

Independent

Member APNS & CPNE

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www.dailyindependent.com.pk Quetta

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vd XXV No 83, Rabi-us-Sani 28, 1445 AH Monday November 13, 2023 Pages 12, Price Rs.15

PM reminds int'l community to intervene; implement solution to Palestine issue

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, during his participation in the Joint Arab Islamic Extraordinary Summit in the Saudi Capital of Riyadh on Saturday, has reminded the international community to promptly intervene and implement a durable solution to Palestine issue as the five-week ceaseless Israeli's military aggression led to genocide and stoked fears of engulfing the region into wider conflict.

He underscored the urgency of bringing an end to Israel's aggression and brutality with an immediate and unconditional ceasefire, lifting of the siege of Gaza, and rapid and unhindered humanitarian and relief assistance.

The prime minister of Pakistan was among the prominent leaders of the Muslim world that vociferously and very candidly highlighted the root causes leading to the current humanitarian crisis with over 11,000 deaths in Gaza due to Israel's indiscriminate aerial and ground blitz after October 7.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia hosted the Joint Arab Islamic Extraordinary Summit considering the human catastrophe that befell upon the Palestinian territories with Israel's belligerent military invasion.

The summit assumed significance as it brought the Muslims leaders from across the globe and continents together on one platform, expressing a unifying stance and forging a spirit of brotherhood and affinities for the unfortunate civilians of Gaza undergoing horrors of usage of globally banned arsenal and weapons by Israel occupation

Continued on page 2

PM arrives after concluding official visit to KSA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Sunday arrived here after completing his three-day official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia where he attended the Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit in Riyadh over the Gaza situation.

Earlier, at the King Khalid International Airport, the prime minister was seen off by the high diplomatic officials of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

During his visit, the prime minister addressed the summit besides, held meetings with the Arab and Islamic countries leaders on the sidelines of the main event.



ISLAMABAD: Provincial Amir JUI Balochistan Maulana Abdul Wasey meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Madad Khan Domki

Jamal Raisani meets Deputy PM Thailand: Promotion of friendly relations & mutual cooperation stressed between Pak & Thailand

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs, Nawabzada Jamal Raisani met the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister Commerce, Thailand in Bangkok on Sunday.

Also present in the meeting was the Focal Person for Cultural Affairs, Mir Noroz Khan Mengal.

Both the leaders were agreed on promoting mutual relations and establishing friendly relations between Pakistan and Thailand.

There was also discussion on the free trade agreement (FTA) between the

two countries.

They also stressed the need to extend the exchange cultural programme for the youth.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister Jamal Raisani would contact the interim Prime Minister for implementation on the FTA as he has been active to move ahead it's objective.

Moreover, during the course of meeting, there was also mention that a team from Balochistan is going to participate in the sports competition in Thailand.

According to the schedule, provincial team would compete with the Thai League team.

Maulana Abdul Wasey meets caretaker CM Balochistan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The provincial Ameer of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) and former Federal Minister, Maulana Abdul Wasey met the caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Domki in Islamabad on Sunday.

During the course of meeting, different matters were discussed between them.

It may be mentioned here that the caretaker Chief Minister was in the federal capital.

OIC displayed weak stance on Palestine issue: Fazal

MURREE (INP): Maulana Fazlur Rehman, the head of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl, stated on Sunday that while the Muslim Ummah is currently united, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has unfortunately displayed a weak stance on the issue of Palestine.

Speaking at a public gathering in Murree, Fazl expressed solidarity with the Palestinians and assured them of continued support from Pakistan at all international forums.

Fazl urged the global community to play a role in halting the atrocities against Palestinians, noting that protest demonstrations against Israeli oppression had taken place in the United States, United Kingdom, France and other countries. The JUI-F leader highlighted that Israeli forces had committed atrocities against innocent Palestinians, including children and women which, according to him, was a cowardly act.

Fazl further said that it was the duty of the entire Muslim Ummah to stand with the Palestinians and wage a war against Western forces. The JUI-F chief mentioned that his party believed in ideological politics, adding that instead of adhering to the narratives of the past, everyone must move towards a new direction.

Train crushes Sindh minister's brother to death in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): A train crushed to death brother of Sindh Caretaker Minister for Mines and Minerals Development Mir Khuda Bakhsh Marri in Karachi on Sunday.

The incident was reported within the limits of Steel Town Police Station in Karachi.

The deceased was identified as Muhammad Hassan Marri, brother of the Sindh interim minister, said Rescue officials.

The police said the dead body has been shifted to a hospital for further legal action.

The police said Hassan Marri was roaming around in the area with ear plugs when he met the accident. Witnesses said he was guarding his herd of goats, the police added.

The police said they were investigating the incident from all angles.

PM Kakar felicitates Justice (retd) Arshad Hussain took oath as caretaker CM KPK

PESHAWAR (Online): Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Justice retired Arshad Hussain Shah took oath of office.

The swearing-in ceremony was held at Governor House Peshawar where Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ghulam Ali administered oath to Justice Retired Arshad Hussain Shah.

Chief Justice Peshawar High Court, Advocate General, Mayor Peshawar Haji Zubair Ali, former caretaker provincial cabinet members, Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, IG Police Akhtar Hayat Gandapur, Commissioner Peshawar and administrative heads of provincial departments participated in the ceremony.

after the death of Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Azam Khan, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ghulam Ali approved the appointment of retired Justice Arshad Hussain Shah as Caretaker Chief Minister on Sunday.

According to the order issued by the Governor, he approved the appointment of caretaker Chief Minister under Article 224.

APP adds: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Sunday felicitated Justice retired Syed Arshad Hussain Shah on taking oath of the office of Caretaker Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

The prime minister also extended his best wishes to the caretaker chief minister, PM Office



Media Wing said in a press release. After the death of former Caretaker Chief Minister Azam Khan, the appointment of Justice (retd) Arshad Hussain had met the important constitutional requirement, he added.

It should be noted that

Jan Achakzai congratulates IGP for recovery: Prominent trader reaches home after two days' disappearance

QUETTA: The prominent trader of Quetta, Naseebullah Khan Achakzai reached his home here on mid Saturday-Sunday night.

According to the family sources, Naseebullah was disappeared on Friday night from Baleli area. There were no whereabouts of Naseebullah Achakzai since then, however, he reached home on late Saturday night.

The police confirmed his appearance and told that investigation is being made into his alleged disappearance.

The police sources said that no case was registered about the disappearance of

the trader. Meanwhile, the caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai said that the trader Naseebullah Achakzai was recovered by police. He said that Naseebullah Achakzai has been recovered by the Airport police station.

He also congratulated the Inspector General of Police and other high ups for recovery of the trader.

Jan Achakzai mentioned that the interim Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki had taken notice of the disappearance of Naseebullah Achakzai and directed the police high ups to ensure his early and safe recovery.



MURREE: Amir Jamiat Ulema Islam Maulana Fazlur Rehman addressing Tofan Al-Aqsa Conference

Minus anyone is not part of our agenda: Saad

KARACHI (Online): Leader of Muslim League (N) and former Federal Minister Khawaja Saad Rafique has said that 'minusing' anyone is not included in the agenda of PML-N.

He said he will correct the mistakes that have been made in the past and socio-politically relationship will be promote

In the culture that PTI had instilled, they even distanced themselves from talking to each other. Saad Rafique

While holding a press conference with Ayaz Sadiq and other PML-N leaders at the Karachi Press Club, Khawaja Saad Rafiq said that we are honored to be in the big press club of Asia.

Members of Karachi Press Club have made great sacrifices for democracy.

He said that we are making political and social



RIYADH: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar being seen off by high diplomatic officials of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia after completing his three day official visit of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Solangi assures regional journalists of solving their problems

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi Sunday assured the regional journalists of solving their problems as priority.

He was addressing as the chief guest at the oath-taking ceremony of All Pakistan Newspersons Alliance (APNA) at a local hotel.

Muzammil Soharwardi, KPK President Malik Muhammad Javed Mohmand, Sindh President Fiaz Hussain, Balochistan President Fahad Tariq, and Punjab President Shehbaz Khan also spoke on the occasion.

Caretaker Federal Information Minister acknowledged the efforts and hardships of the regional



The Alliance has representation of all the regional journalists from small cities, tehsils and towns of all the four provinces. The APNA aimed at securing the rights of these journalists working at grass root level. The APNA Central President Mian Ghaffar, Central Secretary

journalists in news gathering at grass root level. He said that journalists of small cities and towns are the main source of news feeding to major media houses and real asset of the journalism. Since the politics has roots at local level, the journalism also has roots at local level, he said.

296 cases of Gasto outbreak reported with 3 casualties in Sibi since November 1

Independent Report

QUETTA: In all 296 cases of Gastro outbreak have been reported from Sibi during last 11 days, a report shared by the Independent Health Monitoring and Emergency Response Unit (IHMERU) here on Sunday.

According to the report, three casualties have also been reported due to the Gastro outbreak from Sibi since November 1, 2023.

However, the provincial government has taken notice of the outbreak of Gastro and issued directives to the Health department to control the situation besides providing necessary healthcare facilities to the affected ones.

In light of the directives, an emergency response team comprising three doctors has been deputed in Sibi.

The necessary medicines along with the logistic support have also been provided in the affected areas to combat the situation.

Moreover, the laboratory testing kits have also been made available in the district.

The spokesman of Health department informed that the investigations are being made to ascertain the reasons behind spread of the Gastro outbreak in Sibi.

As per the initial reports, the use of contaminated water is being cited as the major source of the outbreak.

Nawaz Sharif to visit Balochistan tomorrow

QUETTA (Online): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (Pmln) leader and former Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif will arrive in Quetta tomorrow (Tuesday) on a 2-day visit to Balochistan.

According to legal sources, Nawaz Sharif will discuss the political situation in Balochistan with the party leaders during his visit.

Sources say that Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz will also accompany Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif.

After meeting Mian Nawaz Sharif, important political leaders of Balochistan will join the (N) League.

Apart from this, the seat adjustment agreement between Muslim League-N and Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) is also expected to be announced.

While party leaders talking to the media, the central leader of Pmln Ayaz Sadiq has confirmed that Mian Nawaz Sharif will go on a two-day visit to Balochistan on November 14.

Maryam Nawaz will play a political role in Balochistan.

Dead gigantic whale on Pasni coast bewilders fishermen

PASNI (INP): Fishermen of Pasni area were astonished and bewildered to have sight of a blue dead whale lying on a beach of coastal area of Gwadar.

A rare, but gigantic whale was found in Churbanandan area of Pasni coast Gwadar.

A 27-foot-long blue whale has become the death place of rare species of marine life because of illegal trawling in the sea of Balochistan.

This illegal activity has endangered the lives of rare marine life.

The blue whale found dead on the seashore between North Bandan and Churbanandan in Pasni area was also among the rare creatures.



Caretaker Minister for Sports and Culture Balochistan Nawabzada Mir Jamal Khan Raisani meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Commerce Minister of Thailand Phumtham Wechayachai

Tally of Congo virus cases rises to 51 as another case reported in Quetta

Independent Report

QUETTA: The number of Congo virus cases continue to rise as another case was reported in the provincial metropolis on Sunday.

