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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-Azam, 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.



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.

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 Hajjis 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 Hajjis 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 Hajjis.

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.

ADB receives \$8m 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 trust fund'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 Officer Senior Director Norio Saito.

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.



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

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, 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-Labbaik 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.



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

Edu Ministry partners with NEST, MCB to advance education in nursing

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training has partnered with the National Endowment Scholarship for Talent (NEST), operating under the Education Ministry, Government of Pakistan, and MCB Islamic Bank, with the primary objective of advancing education in the field of nursing and contributing to poverty eradication through nesting education.

The bedrock of this collaboration is a Letter of Understanding signed yesterday by Secretary of the Federal Education Ministry, Waseem Ajmal Chaudhry, and Muhammad Ibrahim, General Manager, MCB Islamic Bank.

Distinguished participants from the Ministry

and NEST included Waseem Ajmal Chaudhry, CEO.

NEST/Federal Secretary Education; Syeda Hajra Suhail, GM-NEST; Hameed Khan Niazi, CFO NEST; Malick Mazahr Awan, AM P&C; Majeed Asif, AM V&D; Zahid Awan, AM Finance; Waleed Bin Mushtaq, Communication Officer; and other esteemed members.

Representing MCB

Islamic Bank were Muhammad Ibrahim, General Manager; Malik Tahir, Regional Head; and Salahuddin, Area Manager.

MCB Islamic Bank commits to making annual charitable donations to NEST to support deserving nursing students throughout their degree programs.

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.

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 Rasheed Khan Marwat, DSP Jandola Syed Marjan Khan.

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.

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.



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.

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.

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.

Instead, the same forces seem to have ended up taking an even more central role in national-level decision-making.

Considering how the 2018 election played out, it seems unlikely that 2024 will yield any different results.

Eventually, today's beneficiaries may realise that they were played; that a "victory" that came from a tainted contest is never meant to endure.

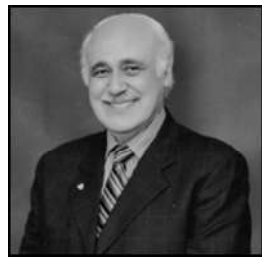
It will be a difficult question for political actors like the PML-N to contend with, who have played and lost this game too many times before.

Pakistan's democracy lies in tatters. Those who promised to be its saviours have dealt it a grievous blow.

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.

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.

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.

There was a time when news of victories or defeats in battle took days, often weeks, if not months, to reach families at home.

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.

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.

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.

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.)

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.

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.

There are many today who suspect that the attacks on America's homeland on 9/11 were pre-planned by forces within the US.

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 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.

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

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

Since Balochistan's establishment as a province in 1970, it has predominantly witnessed rule by Islamabad-backed tribal elites.

In the current scenario, the influx of electables into the PML-N raises eyebrows about the party's strategy for the restive province.

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.

In conclusion, the embrace of proven turncoats carries damaging implications for both political culture and public service delivery.

Members of the Gilgit Chamber, Hunza Chamber, Ghizar Chamber, Skardu Chamber, Hunza Small Chamber & Gilgit Women Chamber & PGMA were present at the meeting.

Commerce News

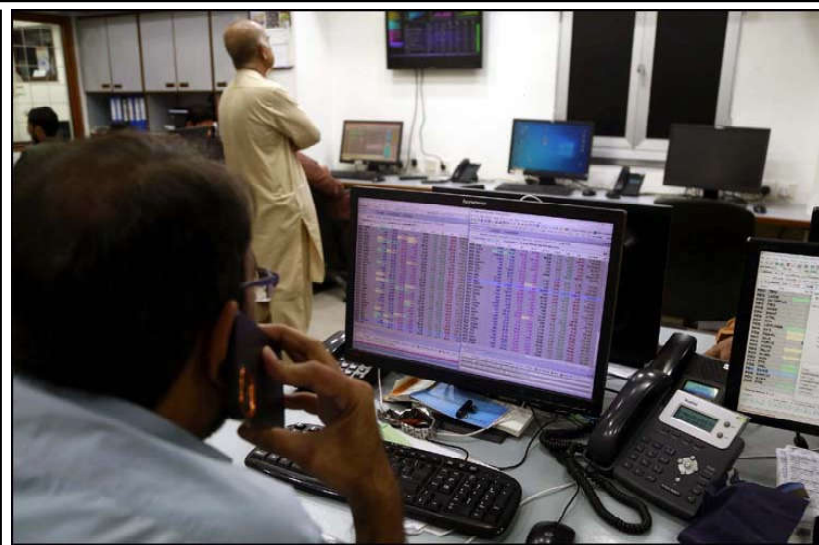
Government approves Telecom Infrastructure sharing framework

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Government has approved the Telecom Infrastructure Sharing Framework (TISF) developed by the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA).

