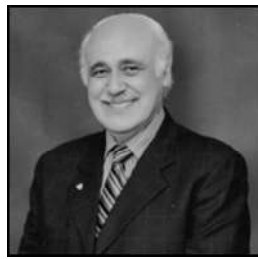
Eventually, today's beneficiaries may realise that they were played; that a 'victory' that came from a tainted contest is never meant to endure. At some point, historians will ask: what was the point of removing one malformed government if it was only going to be replaced with a similar system of governance?

It will be a difficult question for political actors like the PML-N to contend with, who have played and lost this game too many times before and should have known better. Such arrangements only suit those who wish to rule without accountability; to whom politicians are a front, to be used and discarded at will.

Pakistan's democracy lies in tatters. Those who promised to be its saviours have dealt it a grievous blow. Is there hope for a better future? Once again, only principled politics can yield an answer. Until legitimacy and power are derived from the vox populi, no civilian government can hope to deliver. At best, it can be a pliant tool in the hands of institutions whose ideas about good governance, foreign policy and economic management, etc, have repeatedly failed the test of time. Politicians should, as one of them recently put it, rely on their own politics instead of looking to the country's security establishment to keep lending them a hand.

They should also learn to work with each other instead of turning politics into a zero-sum game. Lastly, they must yield to the people's will. Elections cannot be turned into a rubber stamp for backroom deals. All such efforts must be resisted.

Crimson chronicles



F.S. Aijazuddin

The dead die when ceremony replaces memory. Ask the souls of those millions who sacrificed their lives throughout the history of human conflict. They lie interred beneath the earth they fought over. They fertilise the flowers that are plucked into wreaths. They are beyond the sound of vainglorious trumpets. They lie deep, 'too deep for tears'.

There was a time when news of victories or defeats in battle took days, often weeks, if not months, to reach families at home. How long, one wonders, did it take for news of Alexander's victory over Porus near the Jhelum in 326 BCE to reach Greece and the anxious Macedonians? It took over a month in 1776, after the Declaration of Independence of July 4, for the British King George III to learn that he had lost his American colonies. News of Wellington's victory over Napoleon in 1815 reached London's Whitehall after three days. The telegraph and the radio, however, brought modern wars into real time.

In May 2011, news channels via satellite television allowed president Obama, secretary of state Hillary Clinton and their cast of hawks in Washington, D.C. to watch US Navy SEALs invade Pakistan, and then assassinate Osama bin Laden in distant Abbottabad.

Today, death strides with bloodied boots directly from the battlefield into our family lounges. It does not wait for a casus belli. Retaliation now precedes the provocation.

There are many today who suspect that the attacks on America's homeland on 9/11 were pre-planned by forces within the US, with Saudi help. Out of the 19 Al Qaeda terrorists who hijacked four US commercial airliners on Sept 11, 2001, 15 were Saudi citizens.

No one has been allowed to plumb the alleged role of the then Saudi ambassador to the US Prince Bandar bin Sultan. (He served both masters in D.C. for 22 years.) It has been alleged he indirectly funded some of the hijackers. His name is believed to be included in the 28 sensitive pages redacted from the final version of the 9/11 Commission report. How did Saudi and UAE nationals with US pilots' licences agree to commit such a well-planned suicide? And who is looking after their families? (In India, Bimal Kaur — the widow of Mrs Indira Gandhi's assassin Beant Singh — was later elected to the Lok Sabha.)

Some ask how Hamas could have amassed unaided 5,000 rockets to launch its preemptive attack on Israel? Whoever planned that assault must have anticipated its devastating consequences. They could foresee that the resultant punishment would not only fit the crime but was intended to exceed it. And after the present apocalypse, what? Many years ago, the comedian Peter Sellers starred in a satirical film *The Mouse that Roared* (1959).

In it, a fictional tiny European Duchy of Grand Fenwick "declares war on the United States, surrenders and takes advantage of American largesse towards its defeated enemies to rebuild the defeated nation's economy". If only Palestine had been another Grand Fenwick: its rehabilitation would have been assured. Instead, before the close of 2023,

Palestine as a state will have been obliterated. Its rubble will be pulverised to cement the foundation for a dollar-funded reconstruction, a phoenix rising out of the ashes of Palestine into a larger Israel. Ironically, Palestine's annihilation will be the final solution to the Palestinian problem. This would suit everyone: an ambitious Israel, its ever-loyal patron the US, a re-proving but impotent UN, and a quiescent Muslim ummah which has less the properties of a camel than of an ostrich with its head buried in the sand. Such a solution would suit everyone — except the innocent infants who fight for every breath, not for land. They are as-sure-d enough inches for a grave.

Will these atrocities pass into history unchronicled? In 1945, World War II had hardly ended when the Western media began a barrage of propaganda aimed at extolling its victories and denigrating its enemies. Quick off the mark were Lord Russell of Liverpool's charge-sheets of German and Japanese atrocities. The first — *The Scourge of the Swastika: A Short History of Nazi War Crimes* — appeared in 1954. (It avoided the word 'German'.) It was followed by *The Knights of Bushido: A Short History of Japanese War Crimes* (1958). No embarrassment there.