The sources of Fatima Jinnah Hospital told a new patient suffering from Congo virus has been brought in the hospital from Eastern bypass.

The patient was admitted in the Hospital and being provided necessary

medical assistance there.

With the new reported case, the tally of Congo virus cases has increased to 51 as per the official record of the FJ Hospital. Out of the total reported patients, altogether 19 have been died due to the Congo fever.

Besides total 51 official cases reported in FJ Hospital, some 20 others have also been reported in the Sandeman Provincial Hospital, the sources informed.

Civil society holds protest against You Tuber Adil Raja

Independent Report

QUETTA: The civil society representatives including male and female staged strong protest against the You Tuber Adil Raja here outside the Quetta Press club on Sunday afternoon. Carrying the flags of Pakistan, the representatives of civil society gathered outside the Press club and condemned Adil Raja for inciting hatred against Pakistan and state institutions.

They chanted full throated slogans against the You Tuber Adil Raja. They also raised slogans in favour of Pakistan and the armed forces.

The effigy of Adil Raja was also set ablaze during the



protest demonstration. While addressing the demonstration, the speakers said that Adil Raja is playing in the hands of India and its spy agency. They also called Adil Raja as a traitor. They said that we have gathered here just to tell that Pakistani nation hates "Indian" agent Adil Raja as he make false propaganda against our country on the Indian script. They said that no one would be allowed to interfere in the country's affairs.



LAHORE: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi is taking the oath from the newly elected body of All Professional Newspapers Alliance (APNA).

14 killed, 10 injured in different accidents

Zig-zagging cars collide in Lahore's Defence, kill six of family; Five die 10 injured after bus crashes into car in Faisalabad; At least three dead in Karachi bus-rickshaw collision

LAHORE (INP): Six members of the same family, travelling in two cars, were killed when they met with an accident at Lahore's Defence Housing Society (DHS) early Sunday morning.

Police said the accident took place because of fast speed of the vehicles as well as negligence on the part of drivers who were zig-zagging on the road. The drivers lost control of their vehicles which collided with each other.

As a result of the accident, six people were seriously injured who were rushed to a nearby hospital but they succumbed to their injuries.

Giving further details, the police informed that Rafaqat Ali, a resident of Shadab Colony, Ferozepur Road, Lahore, was heading to Phase-7 of the DHS along with members of his family to meet his daughter's in-laws.

The dead were identified as Rafaqat's 45-year-old wife Rukhsana, 27-year-old son Hasnain, 23-year-old daughter-in-law

Ayesha, four-month-old grandson Huzafa, 30-year-old son-in-law Sajjad and four-year-old granddaughter Anabaa.

The police shifted the bodies to Lahore's General Hospital for the post-mortem.

Police said that they arrested one of the drivers whose negligence had led to the incident.

Police also took in custody the cars involved in the accident.

Police jawks collected the forensic evidence from the accident site. Traffic police also reached the spot and removed the damaged vehicles from the road to normalize the traffic flow.

FAISALABAD: Five people were killed while eight others were injured on Sunday when a speeding bus, heading to Faisalabad from Lahore, crashed into a car at Darma Wala Morr, an area in Khurrianwala, rescue sources said.

After getting hit by a bus, the car collided with a tractor trolley parked nearby.

Those sitting inside the car died on the spot, while tractor trolley's driver Abdul Qayyum died too.

The other deceased were identified as Waleed, Raza, Mateen and Manzoor.

Three passengers travelling in the bus received minor injuries while five were seriously injured.

Rescue 122 personnel shifted the injured as well as the dead to Allied Hospital, Faisalabad, while the police reached site of the incident for investigation.

KARACHI: At least three people were dead in a collision between a bus and a rickshaw near Hub Chowki, Karachi on Sunday.

As per details, the accident occurred near Hub Chowki where an over-speeding bus collided with a rickshaw and motorcycle resulting in the death of three people including a woman and girl.

On October 11, at least 12 people were dead and 11 others sustained injuries in a collision between a car and van in Khairpur.

Over 217,000 illegal Afghans returned home

ISLAMABAD (INP): Repatriation of illegal foreigners including Afghans to their homeland continues on Sunday amidst the crackdown against illegal immigrants.

Thousands of unregistered Afghan citizens are returning to their homeland through Torkham and Chaman border daily.

Transit camps for illegal foreigners have been established in various districts of KP and Balochistan, which have all the daily facilities.

According to details, 2,957 illegal Afghans returned to Afghanistan on Saturday (November 11). So far 217,355 illegal Afghans have returned to their home.

The caretaker government of Pakistan has made foolproof arrangements for the safe return of illegal im-

migrants.

On October 3, an apex committee of the National Action Plan (NAP) meeting chaired by Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar gave all foreign nationals living illegally in the country until October 31 to leave voluntarily or face deportation.

After the expiry of the deadline, the caretaker government has swung into action against illegal immigrants.

Mostly Afghan nationals staying in Pakistan as undocumented illegal immigrants. Repatriation of illegal Afghan nationals through the Chaman and Torkham borders has been underway.

The FC and the Afghan government have agreed to keep the Torkham border till 11 at night to ensure smooth repatriation of the illegal immigrants.

Irtaza Hussain clinches title of 16th CNS Amateur Golf Cup 2023

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Irtaza Hussain won the title of 16th Chief of the Naval Staff Amateur Golf Cup 2023. The Closing and prize distribution ceremony of 16th CNS Amateur Golf Cup 2023 was held at the scenic Margallah Green Golf Club (MGGC) Islamabad. Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

While addressing the ceremony, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf congratulated the winners for their remarkable success and appreciated their skills. Naval Chief lauded the high standards of the game that provided exciting and quality entertainment to the participants. Naval Chief commended

the untiring efforts of MGGC staff and organizers for seamless conduct of the championship. He also appreciated the consistent and generous support from sponsors, management of MGGC Islamabad and media fraternity, without which the event would not have been such a resounding success.

The four day long Golf Cup held from 9 - 12 November has become a major event in golfing circles. Around 300 golfers across Pakistan participated in various categories including Men Amateurs, Lady Amateurs, Seniors and Juniors.

The closing and prize distributing ceremony was attended by various civil and military dignitaries including officers, organizers, sponsors, golfers and media fraternity.

Second phase of Raiwand Ijtimaa concludes with prayers for Pakistan, Muslims Ummah

LAHORE (APP): The second phase of three-day Tableeghi Ijtimaa concluded at Raiwand on Sunday with special prayers led by Maulana Muhammad Ibrahim for the prosperity and solidarity of the country and unity of the Muslim world (Ummah). Hundreds of thousands of people from across Pakistan and other countries attended the annual congregation in Raiwand, some 36 kilometers from Lahore. Thousands of people from across the city reached the venue in the morning to attend the special prayer that started at around 8:45am and concluded at 9:05am. Before Ijtemai-dua, Maulana Muhammad Khurshid briefed the participants about proper manners for offering dua. Maulana Khurshid gave instructions to delegates sitting in the 'pandal' before the prayer, the concluding prayer was given by Maulana Ibrahim of India and every eye was full of tears during the prayer and every-

one was praying before Allah and asking for His mercy. Emotional scenes were witnessed when Maulana Muhammad Ibrahim prayed to Almighty for forgiveness of sins, setting aside differences and making Pakistan a strong and stable welfare state with a trembling voice while tears in his eyes. He prayed Almighty to end our collective problems and make Pakistan a peaceful country, bring unity among people fighting against each other due to differences in faith. He prayed Allah to enable Muslims to follow the teaching of the Holy Quran and the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) in letter and spirit. He also prayed for the unity of entire Muslim Ummah by setting aside all differences. After the prayer, thousands of groups set out in the way for Islam at home and abroad and hundreds of people also registered their names to join the Tablighi Jamaat for three and four-day Chilla.



LAHORE: Activist of Muslim Women League hold a protest against Israel attack on Gaza at District Council Chowk road in the city

Sea Guardian-3 exercise strengthens China-Pakistan Naval Cooperation in Arabian Sea: Experts

BEIJING (APP): China and Pakistan have common interests in jointly safeguarding strategic sea lanes in regions like the Indian Ocean, where piracy, terrorism and other dangerous activities pose threats to the maritime transport of energy and goods, Wei Dongxu, a Chinese military expert said on Sunday.

The largest-ever joint exercise between the Chinese and Pakistani navies began in Pakistan yesterday as the two countries continue to enhance their capabilities in jointly safeguarding strategic sea lanes as well as regional peace and stability, experts told Global Times on Sunday.

The Sea Guardian-3 joint maritime exercise kicked off with an opening ceremony at the Karachi Naval Dockyard.

Participating forces from the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy include the Type 052D guided missile destroyer Zibo, the Type 054A guided missile destroyers Jingzhou and Linyi, with Pakistani media reporting that a conventional attack submarine and a submarine support ship along with a marines corps detachment from the PLA Navy are also involved.

Under the common aim of jointly responding to mari-

time security threats, the nine-day exercise in the waters and airspace of the northern Arabian Sea will organize training courses including formation maneuvering, VBSS (visit, board, search and seizure), helicopter cross-deck landing, joint search and rescue, joint anti-submarine and main gun shooting, plus professional exchanges and mutual visits.

It is the third and the largest edition of the Sea Guardian exercises. The first edition was held in 2020 in the northern Arabian Sea waters, and the second edition was held in 2022 in waters off Shanghai.

"The exercise is dedicated to enhance the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, boost defense cooperation and deepen professional cooperation," said Rear Admiral Liang Yang, commander at a PLA Navy base and the general director of the exercise from the Chinese side, said at the opening ceremony.

Liang said he hopes the two navies can further enhance their joint operational capabilities in dealing with maritime security threats and safeguard maritime peace.

Indian Ocean, where piracy, terrorism and other dangerous activities pose threats to the maritime transport of energy and goods.



STALKOT: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Siraj-ul-Haq addressing the Labaika ya Palestine Youth Convention at Murray College

Babar may be removed as ODI captain after world cup debacle

LAHORE (INP): Axe is likely to fall on skipper Babar Azam, head coach Grant Bradburn and team director Mickey Arthur after dismal performance in the 2023 World Cup cricket hosted by India.

The green shirts lost a record five matches in the world event, including to newcomers Afghanistan.

Insiders revealed that a "crucial" discussion began in the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) even before the match against former

world champion England. They expressed the apprehension that Babar might be replaced as the captain in white-ball cricket.

It is learnt that the management committee of the PCB is considering to retain him for the Test series against Australia beginning next month. There are also unconfirmed reports that Babar may resign as captain. Meanwhile, it is also learnt that the board is contemplating to appoint local coaches instead of relying

on foreign ones. The PCB has reportedly contacted former Pakistani cricketers in this regard.

It may be recalled that former fast bowler Waqar Younis has been named as head coach of the Pakistan team twice. Aqib Javed and batsman Younis Khan have also worked as bowling and batting coaches with the team in the past. The PCB management committee will take a decision after evaluating the team's performance in the world cup.