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 services.

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.

PTA appreciates MoI&T for its support in the development and approval of the Telecom Infrastructure Sharing Framework.



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.

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.

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.

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.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal came down by 21 and 20 paise to close at Rs78.24 and Rs 76.62 respectively.

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.

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.

The CDNS surpassed the annual target and achieved the target of Rs 1.6 trillion in fresh bonds in the current fiscal year.

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

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.

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.

Members of the Gilgit Chamber, Hunza Chamber, Ghizar Chamber, Skardu Chamber, Hunza Small Chamber & Gilgit Women Chamber & PGMA were present at the meeting.



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.

companies and investors to make investments in a potential sector of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

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

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.

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.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal came down by 21 and 20 paise to close at Rs78.24 and Rs 76.62 respectively.

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#.

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 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.



sectors. The economy of 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.

Members of the Gilgit Chamber, Hunza Chamber, Ghizar Chamber, Skardu Chamber, Hunza Small Chamber & Gilgit Women Chamber & PGMA were present at the meeting.

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 Thursday 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 Rehman 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-e-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.



ISLAMABAD: Astronaut Ms. Namira Saleem called on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

75 years of Pakistan-Belgium diplomatic ties encompass 'spirit of solidarity': FO

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan said on Thursday that the 75 years of its diplomatic relations with Belgium encompassed the spirit of solidarity and expressed commitment to work with it towards shaping a better world for future generations.

A statement by the Foreign Office said the upward trajectory of bilateral relations was deeply embedded in people-to-people linkages and frequent high-level contacts at the leadership level.

It mentioned that the institution of bilateral political consultation provided a strong foundation for a multifaceted dialogue that holds the potential to deepen this longstanding bilateral relationship.

"The robust trade between the countries has witnessed continuous growth for mutual benefit," it said.

"The depth of bilateral relations encompasses the spirit of solidarity and support demonstrated during times of need, such as disaster management to mitigate natural calamities," the FO statement said.

The Joint Communiqué issued on November 26, 1947, encapsulates the decision of the two governments to accept respective diplomatic missions 'to strengthen the bonds of friendship and mutual interest'.

Culture plays crucial role in promoting tolerance: Jamal

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah on Thursday stressed that culture played a vital role in fostering tolerance within the society by influencing values, attitudes and behaviors.

In a message on the occasion of International Day of Tolerance, the minister said that the purpose of celebrating this day was to highlight the importance of societal norms based on the principles of harmony, tolerance and brotherhood and we should also make a commitment to play our active role in this regard.

Jamal Shah highlighted various avenues through which culture promotes tolerance, such as government policies endorsing and safeguarding cultural diversity. He emphasized that fostering respect for individuals irrespective of their cultural background within cultural norms also played a crucial role in building a tolerant society.

The minister emphasized that individuals' attitudes and behaviors, crucial for coexisting with people from diverse backgrounds were influenced by the socialization within their culture. Jamal Shah said that cultural institutions, community centers and grassroots organizations played a vital role in promoting tolerance by fostering connections and understanding among people from different backgrounds.

He said that the all the segments of society should play their role in promoting tolerance in the country as well as in the world, adding that his Ministry was committed to promoting peace and harmony through art and culture. The International Day for Tolerance is celebrated each year on November 16 to promote respect, acceptance and appreciation of the rich diversity of world's cultures.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Human Rights, Khalil George, addressing seminar on "Universal Children's Day 2023" and "Child Rights of Invisible Children in Pakistan".

Minister emphasizes education for positive, soft image of Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Human Rights Minister George Khalil Thursday highlighted the need to prioritize education for presenting a positive and a soft image of Pakistan and combating child violence on World Children's Day.

During a ceremony commemorating World Children's Day, the minister emphasized that the media can play a crucial role in putting an end to violence against children. The minister expressed that celebrating World Children's Day serves the purpose of advocating for children's rights.

"We are creating opportunities for children and young individuals to voice their concerns on matters important to them."

The Ministry of Human Rights established a commission for Child Rights, emphasizing that prioritizing children's welfare, along with the active participation of philanthropists, can contribute to building a better future for minorities and all. "If we genuinely care for children, we will advocate for their rights."

