

Vol. XIII No. 309 Reg. mails-B / ID-445 Friday November 03, 2023, Rabi-us-Sani 18 1445 A.H. Ph: 2158688, 2158997 Pages 4: Rs. 12

# Afghan diplomat meets Bugti over immigrants repatriation

ISLAMABAD (INP): Af- not tolerate discourteous or ghan Charge d' Affairs on Thursday called on Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfaraz Bugti. Afghan dip-lomat Sardar Ahmad Shakeeb discussed issues related to repatriation of Afghan nationals from Pakistan to Afghanistan and other matters of mutual interest. Interior Minister said that the immigrants illegally staying in Pakistan returning to their countries. "We have issued instructions for respectable treatment with the people returning back to home," Bugti said.

"No legal action being taken against those holding Afghan citizen card," Pakistan's interior minister said. "The government will

impolite treatment to the immigrants at any cost," he stressed. He said a control centre and helpline have been established in the Ministry of Interior. Bugti invited Afghan embassy to appoint its representative for liaison over complaints, if any reported. Minister informed the Afghan envoy that the women and children will be exempted from biometric formality at crossing points to facilitate them. Afghanistan's Taliban

government on Wednesday urged Pakistan to give undocumented Afghans in the country more time to leave as pressure mounts at border posts swarmed by thousands of returnees fleeing.



**ISLAMABAD: Head of Mission of Afghanistan** Sardar Ahmad Shekib called on Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti.

# FO says: **Repatriation** of illegal foreigners to continue without any reconsideration

kistan on Thursday, calling the policy on repatriation of eigners residing illegally in illegal foreigners consistent with domestic laws and in-nationality and country of

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa- Illegal Foreigners Repatriation ternational norms, reiterated origin. However, it was not that the process would con- applicable to individuals endiscuss country's joying refugee status. Asked



ISLAMABAD: President, Dr. Arif Alvi exchanging views with Sikandar Sultan Raja, Chief Election Commissioner of Pakistan along with the Mansoor Usman Awan, Attorney General for Pakistan and four members of the Election Commissioner of Pakistan during meeting held at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

# President, CEC agree on Feb 8 as general election date

#### AGP and chief election commissioner to inform SC about decision today

ISLAMABAD (Online): for Pakistan, Mr Mansoor Pakistan is scheduled to hold its next general elections on February 8, 2024, as announced by both the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and the Presidency.

This announcement followed a consultative unanimously agreed to hold the General Elections meeting between the president and ECP authorities on February 8, 2024." The Election Comin response to the instructions of the Supreme Court.

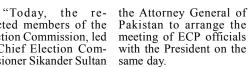
The statement re-leased by the Presidency a press release announcing that the general elections would take place on Febstated, "In response to the Supreme Court's directive, ruary 8 next year. The ECP also made the Chief Election Commissioner of Pakistan, Mr

the announcement through Sikandar Sultan Raja, along social networking platform X, erstwhile Twitter. with the Attorney General Nawaz, Shehbaz

spected members of the Usman Awan, and four members of the Election Election Commission, led Commission of Pakistan, by Chief Election Commet with President Dr Arif missioner Sikander Sultan Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr to Raja, met with the President of Pakistan at the discuss the date for the upcoming General Elections Presidency to discuss the in the country. After a de-tailed discussion, it was election date. It was unanimously decided that the elections will be held on Thursday, February 8, 2024," the ECP wrote in the post. mission of Pakistan issued

Meanwhile, the Su-preme Court on Thursday directed the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to give the specific date for general elections by Friday after the consultation with the President.

The court instructed



The court said that it expected that all issues would be addressed by this meeting. It directed the respondents to inform the bench on Friday regarding the development and adjourned the case. three-member

bench of the top court headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa and comprising Justice Amin Ud Din Khan and Justice Athar Minallah heard the petition seeking the hold-ing of general elections in 90 days.



## Says media plays key role in development of society

SLAMABAD (APP): ing of people. Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday assured the Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA) of payment of advertisement dues and directed the Information Ministry to resolve the is-

sue as soon as possible. He was talking to a PBA delegation, which called on him. During the meeting, matters relating to the media, especially electronic media, came under discussion.

The delegation inabout the issue of outstanding dues on account of govment advertisements.

Highlighting the importance of the media, the urged the delegation to inprime minister said that being the fourth pillar of state, the media was of utmost importance for the development of society, and the the Special Investment Famental and intellectual train-

representatives was also responsibility of the state. PM Kakar said that through effective and coordinated communication between the government and the media, the public could stay informed about gov-

of the rights of the media

He said the protection

ernment policies and initiatives He said the media played a key role in good governance and accountability of government per-formance. He expressed the formed the prime minister hope that the media would continue to play its role in the stability of democracy through impartial reporting.

The prime minister crease public awareness through the media about the importance of the economic stabilization strategy under cilitation Council (SIFC)



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf in a meeting with Mayor of the London Borough of Hounslow Councilor Afzal Kiyani.

**IMF** appreciates Pakistan's commitments to meet Q1 targets

tinue in an orderly and phased manner without any reconsideration

"The policy is verv clear... Individuals who are illegals, who do not possess legal documents, who have overstayed their visas will be repatriated. So, there is, at this point, no reconsideration of the policy," Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in her weekly press briefing a day after the policy came into effect over the expiry of the Oc-tober 31 deadline.

She explained that the resettled in third countries.

tries whose nationals were being repatriated, the spokesperson said it could be approximately a dozen, or maybe slightly fewer. She said the government was in contact with those countries and the lists provided by such countries were under discussion between the two sides

about the number of coun-

She said the government was also engaged with a number of countries, including the United States. with respect to Afghan individuals who were to be

political situation

LAHORE (INP): Former prime minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz President Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday met with his elder brother Nawaz Sharif in Lahore to discuss the country's overall political situation and legal affairs. Apart from political and le-

gal affairs, the distribution of

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the Pakistan Broadcasters' Association called party tickets, election narraon caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar. tive and matters related to addressing grievances of the No discrimination in status of Pakistan People's Party and other coalition partners were discussed, the sources said.

AJK ministries as all enjoy equal significance: AJK PM MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime

Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that all departments and ministers were of equal importance.

Talking to a public delegation that called on him at Jammu Kashmir House in the federal metropolis late Wednesday, the PM said that there was no size of all of the ministries vis a-vis portfolios since all ministries enjoy the same size and status but it was the hard work and devotion of the people at the helm of affairs that matters the most,

wasting time on useless activities. The Prime Minister said that idleness fosters anxiety and chaos in society. The PM said that he had issued special instruc-

tions to the minister for IT to use all available resources to at-Oatar. tract the educated youth towards IT and skill development. He said that there was a

dire need to focus on agriculture and livesaid that his government would use all its resources on public welfare projects. He said that the government was going to launch a great welfare project worth 5 billion rupees for widows, orphans, disabled and divorced women.

SLAMABAD (APP): The International Monetary Fund (IMF) Mission Chief, Nathan Porter here on Thursday appreciated the government's commitment to meeting the first Quarter targets and commended its efforts and measures taken in some critical areas

During a meeting with

Caretaker Federal Minister

opment of country.

Economic Affairs. Shamshad Akhtar, the IMF Mission Chief underscored the importance of continuation of these efforts for staying on track for economic stability of the country. Earlier, Dr. Shamshad

Akhtar welcomed the delegation and shared progress on the Standby Arrangement (SBA), according to press statement issued by for Finance, Revenue & finance ministry.