Mehboob Nurzai says Contributions of Balochistan Darts Association for promotion of darts game praise worthy

Independent Report

QUETTA: International boxing coach Mehboob Ahmed Nurzai, has said that the contributions of Balochistan Darts Association for promotion of darts game in the province, particularly in Quetta, were praise worthy.

These views were expressed by him while addressing a function held at Fighter Sports Academy Saeed Shafiqe Ahmed Khan Road, Quetta in connection with quarter final and semi final competitions under "All Quetta Dr. Abdul Malik Kasi Memorial Darts Championship, 2023" here on Sunday.

Diverting the attention of youngsters towards the significance and importance of education, he said that sports and education were inter linked because for healthy mind, healthy body was essential. He congratulated Haji Ibrahim Khan Nurzai, President, Balochistan Darts Association, Mustafa Khan Achakzai, General Secretary, Raees Saddam Khan Pushtoon, Treasurer, Balochistan Darts Association and particularly Sensi Rehamatullah Khan Nurzai, Organiser "All Quetta Dr. Abdul Malik Kasi Memorial Darts Championship, 2023" and Chief Instructor, Fighter Sports Academy for organising a successful event of darts discipline.

'Pakistan cricket has collapsed', Ramiz blasts PCB after WC exit

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Former Pakistan skipper Ramiz Raja has slammed the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), claiming that the country's cricket "has collapsed".

The Green Shirts crashed out of the World Cup 2023 on Saturday after failing to restrict England at a low total and chasing down the target in the required overs to surpass New Zealand in net run rate (NRR) to make it to the semis.

The Men in Green's outing further turned sour as they suffered a 93-run defeat at the hands of the defending champions in their last-round match and were bowled out at 244 runs while chasing England's 338-run target.

Speaking on his YouTube channel, the former PCB chairman said: "When you [bowlers] don't take wickets with the new ball and start getting expensive [conceding runs], how would Babar do captaincy then?"

"And then they [PCB] would gather some ex-cricketers and ask them how to fix cricket? Who put them in charge [of the board]? Is their job just to huddle together and change the captain and the coaching staff and everyone would think they have taken a major step?"

The ex-cricketer called for putting an end to the process of leaking news and giving statements during a big event and also heavily criticised the newly-appointed interim chief selector Tauseef Ahmed.



MULTAN: Racer showing his skills in the final round of the 8th Thial Desert Jeep Rally at District Muzaffargarh Organized by the Tourism Development Corporation of Punjab.

Shadab blames his performance for team's failure in World Cup 2023

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan cricket team vice-captain Shadab Khan blamed his non-performance behind the team's failure after they were knocked out of the ICC Men's World Cup 2023.

The 25-year-old cricketer said the team including the coaching staff tries to win every tournament. Everyone, he added, is disappointed with the performance during the World Cup, but the lesson in cricket is to always improve.

"I am also disappointed with myself, I didn't live up to expectations. I should have performed. I think my non-performance brought the team here. If I had performed as a bowler, the result could have been different," the Vica Captain said.

Shadab reiterated it is very important for him to perform, sharing that he will return to Pakistan and analyse the mistakes he has made in the mega cricket event.

"We made a lot of mis-

takes and there were weaknesses, which is why we got eliminated. We failed in all three areas, but bowlers particularly didn't perform. You have to play according to cricket. In batting, too, we have to play according to modern-day cricket," he said.

Shadab added that a captain is not solely responsible for winning or losing, everyone has a role to play but our culture is such that everything is blamed on the captain.

"We did not play well as a team. We are all responsible," he said.

After their immensely unsatisfactory performance in the ongoing World Cup in India, the Pakistan squad will fly out of India in two groups as the Green Shirts' ICC Men's Cricket World Cup journey came to an end on Saturday.

In their last group match, England defeated Pakistan by an impressive 93 runs at Kolkata's Edens Gardens, with Green Shirts crashing out of the mega tournament.

PM reminds int'l community...

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above their differences and urgently perform their primary responsibility of maintaining peace and security in the region.

"Human lives cannot be sacrificed at the altar of technicalities," he added.

Prime Minister Kakar opined that billions across the globe wanting peace and progress and development, and the world could not afford to be pushed into the brink of another war.

He also proposed for initiation of proceedings at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) against Israel for its war crimes and crimes against humanity, besides the establishment of a special commission of inquiry by the United Nations Secretary-General to investigate these war crimes.

During his three-day visit, the prime minister also held meetings with the Arab and Islamic countries leaders on the sidelines of the main event.

The prime minister met with Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister of KSA Mohammed bin Salman, Kuwaiti Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, the prime minister reiterated Pakistan's strong condemnation of the ongoing brutal campaign by the Israeli forces.

They further emphasized the urgency of lifting the blockade of Occupied Gaza to facilitate the delivery of vital humanitarian aid and medical assistance to the affected population.

While in his meeting with Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, they expressed their deep concern over the alarming situation in Gaza with the staggering death toll and wholesale destruction of civilian infrastructure amidst the ongoing Israeli aggression and siege.

In a meeting with Prime Minister of Malaysia Anwar Ibrahim on the sidelines of the Joint Arab Islamic Extraordinary Summit, the prime minister reiterated Pakistan's strong condemnation of the ongoing brutal campaign by the Israeli forces.

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ISLAMABAD: Activists of Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen Pakistan (MWM) holds Philistine and Pakistani national flags during Philistine protest march in Federal Capital.

Indonesia Ambassador declares Murree 'Sister City' to Bali, urges tourism boost

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan, Adam M. Tugio on Sunday said that Murree can be counted among the most beautiful regions in the world and the natural beauty of Murree can compete with any major tourism spot in the world.

Indonesia Ambassador to Pakistan, Adam Tugio said that the world-famous tourist destinations of Pakistan, Murree, and Indonesia, Bali, can be called sister cities, for which the two governments should start talking and this will promote tourism on both sides.

He said this while talking to the Journalist and local business community in the local hotel of Murree.

The Ambassador of Indonesia said that there are historical religious and cultural relations between Pakistan and Indonesia, which are based on many factors needs to be transferred to the new generation. He said that Pakistan maintained friendship with Indonesia from the early years of independence, which can not be denied in the form of modern mutual economic, trade, cultural and diplo-

matic relations.

The ambassador of Indonesia said that 600 soldiers went from Pakistan for the freedom of Indonesia, some of whom sacrificed their lives there, and as the sun of freedom rose in Indonesia, the relations between the two countries were growing day by day. Meanwhile, the ambassador of Indonesia said that the founder of Indonesia, Ahmad SuKarno, and the founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, had a relationship of personal friendship, that's why you see similarities between most famous Jinnah Cap and Soekarno Cap.

He said that Allama Iqbal's poetry has an influence on many movements in Indonesia and Allama Iqbal is equally popular in Indonesia.

The Ambassador said that there is similarity in the food and culture of the two countries and the habits of the two nations are similar in terms of food and drink and spices. In response to a question Indonesian Ambassador Adam Tugio said that he will do his best for the visit of Murree journalists to Indonesia and in this

regard, Murree Press Club will be contacted soon.

He said that the visit of Murree journalists to Indonesia will give them an opportunity to know about Indonesia, which will increase mutual intimacy. Adam Tugio said that Indonesia announces scholarships for students every year and this year also the scholarship was awarded in the same way.

He emphasized that the children of Murree journalists should apply for Indonesia's scholarship, they should give priority to them and will be fully supported by the Indonesian Embassy Islamabad in this regard.

In response to a question, the Ambassador of Indonesia said that the mutual economic and trade relations between Pakistan and Indonesia are very strong and bilateral trade between the two countries is \$ 4.5 billion dollars, which needs to be further increased. He said that there is a need to promote mutual relations between the people of both the countries so that mutual intimacy between the people can increase.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Portugal to Pakistan Frederico Silva is taking keen interest in handmade items during Behbud art and craft bazaar at Pak China Friendship Center in Federal Capital.

Alumni of ICG F-6/2 celebrated "Bachpan Say Pachpan Tak"

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad College for Girls (ICG) F-6/2 yesterday organised an event of its Alumni Reunion in which over 200 old students of institution participated.

The tagline of the event was "Bachpan se pachpan tak" held to celebrate 55 glorious years of success and achievements of college.

The Chief Patron for Life Ms. Nusrat Khan,

Chairperson and principal college Prof. Sabah Faisal, President Ms. Saira Kamran, Vice President Ms. Zainab Raza, Secretary Ms. Asia Malik and Treasurer Sania Haris were the driving force behind this event. This reunion was attended by many notable teachers and students who are at the height of their careers, and the credit goes to their alma mater. Some of the golden personalities from year

1970 to 1980 included Ms. Anis Sheikh, Ms. Rashida zafer, Ms. Naheed Saleem, Ms. Ruqqiya younis, Ms. Chand Qaiser, Ms. Tazeen Rehman, Ms. Shahnaz Ansari, Ms. Fouzia Mujahid, Ms. Shehnaaz and the list goes on and on.

Very Gem students of the college who are now serving important positions in both government and private sectors were all in attendance.

Missing boy reunited with his family

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police Sangjani police station team reunited a

family members. Upon receiving the application, the Sangjani police team registered a case



missing boy with his parents, a public relation officer said. According to the details, the Sangjani police station team received an application from a citizen in which he stated that his son namely Saad had been missing and could not be traced despite hectic efforts by

and used technical and human resources and successfully traced the missing boy and reunited him safely with his family.

The parents appreciated the police team's efforts and thanked the Islamabad Capital Police for immediate assistance.

AJK President, PM condole over demise of Manzoor

ISLAMABAD (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry and Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq have expressed profound grief and sorrow over the death of former government minister Syed Manzoor Hussain Shah. In their condolence messages issued on Sunday, the AJK President and PM, while appreciating the former minister's political and social services for the people of Azad Jammu Kashmir, said that Syed Manzoor Hussain Shah would always be remembered for his selfless services to the people of the region. Extending their heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, they prayed to the Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace.

PPAF starts distribution of livelihood assets to Afghan refugees

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) has commenced the distribution of livelihood assets under its UNHCR Pakistan-funded Poverty Graduation Programme for Afghan Refugees with its on-ground partner, IDEA. Since November 8, PPAF along with partners has distributed 365 livelihood assets, which include 109 assets for women.

Overall 1010 assets will be distributed this month, in the Akora Khattak camp, district,

Nowshera, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

These livelihood assets span diverse ventures like shoe shops, clothing stores, crockery items, welding machines, carpenter's tools, cosmetics shops, peco, and sewing machines. Representatives from the UNHCR district office in Peshawar and Commissionerate Afghan Refugees, KP also joined distribution events. Their appreciation for the PPAF beneficiary selection process adds to the success of our intervention.



ISLAMABAD: Woman visiting stall during "Folk Festival Lok Mela" at Lok Virsa.

Health advocates urge to strengthen GHWs on tobacco products

ISLAMABAD (INP): The public health advocates have issued a compelling plea for an immediate expansion of Graphic Health Warnings (GHW) on tobacco products within the country.

In a statement issued by the Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC), these activists have conveyed profound apprehension regarding the devastating impact of tobacco consumption on public health, particularly among children. They contend that fortified GHWs can assume a pivotal role in diminishing tobacco usage and averting associated health hazards.