Additionally, the Minister also said the positive portrayal of Pakistan through education, highlighting its strengths over negative aspects. The increasing threat of climate change, floods in Pakistan have grown more frequent, resulting in some communities facing an unending cycle of displacement and despair, he said.

Children are experiencing the impact of fatigue from disasters induced by climate change, taking a toll on their well-being. They not only feel exhausted but also harbor heightened anxiety about the potential threat of cascading events, he added.

Govt vows to resolve tourism related issues: Wasi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Tourism, Special Assistant to PM on Youth Affairs Wasi Shah Thursday said that the government was committed to resolve the issues of tourism sector through better cooperation and joint efforts.

He expressed these views while giving an interview to the famous media house Warner Brothers at World Travel Market London, said that all possible cooperation for the development of tourism was foremost priority of the government besides taking practical steps to promote tourism, said a news release issued here.

He said that there were immense opportunities for tourism in Pakistan which needed to be exploited.

The government was not only welcoming the foreign tourists to the beautiful valleys but also providing protection to them, he added.

Qureshi decides to resort to SC for bail in Cipher case

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI leader Shah Mehmood Qureshi has decided to resort to Supreme Court (SC) in connection with bail in cipher case.

Legal team under Hamid Khan advocate has prepared the petition. It has obtained copy of order.

According to sources bail plea of Shah Mehmood Qureshi is likely to be filed in next 72 hours.

Legal team was waiting for attested photo copy of Islamabad High Court (IHC) decision which has been obtained. Now it is waiting for verified/attested copy of decision.

Bail plea will be filed in the SC as soon as this copy is received.

Chairman PTI has already resorted to SC in connection with his bail.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice (ret'd) Syed Arshad Hussain and Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi during a meeting.

VC AIOU shares vision, roadmap for next four years

ISLAMABAD (INP): Vice Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, after assuming the charge of office, shared his vision and roadmap for the university's development over the next four years.

During a welcome reception given by the principal officers, he highlighted the need to revise the current curriculum and add new courses to meet the requirements of the modern job market.

He also emphasized the importance of establishing new departments to cater to the student's evolving needs. Dr. Nasir added that he will work together to strengthen the university financially. He added that the former vice-chancellors rendered valuable services to bring AIOU to its present proud position and we will strive hard to improve them further.

The Vice-Chancellor said that increasing student facilities and enrollment, faculty development, promotion of research culture, and welfare of employees are priorities.

Plaintiff seeks Nawaz's death sentence in Sara Inam case

ISLAMABAD (APP): The plaintiff's lawyer in the Sara Inam case has formally requested the District and Sessions Court of Islamabad to impose the death sentence on Sara Inam's husband, Shah Nawaz Ameer.

Judge Nasir Jawed Rana heard the Sara Inam murder case on Thursday, where the main accused, Shah Nawaz Ameer, was presented before the court.

During the course of the hearing, the plaintiff's lawyer, Rao Abdul Raheem, argued that Sara Inam's photographs were discovered on the mobile phone of the accused. These images purportedly depicted Sara's lifeless body shrouded in a piece of cloth, along with the assassin's weapon. He added that the incident occurred at the residence of Shah Nawaz Ameer.

Production order Imran: court issues notice

ISLAMABAD (Online): District and Sessions Court Islamabad while issuing notice in connection with reply to the petition filed by chairman PTI for issuance of his production order has adjourned the hearing of the case till December 9.

The case was heard by Judicial Magistrate Shahzad Gondal.

Naeem Haider Panjtoha counsel for chairman PTI appeared in the court.

He took the plea we want to file petition in the court for issuance of production order in respect of PTI chairman.

The court remarked you appeared in the court for the first time. Give the application. We see it.

Lawyer Naeem Haider Panjtoha replied they will make excuse again that there are security concerns.

Exemption plea in respect of Asad Umar was presented in the court.

Search and combing operation conducted in against illegal foreigners

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) conducted a search and combing operation against illegal foreigners at Shams Colony police station jurisdiction, a public relations officer said.

According to police, search and combing operations are being conducted in different areas of the city to ensure the safety and security of the Islamabad citizens. A search and combing operation was conducted in different areas of Shams Colony police stations jurisdiction by CTD, QRF and local police teams under the supervision of DSP CTD.

During the search and combing operation, 18 houses and 62 individuals were thoroughly checked while eight illegal foreigners were shifted to the police station for further verification purposes.