# Pakistani Diaspora's role in progress of country, an irrefutable reality: Raja

ISLAMABAD (APP): Diaspora under leadership Speaker National Assemof Mayor of the London bly Raja Pervez Ashraf on Borough of Hounslow Thursday said that Paki-Councilor Afzal Kiani, said stani Diaspora around the a press release issued here. world had always played He also said that enpivotal and substantiated suring participation of Parole for progress and devel-

kistani Diaspora in development and progress of He expressed these country had been principle stance of Pakistan People's views during meeting with Party (PPP).



**ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Planning** Development and Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed chairs a meeting of National Price Monitoring Committee.

KARACHI: Pakistan Navy Special Service Group and Qatari Naval Special Forces demonstrating Counter Piracy Operation during Joint Naval Exercise MUHARIBAI-BAHR VI, held in Karachi.

# Ayaz Sadiq formally invites Lashkari Raisani to join PML-N

Nawabzada Lashkari says he would make decision about joining PML-N after consultation with companions

Independent Report QUETTA: The senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Sardar Ayaz Sadiq formally invited the prominent political and tribal leader and former Senator

Raisani for joining the Naeem Karim besides oth-PML-N during his meet- ers. ing with the later as he visited the Sarawan House for the purpose on Thursday

Also accompanied with him were the provin-

Soon after the meeting, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq addressed a joint press conference along with ashkari Raisani. On the occasion,

Ayaz Sadiq said that he has come to see Nawabzada Lashkari Raisani and invited him to join the party on directives of the central leader of party, Mian Muhammad Jabalia refugee camp, Nawaz Sharif and Ms. Maryam Nawaz.

killed Hamas commanders. The Gaza health ministry said at least 8,796 Palestinians in the narrow coastal enclave, including Balochistan and its 3,648 children, have been people. He said that PML-N leaders Mian killed by Israeli strikes since October 7. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Shahbaz Sharif have

At least 320 foreign citizens on an initial list of long association with 500, as well as dozens of Nawabzada Lashkari severely injured Gazans.

crossed into Egypt on Thursday around the al-Wednesday under a deal GAZA: More foreigners between Israel, Egypt and prepared to leave the be-Hamas. Passport holders sieged Gaza Strip on Thursday as the Palestinfrom Australia, Austria, ian authorities said at least Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Finland, Indonesia, 195 Palestinians died in Italy, Japan, Jordan, the Israeli attacks on the United Kingdom and the United States were evacustrikes that Israel claimed ated.

Gaza officials said the Rafah border crossing would reopen on Thursday so more foreigners could exit. A diplomatic source said some 7,500 foreign passport holders would leave Gaza over

about two weeks. Explosions

Quds hospital in densely populated Gaza City, the Palestinian Red Crescent said. Israeli authorities had previously warned the hospital to evacuate immediately, which UN officials said was impossible without endangering patients. Gaza's media office said on Thursday that at

least 195 Palestinians were killed in the two Israeli attacks on Jabalia. with 120 missing. At least 777 wounded, it said in a statement.

Palestinians were Wednesday sifted through heard in the early hours of rubble in a desperate hunt

for trapped victims. "It is fighting, bringing to 17 the a massacre," said one witnumber killed since ground operations were expanded UN human rights ofon Fridav

Commissioner for Human

Rights wrote on social

announced the death of

another soldier in Gaza

The Israeli military

media site X.

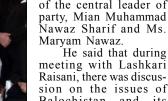
ficials said strikes on the Amid growing intercamp could be a war crime. national calls for a humani-Given the high numtarian pause in hostilities, ber of civilian casualties conditions in the seaside and the scale of destrucenclave are increasingly tion following Israeli air desperate under Israel's strikes on Jabalia refugee brutal and relentless ascamp, we have serious sault and tightened blockconcerns that these are ade. Food, fuel, drinking disproportionate attacks water and medicine have that could amount to war run short. crimes," the UN High

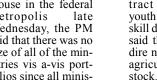
Dr Fathi Abu al-Hassan, a US passport holder waiting to cross into Egypt on Wednesday, described hellish conditions in Gaza with no water, food or shelter.

Nawabzada Lashkari Raisani to join the PML-Sardar Ayaz Sadiq invited Nawabzada Lashkari

cial leadership of PML-N Sheikh Jaffar Mandokhail, Jamal Shah Naseemur Mulakhail, Chaudhary

Kakar, Rehman Raisani and his family.





he emphasised.

He said that it was high time that the youth should focus on IT instead of

**Monitoring Desk** 

## Pak-Qatar **Navy Special Forces bilateral** exercise ends

edition of bilateral exercise MUHARIB-AL-BAHR between Pakistan Navy Special Service Group (SSG(N) and Qatari Naval Special Forces (QNSF) concluded at Karachi.

ducted annually alternatively at Pakistan and

> cise comprised of various operations such as Frogman Ops. coordinated Maritime Interdiction Operations, Ship Visit-Board-Search and Seizure (SVBSS) Procedures, Sniper Weapon Firing, Day and Night Counter Terrorism Training, Close Quarter Combat (CQC) at Ship in a Box Mockup and Fast Rope Insertion Ex-Techniques traction (FRIETS).

Battles rage in Gaza as Israeli strikes on

refugee camp kills more than 195 people

people were

on

ness

The exercise is con-

The two-week exer-

KARACHI (INP): The 6th

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OPINION

## Daily **Independent**



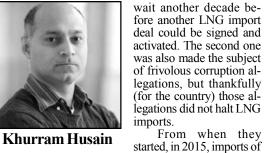
# No respite

Today, Nov 2, is observed worldwide as the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists. It is a day when attention turns to the extreme pressures and injustices journalists face in the line of duty. The context in which it will be observed this year in Pakistan is quite grim.

On the eve of the occasion, Absar Alam, former chief of the country's electronic media regulator, made a damning statement before the Supreme Court alleging that a senior ISI officer, as well as his subordinates, attempted to control and coerce the media through Pemra during Mr Alam's tenure. The tactics employed included reducing the visibility of TV channels that refused to toe the state's line and seeking penalties against TV commentators who were critical of the state. There are many in the industry who will attest to the fact that the climate of repression that prevailed during retired Lt-Gen Faiz Hameed's time at ISI's helm was one of the worst experienced by Pakistani media. The former spy chief gained notoriety for pressuring Pakistani media in wavs never seen or heard before, including with of reform measures. direct threats. His methods were unusually brutish. At one point, he vowed to 'destroy' this publication and made good on that threat by blocking Dawn's circulation and advertisements.

Access to Dawn's sister television channel DawnNews, was repeatedly disrupted in connivance with cable operators across the country. Other news outlets, such as Geo News, faced persecution in very similar ways.

The financial consequences for ordinary journalists working in these organisations were immense and painful to bear. Unfortunately, Gen Hameed's tactics seem to have found enduring favour under the present regime as well. All of the Pakistani media's challenges can obviously not be attributed to one individual or institution. The government's lack of commitment to journalists' protection deserves equal blame. Though Pakistan became the first country to enact laws for the protection of journalists under the PTI the Freedom Network noted this week that it has failed to mitigate the prevalence of crimes against journalists despite doing so. Eleven journalists have been slain since the law was passed, while journalists continue to face kidnapping, physical assault and harassment through legal cases. The data available shows that no place in the country is safe for journalists anymore — not even the federal capital. Everywhere, journalists are being targeted for their work with impunity. No murder or disappearance seems to be adequately investigated, and the perpetrators are, therefore, never brought to book. This culture of impunity is what allows the cycle of violence to repeat itself. It is unlikely to stop till the federal and provincial governments provide more means and resources to the various bodies set up to look after journalists' rights and protect them from violence. They must act now.