If there are any comparable volumes on the war crimes committed by the US and its allies since 1945, the White House library certainly does not have them. It would not have enough space. A resident — president Ronald Reagan — once said: "There is no cause more important than affirming the transcendent right to life of all human beings, the right without which no other rights have any meaning." But then, Ronald Reagan began his Hollywood career as a comedian. — Courtesy Dawn

Balochistan politics



Rafiullah Kakar

Balochistan has again captured the spotlight, courtesy of Nawaz Sharif's strategic foray into the province to court electables from BAP and other parties in a bid to solidify PML-N's position ahead of the polls. The influx of over two dozen electables into PML-N begs a critical evaluation of Islamabad's approach towards Balochistan. The national discourse has almost always attributed the plight of Balochistan to its own predatory and corrupt political elite, particularly the tribal sardars. While Balochistan's people generally agree with this assessment, they stress a crucial exception: these predatory elites owe their sustenance primarily to the patronage emanating from Islamabad.

The genesis of the predatory political behaviour of traditional elites in Balochistan can be traced to the tribal governance system of the British. Popularly known as the 'Sandeman system', the colonial frontier governance model corrupted tribal social structures and fortified the position of tribal sardars by extending to them patronage in exchange for performing specific administrative functions. Tribal sardars thus became integral to a two-way patron-client relationship, acting as both clients of the colonial state and patrons of their tribal subjects.

The postcolonial state perpetuated this policy of 'indirect rule' through the tribal sardars. Although the introduction of representative democracy opened avenues for commoners to enter

the political arena, the de facto power of the sardars endured, courtesy of the patronage received from Islamabad.

The Islamabad-sardar alliance symbolises a marriage of convenience, with the state providing patronage in return for sardars' countering assertive Baloch nationalists and downplaying thorny issues straining Baloch-Islamabad ties.

Since Balochistan's establishment as a province in 1970, it has predominantly witnessed rule by Islamabad-backed tribal elites. In the period from 1970 to 2023, Balochistan experienced civilian rule for only 28 years, with countrywide parties governing for approximately 22 years (82 per cent), leaving ethno-regional parties with a mere six years (18pc). Countrywide parties like the PML-N, PPP, and PTI have remained primary conduits for the traditional sardars and newly emerging electables, generally hailing from the mercantile class. They have switched political allegiances frequently. Despite their penchant for political nomadism, these turncoats find ready acceptance in the very parties they had deserted previously.

In the current scenario, the influx of electables into the PML-N raises eyebrows about the party's strategy for the restive province. Given the proclivity, and proven track record, of these electables to change political loyalties opportunistically, the PML-N leadership should prioritise the medium- and long-term goal of cultivating a genuine support base among the masses. Of all the parties, the PML-N should know better that these electables are trustworthy neither in the short nor medium term.

It was only in 2018 that the PML-N chief minister in Balochistan, Nawab Sanaullah Zehri,

was deserted by more than two-thirds of his own party members in support of a no-confidence motion filed by the opposition. Requiring a simple majority (33 votes) to continue as Leader of the House, the PML-N, with 21 members in the provincial assembly, should have comfortably thwarted the motion with the support of coalition partners whose combined strength was 25. However, it couldn't retain the loyalty of even nine out of 21 members and collapsed like a house of cards. Despite this experience, the PML-N leadership appears reluctant to learn from the past. The opportunistic and inconsistent behaviour of countrywide parties to --wards political turncoats --renders them susceptible to external manipulation when political fortunes reverse.

This policy of ruling the province through electables has hindered the organic growth of political parties and fostered the growth of non-partisan, predatory political behaviour in the province. Further, it has fostered and cemented patronage-based provision of public goods and services at the expense of systemic reforms and service delivery. Lastly, it has weakened the public accountability of elected representatives, who increasingly rely on state patronage rather than popular support to enhance their chances of re-election.

In conclusion, the embrace of proven turncoats carries damaging implications for both political culture and public service delivery. Moving forward, the countrywide parties and the ruling elite in Islamabad, at the minimum, must acknowledge their complicity in Balochistan's crisis of political leadership rather than shifting the blame onto the province's citizens. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Government approves Telecom Infrastructure sharing framework

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Government has approved the Telecom Infrastructure Sharing Framework (TISF) developed by the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA). The Framework was developed in consultation with the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MoITT) and the telecom industry, said a news release. This Framework provides a regulatory mechanism for licensees to share their active as well as passive telecom infrastructure in a fair and competitive manner.

The approval of the Telecom Infrastructure Sharing Framework is a

major step forward for the growth & sustainability of the telecom sector in Pakistan. It is expected to lead to significant reductions in the cost of deploying (CapEx) and operating (OpEx) telecom networks, which will ultimately benefit consumers in the form of lower prices and better as well enhanced services. There was a great need for telecom infrastructure sharing in Pakistan due to increasing inflation, low Average Revenue Per User (ARPU), rising fuel prices, revenue challenges, massive CapEx demand for 4G & 5G expansion, connecting remote areas, and cost-effective capacity

growth for nationwide coverage.

Telecom Infrastructure Sharing acts as a jump-start for new services with a larger coverage footprint and early Time to Market (TTM) of innovative products.

The Framework heightens competition among operators to focus on service differentiation and enhancing customer experience since part of the underlying network is shared.

PTA appreciates MoITT's support in the development and approval of the Telecom Infrastructure Sharing Framework.



LAHORE: General Secretary of Pakistan Kisan Rabta Committee Farooq Tariq addressing press conference along with others at press club in Provincial Capital.

SCCI calls for further cementing Pak-US bilateral trade, economic ties

PESHAWAR (APP): Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) president, Fuad Ishaq said discoveries made in oil, gas and other natural resources in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa but a geological survey hasn't been conducted in the last two decades, therefore, urged the U.S. to assist in conducting a geological survey in the province.