Malik Imran Ahmed, the Country Head of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids (CTFK), has emphasized the urgency for Pakistan to take immediate mea-

sures to augment the size and visibility of GHWs on tobacco products. The prevailing health warning, currently set at 60%, frequently goes unnoticed by consumers, including vulnerable children, owing to its diminutive dimensions and discreet placement. It's worth noting that Pakistan's neighbouring countries such as India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, the Maldives, and Myanmar have adopted significantly larger GHWs.

Imran has recommended increasing the GHW size to encompass a minimum of 85% of the primary display areas of cigarette packs and other tobacco products. This decisive action would guarantee that the warnings become conspicuous and easily discernible for all consumers, with particular consideration to children.



ISLAMABAD: A family enjoy with Zebra during Sunday Holiday alongside Faisal Avenue in Federal Capital.

I'abad Capital Police continues drive to check traffic rules violations

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: The campaign of Islamabad Capital Police to check violation of traffic rules is in full swing and special efforts are being made to maintain traffic discipline in the city.

The main objective of this road safety campaign is to ensure safety to the people while road users are being educated for lane discipline during driving.

Following the directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police has constituted special teams to control lane violations on various roads and ensure smooth flow of traffic in the city. Strict checking is being made against those not using helmets during bike

ride.

Police teams remain present on all important roads and boulevards of the city in order to educate road users about traffic rules. FM Radio 92.4 is also disseminating the messages about road safety and to educate the audience about traffic rules.

Islamabad Capital Police has appealed to the citizens to cooperate with the force by following traffic laws. He said that action would be taken against those not following lanes while drivers the sole purpose is to ensure a safe road environment in the city.

Islamabad capital police hoped citizens will follow traffic rules and help police through their cooperation in ensuring a secure traffic system in the city.

Planning ministry unveils national climate finance strategy, establishes SFB

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives has unveiled a comprehensive blueprint for tackling climate change-related challenges while enhancing sustainable development under the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP).

Under the policy, a National Climate Finance Strategy (NCFS) has been prepared to identify sectoral priorities and scale climate finance, the ministry said in a news release here on Sunday.

"This NCFS is a cornerstone in Pakistan's commitment to the Paris Agreement, focusing on leverag-

ing private sector engagement, international climate finance and carbon markets," the ministry said.

In 2021, the government approved the NCCP to pursue sustained economic growth by addressing the challenges of climate change.

It was to integrate climate change policy with other inter-related national policies and focus on pro-poor gender-sensitive adaptation while promoting mitigation to the extent possible in a cost-effective manner and building climate-resilient infrastructure and others.

Pakistan is among the

countries in the world that are most affected by weather/climate-related hazards such as floods, landslides, droughts, heat waves, extreme colds, and cyclones.

Significantly, the Sustainable Finance Bureau (SFB) has been established to revolutionize climate finance.

The SFB will reorient the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) towards sustainable finance, with 20% (Rs 925 billion) of new PSDP schemes in FY2023-24 being green. This initiative is expected to qualify for concessional climate funds, enhancing Pakistan's ca-

capacity to meet its climate targets.

Pakistan requires \$348 billion to achieve systemic resilience between 2023 and 2030, as per the World Bank's 2023 report.

This investment, the ministry said, was crucial for climate-proofing Pakistan's development trajectory and ensuring the well-being of its people.

The initiative also underscored the importance of a Climate Responsive Public Investment Framework (CRPIF), integrating climate considerations into the planning and execution of all development projects.



SAPM on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Jawad Sohrab Malik held meeting with ILO delegation.

Growing traffic woes in I'abad spark concerns among commuters

ISLAMABAD (Online): Road users in Islamabad are grappling with severe traffic congestion, particularly at the city's main entrance, Faizabad, during peak hours.

The presence of Islamabad Traffic Police personnel, combined with operational police, has intensified the situation, leading to allegations of undue stops and stringent penalties for alleged traffic violations. The Safe City cameras at this entry point are touted as potential proof of the traffic chaos, although authorities have yet to address the mounting concerns.

This surge in traffic policing practices follows a recent increase in fine amounts for traffic violations. Residents report instances of misbehavior by traffic police officers, with arguments and confrontations becoming common.

place.

It is claimed that engaging in discussions or disagreements with the police can result in escalated fines and the imposition of additional penalty sections.

A recent incident involving Shehzad Masih, a motorcyclist and sanitary worker, highlighted the challenges faced by citizens. Masih admitted to violating a one-way route near CDA and, on November 4, 2023, was allegedly humiliated and fined Rs. 2000 by Traffic Constables Asad and Usman who later impounded his bike at Aabpara police station.

Seeking redress, Masih has called for action from Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, appealing to the Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti for a more courteous attitude and reduced fines, especially for the labor

class.

In response to these allegations, sources within the traffic police, speaking on the condition of anonymity, acknowledged the increased fine amounts. They expressed the difficulty in satisfying road users after imposing hefty fines, acknowledging the irked response.

However, they provided examples of various countries where substantial fines compel citizens to adhere to traffic laws. They emphasized that it is the responsibility of citizens to comply with traffic regulations, and a collaborative effort between the police and the public can contribute to a reduction in road accidents.

The newly appointed SSP traffic is reportedly working to understand road issues in Islamabad, proposing refresher courses for traffic policemen.

Scientists develops a solar panel that collects more energy

ISLAMABAD (Online): Scientists have made progress in the development of a new type of solar panel that is capable of absorbing more sunlight.

Scientists from the United Kingdom have named it a solar leaf (leaf). This solar panel is just going through the concept stage, which looks like a leaf.

According to a study published in the journal Nature Communications, this solar panel can use additional thermal energy while absorbing more sunlight than conventional solar panels.

The researchers believe that this new technology will help the solar leaf generate more electricity.

The new technology takes into account the plant's evapotranspiration system, whereby plants keep themselves cool by transferring excess water from their leaves to their roots.

Researchers believe that a solar leaf based on this system's replication would also help keep itself cool and absorb more sunlight.

Pakistan will never allow relations with Israel: Nasir Abbas

ISLAMABAD (Online): Thousands of men, women and children participated in the grand "Azadi-e-Palestine March" organized by Majlis Wahdat Muslimeen Pakistan from Aabpara to the American Embassy against the brutality of the oppressor Israel.

Addressing the gathering, Allama Raja Nasir Abbas Jafari said that today's great gathering is a proof of insight and awareness. They used to travel the length and breadth of the country carrying the flag of the movement, they used to inform about the nefarious intentions of the colonial powers for which they were martyred.

They say that Hamas has attacked, not they have defended, is it wrong if Kashmiris stand up against Indian atrocities in Kashmir? They say Israel is very advanced, yes they have developed to kill you, to establish relations with Israel is to establish relations with Satan and 'Iblis'. Pakistan will never allow to establish relations with Israel.

Salutations to the men of Parachinar who foiled the conspiracy against Shia and Sunni. Our salutations to the Palestinian mothers, sisters and daughters.

Owing to your persistence, the land of Gaza is becoming a graveyard for Israelis, Israel can never win a war, today the Lebanese, Yemeni and Iraqi resistance surrounds Israel, the whole of Palestine belongs to the Palestinians, from the river to the sea, God willing.

In the upcoming election in the country, Pakistanis will defeat the forces who support America, one defeat will be in Gaza and one defeat will be in Pakistan.

On November 26, there will be a big gathering in Lahore in which all of us will participate, the zealous people of Lahore should prepare.

Liaqat Baloch, Central Vice President of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan, said that I congratulate you conscientious Pakistanis for this faith-based gathering for the Palestinian people.

We condemn and regret the fruitless OIC meeting. Decisions should be made in accordance with the aspirations of the people, the Muslim Umma will express disgust with the silent Muslim rulers.



ISLAMABAD: A group photo of participants of Alumni ceremony titled "Bachpan se Pachpan tak" with Principal Prof Sabah Faisal held at Islamabad College for Girls (ICG) F6/2.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Monday November 13, 2023

Constant threat of polio

As far as Balochistan is concerned, it is a good sign that no fresh polio case has been reported in the province since January 2021. The Emergency Operation Center (EOC) for Polio Eradication had recorded last case of polio from Killa Abdullah district of Balochistan in January two years ago. This means Balochistan is free of the polio virus for around two years.

But, it is equally matter of great concern that five cases of polio have been reported from rest of the country.

The official reports suggested that the wild Poliovirus 1 has crippled another child in Pakistan as a 31-month-old male child has been found affected by polio in UC-4 Gujro, Gadap Town, in District East Karachi.

According to the EOC Sindh, a 31-month-old boy has been affected by Wild Poliovirus 1 in the notorious UC-4 Gujro, Gadap Town in District East Karachi. It is the 5th polio case of 2023 in Pakistan and the 2nd case in Karachi.

The official of EOC maintained that the latest polio case had been reported from the same area in the Gadap Town where the 4th polio case of the year was reported last month. Needless to mention here is that the fifth child who has been affected by the polio is an Afghan national.

As per the official reports, this child had received three doses of Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) as per routine immunisation, two shots of intravenous polio vaccine (IPV) while the child has also received OPV doses on more than seven occasions.

He maintained that genetic sequencing of the isolated virus was under way but no travel history of the child had emerged. He added that an intensive investigation had been launched to ascertain the circumstances that led to resurgence of the poliovirus in Karachi.

It is also worth mentioning here that most of the polio cases in Karachi have been reported from the same UC-4 Gujro, Gadap Town, which has been a hub of Afghan nationals who regularly travel to their native areas in Afghanistan from there.

The UC is also known for refusal of polio vaccination during anti-polio campaigns. A day earlier on Thursday, it emerged that Type-1 Wild Poliovirus (WPV1) was detected in nine environmental samples that were collected in October. Four of those samples were collected from Karachi, two from Chaman and one each from Peshawar, Kohat and Nowshera.

According to officials, the total number of polio cases in Pakistan in 2023 has reached five while the new detections have taken the total number of positive environmental (sewage) samples in the country in 2023 to 64.

The matter of concern is that the polio virus has also been detected in the environmental samples in Quetta, Pishin, Killa Abdullah and Hub districts in spite of the fact that no new case of the crippling disease has been reported yet since January 2021.

Surely the credit of this particularly achievement goes to the provincial government, health department, EOC Balochistan and, above all, the health workers who have served the cause with utmost dedication and extra passion.

But, still there is a need to go extra mile to achieve the goal of polio-free province and the country. For the purpose, joint efforts are needed on part of all the stakeholders including the parents and community besides the health officials engaged in the task of polio eradication.

**Ahmed Bilal Mehboob**

This is the season when political parties generally produce their election manifestos. Over the past many elections, this has been more a ritual than a substantive exercise, because political parties feel that a large segment of voters don't bother much about reading election manifestos to make up their minds about voting or not voting for a party. They may have been right until a few elections ago when a growing middle class, the rise of social media and the youth bulge in the voters' list started changing poll dynamics. At least an emerging class of voters is no longer content with the traditional politics of slogans, tall promises, opponent-bashing and communicating with voters on issues

only during elections. Voters demand greater engagement. Sadly, more than half of registered voters choose not to vote as indicated by the average 45 per cent voter turnout of the past eight elections, partly because of traditional politics.