LNG have grown nearly This could be a case study in how not to do things. tenfold, and at the present rates of growth, imported Common sense tells us LNG will soon surpass that when problems are left to fester for long, they domestic gas in the system. And with this growth can grow in scale and comes pricing pressure. complexity. Having postponed inevitable adjust-Pakistan's gas reserves went into decline ments for long periods of around 2010. The criptime, a moment arrives when the necessary ad-

pling shortages in the justment has to be underyears leading up to the commencement of LNG taken in panic, in a short imports are remembered period of time, without the by all those who lived luxury of staggering out through them. From that its impact, or embedding point onwards, it was it within a larger package known and clear to all that This is exactly what gas pricing would have to has happened with the rechange in Pakistan. For decades, we had been ly-

cent gas price hikes. It is ing to ourselves with our hard to tell whether the hikes applied so far are gas pricing.

enough to arrest the growth of the circular debt throwaway values, we had been telling ourin the gas sector. My hunch is no, it is selves that gas is abundant and cheap, whereas not, and more hikes may in reality it was scarce and

need to be applied in the future. But even without that, what has happened in the gas sector is almost a case study in how not to do things.

It has been known over a decade now. But since at least the early that wasn't done. 1990s that Pakistan's dothan a decade in which mestic gas supplies would to make crucial decipeak somewhere close to sions about natural gas. the year 2010. By the early 2000s, these were no These included pricing, and in addition, allocalonger projections, but empirical facts that were coming into view, about the moment when domestic gas supplies would enter their period of decline. That is why the Musharraf regime mobilised to commence LNG imports, arranging a full package involving a a half in which to get a long- term contract and a regasification terminal.

We all know what happened with that: the court assumed corruption ous stakeholders. was involved, halted the deal, and Pakistan had to done. What happened,

**Reforming at gunpoint** instead, was that fresh supplies via imported LNG were arranged and activated. The second one the vehicular CNG was also made the subject stakeholders thrown mainly because they lacked the organised clout that the other industry stakeholders had. For a while, this worked. Then in 2022 the PTI government un-

reform, bringing in what was called the Weighted Average Cost of Gas (WACOG)

have seen relentless price shocks administered to the economy. There was the withdrawal of the fuel subsidies, the power tariff hikes, the devaluations, the interest rate hikes, and now the gas price increases. It is not yet clear whether these shocks have now ended or more are yet to come. What is clear, how-

ever, is that running an economy in constant By pricing it at nearly crisis and firefighting mode means the reform agenda becomes subsu-med under the required adjustments. What ought to have

precious. Having squanbeen a reform moment, dered this vital resource, a time to take stock and we have been faced with devise a package of the unpleasant prospect policies to steer the economy towards a of repricing gas for well more sustainable direction, has become little There was more more than a moment to swallow one bitter pill after another in an effort to get prices right after

crucial decisions. Reforms are not tions. Who will get how much gas at what price? firefighting measures. There were at least five These relentless price shocks are not setting major stakeholders in this decision: fertiliser, the economy on the right path. All they are power generation, textiles, vehicular CNG and doing is stabilising the ship, and hopefully domestic consumers. There was a decade and those running the show can see how difficult that task is. The new pricing regime in real reforms come later. place, and allow that pricing regime to reallo-But for that moment to cate gas among the variarrive, the country cannot be under an interim government. -- Cour-

None of that was tesv Dawn

**Commerce** News

were overboard. dertook crucial pricing

that resurrections can occur and could happen again, and that a sea of adversity was parted once and would divide itself again. The return of Mian Nawaz Sharif to Paki-s--tan on Oct 21 is nothing short miraculo-us. Every legal obstruction is being removed from his path, hinting at neo-divine intervention.

To his PML-N followers, Nawaz Sharif is akin to a modern Moses promising to lead them into a Promised Land, with his brother Aaron by his side. A Jewish rabbi identified the differences between the two brothers as: "Aaron comforted the people. He spoke sooth-

> the wake of the storm. Moses, by contrast, was the thunder within it.'

chant for parallels will notice how neatly these cloaks fit the brothers -Nawaz, a man with a mission, if only to clear his name; Shahbaz the ambitious surrogate, the cona decade of avoiding peace even with a pha-

> raoh Both will need to navigate a course carefully through the foreseeable turmoil leading up to the next elections and, more critically, the predictable mayhem that will follow the declaration of results, whenever.

tions, the PML-N team studied White's analysis of the US presidential elections: The Making of the Presi-

# 'Death's dominion'

sequels on the 1964, 1968 and 1972 jousts. From them, the PML-N culled a strategy of focusing on marginal constituencies. Safe seats were already in the bag. It was the undecided who needed PML-N's help to make up their minds for them. Today, one is not

aware of a similar tactical plan developed by any of the political parties. They are relying on the broad blunderbuss approach to the more specific precision of the rifle. The elections of De-

cember 1970 have been touted as the high-watermark of 'free and fair' polls. After its waters had subsided, though, the resultant bedlam led to vivisection of a single Pakistan and the emergence of Mujibur Rahman as elected supremos in its

residual West and East. At the time, a victorious Indira Gandhi resisted careful--ly to avoid disthe temptation to absorb East Paki-stan into a larger Akhand Bharat. She had enough Muslims within India to contend with.

and

eminently

Viceroy's

Fifty years later, the Indians ingly. He was the calm in Bang-la-deshis have collaborated again, this time on a newly released film Mujib: The Making of a

of

Those with a pen-Nation, an Indian-Bangladeshi co-production directed by Shyam Benegal. It has been sponsored by Mujib's daughter, the current PM Sheikh Hasina Like ciliator prepared to make Chadha's

watchable House (2017) — a cinedrama recounting the

events of 1947 Benegal's biopic is unlikely to be shown in Pakistan. Bangladesh, nor Pakistan, nor India have fully exorcised the demons in their common past.

Before previous elec-The crowd that greeted Mujibur Rahman Theodore when he stood with Bhutto in Shalimar Gardens, Lahore, during the Islamic Sum-mit of 1974,

dent 1960 (1961), and its is in its dotage. It can hardly remember Bhutto, leave alone Mujib.

In 1995, a post-apartheid South Africa taught the world the cathartic benefit of forgiveness. Its Truth and Reconciliation Com-mission enabled black, white and coloured South Africans "to come to terms with their past on a morally accepted basis'

In 1945-46, the vengeful Allies gave the world the Nuremberg trials. Their purpose went beyond conviction of Nazi-tainted defendants. It was "to offer a history lesson to the defeated Germans. and delegitimise the traditional German elite".

As no war is onesided, "the judges were aw---are that both the Al-Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and lies and the Axis had pl--anned com--m--itted acts of ag--gression". Thev wrote "the verdict crediting either the Allied governments or the tribunal". The verdict declared the plotting and waging of an aggressive war "the supreme in--ternational crime" because it contained "wi--thin itself the accumulated evil of the whole'

Will Israel, after it has obliterated the last particle of Palestine, submit itself to international accountability? Unlike the Jews who survived World War II to savour the cold Gurinder Nuremberg trials, the Palestinians have only the ghosts of their dead to draw upon to indict Israel.