Emphasizing further cementing Pak-US bilateral trade and economic relations, the SCCI chief invited US

companies and investors to make investments in a potential sector of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He made these remarks during a meeting with U.S. Consul General in Peshawar Mr. Shante Moore, who visited the chamber house on Thursday, according to a press release issued here.

On the occasion, the SCCI senior vice president Sanaullah Khan, vice president Ijaz Khan Afridi, former presidents Haji Muhammad Afzal.

Rupee gains 77 paise against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Thursday gained 77 paise against US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 287.37 against the previous day's closing at Rs 288.14.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs 287.2 and Rs 290 respectively.

The price of the Euro decreased by Rs 1.55 to close at Rs 311.60 against the last day's closing of Rs 313.15, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen depreciated by 02 paise to close at Rs 1.89; whereas a decrease of Rs 3.26 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs 355.90 as compared to the last closing of Rs 359.16.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal came down by 21 and 20 paise to close at Rs 78.24 and Rs 76.62 respectively.



KARACHI: Brokers are busy in trading at Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) in Karachi. The Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) benchmark index and rupee recorded gains on Thursday.

Govt needs to curb soaring energy rates, hike in gas price to lift inflation: Ali Sheikh

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Presidential candidate of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industries' (FPCCI) upcoming election for 2024 Muhammad Ali Sheikh has called for keeping check on soaring energy prices, as the recent hike in gas prices will lift the average Consumer Price Index further, hitting all sectors of the economy.

In a statement on Thursday, FPCCI's Presidential candidate said

that the government had increased gas tariff with effect from this month 2023 just before the first IMF review under the \$3 billion short-term loan program. This is the second gas price increase in 10 months. The gas price hike is a condition attached to the loan program. It may pave the way for the release of second IMF tranche of \$700 million.

Calling to revert the decision, Muhammad Ali

Sheikh said that the industries that may resort to price increase include fertiliser, cement and steel, which will make agricultural production and construction material more expensive. The inflation forecast was higher than the State Bank of Pakistan's projection of 20-22 percent. The central bank governor has said that the expected gas price hike has been incorporated into the inflation forecast.

Zong 4G celebrates UAE National Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): As the UAE's National Day approaches, Zong 4G's UAE Roaming Bundles, truly embody the spirit of celebration and unity.

These bundles not only provide seamless connectivity for travellers but also serve as a testament to Zong 4G's commitment to fostering connections during this special occasion.

In the spirit of celebration, Zong 4G has simplified the activation process for UAE Roaming Bundles. Users can easily subscribe to these bundles through the My Zong App (MZA) or by dialing *4225#,

ensuring hassle-free connectivity. Zong 4G remains committed to providing a seamless experience for users, allowing them to focus on the celebrations rather than the logistics of staying connected.

The UAE Bundle gives users 2GB of data coupled with 120 minutes and SMS for just Rs 1999 + tax with a validity of 7 days. The UAE Roaming Bundles empower users to connect with their families, friends, and colleagues. By offering cost-effective international communication, Zong 4G ensures that users can share the joy of the occasion and celebrate the spirit of unity.

Gold rates dip by Rs500

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.500 and was sold at Rs 214,300 on Thursday as compared to its sale at Rs 214,800 on last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs 428 to Rs 183,728 from Rs 184,156 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs 168,417 from Rs 168,810, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola silver decreased by Rs30 to Rs 2,550 whereas that of ten gram silver declined by Rs25.72 to 2,186.21.

CDNS achieves Rs 515b targets in fresh bond

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has achieved a target of Rs 515 billion in fresh bonds in the current fiscal year, from July 1 to 15th November September.

The CDNS surpassed the annual target and achieved the target of Rs 1.6 trillion in fresh bonds in the current fiscal year, the senior official of CDNS told APP here on Thursday.

He said this was Rs 200 billion additional annual targets than the target of Rs 1300 billion for

the previous financial year 2021-22. "The CDNS has set a reviewed saving target of Rs 1.4 trillion for the current financial year (2021-22) which will promote savings culture in the country," he said.

In view of the current market trend in the country, the ambitious target had been set to further improve the savings culture, he said.

He said that work was being done on institutional reforms in CDNS and new reforms and innovations were being introduced.

VP FPCCI says: Tourism is hidden treasure of Pakistan, has potential to transform the economy

ISLAMABAD: Mr. Amin Ullah Baig, Vice President of FPCCI and chairman Capital Office said that Gilgit-Baltistan has a great potential to generate 40,000 megawatts of hydropower. Apart from this, the province also has attractive business and investment opportunities in tourism, minerals, agriculture, and dry fruit

high-quality hotels, roads, and other infrastructures in the area can be developed on modern lines that will attract tourists from all over the world to the region.

Mr. Amin Ullah Baig expressed above while talking to the meeting of all chambers and associations of Gilgit-Baltistan. Group Leaders, Presidents, Vice Presidents, and Executive



Members of the Gilgit Gilgit Baltistan, a region in northern Pakistan, is primarily based on agriculture, tourism, and mining.

The area is rich in natural resources, including forests, minerals, and water, which present opportunities for economic growth and development. Federal & GB Governments should consider providing more attractive incentives to investors, especially in the tourism sector, so that

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KP Governor announces establishment of KMU's campus in DI Khan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali on Thursday has announced the establishment of a Khyber Medical University (KMU) campus in Dera Ismail Khan (D.I. Khan) during the 5th convocation of Gomal Medical College.

This decision was taken in view of the region's remote and backward status and the need to provide accessible medical facilities to the local population.

The governor has instructed the Vice

Chancellor of KMU and the Commissioner of D.I. Khan to resolve all issues related to the establishment of the campus within a month and to commence operations temporarily in a rented building.