Potentially, over 21 million new voters will be voting in the coming general election. Their knowledge about political parties and what these parties stand for is limited to mostly half-cooked information on social media. Smartly crafted and effectively communicated election manifestos may bridge the gap between political parties and voters, especially the young voters who number around 57m, or more than 45pc of the total registered voters. Election manifestos, therefore, need more serious attention from political parties. Here are six key ideas to make the election manifesto a substantive document:

Bottom-up consultative process: Hardly any political party in Pakistan involves its grassroots organisations and workers in identifying key policy issues, which need to be addressed, in their election

manifestos. In contrast, the Conservative and Labour parties in Britain have established systems of holding policy forums at various levels, starting from the constituencies up to the national forum, and finally seeking endorsements at annual party meetings. The Conservative Policy Forum website indicates that at least half the election manifesto consists of recommendations made by policy forums at various levels. In Pakistan, political parties, with very few exceptions, constitute a committee consisting of 20 to 50 persons about two to three months before polling day. The three largest political parties — the PTI, PML-N, and PPP — unveiled their election manifestos just 16, 20, and 27 days before the 2018 election was held. The process indicates that the election manifesto is considered a mere formality rather than the result of a properly structured system of consultations at various levels. In principle, holding at least district-level discussions will not only mobilise the party cadre, it will also give them stakes in party policy formulation. A number of fresh ideas may also

crop up during these consultations. Since there is very little time left for holding grassroots consultations for the 2024 election, at least provincial consultations should be arranged by each party, giving representation to each district.

Informed manifestos: The process of making election manifestos is usually based on whim and not proper research. Although there is an increasing tendency in political parties to commission public opinion surveys, the general focus is on gauging the popularity of various leaders rather than the identification of issues. The use of public opinion polls based on a carefully crafted questionnaire can significantly enhance the ability to identify key issues and, therefore, the quality of manifestos.

Manifesto, not a mere wish list: Almost all election manifestos in Pakistan are mere wish lists, without any serious back-end working on how the resources will be mobilised or diverted from other programmes to implement the manifesto. For a resource-constrained country like Pakistan, trade-offs are a natural phenomenon

while undertaking serious planning on policies and programmes. Election manifestos should, therefore, present the party's proposed trade-offs and funding ideas. Labour's election manifestos of 2017 and 2019 may serve as good models as these carried separate documents explaining how promised programmes would be funded. The Labour manifestos in 2017 and 2019 carried seven- and 40-page appendices titled 'Funding Britain's future' and 'Funding the real change' respectively. Both these funding documents were produced by a team headed by the shadow chancellor of the exchequer — a shadow minister of finance in our parlance had we had a system of shadow cabinets in our polity.

Provincial manifestos: Pakistan is a federal state and a lot of ministries and divisions have been devolved to the provinces. A party might not be in power both at the centre and in all the four provinces at the same time. The parties should prepare separate manifestos for the federation and each province. The Jamaat-i-Islami recently unveiled a separate election

manifesto specifically for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Other parties may consider doing the same.

Monitoring progress of manifestos: Parties should also focus on devising a system to monitor the progress on the implementation of the manifesto's aims if and when they come to power, and describe such a system in the manifesto. There would be greater voter trust in a party which includes self-appraisal in its manifesto.

Checklist of key issues: The manifesto should identify key issues of a short-, medium- and long-term nature and propose possible ways to address them. In the present context, besides combating terrorism, the economy should be the top priority focusing on energy-sector reforms, enhancing exports and investment, and privatising state-owned enterprises. Improving human development, ushering in justice system reforms, maintaining effective local governments, conducting political dialogue for harmony and improving relations with neighbouring countries as well as civil-military ties should be the mid- to long-term focus. -- Courtesy Dawn

The making of manifestos**A flowering in Sukkur****Ghazi Salahuddin**

What sight or experience would cheer you up in this overall environment of gloom and apprehension? What can engage you for long enough to inspire a measure of hope in your general outlook about the future?

Given the global and the domestic state of affairs, such an upbeat distraction would be hard to come by. Israel's war in Gaza has continuously been unbearable. With a great sense of urgency, we are watching history being made.

Yes, we had a few fairy tales in the magical realm of cricket. The World Cup has kept us mentally and emotionally occupied. But New Zealand's easy win against Sri Lanka on Thursday has literally pushed us out of

the game. We feel heartbroken.

So, what is there to, in a sense, write home about? Well, I have made this somewhat rhetorical beginning to share some aspects of what I experienced two weeks ago. And it happened in the unlikely environs of Sukkur, the historic city of northern Sindh. It was the two-day Pakistan Literature Festival, organized by the Pakistan Arts Council, Karachi.

Since the media has already covered the proceedings of the Sukkur festival and has portrayed its astounding success, I am not intending this to be a reportage. What I am trying to say is that it was an exceptional experience. My wife Sadiqa and I had a great time on the sidelines, meeting so many distinguished writers and intellectuals of the region. There was this adrenaline rush that cannot be summed up.

However, apart from what we experienced at the personal level, there is something in particular that I want to highlight. Because the festival was held within the premises of the IBA University Sukkur, a

venue that is truly the pride of the city, the focus was specifically on the youth. Their presence was overwhelming, not just in numbers but also in some other crucial ways. This was in consonance with the slogan of the festival: "youth is the only way forward".

Now, you may be justified in posing the question as to what was so unusual about young people being there in large numbers on a campus? Let me try to explain. I will restrict my reference to the enormous congregations that attended the mushaira and the concert. The musical performance had created an excitement that the city of Sukkur would long talk about.

Actually, it was the presence of young women in full force that left me in a state of awe and wonder. They all seemed to be teenagers, gathered in an unmarked enclosure. I could see that they felt confident and safe in that vast, packed cricket ground. Could I imagine a similar participation of girls on the campus of the University of Karachi? Is this a manifestation of some kind of a

social change that is taking place in some parts of this province, without the awareness of many of us?

In fact, the steady emancipation of women in Sindh was also the subject of some discussions. Girls are leaving the boys behind, it was argued by a number of panelists. What does this signify? Or is this just an aberration that does not reflect a national trend?

At this point, I need to point out that I have always been very disappointed with the levels of knowledge and understanding of the educated youth I encounter on our campuses. For that matter, what I am applauding about the girl students I saw in Sukkur is not their quality of intellect, which I have no way to judge. But it is their freedom and their courage that will ultimately strengthen this country and retrieve it from the dark ages in which it repeatedly tends to regress.

I am not invoking this thought about the dark ages being at the gate merely as a metaphor. This is a real threat — and our rulers are either not able to comprehend the situation

or feel powerless to counter the forces of ignorance and bigotry. The recent surge in acts of terrorism and attacks on our security personnel show what our policies of the past have reaped. Yet, there is no evidence of a resolve to protect our youth and our society from the forces of darkness.

Sadly, the image I have retained from my participation in the Sukkur festival is starkly violated by an incident that was reported from Bannu. The details are well known but I shudder to even think about that act of infamy. One should be sorry for being a citizen of a country where something like this can happen in the presence of local officials.

The video is on social media. In the presence of clerics, an assistant professor of biology in the Government Post Graduate College, Bannu, apologizes for teaching Darwin's theory of evolution. He reads a statement proclaiming that he considers all scientific views such as Darwin's theory as false.

Apparently, the teacher's humiliation was

prompted by his support for the liberation of women. He had organized a seminar on women's rights in Islam and the constitution. In his forced confession, he also had to declare that he believed in women's inferiority to men.

It is easy to see who is stronger in Pakistan at this time: the clerics who chastised a biology teacher in Bannu or the girls who felt liberated for at least those evenings in Sukkur. But who stands in judgment and in power in this country to chart its path to progress?

I may be excused for being really confused about what I can celebrate and what makes me lose my hope for the future of my country. Still, the movement for cultural activism and for the emancipation of women that is represented by a literary festival is a welcome antidote to the radicalization of our youth at the behest of those who profess extremism and intolerance.

Ah, but what does education actually mean if it cannot promote dialogue and reason? -- Courtesy TheNews

We cannot forget**Muna Khan**

We were in Lebanon following Israel's "longest war in the Middle East" in 2006 where Hezbollah fought back for 34 days. Wars shouldn't have winners but Hasan Nasrallah topped popularity polls across the region then, irrespective of faith.

So, here we were face to face with members of an organisation once famed as suicide bombers but who were now a dominant political player as elected members of the government. These young men walked us through this exhibit, talking in broken/basic English, Arabic, French about Israel's war crimes in Lebanon. There was no whataboutery, nothing was lost in translation. The men even gifted us memorabilia when we left — stickers, notebooks, literature and CDs, and a better perspective on armed resistance, sans hyperbole.

My friend wanted to visit Qana, a village in southern Lebanon, 12 kilometres north of the border with Israel, the site of devastating Israeli air strikes in 1996 and 2006 that killed hundreds, many of them children. We managed, without Google maps, to find a

site where villagers had chosen to memorialise by placing schoolbags, shoes and other paraphernalia. I hope you won't think I was participating in disaster tourism; the few villagers who helped us find this place said they were happy that Pakistanis hadn't forgotten.

I understood why Hezbollah had memorialised the gruesome images outside one of the country's most popular tourist destinations and why villagers came together to place objects around trees. It is easy to use 'never forget' hashtags on social media but quite something else to stand still and witness the impact of war. Many friends slam this as 'war porn' but having taken many guests to the War Remnants Museum in Saigon when I was living in Vietnam, I assure you there is no 'viewing for emotional gratification'. Many American friends said they did not have the full picture about their country's role in Vietnam until they visited this museum.

After switching to a market economy five years following the end of the American war in 1975, Vietnam's growth has been remarkable; it has emerged as the fastest-growing economy in Southeast Asia and is expected to emerge as one of the top 10 consumer markets by 2030. The largest demographic in Vietnam has no connection to a war that ravaged its coun-

try, but every day, hundreds of schoolchildren visit that War Museum to remember the price it has paid to be where it is today. There is no doubt about the aggressor.

Are these museums commemorating hyper-nationalism? I leave that to people far smarter than I to answer as I can only speak about the impact visiting such places had on me. I am not Hezbollah, Hamas or Viet Cong or sitting far away waiting to hear if my entire family has been wiped out in Gaza or if one person was spared in an attack that will be blamed on a group that is defending its territories.

Palestine is an open-war museum. The demonstrations across the world are a testament to how people get it now. It is also a reminder about today's demographics: younger people have no connect to testimonies about the Holocaust. They only know who the oppressor is right now: Israel.

In his interview to Democracy Now, the American writer Tan-Nehisi Coates spoke about his visit to Palestine, and how uncomplicated the issue is. "You don't need a PhD in Middle Eastern studies to understand the basic morality of holding a people in a situation where they don't have basic rights," he said.

You understood on the first day, he told another gathering. That's something we should never forget. -- Courtesy Dawn

Rising terrorism**Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry**

Since the dawn of this century, terrorism has been the principal threat to the people of Pakistan. By 2015, Pakistani law-enforcement authorities had succeeded in crushing terrorist forces, through military operations in Swat, South Waziristan and North Waziristan. A National Action Plan was adopted in 2015 to flush out the remaining terrorist holdouts through intel-based operations. The strategy worked well till 2019, with few terrorist incidents.