Poets like Dylan Thomas sing what victims can only stutter: "Though they be mad and dead as nails, Heads of the characters Neither hammer through daisies, / Break in the sun till the sun breaks down, / And death shall have no dominion Death continues to exercise dominion --- now over Palestine, where harvests are drip-fed with the blood of Abraham. -- Courtesy

Dawn

#### F.S. Aijazuddin Anyone hoping to understand Pakist-ani politics needs to believe implicitly in miracles. He must admit

The past two years

# Brunei Darussalam can take benefit from Pakistan's investor-friendly policies: Sanjrani

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, said on Thursday that Pakistan's investor-friendly policies make it an attractive prospect for potential investments from Brunei Darussalam in various sectors such as energy, agriculture, and education.

chairman The expressed these views during a meeting with the High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam who

paid a courtesy call to the ties between the two the two sides delved into Chairman of the Senate, as countries. stated in a news release.

The meeting was During the meeting, marked by a strong sense both sides called for further of optimism and hope for strengthening existing an enhancement in relations, particularly in diplomatic ties between the areas of trade, Pakistan and Brunei business, investment, and Darussalam. Sanjrani, expressed

the economic sector. Sanjrani, his confidence that this congratulated High appointment would Commissioner PG Kamal contribute Bashah PG Ahmed on his appointment and extended between the two nations. fis heartfelt best wishes During the for his role in strengthening comprehensive discussion,

the prevailing regional situation and addressed

issues of mutual interest. Pakistan and Brunei Darussalam's strong bilateral relations, deeply rooted in shared religious values and cooperation, were also highlighted.

Both dignitaries emphasized the need to to the further bolster these strengthening of relations relations, particularly in areas of trade, business, investment, and the the economic sector.



ISLAMABAD: Dr. Tauqeer Hussain Shah, the Executive Director (designate) World Bank called on the Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar at the Ministry of Finance to bid fare-well upon the end of his assignment in the country.

# **10 million employed in** cottage industry need to be protected: Irfan

Independent Report

many developed and KARACHI: Mr. Irfan quickly developing Iqbal Sheikh, President economies in the world FPCCI, has emphasized who built their that the government socioeconomic policies should protect, transformation; import emancipate and enable substitution capacities cottage industry in and GDP per Capita Pakistan as it employs 10 growth on the basis of a

# Dr. Umar urges Saudia to facilitate Pakistani IT companies in travel, visas

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister news release. IΤ and

Telecommunication Dr. Umar on Thursday urged the Ambassador of Saudi the IT and telecom sectors between the two countries. Arabia to Pakistan Nawaf that the Government of bin Said Al-Malki to facilitate Pakistani IT Pakistan wanted to boost relations with Saudi Arabia professionals and business persons in travel and in the IT and telecom issuing of visas. sectors.

The minister expressed these views attractive market for during a meeting with the Pakistani IT companies, he ambassador who called on added him. Matters of mutual interest and related to IT and Telecommunication

from Nov 7

were also discussed, said a Saudi Arabia, important to facilitate The two sides agreed their travel and issuance of to enhance cooperation in visas

WAPDA signs Rs705m

agreement for consultancy

The minister said that there was great potential for IT and Telecom Dr. Umar Saif said professionals in Pakistan and the environment for investment in the country was conducive, urging the Saudi tech companies to Saudi Arabia is a very invest in Pakistan.

Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki said that Saudi Arabia will He said as Pakistani fully cooperate with IT companies scale up their Pakistan in the IT sector presence and businesses in and Telecom.

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani exchanging

Sadiq

views with Group of AJK Businessmen from UK led by Raja Naveed Akhtar Goga and Chairman District Council Mirpur during meeting held at Parliament House in Islamabad.

# Mobilink Bank witnesses a 38% growth in lending to MSMEs

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Mobilink Bank exhibited significant growth in the first three quarters of 2023, as quarters of 2025, as evidenced by the Q3 part of the VEON group, a (PB1) experienced a financial statements. This global digital operator that provides converged to 2022, with financial statements are provided and the statement of the statement Bank's dedication to supporting Micro, Small, and Medium-Sized countries. Enterprises (MSMEs), supported by substantial deposit growth and improvements on multiple indicators. Mobilink Bank's Q3 2023 growth trajectory exemplifies its commitment to embracing across countries that are a holistic approach that goes beyond profitability, focusing on providing innovative, value-driven solutions tailored to foster

economic well-being and demonstrating its strong prosperity for all while customer attraction and addressing the evolving retention capabilities. needs of its borrowers. Mobilink Bank is Bank's Profit Before Tax

provides converged compared to 2022, connectivity and online solidifying its standing as a leading digital microfinance institution. services across seven а

As part of its digital The Bank's deposits operator strategy, VEON experienced a 16% increase is transforming people's from FY 2022, reaching lives by creating opportunities for increased PKR 75 billion. The core banking digital inclusion and by deposits grew by 12% driving economic growth compared to the previous

year, reaching PKR 23 home to more than 8% of billion, while JazzCash the world's population. segment deposits powered Mobilink Bank's by Mobilink bank total revenue surged by 64% in Q3 2023, PKR 52 billion in Q3 2023.

During this period, the

massive employment gap left out by other sectors and industries. It is pertinent to note

that FPCCI's Standing Committee on Cottage Industry organized a highprofile meeting on the burning issues of cottage industry; which was well-

attended and wellrepresented from across Sindh province. Mr. Irfan Iqbal

matter of fact, there are

million people in the large number of diverse country – bridging a cottage industries. Čhina, India Bangladesh and Brazil

are some of the glaring examples of the power of the cottage industry, he added. Mr. Irfan Iqbal

Sheikh informed that the World Bank research shows that MSMEs generate 50 percent of all employment in the world; and, they are involved in

90 percent of all economic Sheikh explained that, as activities - one way or the other

FAISALABAD (APP): University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) in collaboration with Punjab Agriculture (Extension) Department will launch eight-day wheat campaign from November 07 to November 14, 2023.

for

UAF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Igrar Ahmad Khan while chairing deans committee said that more than 330.000 UAF students would visit farmers' fields in six divisions of the Punjab as the drive would be started to disseminate experts recommendations to increase per acre productivity.

services of Naulong Dam ISLAMABAD Water and Development Authority respectively. The (WAPDA) on Thursday consultancy contract relates signed an agreement valuing Rs. 705 million for consultancy services of procurement documents, Naulong Dam project with a joint venture comprised of documents of the project, two firms – Dolsar of said a statement issued.As Turkey and Mott Mcdonald per the contract, these tasks of Pakistan. The agreement was signed by General Manager (Projects) South Development Bank was Muhammad Masood

(INP): Aker on behalf of WAPDA Power and the joint venture and update the safeguard per the contract, these tasks will be completed in 28 months. The Asian Muhammad Masood providing financial Ahmed Soomro and assistance for consultancy International Projects services of Naulong Dam Coordinator of Dolsar Cem Project.



ndependent

Friday November 03, 2023

broken

National News

## Page 03

# Naqvi imposes ban on cleaning of schools by students across Punjab

Independent Report LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi conducted а comprehensive inspection

at the Government Junior Model High School Model Town.The conditions observed were deeply concerning; several classrooms lacked furniture, forcing students to study on the bare floor. The washrooms were unclean and devoid of water, and the electric water coolers were malfunctioning. Broken furniture, damaged whiteboards, dilapidated doors and windows

further contributed to the The students voiced dismal state of the grievances about the classrooms. Similarly, absence of clean drinking there was only one water, insufficient water in washrooms, sweeper available for a student population of 750. furniture, and damaged In addition to these whiteboards. They also issues, sports activities highlighted issues such as were suspended, dim lighting, nonclassrooms exhibited functional fans, the peeling paint and cobwebs,

absence of sports activities, lighting was inadequate, and the necessity to and some fans were inoperable. Both the purchase textbooks from the market. computer and science labs The chief minister were found to be non- also interacted with functional and in poor nursery class children, condition, respectively. expressing his commitment

The CM went to to providing them with every classroom, engaging essential educational with the students to facilities and instructing for without glass and grilles understand their concerns. their prompt provision.