The governor awarded degrees to 50 male and female students who completed their medical studies during the session 2009-13 and 2017-22 and presented gold medals/silver medals/bronze medals to 18 male and female students for their excellent performance.

During his address at the convocation, Governor

Ali appreciated the performance of Gomal Medical College and congratulated the successful students, parents, and faculty members.

He reaffirmed the commitment of the federal and provincial governments to addressing the challenges faced by educational institutions and providing the best possible medical facilities to the people.

He also assured the audience that efforts are underway to equip hospitals with the latest infrastructure and modern

technology.

Governor Ali urged the newly graduated doctors to treat patients with utmost respect and compassion.

He highlighted the provincial government's ongoing efforts to bring development to the southern districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The governor commended the management and faculty members of Gomal Medical College for their dedication to improving academic standards and organizing curricular and extra-curricular activities.



LAHORE: Punjab Governor, Muhammad Balighur Rehman in a group photo with students of Government Boys High School and Government Girls High School established here at Governor House during free uniforms and school bags distribution ceremony.



DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali inaugurates Dental Block at Gomal Medical College DI Khan.

Chief Justice PHC stresses accountability and legal commitments

HARIPUR (APP): Chief Justice Peshawar High Court (PHC) Muhammad Ibrahim Khan underscored the shared responsibilities of the bench and bar, highlighting the crucial role lawyers play in upholding justice.

He expressed these views while addressing lawyers at the District Bar Haripur where he inaugurated the new building for lawyers' offices and the Bar Club here Thursday.

The CJ expressed the court's unwavering commitment to providing support to lawyers whenever judicial expertise

is required, emphasizing the fundamental nature of legal practice in the profession.

Chief Justice Muhammad Ibrahim Khan assured that the selection and appointment of judges would adhere to principles of complete merit and transparency.

Reflecting on his philanthropic endeavors during his tenure as Additional Session Judge and Session Judge in Haripur, he outlined the contributions such as establishing a Blood Donation Center in a hospital and providing X-ray machines.

District administration removes encroachment near school on public complaints

HYDERABAD (APP): The district administration has taken action to remove illegal encroachment on public complaints near a school in Qasimabad.

According to a hand-out issued on Thursday, Deputy Commissioner Hyderabad Tariq Qureshi took note of public complaints and directed Assistant Commissioner (AC) Qasimabad Abdul Wahid Channa to address the issue of encroachment near a private school in Al-Rahman Society Qasimabad.

Dr. Saqib stresses need of skill development for 8.3m children getting Wazaif

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib emphasized equipping beneficiary children of BISP Taleemi Wazaif initiative to make them self-sufficient in the future.

Addressing a gathering of dedicated BISP staff at Jamia Masjid Qasim ul Aloom in Sargodha, Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib said that serving 9.3 million needy families is a noble cause and equivalent to worship,

according to a news release.

Acknowledging the mission of BISP to alleviate poverty and empower vulnerable populations, Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib commended the impact of BISP's efforts in education by providing educational scholarships under Benazir Taleemi Wazaif to 8.3 million children ensuring their regular attendance in schools.

He also stressed the need to provide technical skills education to the interested children from these needy families.

Punjab Governor says: Seeking knowledge obligatory for every man, woman in our religion

LAHORE: The Punjab Governor, Muhammad Balighur Rahman attended a ceremony of free uniforms and school bags distribution among the students of Government Boys High School and Government Girls High School established here at Governor House as chief guest. Begum Governor, Ayesha Baligh, renowned industrialist, Chairman Rumi Foundation, Jalaluddin Rumi, Principal Boys High School, Principal Girls High School, Najam Rumi,

teachers and students were present. Addressing the ceremony, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rahman said that seeking knowledge is obligatory for every man and woman in our religion. He said that when the Holy Quran was revealed to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), the first word was Iqra (Read). Punjab Governor said that the process of learning should continue throughout life. He called upon the students to develop positive character traits in themselves. Addressing the

students, he said that parents hold the status of spiritual parents and they should respect them. Governor Punjab appreciated the announcement by Rumi Foundation to award merit scholarships to the top three boys and girls. Chairman Rumi Foundation, Jalaluddin Rumi said that the children are our future. He said that Rumi Foundation will bear the higher education expenses of the top three students. He said that Rumi Foundation will distribute uniforms.

Fact sheet on newer nicotine, tobacco products unveiled in Peshawar

PESHAWAR (APP): Blue Veins, a non-profit organization dedicated to public health and social development, has unveiled a comprehensive policy brief and fact sheet addressing the growing concerns surrounding newer nicotine and tobacco products. This initiative aims to equip policymakers with crucial insights into emerging trends, key challenges, and necessary policy actions for regulation.

The policy brief, compiled by Blue Veins, draws upon information from a multitude of

reputable sources, including briefing papers, research studies, fact sheets, and analytical reports from entities such as the World Health Organization (WHO), international health institutions, academic and educational studies, credible media outlets, and news sources. The document serves as a valuable resource for policymakers seeking to make informed decisions regarding the regulation of newer nicotine products. Qamar Naseem, Program Manager of Blue Veins, emphasized the importance

of banning e-cigarettes in Pakistan, stating, "E-cigarettes pose a significant threat to public health, especially among our youth. Banning these products is essential to protect the well-being of our citizens and to counter the misleading narratives promoted by the tobacco industry." The policy brief offers evidence-based recommendations for policymakers, healthcare providers, and other stakeholders to effectively regulate heat-not-Burn

products (HTPs) and ban e-cigarettes. It underscores the pressing need to address the lack of conclusive evidence regarding the long-term health effects of these products. The recommendations include seamlessly integrating newer nicotine products into existing tobacco-free policies, strengthening enforcement of relevant laws and regulations, expanding vendor licensing mechanisms to ensure strict compliance, and launching public awareness campaigns that emphasize

the health risks associated with HTPs and e-cigarettes. Furthermore, the findings highlighted in the policy brief underscored the urgency for the Pakistani government to generate comprehensive local evidence concerning the impacts of HTPs and e-cigarettes. It calls for amendments to current legislation to encompass a broader spectrum of tobacco products, including HTPs, in line with the guidelines set forth by the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC).