However, since 2020, the terrorists have become active again. This year alone, there have been dozens of terrorist attacks, mostly against the security establishment. This upsurge has put at risk the success Pakistan had achieved against terrorism. With the TTP having launched a full-fledged war against Pakistan's people, we need to introspect over what went wrong, and what can remedy deteriorating law and order.

Since the Taliban takeover of Kabul in 2021, there has been a 60 per cent increase in terrorist incidents in Pakistan. This is not to suggest that the Taliban government is responsible. However, the TTP continues to have space in Afghanistan to plan and carry out attacks in Pakistan. Ostensibly, the objective is to dislodge the government of Pakistan from the Pakhtun tribal belt in former Fata, and enforce the Taliban's interpretation of Sharia.

Regrettably, Indian-sponsored terrorism is the other dynamic underlying heightened terrorist activity in Pakistan. Last year, the government announced that a dossier containing details and evidence of New Delhi's role in a deadly 2021 car bombing in Lahore had been prepared which was to be shared with the UN. In 2020, Pakistan had unveiled a dossier documenting evidence of how New Delhi had used terrorism to destabilise Pakistan. From Kashmir Singh (apprehended in 1973) to Surjeet Singh (1982) and Sarabjit Singh (1990), India used a series of intelligence agents to organise and bankroll terrorism in Pakistan. India has also used the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) between 2002 and 2012 to create civil unrest in Balochistan. In 2016, Kulbhushan Jadhav, a serving Indian officer, was apprehended in Balochistan, carrying a passport bearing the name of Hussain Mubarak Patel. He confessed to committing terrorism and spying for Indian intelligence.

Some domestic factors have also contributed to the rise of terrorism here, including vertical inequalities (gap between rich and poor) and horizontal inequities (gap between the various regions of Pakistan). Poverty levels have risen sharply, which makes it easy for detractors to recruit potential terrorists.

Identifying reasons for the rise of terrorism in Pakistan is easy. The real challenge is how to address

them. The first policy option is to stay closely engaged with the Taliban government on issues of effective border management, the rights of those living on both sides of the border, bilateral and transit trade, the return of undocumented refugees, and the need to shrink the space given to the TTP. Unilateral actions on any of these issues should be the last option.

Meanwhile, it is clear that the Modi government does not want to normalise ties with Pakistan. Any initiative by Pakistan at this time is not likely to be reciprocated. After the 2024 elections, there might be some space for diplomacy to lower tensions and India's hostility towards Pakistan. Mean-while, Pakistan needs to effectively counter India's propaganda of 'cross-border terrorism', and also watch closely the growing Indian interest in regaining lost space in Afghanistan.

Addressing the root causes of poverty, social inequalities and underdevelopment in Balochistan is a pressing need. The recent demonstration by the people of Gwadar for their rights and basic facilities is a case in point. Balochistan is central to CPEC and overall national development. The people of Balochistan must have full ownership of the development programmes in their province. Setting up effective local governments is the answer to meeting the demands of local population and countering BLA propaganda.

Political instability, living beyond means, resurgence of terrorism, bad governance, unemployed youth, extremist outfits, and a mindset of 'might is right' are an explosive mix. No wonder, our people feel despondent. Their hopes and belief in Pakistan can be revived by creating a justice system that ensures equal rights for every citizen. -- Courtesy Dawn

Pakistanis are often

Deadly diseases like diabetes can be controlled by healthy lifestyle, healthy food: Governor

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali Sunday said that by adopting a healthy lifestyle and healthy food, dangerous and deadly diseases like diabetes could be controlled. Diabetes is a silent killer, diagnosis and proper management of this disease takes time and diabetes is a serious health challenge, he added.

To deal with this, we need to change our lifestyle, he said and added that as a result of prevention of diabetes, the risk of other diseases could also be reduced and in this context philanthropists should serve humanity. "I will fully cooperate with the welfare institutions engaged and serving the ailing humanity," he said while addressing a function organized by Omar Diabetes Foundation on the occasion of World

Diabetes Day at Governor House here Sunday. Omar Foundation Chairman Justice (Retd) Mian Mohammad Ajmal, CEO Dr. Umar Rohab, Professor Dr. Abrar Ahmed, Dr. Sheikh Fahad Falah, members of the Board of Directors, diabetes experts, social and political personalities and representatives of the business community also participated in the ceremony.

Chairman Umar Foundation Justice (Rtd) Mian Muhammad Ajmal, Professor Dr. Abrar Ahmed and CEO Dr. Umar Wahab while addressing the ceremony, informed the Governor and other stakeholders about the Omar Foundation were performing by serving the people in Islamabad, Muzaffarabad and Peshawar.

He said that Pakistan was the third largest

country in the world in terms of the prevalence of diabetes, where there were more than 30 million diabetic patients.

Almost every fourth person is suffering from diabetes, he said, adding, "It can also cause heart failure, which can be prevented by a charity organization like Omar Diabetes Foundation providing free treatment facilities to poor people and so far more than 40,000 patients have been treated free of charge."

Addressing the ceremony, the Governor said that service to suffering humanity was the greatest worship and Omar Foundation was providing selfless free treatment services for the completion of a healthy society and complete eradication of diabetes, which was not only commendable but also for the eradication of diabetes.



LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi reviews progress being made on the renovation and extension of the project during his visit Mazar Bibi Pak Daman.

KP, China Window sign MoU to promote Pak, China friendship, culture

PESHAWAR (APP): A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on Sunday between the Provincial Department of Local Government, Elections and Rural Development (LGE&RDD) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan and China Window, a Chinese cultural center established in Peshawar.

The MoU aims to promote Pakistan-China friendship, Chinese culture, and development in various areas of life throughout Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The MoU signing ceremony was held in the conference room of the Local Government Department.

Secretary Local Council Board Mian Shafiqur Rehman and Administrator of China Window Amjad Aziz Malik signed the memorandum.

Secretary Local Government, Elections and Rural Development Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Dawood Khan, Special Secretary Establishment Local Government Muhammad Masood Khan and Director China Window Imtiaz Ahmed were also present on the occasion.

According to the MoU, a corner will be established in China Window regarding the development of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, support will be provided for teaching Chinese language in Peshawar Municipal School and College, cultural cooperation will be enhanced, steps will be taken to increase cultural relations between Abbottabad and Kashgar and Peshawar and Urumqi which has already got the status of sister cities.

Police responds to 28,000 calls, messages on Women Safety App

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Police and Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) jointly responded to 28,000 calls and messages from women in the province, during the on-going year.

The PSCA official sources told APP on Sunday that the Women Safety App was developed for women to ensure their safety, an application that allows users to send an alert to the police or to a family member with just one tap.

He said the Anti-Women Harassment and Violence cells had taken timely action through the App and arrested the accused in the last 10 months against whom strict legal action was

taken. The App was launched to provide immediate help to women in which various links including Cyber Crime, Rescue, National Highway, Motorway and other helpline numbers had also been provided. The App also allows its users to review different public locations in terms of safety, an official said adding that green pins indicate the location was safe for women, orange means the area was partially secure, while red signifies that the location is unsafe.

To a query, sources said the map allowed women to plan their route ahead and avoid troublesome spots.



LAHORE: Children are enjoying Sunday Holiday at Bagh-e-Jinnah in Provincial Capital.

Governor Sindh felicitates Hindu community on Diwali

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori while congratulating the Hindu community on festival of lights, Diwali on Sunday, has said that the Hindu community was playing their role in the development of the country. He said that their role especially, in the fields of agriculture, industry and medicine of the province was significant.

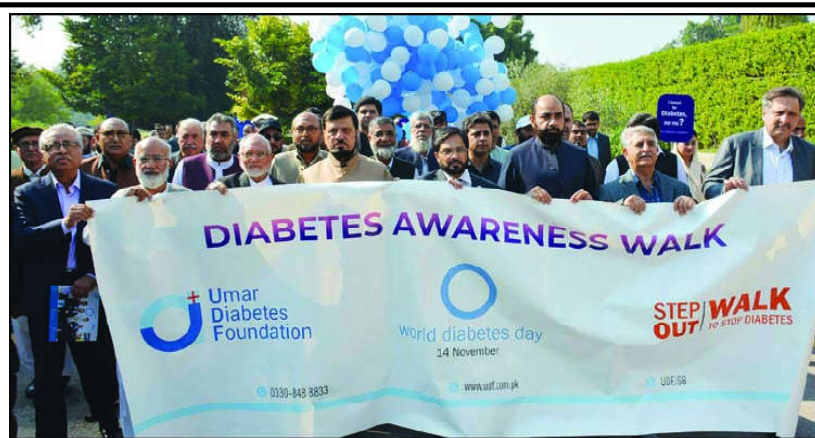
Tessori said that the minority communities in Pakistan had complete protection and they had freedom to perform their religious rituals.

Shafay says: PML-Q to make seat adjustments with PML-N

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid Punjab General Secretary Chaudhry Shafay Hussain said in a statement on Sunday that the PML-Q is not merging with any other party. However, he added, the party would reach seat adjustments with the PML-N in some constituencies. He said the Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid would maintain its individual status and its candidates would participate in elections on the tractor symbol.

3 dacoits arrested, weapons, cash recovered

FAISALABAD (APP): Chak Jhumra police have arrested three dacoits and recovered weapons, cash and other items from them. A spokesman said here on Sunday that the police, on a tip-off, conducted a raid and succeeded in nabbing three outlaws including Waqar Aslam.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam leading the walk on the occasion of World Diabetes Day organized by Omar Diabetes Foundation at Governor House.

CM visits Bibi Pak Daman mazar, reviews renovation work

Orders removing encroachments on 32 major roads

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi paid a detailed visit to Mazar Bibi Pak Daman Sunday morning here and reviewed progress being made on the renovation and extension of the project.

Provincial Minister for Auqaf Azfar Ali Nasir also accompanied him. The renovation and extension project of Mazar Bibi Pak Daman is near completion. The CM ordered early completion of the project and ordered to complete the task during the current month. Naqvi visited extended parts of the Mazar and monitored work being carried out at the central part along with renovation of the dome of Mazar. Mohsin Naqvi inspected the finishing work of other domes including the central dome and issued necessary

directions to Secretary Communication and Works. CM also directed to illuminate all the domes of Mazar with elegant lights.

He offered a special prayer at the Mazar for the progress, prosperity, stability, integrity peace of the country and for the safety of oppressed Palestinian Muslims. Secretary C&W gave a briefing about the completion of renovation and extension project of the Mazar. Secretary Auqaf, Commissioner Lahore division and officials concerned were also present.

Meanwhile, the Punjab government, on special orders of Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi Punjab has decided to permanently remove temporary encroachments on 32 major roads of the city. A special meeting was

held under the chairmanship of the Punjab CM, in which proposals were reviewed to remove obstacles in the flow of traffic in provincial metropolis. The CM ordered that encroachments should be removed immediately, and vehicular traffic should be run on better alternative routes in the face of development projects.