The CM expressed dissatisfaction upon witnessing the deplorable conditions and summoned Education Minister Mansoor Qadir, secretary schools, secretary C&W and the CEO district education authority to the school to rectify these issues.Acknowledging the gravity of the situation, CM Naqvi took stringent action and prohibited students from undertaking the responsibility of cleaning schools across Punjab, directing the secretary school education department to issue a

notification for strict compliance today.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman in a group photo with participants of 7 International Health Professionals Education Conference at University of Lahore.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali inaugurates main campus site of the University of Technology adjacent to motorway near Rashkai Interchange in Nowshera.

Addressing

that he was pleased to

#### **Governor lays foundation Raiwind Tablighi** stone of APS Martyrs **University of Technology** LAHORE (APP): The first phase of the annual congregation, 'Raiwind Tablighi Ijtima' started on

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber ceremony, the governor said Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali on Thursday visited Nowshera and laid foundation stone of APS Martyrs University of Technology Nowshera.

laying ceremony among others was attended by Caretaker minister for Industries, Amir Abdullah, Vice Chancellor, Dr. Zafar Khan, Vice Chancellor technologies practically. Swabi University, Dr. Nasir Ghulam Ali also directed to Jamal and Rector Pak Austria University, Dr. Muhammad Mujahid.

inaugurate the varsity that would prove to be milestone continue from Nov 2 to in educating youth in new November 5. According to emerging fields 01 Ijtima administration, technologies. He said that districts and areas The foundation stone location of university in participating in the first phase are Kark, Bannu, Lucky Marwat, Dir, Bajaur, proximity to Rashakai Industrial Zone would Timargarah, Chitral, Rawalpindi, Jhelum, Attock, provide students ample chances to experience working of various types of Tala Gang, Chakwal, Sargodha, Khushab, Bhakkar, Mianwali, all complete the project at the

districts of Kashmir and all earliest and said that the districts of Sindh province, design should be modern. except for Karachi.

the

# World cannot remain indifferent to the plight of Palestinians: Governor

Independent Report LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Punjab Balighur Rehman said that all human beings are connected to one another. The world can not remain indifferent to the plight of Palestinians.

The way innocent men, women and innocent children are being martyred in Gaza by bombing at refugee camps, hospitals, and civilian population is not only sad but shameful. The

community should play a role in stopping the oppression of innocent Palestinians.

He expressed these views while speaking as a special guest at the Health Professionals Education Conference at University of Lahore today. In the conference, the Caretaker provincial Health Minister, Prof. Dr. Javed Akram and vice chancellors of medical

international delegates were present.

# lungs, respiratory system complications: Minister

Independent Report LAHORE: Caretaker Punjab Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Dr. Jamal Nasir has warned that smog can lead to diseases of throat, lungs, and respiratory system, and urged the public to take preventive measures. He advised citizens to wear masks to protect

International News

themselves from smog and also recommended frequent hand, face, and eye washing environing to mitigate its harmful manner.

# PUC appeals to observe 'Children's Martyrs Day of Palestine' nationwide

Pakistan Ulema Council resolved through ceasefire appealed appealed for the observance of 'Children's Martyrs Day of Palestine' throughout the country on Friday, underscoring the importance of addressing the Palestinian issue through the establishment of a free and independent state.Addressing a press conference at Jamia Manzoor-ul-Islamia, PUC Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi, clarified to the United

LAHORE (APP): The Palestine would not be (PUC) on Thursday and aid but rather through the establishment of a selfdetermined Palestinian state. He said in a notable meeting with the Palestinian ambassador, Chief of Army Staff, General Syed Asim Munir affirmed Pakistan's commitment to stand shoulder to shoulder with the Palestinian people, emphasizing that the government, armed forces, and the general populace of Pakistan were resolute in Palestinian people.

He commended the Saudi government's initiative to establish official funds for aiding the Palestinian population, reflecting the strong stance of Saudi Arabia in supporting their Palestinian brethren. He urged Pakistan to follow suit and establish special funds at the government level to assist the Palestinian people. Ashrafi who is also the Special Representative to the Prime Minister on Religious Harmony and Pakistani Diaspora in the their support for the Middle East and Islamic Countries

# **KP** Minister pledges financial support to Mental and General Hospital

MANSEHRA (APP): providing better healthcare Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Transport, Communications, and Construction, Ahmad Jan Khan Thursday has pledged to contribute Hospital in Mansehra, accused managed to escape 50,000 rupees from his where he inaugurated monthly salary to the Mental and General Hospital in Daddar, Mansehra.

social figure resident of is aimed at enhancing the by Chak no 104/E-B was hospital's services and management committee. present at his house.

to the public.

The minister expressed these views during his visit to the Mental and General several essential facilities. These facilities included a solar system, a labor room. a dental clinic, and a new This financial support X-ray machine, all funded the hospita

Smog may cause throat,

effects. In case of a scratchy throat, he suggested gargling with lukewarm water. The Punjab government has taken action to combat smog by making it mandatory to spray water near construction sites and development projects.

Furthermore, farmers have been encouraged to refrain from burning crop residues and dispose of them in an environmentally friendly

universities and foreign

## Nations that the issue of **Brother in** law shoots **Basharat** Dogar

BUREWALA (APP): Well-

known political and social

personality Basharat Ali

Dogar was allegedly shot

dead by his brother-in-law

over financial matters in the

limits of Sheikh Fazal

police station on Thursday

Police sources said that the

from the scene after

shooting his brother in law

According to the details

Sardar Basharat Ali Dogar

a well-known political and

# **Red hands raised in Congress** as US seeks more funds for wars

**Monitoring Desk** WASHINGTON: As US secretaries of state and defence began to brief the Senate Appropriations Committee on Tuesday on the Biden administration's request for more money to fund the wars in Israel and Ukraine, a line of anti-war protesters got up and raised red-stained hands in the air.

They shouted: "Ceasefire Now, Protect the Children of Gaza and Stop Funding Genocide" before they were removed from the room.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin testified to the Senate audience members were Appropriations Commit- meant to symbolise blood.

tee on the Biden The protesters also said they attended the hearadministration's request for an additional \$106 billion, which includes \$14.3 billion for Israel, \$9 billion for humanitarian relief — including for Israel and Gaza. A press release sent to various media outlets said the protesters were from an organisation called CODEPINK organisation said multiple

ers, but when he was asked later about the possibility The would only help Hamas remembers, including 29-year US Army veteran and

former diplomat Col. Ann Wright and peace activist David Barrows, were arprominent Jewish intellecrested for their actions. tual and New York Times CODEPINK said the redcolumnist Thomas Friedpainted hands of the silent man wrote in his column a ceasefire'

# **Bolivia cuts ties with** Israel over Gaza crisis

tober 7.

**Monitoring Desk** LA PAZ: Bolivia said on Tuesday it was severing diplomatic ties with Israel over its "disproportionate" attacks in Gaza, as two other Latin American countries recalled their ambassadors over the mounting humanitarian crisis.