International News

Biden, Xi restore military ties despite 'dictator' comment

Xi says China ready to be 'partner and friend' of US

MONITORING DESK CALIFORNIA: US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed at their first summit in a year on Wednesday to restore military communications between the two countries, even as Biden went off script by saying he still considered Xi a "dictator".

The leaders shook hands and strolled around a garden at a historic California estate during four-hour talks aimed at preventing growing tensions between the world's largest economies from spiraling into conflict.

They also agreed that China would crack down on the production of ingredients for fentanyl, responsible for

a deadly epidemic of opioid abuse in the United States, with Xi saying he "sympathises" with US victims of the deadly drug, which has ravaged communities across the country.

But Xi and Biden remained far apart on the wider flashpoint of Taiwan, with the Chinese president telling his US counterpart to stop arming the island and that reunification was "unstoppable". Beijing claims sovereignty over the self-ruling democracy and has not ruled out seizing it by force. The two leaders had not met in person since they held talks in Bali in November 2022, and relations nosedived after the

United States shot down an alleged Chinese spy balloon in February this year.

But Biden told a press conference at the Filoli estate that his talks with Xi, whom he has known since 2011, were "some of the most constructive and productive discussions we've had".

The United States would compete "vigorously" but "responsibly" with an increasingly assertive China "so it doesn't veer into conflict or accidental conflict," Biden said. "He and I agreed that each one of us could pick up the phone, call directly and we'll be heard immediately."



US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping walk together after a meeting during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders' week in Woodside, California.

Turkish parliamentary committee delays decision on Sweden's NATO membership bid

MONITORING DESK ANKARA: The Turkish Parliament's foreign affairs committee on Thursday opened debate on Sweden's bid to join NATO, but adjourned the proceedings until a later date without reaching a decision.

It was not immediately known when the committee would resume its discussions on Sweden's accession protocol or when it would reach Parliament's general assembly for the last stage of the legislative process.

The meeting was adjourned after legislators from Erdogan's ruling party submitted a motion for a

postponement on grounds that negotiations with Sweden had not "matured" enough, Turkey's state-run Anadolu Agency reported.

Turkey has stalled ratifying Sweden's membership in NATO, accusing the country of being too lenient toward groups that Ankara regards as threats to its security, including Kurdish militants and members of a network that Ankara blames for a failed coup in 2016.

Turkey has also been angered by a series of demonstrations by supporters of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, in Sweden as well as Quran-

burning protests that roiled Muslim countries.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan lifted his objection to Sweden's bid during a NATO summit in July and sent the accession protocol to Parliament for ratification last month.

Turkey's reversal of its position came after Stockholm pledged deeper cooperation with Turkey on counterterrorism and to support Turkey's ambition to revive its EU membership bid. In addition, NATO agreed to establish a special coordinator for counterterrorism.

Labour rebellion as UK MPs vote on Gaza ceasefire

MONITORING DESK LONDON: With a massive pro-Palestine demonstration taking place outside parliament, UK's House of Commons voted on Wednesday on a divisive amendment calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, with nearly 70 Labour MPs going against the party leadership.

However, both motions on Gaza were defeated, as majority MPs voted against them.

The Labour motion on Gaza called for a humanitarian pause whereas

the Scottish National Party (SNP) motion sought release of Israeli prisoners, end of the Gaza siege and an immediate ceasefire.

During the debate, the drama unfolded live as Labour MPs voting for the SNP's ceasefire motion simultaneously tweeted resignations from their frontbench posts. Labour MP and shadow minister for women and equities Yasmin Qureshi was the first to resign from her post as she supported a ceasefire vote.



Keir Starmer, leader of Britain's Labour Party, speaks during the Prime Minister's Questions, at the House of Commons in London, Britain.

David Cameron visits Ukrainian port of Odesa in first overseas visit as top UK diplomat

MONITORING DESK KYIV: David Cameron traveled Thursday to the Ukrainian port of Odesa in his first overseas trip as Britain's new foreign minister, and pledged that the U.K. would continue providing military support until Ukraine is victorious in its war with Russia.

Cameron, a former prime minister who returned to government in a surprise appointment Monday in a Cabinet shuffle, said he wanted to make Ukraine his first diplomatic destination, and met Wednesday with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

"I admire the strength and determination of the Ukrainian people," he told Zelenskyy in a video

posted by the president. Cameron said the U.K. would continue to provide moral, economic and diplomatic support "but above all, the military support that you need not just this year and next year but however long it takes."

The two-day visit came as Ukraine faces several challenges on and off the battlefield. Zelenskyy has struggled to capture the world's attention as focus has shifted to the Middle East and Israel's war against Hamas. Additional U.S. funding for Ukraine is jeopardized by political fights in Washington and the European Union says it can't provide all the munitions it promised.



Protesters hold placards and flags during a rally in support of Palestinians, outside the Houses of Parliament in central London.