The chief minister also directed TEPA to restructure roads and intersections at 32 places.

Awan Town and Multan Chungi Chowk will be redesigned on the Thokar Niaz Baig to Chaurajhi Multan Road. The proposal to build an underpass from Jinnah Hospital to Karim Block was also reviewed in the meeting, while it was also agreed to solve the issue of road-engineering at 135 places.

AKU and UAJK jointly conduct course of health awareness communications

MUZAFFARABAD (APP): The Agha Khan University (AKU) and University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) jointly conducted a transformative two-day short course, titled "Assessing, Interpreting, and Reporting Health-Related Information to the Public," at UAJK on Saturday and Sunday.

This joint initiative, meticulously designed and executed by AKU, aimed at empowering media professionals and Mass Communication students with essential skills to effectively disseminate accurate health information. According to a press release of UAJK, the course was conducted by a grant from the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), funded by the University of Warwick, and expertly organized by the Section of Non-Communicable Diseases & Mental Health, Department of Community Health Sciences (CHS) at AKU, that made a significant

impact on students of Mass Communication and media professionals in Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

The training, led by Dr. Romaina Iqbal, Section Head of Non-Communicable Diseases and Mental Health, and Associate Professor at the Department of Community Health Sciences, AKU, along with Dr. Bilal Ahmed Usmani, Assistant Professor and Head of Section for Epidemiology and Biostatistics at CHS, AKU, and a team of Senior Instructors such as Ms. Sabahat Naz, Dr. Mahrukh Zafar, Dr. Muhammad Zia ul Haq, and Mr. Mubashar Naqvi, Public Relations Officer at UAJK, provided participants with engaging lectures, hands-on practice, and valuable tips on accessing, interpreting, and reporting health-related information to the public. The trainers equipped media professionals and students with various tools and techniques to access credible health-related.

Five drug dealers held during raid

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have arrested five drug dealers and recovered more than 05 kg of drugs from their possession during the crackdown here on Sunday.

According to a police spokesman, Rata Amral police conducted a raid and arrested two drug dealers namely Ameen and Abdul Jawad and recovered more than 2.5 kg of drugs from their possession. Similarly, Sadiqabad police held Haider Ali and recovered 1.4 kg of drugs from his custody. While Race Course police recovered 600 gram of charas from Fazal Haq. Following the operation, Waris Khan police recovered 570 gram of charas from Adnan. Police have registered separate cases against the accused and further investigation was underway. City Police Officer (CPO) Syed Khalid Mehmoed Hamdani commended police teams and said the arrested accused will be brought to justice with solid evidence. He made it clear that strict action will be taken against those involved in supplying drugs.



LAHORE: Commissioner Lahore Muhammad Ali Randhawa along with CEO LWMC Babar Sahib Din inaugurating Anti Smog Cycle Ride at Liberty Roundabout.

Environmental hazards disrupting life-sustaining ecosystems

LAHORE (APP): Experts say environment has serious effects on human health in a number of ways, either directly by exposing people to harmful carbon agents, or indirectly, by disrupting life-sustaining ecosystems. They say that the interaction between human health and the environmental hazards has extensively been researched and studied.

The World Health Organisation (WHO), in its recent report, said that 13 million deaths were caused annually by preventable environmental causes.

The report estimates that 24 per cent of the global disease burden (healthy life per year loss) and 23 per cent of all deaths i.e. premature mortality are attributable to environmental factors, with the environmental

burden of diseases, for being 15 times higher in developing countries than in developed countries, occur due to differences in exposure to environmental risks and non-availability of access to healthcare amid the environmental reasons.

The report further said that five children in developing countries in every one minute die from Malaria or Diarrhoea.

Likewise, 100 children die every hour, as a result of exposure to indoor smoke from solid or fossil fuels and nearly 1800 people die every day in mega cities of the developing countries as a result of exposure to endangered urban air pollution. And, every month, nearly 19,000 people in developing countries die from

unintentional poisonings. Noted environmentalist Dr. Shafiqat Munir Ahmad told APP that huge economic development and multiplying population is resulting in prevailing environmental degradation. Intensification of industrialization, agriculture and increasing energy use were the most severe driving forces of environmental health problems. For developing countries, severe lack of public infrastructure, such as access to clean drinking water, lack of healthcare, sanitation issues were generating due to emerging problems of industrial pollution, as mushrooming of industrial units without planning are creating significant issues of public health, he added.

Climate change is

Speakers stress inter-faith harmony at 'Building bridges' dialogue

LAHORE (APP): An inter-faith harmony dialogue titled 'Building bridges' was organised by the Presbyterian Education Board (PEB) at Naulakha Presbyterian Church, here on Sunday.

Prominent religious personalities including Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) Chairman Hafiz Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi, Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Chairman Abdul Khabeer Azad, Kul Masalik Board Chairman Asim Makhdoom, Naulakha Presbyterian Church Senior Pastor Dr Majid Abel, Data Darbar Masjid Khateeb Mufti Ramzan Sialvi,

Maulana Zubair Abid, Prof. Mehmood Ghaznavi, Prof. Sohail Raza, Head of Presbyterian Education Board Mrs. Veeda Javed, Mrs. Margy Trimble, Miss Sheryl Burke, Rev. Emmanuel Khokhar and a delegation from Board of Education Presbyterian participated in the event.

The participants discussed promotion of religious tolerance in

society, and overcoming challenges and problems in this regard. All leaders expressed their determination to work hard for promotion of religious tolerance and harmony.

Expressing his views, PUC Chairman Hafiz Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi said the Constitution of Pakistan was based on education of Quran and Sunnah. Inter-faith harmony was the basis of development and prosperity of the country, while all religions give the message of peace and love. He said that the leaders of all religions in Pakistan are spreading the message of peace and love.

Dr. Majeed Abel, who was also the mediator of dialogue, said he feels proud that the Presbyterian Education Board had a mission to spread education and 60 per cent of students in our educational institutions are from the Muslim community. Christian educational institutions have rendered endless services and produced many great names.



LAHORE: Chairman Pakistan Ulema Council Maulana Tahir Ashrafi addressing a press conference Naulakha Presbyterian Church in Provincial Capital.

Secretary Education KP pays surprise visit to govt schools in Swabi

SWABI (APP): Secretary Education Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Syed Mutasim Ballah Shah made a surprise visit to various government schools in Swabi district and transferred 29 teachers to remote areas besides directing the concerned authorities to cut their one-day salaries. During the visit, he said, he had received complaints about the teachers being ordered

to close the schools prematurely besides most of the timely on leave without submitting their leave applications.

On this occasion, he also inspected the Government Shaheed Moazzam High School, Kadi, where the school was found closed prematurely. During his visit to the School, he ordered for transferring 13 teachers from Government.



RAWALPINDI: Leader of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Hanif Abbasi addressing during visiting in All Pakistan Small Gems Jewellers & Tools Association welcome camp in the city.

HDA asks builders to fulfill Revenue Dept's documentary requirements

HYDERABAD (APP): The Hyderabad Development Authority (HDA) has directed the builders and developers to submit Settlement Surgery and Field Books, Survey Reports, Ghat Wadh Form and Form II. The spokesman of HDA Nadeem Yousof informed here on Sunday that the builders and developers had been given 7 days to submit those documents.

According to him, the directives had been issued in the light of circulars dated March 3, 2016, and June 13, 2022, of Settlement Survey and Land Record Sindh and Deputy Commissioner Hyderabad's office order of November 1. He said the builders and developers would also have to submit a Demarcation Plan and applications for extension of No Objection Certificates (NOCs).

rapid urbanisation, the provincial metropolis has lost its aesthetically important urban tress, vegetation and around all green scenic cover.

He revealed that the loss of green cover and vegetation has been witnessed vanishing at an astonishing rate in many union councils of the city.

Former LDA director Aslam Langah told APP that environmental health hazards are not limited to the developing world, rather environmental risks have also been generated in wealthier countries and are primarily attributed to urban air and water pollution.

Noted pulmonologist, critical care physician, Dr Muhammad Ahmad said that dramatically occurrences of rising Asthma cases, due to

Rs 46 bln recovered from power pilferers in anti power theft drive

ISLAMABAD (APP): Secretary Power Division Rashid Langrial on Sunday said that an amount of Rs 46 billion has been recovered from the power pilferers from September 7 to October 31 during the ongoing anti-power theft campaign.

"Today as the results for the first two months (53 days to be exact) are out, I must put things in perspective.

Our estimated annual losses across the national grid for the current year are Rs 589 billion. Of total Rs 589, roughly Rs 199 billion come from ex-FTA, Balochistan tube-wells and AJK," he revealed on a social media handle.

These areas are not the focus of this campaign because of their own peculiarities, he said and added that AJK collects its own bills but does not pay us at the same rate because it sees it as a contractually disputed payment; ex-FATA because they are exempted from meters due to a policy of appeasement in the wake of integration and Balochistan tube-wells on account of various factors, least of which is not the enforcement challenge.

He said, "We are working on the remaining problem space of Rs 390 billion of which we are able to recover Rs 46 billion in 53 days i.e. PKR 867 million per day. If the same level of state support and field effort can be maintained (and that is a big if, I must admit), 80% of the problem space gets resolved".

The secretary said they were conscious of the challenge of sustaining the drive beyond the campaign but they have demonstrated beyond doubt that there was nothing that could not be resolved with the right mix of state's will and field effort.

"That day, we promised that no one will be spared, high or mighty; sacred or not-so-sacred" he said.

He went on to say that

we have reshuffled, suspended, prosecuted even arrested our staff at a scale never seen before; put thieves behind bars at a rate never observed before i.e. roughly 470 persons per day; have shunned extraneous influence with full support of the Prime Minister, the Minister-in-Charge and other quadrants of state power.

In the process we have erred, learnt and corrected our course where needed, he said.

He said officers and staff have suffered at the hands of the little mafias and they were thrashed, injured, made hostage and fired upon.



LAHORE: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi is cutting the ribbon to inaugurate Longi Solar's at Gulberg.



LAHORE: A large numbers of people is busy in buying shoes and warm clothes in a Landa Bazaar at Haji Camp in Provincial Capital.

Railways to introduce TDAS for improved track visibility in foggy conditions

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways is set to introduce the "Train Driver Assistant System" (TDAS) to help train drivers a clear view of the railway tracks up to an impressive distance of 700 meters.

"The technology aims to enhance the safety and efficiency of train operations during adverse weather conditions, particularly in the presence of dense smog and fog," an official in the Ministry told APP.

The system, he said the TDAS is set to revolutionize the way trains navigate through foggy landscapes. It promised not only to avert potential accidents but also to facilitate smooth rail travel when visibility is severely compromised.

He said the capabilities of this digital system extend beyond improved visibility; it can also identify and monitor vital elements such as signals, level crossings,

FBR crackdown on Non-Duty paid cigarettes with 429 raids

ISLAMABAD (APP): In an unprecedented effort to tackle the issue of Non-Duty Paid/Counterfeit cigarettes, the teams of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) have recently carried out a remarkable 429 raids across the country.