Bolivia "has decided to cut diplomatic relations with the State of Israel, in repudiation and condemnation of the aggressive and disproportionate Israeli military offensive being carried out in the Gaza Strip," deputy foreign minister Freddy

Mamani told a press conference Minister of the Presidency Maria Nela Prada

also announced the country was sending humanitarian aid to Gaza. "We demand an end

to the attacks" in the Gaza Strip "which have so far caused thousands of civilian deaths and the forced displacement of Palestinians," she said at the same press conference. Nuclear Test Ban Treaty,

The government of also known as the CTBT leftist Luis Arce is the first would "mirror" the stand in Latin America to cut taken by the U.S., which has ties with Israel since Ocsigned but not ratified the nuclear test ban

#### ing to denounce the Biden administration's support for "genocide" against Palestinians in Gaza. Secretary Blinken did not respond to the protest-

First phase of

**Ijtima begins** 

Thursday, amid tight security arrangements.

The Ijtema 2023 will

of a ceasefire, he said that group. A pause, however, for humanitarian reasons can be considered, he WASHINGTON: US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin testifies as protestadded ers calling for a ceasefire in Gaza raise their hands, painted in red, during a Also on Tuesday, a Senate Appropriations Committee hearing with Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Austin.

Saudi Arabia tells US it still wants 'normalisation "Israel, it's time to consider

### Putin signs bill revoking Russia's ratification of a global nuclear test

suing a potential agreement to normalise relations with ban treaty Israel after the crisis in **Monitoring Desk** Gaza ends, the White House MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin on Thursday signed a bill revoking Russia's ratification of a global nuclear test ban, a move that Moscow said was needed to establish parity with the United States. Putin has said that rescinding the ratification of the Comprehensive tance to the Palestinians,

to get back towards that the Saudis also

normalisation and that there "emphasised the importance is an interest on the Saudi of working towards a sustainside to pursue that," US able peace between Israelis National Security Council and Palestinians, building on spokesperson John Kirby the work that was already told reporters in Washingunderway between Saudi Arabia and the United States ton on Tuesday evening. over recent months.

with Israel, but links talks to 'ceasefire'

The Saudi defence minister, however, said in a tweet that he stressed to Mr Sullivan the need for an immediate 'ceasefire' in Gaza, protection of civilians, allowing humanitarian aid and resuming the peace process. Mr Kirby acknowledged that the Gaza situation makes it harder to discuss long-term peace plans but said "we are still committed to it, and it is

others in Jabalia, another

blast shook Gaza's largest

refugee camp on Wednes-

ported the 76 wounded

Palestinians into Egypt

and six buses took 335

foreign passport holders

who were stuck in Gaza

since Israel placed a "to-

tal siege" on the Palestin-

ian territory after Hamas's

raid early last month, an

Egyptian official at the

Rafah crossing said.

Ambulances trans-

breakthrough, normalising relations between Israel and several Arab nations, including the UAE, Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco.

> **United States** troubled by imminent attack on North Darfur

**Monitoring Desk** WASHINGTON: The United States is troubled by reports of an imminent attack on El Fasher, North Darfur, and is calling on the warring parties in Sudan to immediately cease further attacks, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Thursday. "The United States calls on the warring parties to immediately cease further attacks.

#### Emirates said on Thursday it planned to treat 1,000 Palestinian children from Gaza, without saying how they would leave the Israeli-besieged enclave for the Gulf state. Israel has tightened its

blockade and bombarded Gaza for nearly four weeks in retaliation for the Oct 7 attack by Hamas that Israeli authorities say killed 1,400. The Gaza health ministry says 8,796 Palestinian, including 3,648 children, have been killed in Is-

raeli strikes since Oct 7.

## Iran, Turkiye call for 'regional conference' to avert spread of unrest Monitoring Desk

the region's countries,<sup>2</sup> Fidan said.

The Iranian foreign minister "shared with us that there are strong indications that other armed elements in the region may intervene in the conflict if conditions do not change" Fidan said.

'A ceasefire and peace have become more essential." Amir-Abdollahian said a peace conference involving "Muslim and Arab" countries should be held "as soon as possible".

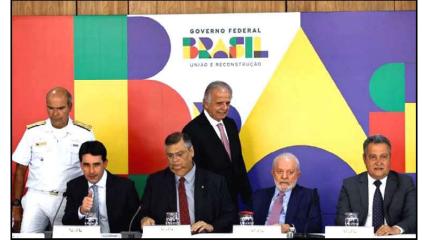
Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei urged Muslim countries to halt trade with Israel, including oil exports, in response to its bombardment of Gaza



A man reacts as Palestinians search for casualties a day after Israeli strikes on houses in Jabalia refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip.

# Sheikh Mohamed orders treatment of 1,000 Palestinian children at UAE hospitals

Gaza's border with DUBAI: The United Arab Egypt – the only exit point apart from the closed border crossings with Israel has largely been shut since Oct 7, although several hundred foreign nationals and a small number of injured Palestinians, to be treated in Egyptian hospitals, have crossed into Egypt since Wednesday. Qatar brokered that deal to allow some people to leave Gaza, and a diplomatic source has said some 7.500 foreign passport holders would leave Gaza over the course of about two weeks.



Brazil's president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva looks on during a press conference at the Planalto Palace in Brasilia, Brazil.



**Over 400 evacuated** 

to Egypt from Gaza

day.

the White House said. "Without getting into specifics — we came away from those discussions confident that we have a path

**Monitoring Desk** 

ISMAILIA: Seventy-six

wounded Palestinians

and 335 foreigners en-

tered Egypt from the

Gaza Strip on Wednes-

day in first such cross-

ing since the Oct 7

Hamas raid that triggered

an ongoing episode of hostilities by Israeli

forces in the besieged en-

air strike killed about 50

people and wounded 150

A day after an Israeli

clave.

**Monitoring Desk** 

WASHINGTON: Saudi

Arabia has reassured the

Biden administration that

it's still interested in pur-

The recent talks between the United States and Saudi Arabia have revolved around the ongoing crisis and the pursuit of potential normalisation of relations between Saudi Arabia and Israel.

The later part of the talks is based on the 2020 Abrahamic Accords, which marked a historic diplomatic clear to us that the Saudis

are still committed to it." The White House said



Hamas leaders in Qatar.

was pushing for an imme-

diate ceasefire because "it

is not difficult to predict

that this spiral of violence

will grow" without a per-

manent solution to the Is-

human tragedy in Gaza to

turn into a war that affects

**Monitoring Desk** 

"We do not want the

rael-Palestine issue.

Fidan said Turkiye

# Daily **Independent**, Islamabad

# President urges measures for economic, social mainstreaming of differently-abled persons

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday emphasising the protection of rights of the hearing-impaired persons, called for measures to ensure the economic and social mainstreaming of the differently-abled persons.

The president, in a meeting with a delegation led by President of Deaf Welfare Awareness Founda-tion Sheikh Muhammad Mansha, said the encouragement of the differentlyabled persons was essential for their inclusion in all fields

He also stressed the facilitating them for issuneed for special measures ance of special identity meeting.

for education and skill-de-velopment of the hearing-President Alvi urged the persons with disabili-

impaired persons. By utilising the inforties to get their special idenmation technology, such tity cards as well as the dispeople could be faciliability certificates. tated for their communication as well as education, ment, NGOs and the hearhe added.

higher education.

ing-impaired people to collectively work for coping with the prevailing chal-He said that the universities were giving special concession to the differenges ently-abled persons in the

The delegation aptuition fee and other expenprised the president of the problems faced by the ditures to facilitate their eople with impaired hear-The National Dataing as well as performance of the Foundation.