Qatar seeks deal for prisoners' release, three-day truce

MONITORING DESK DOHA: Qatari mediators were on Wednesday seeking to negotiate a deal between Hamas and Israel that includes the release of around 50 prisoners from Gaza in exchange for a three-day ceasefire, an official briefed on the negotiations said.

The deal, under discussion, which has been coordinated with the US, would also see Israel release some Palestinian women and children from Israeli jails and increase the amount of humanitarian aid allowed into Gaza,

the official said. Hamas has agreed to the general outlines of this deal, but Israel has not and it is still negotiating the details, the official said. It is not known how many Palestinian women and children Israel would release from its jails as part of the agreement under discussion.

The scope of the Qatari-led negotiations has changed significantly in recent weeks, but the fact that the talks are now focused on the release of 50 prisoners in exchange for a three-day truce.

Cuba blames US sanctions for fomenting irregular migration amid exodus

MONITORING DESK HAVANA: Cuban and US officials met in Havana to discuss migration, the second such meeting this year as both countries grapple with how best to slow the record-breaking flow of Cubans north to the United States.

The United States - the top destination for Cuban migrants - in 2022 renewed talks with Cuba and has since increased legal pathways for migration for Cubans, including visa access in Havana, family reunification and humanitarian parole programs aimed at stemming illegal migration.

But the problem won't go away, said Cuban vice foreign minister Carlos Fernandez de Cossio, until the United States eases sanctions on the island, which Cuba blames for devastating its already-ailing state-run economy.

Iran's nuclear enrichment advances as it stonewalls UN, IAEA reports show

MONITORING DESK VIENNA: Iran has enough uranium enriched to up to 60% purity, close to weapons-grade, for three atom bombs by the International Atomic Energy Agency's definition and is still stonewalling the agency on key issues, confidential IAEA reports showed on Wednesday.

Iran's steady progress in enriching to very high levels while failing to provide the International Atomic Energy Agency with the cooperation it demands on a growing list of

issues presents a challenge to both the agency and Western powers that have repeatedly called on Iran to reverse course.

Iran's stock of uranium enriched to up to 60% grew by 6.7 kg (14.8 pounds) to 128.3 kg (282.9 pounds) since the last report on Sept. 4, one of the two reports to member states seen by Reuters said. That is more than three times the roughly 42 kg (92.6 pounds) that by the IAEA's definition is theoretically enough, if enriched further, for a nuclear bomb.

Voter support for Japan PM Kishida slides to record low

MONITORING DESK TOKYO: Public support for Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's government slid to a record low, a poll conducted by Jiji news agency showed on Thursday, as Kishida's tax cut plans to help cushion the blow of rising inflation left voters unimpressed.

In the research conducted from Nov. 10-13, 21.3% of those polled said they supported Kishida's government, down from 26.3% in October.

Solution to political instability lies in joint efforts by politicians, executive & establishment: Alvi

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday said Pakistan could overcome its challenges relating to political stability if its politicians, executive and the establishment make a joint commitment to address the issues.

He, in an interview with Voice of America (VOA), was responding to a question if the upcoming general polls would bring political stability in the country.

President Alvi expressed confidence that the result of the polls as an outcome of the public opinion would lead to an environment ensuring stability and prosperity of the country.

Dismissing doubts about delay of general election, he said the judiciary, executive and politicians held a unanimity on holding general elections on the announced date of February 8.

He maintained that the provision of level-playing field to all political parties was the mutual responsibility of the government and the Election Commission of Pakistan.

"The government has already given assurance about providing level-playing field to all parties," he said, adding that the nation had full trust in the

government's commitment in that regard.

The president said that through his letter, he invoked the government's attention towards the apprehensions of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI).

To a query, he said the Constitution did not allow the President to take a 'practical' action to ensure the transparency of an election.

"The President has no other way but to bring such issues to the notice of the government," he said.

He said though the office of the President did not have an administrative authority, however the points raised by it held a significant value. "There can be many expectations [from me to act in a particular way], but I will not take any unconstitutional step," he said. The president said he was not the spokesperson of any party, but of all Pakistanis, adding "However, I will continue to identify and point out whenever see any issue."

To a question, the president said he never showed negligence with respect to the date of general elections.

Alvi appreciated the Supreme Court of Pakistan on demonstrating unanimity over the election date.



KARACHI: Leaders and members of Jamat-e-Islami (JI) are holding protest demonstration against Israeli cruel and inhumane acts and express unity with the innocent people of Palestine, held at Moach Goth area in Karachi.



GENEVA: The Federal Secretary Health, Mr. Iftikhar Ali Shalwani represented the Government of Pakistan, during 50th board Meeting at Geneva Headquarter.

ADB receives \$8mln funds to meet sanitation challenge in Asia-Pacific

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Sanitation Financing Partnership Trust Fund has received \$8 million replenishment from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, further scaling up the partnership between the two institutions to improve access to safe sanitation in Asia and the Pacific.

"As of 2022, the trust fund has leveraged over \$1.64 billion in ADB investments on citywide inclusive sanitation (CWIS) projects in ADB developing member countries (DMCs)," said ADB press statement received here Thursday.

"This replenishment brings the foundation's financial contribution to the trust fund to \$27 million

since 2013," it added.

"We highly appreciate the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's continued support to the Sanitation Financing Partnership Trust Fund," said ADB Water and Urban Development Sector Office Senior Director Norio Saito.

"This contribution will help ADB scale up and magnify the impact of our initiatives to improve access to safe sanitation in the region," Saito added.