1 killed, two injured after car runs over pedestrians

ISLAMABAD (APP): A car rammed into pedestrians in Mirpur Khas on Thursday, killing at least one person and injuring two others.

According to rescue sources, the accident took place on Khairu Road in the Mirpur Khas area, where a speeding car hit the pedestrians, as a result of which a young boy died on the spot and two people were injured, a private news channel reported.

Police and rescue teams reached the spot and shifted the body and injured to the hospital.

According to police, the car driver managed to escape from the scene after the accident.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf legal team member Sher Afzal Marwat and political leaders GulZareen Khan along with Malik and others are addressing a press conference at NPC.

4,278 people died in road accidents in four years in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ramshackle conditions of roads, lack of safety walls and frequent movement of Indian military convoys contribute to daily traffic accidents in occupied Jammu & Kashmir, which saw 4,278 deaths just from 2018 to 2022 despite double lockdown, because of Covid and military siege during the years of 2020 and 2021.

According to a recently released report by the IIOJK's Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), an alarming total of 4,287 lives were tragically lost due to road accidents from 2018 to 2022 in J&K.

The report reveals 984 lives were consumed by road accidents in 2018 while the figure was 996 in 2019.

In Covid-19 and military siege-hit years of 2020 and 2021, the numbers came down with 728 and 774 deaths respectively.

A significant portion of the road fatalities in J&K were attributed to accidents on national highways, particularly in hilly Doda-Kishtwar-Ramban areas of Jammu region. In treacherous road conditions between Jammu to Srinagar and Jammu to Doda-Kishtwar have led to numerous accidents.

According to Firdous Tak, a PDP leader from the region, overloading, no crash barriers, bad roads and inadequate buses remain four prime reasons for frequent road accidents in hilly Doda-Kishtwar.

NCRC, IRC commemorate world Children's Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): Universal Children's Day is an annual day of action for children, by children, marking the adoption of the convention on the rights of child. Children's rights are human rights. But in too many places today, children's rights are under threat.

The International Rescue Committee (IRC), in collaboration with National Commission on the Rights of Child (NCRC), here on Thursday hosted a multi-stakeholder national consultation on how Climate Change is impacting children of Pakistan in commemoration of Universal Children's Day 2023, under the global theme of "For every child, Every Right".

Aysha Raza Farooq, Chairperson NCRC in her opening remarks, noted that the impact of climate change on children was a matter that demands our collective attention and today's consultation provided a platform for us to engage in a meaningful dialogue, share insights, and develop strategies that would resonate beyond this room.

The Guest of Honor Khalil George, Caretaker Minister for Human Rights in his keynote speech, opined that Universal Children's Day holds particular significance for Pakistan as it provides an opportunity to reflect on the progress made in ensuring the rights and well-being of every child.

Our commitment to the rights of unregistered children must go beyond rhetoric.

It requires concrete actions, innovative policies, and collaborative efforts from all stakeholders involved, she expressed.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Portugal to Pakistan Frederico Silva planting a plant sapling at Pakistan National Council of Arts during an event regarding the "Climate Change Challenges" in Federal Capital.

PTDC's remarkable achievements highlighted in promoting country's tourism

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) has made remarkable achievements in the tourism industry and its promotion by marketing country's natural landscape, history, culture and archaeological sites being providing facilities to tourists.

Taking to APP, the PTDC official said that the corporation was working effectively according the vision to develop the tourism sector as a national priority in a sustainable and acceptable manner, taking full advantage of regional and international trends and developments.

He said the PTDC is projecting the country as a tourist friendly destination in bringing Pakistan amongst top five tourist destinations of Asia and marketing of tourist places at home and abroad through tourism show and exhibitions to generate revenue. Tourism sector is contributing a lot to national exchequer as well, he added.

The official said that the tourism organization is to act as a catalyst in encouraging the private sector to play active role in tourism promotion and development. It was developing infrastructure and services within the country to facilitate the tourists.

He said it has already established Tourist Information Centers (TIC) at various airports to provide accurate information to foreign and local tourists.

He said that Minister of State for Tourism, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Youth Affairs Wasi Shah had unveiled that TIC would set up at Gawdar International Airport to facilitate the tourists about their destination.

He said that PTDC with collaboration of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) has kicked off an effective cleanliness campaign at various parks of the federal capital to ensure neat and clean environment to attract large number of tourists in a healthy ambience.

Official said the campaign launched aimed at ensuring clean environment to urge the tourists to maintain cleanliness at tourist spots of the capital city as a number people from various parts of the country throng to the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi for recreation and tourism purposes.