He urged the govern-

base and Registration Authority (NADRA) is also First Lady Samina Alvi was also present in the

# ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Ahmad Irfan Aslam convened the inaugural meeting of the taskforce on Anti Corruption.

## BISP, World Bank affirm ongoing partnership for relief in marginalized sectors diverse cultural heritage

World Bank delegation Imtiaz. On the occasion, Dr

Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP)) and was led by Ms. Kicole World Bank (WB) have reiterated their commitment to continue working together to strengthen the marginalized segments of society and ensure relief to the poorest of the

This was expressed in meeting between Chairperson BISP and a highlevel delegation of the World Bank, held here, said a news release on Thursday

ISLAMABAD (APP):

**JUI** 

Klingen, South Asia Regional Director (Human Development), accompanied by Ms. Hnin Hnin Payne, Program Leader (Human Development), Amjad Zafar Khan, Senior Social Protection Specialist, Gul Najam Jamy, Senior Consultant, Sohail Saeed Abbasi, and Amna Khan, while Chairperson BISP, Dr

15 years. Discussing the chal-lenges faced by BISP, Dr Saqib outlined his vision for new initiatives to be adopted by the program.

## **PTI chairman** not being slow poisoned: Faisal ÎSLAMABAD (APP): Dr

Saqib provided the World

Bank delegation with a

comprehensive overview of

BISP's initiatives including

Kafaalat, Taleemi Wazaif

Nashonuma, National

Socio-Economic Registry

(NSER) and shared insights

into the achievements of the programme over the past

Faisal Sultan, personal physician of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman, on Thursday categorically dismissed rumours of any slow poisoning to the PTI chairman following his medical examination in Adaila Jail.

chairman was not being

any symptoms of slow poisoning to the PTI chief.

> tainable Growth. **Rental Power**

# Jamal Shah says: Govt plays key role for promoting country's soft image, culture at Int'l level

Friday November 03, 2023

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for National Heritage & Culture Jamal Shah Thursday said that the interim government was playing a key role in promoting the country's soft image effectively at the international level and con-

necting people of various

countries with their rich

hospitable and has cultural

values which we need to

highlight the correct image

of the country at national

and international levels",

Jamal Shah said while talk-

ing to a private news chan-

which can be promoted to

those of religious to ensure

their preservation.

Pakistan has a rich and

"Pakistani nation is

cultures.

The federal government is ready to extend all possible support for the provinces on this matter, he added.

He further explained that our regional languages, literature, culture and art defined the identity of a nation and the government had been taking measures to promote them to create a knowledgeable, educated and well-informed society that could enjoy peace and prosperity.

He urged poets, drama and film writers to highlight Pakistan's rich culture for not only educating the future generation but also promoting tourism at the global level

Replying to a ques-tion, he said we will inattract maximum tourists, he said, adding, that there crease our efforts to make is a dire need for complete and preserve the heritage mapping and categorization sites in the state to attract more tourists, including of cultural sites including improving the infrastruc-ture and drama theatres.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul-Haq Kakar meets his teacher Nisar Ahmad.

# **Guidance from Quran** essential for Islamic financing: Dr Saqib

ISLAMABAD (APP): Benazir Nashonuma programme for its efforts to Chairperson Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Dr. Muhammad care for pregnant, lactating mothers, and infants, ad-Amjad Saqib on Thursday dressing issues of stunting underlined the importance and malnutrition. Dr Amjad of practicing the guidance Saqib said there was no from the Holy Quran in orscarcity of resources in the world, and the issue lies in der to establish Islamic financing principles. Dr Saqib made these remarks during his address at the 3-day International

the unequal distribution of these resources. He highlighted the correlation between the Sustainable Deconference on "Advancing velopment Goals (SDGs) Islamic Finance" – Prin-ciples, Practices, and Reguoutlined by the United Nations and the teachings of latory Framework for Susthe Quran and Sunnah, emphasizing that it is the religious duty of individuals

The conference was organized by Allama Iqbal and societies to work toese goar

He said that interest is

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Health, Dr. Nadeem Jan sharing details during his visit to the construction of Poly Clinic hospital expansion project. **Dr Nadeem inspects** Motorway

# **Polyclinic expansion** project

ISLAMABAD (APP): benefit the citizens of Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan on Thursday in-spected the Federal Government Polyclinic (FGPH) hospital's expansion project.

briefed by the concerned authorities about the project.

Dr. Nadeem Jan reviewed the construction work of Polyclinic G-11/3 expansion project-II.

The expansion project consists of 300 beds. This project will be completed in three years.

directed to complete the added. project in two years.

He said that slowned

Islamabad and surrounding areas rather, the people of Azad Jammu Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan will also be able to benefit. He said that the hos-

pital will provide facilities The minister was for diseases such as diabetes, blood pressure, maternity care, allergies, bone and joint problems, chest and heart diseases, and skin is-

sues The minister said that we are making progress in the short-term mission of reforms. Progress in the health sector is not pos-However, the minister sible without reforms, he

also increasing, and re-

over to the local police for He pointed out that further investigation. along with the growth of the population, diseases are

**Police foil** terror plot, seize 30 bore pistols, bomb SLAMABAD (APP): In an operation near Sahiwal on the national highway,

Motorway police officers foiled a terror plot by seizing 30 bore pistols, one bomb, and other suspicious son items from a suspected

motorcyclist. is to alert and facilitate the According Motorway Police PRO, a health authorities and other stakeholders to ensure motorcyclist was signaled timely preventive and conto stop while on patrol, but instead of stopping he sped away. After a brief chase, the police apprehended the suspect and recovered weapons and other items.

**PPP** chief

felicitates

newly elected

**PBA office** 

bearers

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Chairman Pakistan People's

Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Thursday

Ahmed Zuberi, Joint Sec-

retary Athar Qazi and Fi-

nance Secretary Ghulam

Nabi Morai and expressed

best wishes, said a press

elected office-bearers of

"I hope the newly

release issued here.

trol measures. The suspect was handed

flu).

ISLAMABAD (APP): workload expected in the The Center for Disease outpatient and in-patient Control (CDC), National Institute of Health (NIH) departments during next few months Islamabad on Thursday is-According to the advi-

sued an advisory on presory seasonal influenza vivention and control of sea- ruses may present with sonal Influenza (seasonal mild symptoms but may progress to severe illness.

particularly in high-risk in-According to NIH, flu cases usually increase in Padividuals. Patients with kistan from December to chronic diseases such as asthma, diabetes, cardiac February as temperature and lung diseases, pregnant falls during the winter seawomen, elderly people and The NIH said that the children under five years are

at higher risk of developing objective of this advisory severe or complicated disease Vaccination is the

most effective way to prevent infection and severe These measures in- outcomes caused by influcluding preparedness to enza viruses, particularly in deal with increased high-risk groups.