This new funding will help advance ADB's focus on addressing climate resilience in sanitation infrastructure and services while helping make these services affordable, safe, inclusive, and effective.

The trust fund was established in 2013 to promote investments in fecal

Israel bombs a masjid in Gaza, 50 worshipers martyred, many injured

GAZA (Online): At least 50 worshipers were martyred and dozens were injured when the Israeli Air Force bombed a mosque in Gaza.

Al-Shafa Hospital has been attacked again by the Zionist forces, which completely destroyed the southern and entrance ways of the hospital.

Saudi Arabia has strongly condemned the Israeli army for the attack on the hospital and the bombing in areas around the Jordan Field Hospital.

According to Arab media reports, Israeli planes destroyed a mosque

full of worshipers in Sabra, central Gaza. Dozens of worshipers were also injured by the Israeli bombardment. Many of the injured are in serious condition.

On the other hand, the Zionist army did not leave the field hospital in Jordan. 7 members of the field hospital were injured in the bombing.

40 days have passed since Israel's attacks on Gaza and so far 11,500 Palestinians have been martyred and more than 25,000 have been injured in these attacks.

According to Arab media reports, the Israeli army has re-operated in Gaza's largest al-Shafa Hospital, where more than 2,000 civilians are sheltering.

Report said, Major General Yaron Finkelman, the head of Israeli military operations in Gaza, said in a social media post that tonight we conducted a targeted operation at al-Shafa Hospital, we will continue to advance.

Gaza's health ministry said Israeli bulldozers destroyed parts of the hospital's southern entrance, detaining around 200 people at the Israeli military hospital.

NDMA showcases pre-disaster preparedness plan, recommendations



QUETTA (APP): Syndicates at NDMA's Provincial Level Simulation Exercise (SimEx), here on Thursday showcased their pre-disaster preparedness plans, shared recommendations and coordination strategies with various government and humanitarian stakeholders.

The Multi Hazards SimEx, covers a range of topics to enhance the disaster management cycle including components of gender and child protection.

The purpose of conducting multi-hazards mock exercises was to enhance the preparedness and response capabilities of Balochistan's disaster management agencies to deal with emergency like situation. As part of proactive approach, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has organized a three-day Simulation Exercises. The syndicates also emphasized the need for effective coordination and cooperation among all stakeholders involved in disaster management and relief activities.

The participants applied the learned concepts to respond to simulated disasters at local and national levels.

Six syndicates participated in the mock exercise including representatives from Provincial Disaster Management Authority Balochistan, District Disaster Management Authorities, Armed Forces and NGOs. Mock drills on preparedness and response based on various scenarios such as cyclones, forest fires, floods and earthquakes were conducted in the exercise. NDMA conducted first SimEx at national level was held in March, 2023 in Islamabad.

To examine technical driven probabilistic recurrence of floods, forest fires, earthquake, coastal emergencies in Balochistan, the exercise would enable the provincial departments and local administrations for preparing plan at all tier.

Emergency responders, including NDMA, PDMA Balochistan, Armed Forces, UN organizations, NGOs and Representatives of other coordinating departments participated

Speakers urge media action to promote menstrual hygiene management in Balochistan

Independent Report GWADAR: Highlighting issues pertaining to Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) is an urgent need of the hour to ensure wellbeing of women and girls. The district government Gwadar would lend its all-out support to efforts that are aimed to raise awareness on MHM in society. Mr Tabish Baloch, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Gwadar said this while sharing his views with the participants of the groundbreaking media workshop, 'Communicating Menstrual Hygiene Management,' organized by The MHMWG Secretariat, Balochistan, in collaboration with the Education

Solangi to represent Pak at Maldives President's oath-taking

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Thursday left Islamabad for Maldives to attend the oath-taking ceremony of Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu.

The swearing-in ceremony is scheduled to take place on November 17 in the Maldives.

According to a news statement, the caretaker information minister will represent Pakistan at the oath-taking ceremony of the President of Maldives in line with the directives of Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

On the occasion, the minister will also hold meetings with different international leaders.

OIC calls Israeli aggression against Palestinians 'war crimes', asks world to step in

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Thursday said that the genocide perpetrated by the Israeli forces against Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip constituted a war crime under international humanitarian law and called for the immediate cessation of the aggression.

"The OIC renews its call on all international actors to assume their responsibility toward an immediate and complete halt to the Israeli aggression," a statement issued by the OIC headquarters in Jeddah said.

The statement urged the international community to ensure the opening of humanitarian corridors for the safe and sustainable delivery of humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip. The OIC strongly condemned the incursion into the Al-Shifa medical complex by the Israeli occupation forces and their continued siege of hospitals in Gaza City. The Israeli move, it said, resulted in cutting off electricity, fuel, and food supplies, besides targeting medical crew, displaced persons, and sick and injured people.

Pak re-elected to UNESCO Executive Board

ISLAMABAD (NNI): Pakistan has been re-elected to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's Executive Board for next four years.

In a press release on Thursday, Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said the re-election of Pakistan is a testament to its longstanding support and constructive role at the United Nations.

After its re-election to the Executive Board, Pakistan will continue to work with Member States to strengthen UNESCO's mandate.

25 closed schools made functional in Kohlu: DC

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner Kohlu Naqibullah Kakar announced that 25 closed schools have been reopened in the district, including Kahan, Mawand, and other areas. This initiative aims to provide education to children at their doorsteps.

The Deputy Commissioner made these remarks during the monthly meeting of the District Education Group (DEG) on Thursday.

He emphasized the importance of making inactive schools in remote areas functional on an emergency basis to secure the future of children. He also warned of strict action against absent staff members.

The Deputy Commissioner highlighted the progress made in the past two months, with 25 schools that had been inactive for a long time being reactivated. This will enable children living in these areas to access education at their doorstep.

Jan emphasizes on conveying philosophy of Allama Iqbal

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has emphasized upon conveying the philosophy and wisdom of Poet of the East, Allama Muhammad Iqbal to the younger generation through digital media so that they may become the ambassador of the same.

The Minister Information said that we need to promote the thinking and philosophy of Allama Iqbal.

He stressed that the philosophy and thinking of Allama Iqbal should be spread to the youth through digital media.

Final term exams of fall 2023 Semester to start on Dec 4

QUETTA (APP): University of Turbat's Controller of Examinations announced that final term examinations of the fall 2-23 semesters would be held from December 4, 2023.

According to an official press release, all the students and faculty members of the University of Turbat are hereby informed that the final term examinations of the fall 2023 Semester at the University of Turbat will start on December 4, 2023.

Muhammad Rashad, Director A&P, Khalid Khan, Deputy Director A&P and Jahangeer Ahmed, Assistant Director A&P represented NAB (B) therein.

The main objective of the meeting was to interact with SSGC representatives

Sindh govt moves SC against decision of stopping trial of civilians in military courts

ISLAMABAD (Online): Sindh government has filed appeal in Supreme Court (SC) against the decision of stopping trial of civilians in military courts.

Sindh government has requested the court to nullify decision of stopping the trial of civilians in military courts.

It has been said in appeal that Supreme Court (SC) decision be suspended till the decision of appeal. it was further said in

the appeal those accused in attacking military installations should be tried in military courts. SC has not made correct review of law and facts. Sindh government has requested for restoration of nullified clauses of army act and official secret act. The accused persons themselves gave application that they should be tried in military courts.

The petition is likely to be fixed for hearing next week.



QUETTA: Members of Pashtunkhwa Students Organization (PSO) are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands.

NAB conducts anti corruption drive at SSGC

QUETTA (Online): Under the anti-corruption awareness and prevention campaign of NAB Balochistan, a Prevention Mode Meeting on "Study of Laws / Rules and Procedures of SSGC" was conducted at Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC), Regional Office, Quetta on Thursday.

General Manager (SBU), Mohammad Anwar Baloch, General Manager (CRD), Latifullah, Regional Manager, Farooq Ahmed Khan and Billing Incharge, Imran Azam were present from SSGC.

Muhammad Rashad, Director A&P, Khalid Khan, Deputy Director A&P and Jahangeer Ahmed, Assistant Director A&P represented NAB (B) therein.

The main objective of the meeting was to interact with SSGC representatives to have discussion on various aspects relating to SSGC in order to prevent the chances of corruption.

The Director NAB highlighted the awareness and prevention mandate of NAB u/s 33-C of NAO and the role of NAB in fight against the menace of corruption. Representatives of SSGC briefed about the SSGC's functions regarding different functions of SSGC.

The issues/problems prevailing due to the deviation of practices from standard laws / procedures / instructions were discussed and highlighted in the meeting.

Further, the need for provision of maximum relief to general public and businesses by resolving their grievances was encouraged.



QUETTA: Senior Politician, Nawabzada Haji Lashkari Raisani addresses during condolence reference in memory of Jahanzaib Awan organized by Tanzeem-ul-Awan held at Quetta press club.

Dostain Jamaldini says: CMIT working to ensure quality of work in dev. projects

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Inspection Team (CMIT) is working together with the line departments to ensure quality of work in the development projects and complete projects in the stipulated time.

This was stated by Chairman CMIT, Mir Dostain Jamaldini while presiding over the meeting of different departments on Thursday.

The Members of CMIT Abdul Rauf Baloch and Qasim Mengal, Deputy Commissioner Kech, Hussain Jan Baloch besides officers of different departments of Kech.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman CMIT said that it is working in light of the directives of Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki so as to ensure transparency in the development projects of public interests.

Constable martyred in terrorist attack in Tank

TANK (APP): A policeman was martyred as unknown terrorists opened fire on him here at NADRA office on Thursday. According to a police spokesman, a police constable named Waris Shah, deployed at security duty at NADRA office, was shot dead by unknown terrorists riding on motorcycle.

The assailants fled the scene after the cowardly attack. As information was received about the incident, District Police Officer (DPO) Tank Iftikhar Ali Shah along with SP Investigation Haji Nasir Khan, DSP Headquarters Abdul Rashid Khan Marwat, DSP Jandola Syed Marjan Khan.

SMEDA, Balochistan held training workshop at Gwadar University

QUETTA (APP): Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA), Balochistan organized a one-day training workshop on "Entrepreneurship as a Viable Career Option" at Gwadar University (GU) in collaboration with the Department of Research and Commercialization, Gwadar University on Thursday.

Inaugurating the workshop, Gwadar University's Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Abdul Razaq Sabir said that Gwadar University has planned to expand its linkages with industries and companies in the public and private sectors through the Office of Research and Commercialization to promote the concept of entrepreneurship among people. The training workshop aimed to enable students to become job providers rather than job seekers, he said. Prof. Dr. Sabir thanked the provincial head of SMEDA, Abdul Shakoor and his team for organizing such a training workshop in the university saying that such workshops should be organized every year so that the students could develop their skills. Addressing the workshop, Director of Officer Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC)



TURBAT: Chairman Chief Minister Inspection Team Mir Dostain Khan Jamaldini being briefed by head of various departments regarding ongoing development projects.