#### Muhammad Amjad Saqib was accompanied by DG NSER Naveed Akbar and Director IC&C Rashid **NIH** issues advisory

on seasonal Influenza

<sup>4</sup>I have not observed

carrying out regular exercise in jail," he added. Court summons all accused in

Talking to the media after meeting the PTI chief in Adaila Jail with his legal team, Dr Sultan said the PTI

slow poisoned.

who appears to be in good health and fit, and is even

reference

ISLAMABAD (APP): An

Accountability Court on

Thursday again summoned

Pervaiz Ashraf on Decem-

ber 14, in the Rental Power

reference filed by the Na-

tional Accountability Bu-

Bashir, who heard the case,

asked that why the defence

lawyers were not giving ar-

guments over acquittal

**PID** organizes

praver ceremony

for deceased

mother of

JS Shafqat ISLAMABAD (APP):

The Press Information Dé-

employees of the Minis-

try of Information and

Broadcasting as well as

journalists attended the

prayer ceremony in great

numbers.

pleas of their clients

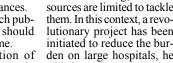
AC Judge Muhammad

reau

and delay in construction work will not be tolerated under any circumstances. He said that such pub-

lic welfare projects should be completed on time.

The construction of the hospital will not only added.



ISLAMABAD: Leader of the House in the Senate. Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar exchanging views with Ambassador of United States, Mr. Donald Blome at Parliament House.

# Wasi assigned additional charge of SAPM on Youth

Safe City I'abad integrates

with Sindh Excise Dept

to issue e-challans

previously inaccessible ing licenses for those

challan tickets.

traffic law violators.

Police has enforced

strict actions, including

the suspension of driv-

who default on their e-

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister of State for Tourism Wasi Shah has also been appointed as Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Youth Affairs keeping in his excellent performance in tourism ministry.

On the directives of Prime Minister Anwar ul Haq, the minister had been assigned additional charge of Special Assistant to PM for Youth Affairs, said a of young hearts.

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Safe City Islamabad has

recently integrated with

the Sindh Excise and

Taxation Department, fa-

cilitating the issuance of

Islamabad police con-

firmed this integration

through the Safe City E-

Challan system. The in-

tegration comes in re-

sponse to the discovery

of numerous vehicles

with Sindh number plates

violating traffic laws

within the federal capi-

tal. This posed a chal-

lenge as their data was

within the Safe City E-

Challan system, hinder- challans.

e-challans.

news release issued here on PBA will play their full role Thursday. Wasi Shah is also responsible for the affairs of

the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC). Wasi Shah is the most popular

poet of the youth. Not only in Pakistan but in the entire Urdu world, he is considered as a poet who is the heartbeat

in promoting freedom of expression and freedom of press in the country. **Police arrest** two suspects

# involved in murder case

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police Sumbal police station, in conjunction with the Homicide unit lice said.

ing the issuance of eon October 31 when the The collaboration with the Sindh Excise and Taxation Department will significantly streaming a tragic incident.

line the process of issu-According to the ap-A spokesperson of ing e-challan tickets for Stringent measures have also been implemented to address persistent traffic law of fenders and individuals who default on their eupon arrival at the hospichallans. To this end,

> In response to the grievous crime, the Sumbal police team promptly registered FIR no. 412/23 and established a specialized investigation team.

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani exchanging views with Colonel (Retd) Pengiran Haji Kamal Bashah Bin Pengiran Haji Ahmad, High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam during meeting held at Parliament House in Islamabad.

# Sanjrani presides over meeting to assess IPC progress

The meeting was at-Founding President of the International Parliamentar-

The deliberations culnity

minated in a decision to pro-

# PTCL Group, Pink Ribbon collaborate for breast cancer awareness campaign

about breast cancer. Independent Report The campaign, mul-ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's tifaceted in its approach, leading telecom and ICT exemplified the Group's services provider, PTCL



Group (PTCL & Ufone commitment to empowering individuals in their 4G) in collaboration with fight against breast can-Pink Ribbon Pakistan has cer, emphasizing its dediled a month-long camcation to the cause and paign dedicated to educatsupport for those iming and raising awareness

sued. The Group kick started the campaign by converting the official

pacted by this disease,

said a news release is-

company logos to pink on all digital platforms. This was followed by an internal awareness messaging campaign to educate employees about early detection and breast cancer prevention, accompanied by an awareness session

in collaboration with Pink Ribbon. The session featured panel discussion with

Dr. Erum Najeeb, General Surgeon, Pakistan Institute Medical Sciences of (PIMS), Dr. Asma Mahfooz from PTCL' Health Team.

ersity (AIOU), Centre for Excellence in Islamic Finance (CEIF) and prohibited in Islam and that Institute of Management Islamic Financing encom-Sciences (IMC) Peshawar. passes everything except in-Dr Amjad Saqib noted that BISP was providing financial assistance to 9.3 million deserving families through the Benazir Kafaalat programme. Addi-

tiative

terest-based loans. Providing interest-free loans is in line with Islamic values and Sunnah, underscoring that it is not a burden on the dignity of the recipients but a tionally, children from means to empower them. these needy families are re-Dr Muhammad Amjad Saqib's ceiving education under the visionary perspective on Is-Benazir Taleemi Wazaif inilamic financing demonstrates a commitment to advancing

He commended the economic systems rooted.



**ISLAMABAD: Opposition Leader Senator Dr.** Shehzad Waseem speaking during Senate session.

# **Islamabad police** initiate deportation of illegal foreign residents

**Independent Report** ISLAMABAD: In a decisive move, Islamabad police authorities have commenced the deportation process of illegal residents and moved at least 64 Afghan nationals last day to the Torkham border crossing for deportation.

Working in conjunction, the Islamabad Police, district administration, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), and prison authorities have collaborated to hand over these individuals for necessary actions. Under the vigilant

supervision of Islamabad Police, individuals designated for deportation have been escorted back to their respective home countries. This initiative comes as a result of the expiration of the allotted time for illegal resident individuals.

Islamabad police officials said a team of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and the capital police on other day transported the prisoners in two buses from

Adiala jail to the border under strict security measures. The remaining prisoners will be shifted to the border in different phases. Shalimar police has also arrested over two dozen Afghan refugees and the process of their identity verification was underway. Simultaneously, awareness messages are being disseminated to raise awareness among illegal foreign residents. Authorities have emphasized the consequences of providing shelter or employment to such individuals, reiterating that legal action will be taken against any parties involved in such activities

It has been emphasized that adhering to Pakistani laws remains the sole option for foreign residents in Pakistan. Authorities have urged the public to report any illegal foreign residents or related activities through the 15 or ICT 15 app, emphasizing the importance of collective efforts in maintaining law and order within the country.

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**Independent Report** 

place

police teams, successfully apprehended two individuals linked to a

heinous murder case, po-The incident unfolded

Sumbal police station received an application from a distressed citizen, report-

plicant, the accused, identified as Deen Muhammad (husband) and Noor Hassan (father-in-law), allegedly set fire to his daughter, Nazia Bibi, leading to her untimely demise the Islamabad Capital

ceed with the election of the President of IPC. The official election schedule is set to be announced in December 2023

ians Congress (IPC), Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani here on Thursday presided over a meeting to assess the progress and developments of IPC. During the meeting, attended by IPC and Senate officials, thorough and detailed deliberations took

tended by Secretary Senate, Mohammad Qasim Samad Khan, Secretary General IPC, Sitara Ayaz, Executive Director PIPS, Muhammad Anwar and Director General Coordination Senate, Mir Shae Mazar Baloch.

#### partment (PID) Islamabad organized a prayer cer-This decision to elect emony for the deceased a new President marks a mother of Shafqat Abbas significant step forward in Joint Secretary Ministry of IPC's journey to further Information and Broadcastenhance its role in the gloing here on Thursday. bal parliamentary commu-Senior officers and

The upcoming elec-tion will ensure the continued dedication and leadership of IPC in facilitating international parliamentary cooperation and diplomacy.