The dedicated efforts resulted in the seizure of approximately 16 million Non-Duty paid/counterfeit cigarette sticks, according to a news release issued here on Sunday.

On the direction of Chairman FBR, Malik Amjed Zubair Tiwana, Member Inland Revenue Operations, Mir Badshah Khan Wazir supervised the whole exercise.

According to him, the success of this exercise would convey an unequivocal message to the duty evaders to forthwith halt their illicit practices.

He also reiterated to continually fight the issue till its logical conclusion. It was further resolved that in the next phase of the drive, criminal proceedings would be initiated against such culprits.

Dr Iqrar says: Increase in wheat production imperative to meet future challenges

FAISALABAD (APP): University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Iqrar Ahmad Khan said on Sunday that increase in wheat production was imperative to meet the future challenge, as by 2030 wheat deficit might rise to 7 million tonnes in the country if its productivity was not increased.

He was addressing a farmers gathering in the Chak No. 125-GB Jaranwala at Mian Rashid's Agri Farm. This gathering was arranged in connection with ongoing wheat campaign jointly launched by the UAF and Punjab Agriculture (Extension) Department to enhance per acre wheat production.

He said that due to last year's wheat campaign, the average production in Punjab had gone up to three maunds per acre. The

Rs.453.8m fine imposed on 3694 power pilferers

FAISALABAD (APP): The Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) caught 3,694 power pilferers during the last 65 days and imposed Rs. 453.8 million fine for stealing electricity in various areas of the company during the ongoing special anti-power theft drive.

Spokesman Tahir Sheikh said here on Sunday that over 9.813 million detection units were charged. A sum of over Rs. 270.8 million was also recovered from the defaulters.

He said that 3506 cases were registered against power theft in various police stations whereas the police also arrested 3060 pilferers so far.

He further said that the FESCO teams detected electricity theft at 1183 points in Faisalabad district and imposed a fine of Rs.143.4 million.

PKI calls for an end to farmers' exploitation, urges immediate relief

MULTAN (APP): Chairman of Pakistan Kissan Ittehad (PKI), Khalid Khokar, vehemently called upon the government to address the alarming exploitation of farmers, emphasizing the urgent need for immediate relief. In a news conference and demonstration held on Sunday, Khokar highlighted the distressing situation faced by farmers who are grappling with a manifold increase in input prices while not receiving adequate compensation for their produce. Khokar drew attention to the fact that cotton was not being purchased at the recommended price of Rs 8,500, leading to significant financial setbacks for farmers. The maize crop, in particular, is causing farmers to incur losses of Rs 100,000 per acre. This grim scenario extends to other crops as well. The exorbitant surge in electricity tariffs for tubewells, soaring from Rs 5.35 to Rs 40-50, has left farmers struggling to pay their hefty bills, resulting in disconnections exacerbating their troubles.

Khokar hinted at the prevalence of black marketing in fertilizers, forcing farmers to pay an additional Rs 800 to Rs 1,000 for a single bag, urging immediate intervention. Khokar appealed to the Chief of Army Staff to address the farmers' issues, acknowledging the pivotal role played by the COAS in stabilizing the prices of dollars and other commodities of daily use.

Khokar pointed out that Sindh offers Rs 425/40 for sugarcane, while Punjab, at Rs 400/40, and he terms it exploitation.

Cultivation area of pomegranate reaches 7330 hectares

ISLAMABAD (Online): In Pakistan, the area under cultivation of pomegranate is 7330 hectares and the production has reached 37613 tons, while in Punjab, 8202 tons are obtained from the cultivation of pomegranate on an area of 1235 hectares.

The spokesman of Research Information Unit Ari Faisalabad said that the total cultivated area of pomegranate in Punjab is 17% and the total production is 22%.

He said that the largest number of pomegranates in Pakistan is cultivated in Balochistan, where its cultivated area is 5863 hectares, which is 80% of the total area.

Similarly, 27113 tons of pomegranates are produced here, which is 72% of the total production.

He said that the cultivated area of pomegranate in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is 232 hectares with a ratio of only 3% and production is 2298 tons with a ratio of 6%.

Pomegranate is cultivated in Laura Lai, Kalat and Quetta areas of Punjab, Muzaffargarh Tehsil Alipur, Rahim Yar Khan Tehsil Liaquatpur, Bahawalpur and Multan while in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa it is cultivated in Peshawar and Dera Ismail Khan, he added. He said that in Kashmir, Murree, Chua Saidaan Shah and Abbottabad, self-pollinated pomegranates are also produced from which pomegranate seeds are made.

Solangi for exploiting renewable energy resources

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Sunday underlined the need for exploiting the untapped potential of renewable energy resources in the country to minimize carbon emission in the environment and reduce the import bill. Addressing the opening ceremony of LONGI Solar's Lahore office, he said renewable energy resources such as solar and wind were abundantly present in Pakistan and there was a strong need to reap its benefits. He said currently the country produced 58.8 per cent of its electricity through expensive and unaffordable means such as coal and fuel that not only impacted the environment adversely but also economy, trade and people.

The minister said the previous government approved 10,000 megawatts solar energy projects and efforts were underway to materialize them. However, the next elected government and parliament should also continue the same policy for betterment of the country. He congratulated the LONGI Solar for achieving the milestone and expressed his gratitude for China that had been supporting Pakistan.



QUETTA: People busy in buying jaggery as the demand of jaggery increase in city on the arrival cold breezy winter season, at roadside stalls located on Bacha Khan Chowk in Quetta.

Itfikhkar Malik says: Prioritizing national security crucial to achieve goal of ties with neighboring countries

ISLAMABAD (APP): Former President SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Itfikhkar Ali Malik Sunday said apart from the importance of fostering durable relationships with neighbouring countries, prioritizing the national security is paramount, and enforcing immigration policies is a crucial step in achieving this goal.

Talking to a delegation of industrialists led by Muslim Khan Buner here, he said the implementation of this policy will lead to a more secure and stable Pakistan, where citizens can thrive without the looming threat of terrorism and insecurity, said a press release issued here.

He said the presence of illegal immigrants, not only from Afghanistan but from various countries, poses challenges to the socioeconomic fabric of our nation. He said a balanced and humane approach to immigration issues will not only protect our national interests but also contribute to regional stability. He said by enforcing a stricter stance on illegal immigration, we can significantly reduce the potential channels for terrorists to infiltrate our borders. This proactive measure contributes to national security and fosters an environment of peace.

He hoped Pakistan's well-tailored policy would yield positive results in curbing acts of terrorism.

Real Estate president No more tax on construction sector due to IMF pressure

ISLAMABAD (Online): President Islamabad Estate Agents Association Sardar Tahir Mehmood and General Secretary Chaudhry Zahid Rafique have rejected the terms of imposing more taxes by the IMF and said that the construction sector is under IMF pressure but more taxes are not approved by increasing the tax.

This will cause the storm of inflation, he added.

He said that many sectors, including the construction sector, will face difficulties by increasing the tax, so the government should not avoid such decisions and give maximum relief to the business community, especially the export industry, so that Income can increase.



FAISALABAD: People are busy is buying fruits at fruits market in the city.

Elections will result in a stable economy: Atif

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: FPCCI's presidential candidate, Atif Ikram Sheikh, said on Sunday that elections will result in a stable economy as the elected government can implement tough reforms to strengthen the country facing serious problems.

Alignment between the elected government and people will stabilize the political and economic scenario, which is necessary for development and luring international investments, he added.

Talking to the business community, Atif Ikram Sheikh, who has also served as VP of FPCCI, Chairman of PVMA, and President of ICCI, said that Pakistan was facing unparalleled economic challenges that needed to be overcome.

The business leader lauded the government for undertaking the required reforms to improve the economy but added that a lot has to be done in this regard. "The business community supports all structural reforms, as this will place Pakistan on a trajectory for sustainable, long-term economic growth that will support its growing population," he said.

He also stressed women's empowerment as a means of expanding the national economy through their contribution.

Atif Ikram also emphasized the need to broaden the country's tax base, rectify foreign exchange issues, and tackle escalating debt that is a substantial burden on its economy. We must educate women and cultivate a technologically adept workforce to steer the national economy back on track. However, the present education system only benefits the elite. The government should strive to ensure a conducive environment for foreign companies, widen the tax base to augment revenue, establish a more equitable tax system, implement agricultural reforms to enhance crop yields, ensure food security, and promote sustainability. The authorities must undertake energy sector reforms to meet the escalating demand for clean energy and empower women as an economic force by enhancing their access to loans.

WASA monthly revenue reaches Rs 145m after tariff revised

MULTAN (APP): The monthly revenue of the Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) was gradually improved as it reached Rs 145 million after the tariff was revised.

Director Revenue WASA Mansoor Ahmad while talking to APP here on Sunday that the revenue of the department increasing and they have a target to increase it above Rs 200 million per month.

He informed that the department had included new consumers in the billing net and consumer strength reached 300,000 now. He informed that over 50 percent consumers were paying WASA bills regularly while steps were being taken to collect maximum revenue from consumers. Mr Mansoor said that the bill was being collected from domestic, commercial consumers, and private housing colonies in various categories. He said that the teams were conducting raids on daily basis against defaulters for recovery of dues and sewer connections being disconnected.



LAHORE: A man busy in preparation of handmade carpets with the help of traditional machine to earn his livelihood for support his family, at workplace in Lahore.

ICCI, MCI collaborate to enhance Islamabad's business environment

ISLAMABAD (APP): As part of an ongoing effort to enhance the business environment in Islamabad, a collaborative meeting was held between the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and the Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI), led by Chief Officer Rana Waqas Anwar.

The meeting, held at the invitation of ICCI President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, brought together key stakeholders from both organizations to discuss pressing concerns and explore potential solutions.

During the meeting, a comprehensive range of issues affecting the business community was addressed, including cleanliness of commercial centers, provision of facilities, and overall infrastructure development. Recognizing the vital role of MCI in addressing these challenges,



KARACHI: A vendor is displayed fancy plants pots attraction for customers at a nursery in Provincial Capital.

Erdogan says legal amendment could be needed to solve Turkish judicial crisis

Monitoring Desk
ANKARA: President Tayyip Erdogan said on Sunday parliament may pass a legal amendment to resolve a judicial crisis involving an unprecedented clash between two of the country's top courts.

The unprecedented confrontation between the tribunals stoked a debate over the rule of law this week, when the appeals Court of Cassation refused to abide by a ruling of the Constitutional Court over a jailed parliamentarian and made a criminal complaint against judges of the top court.

"It is not difficult to make legal arrangements regarding individual applications (to the Constitutional Court)," Erdogan told reporters on a flight back from Saudi Arabia, according to a text published by his of-

ice on Sunday.

"But the work is not done after completing the legal amendments on individual applications," he added, signalling that more legal changes on the matter could be considered.

At issue is a ruling by the Constitutional Court last month that jailed parliamentarian Can Atalay should be released.

Atalay, 47, was sentenced to 18 years in prison last year after being convicted of trying to overthrow the government by organising nationwide protests in 2013, along with Turkish philanthropist Osman Kavala and six others.

All defendants denied the charges regarding the protests, which they said developed spontaneously, in the biggest popular challenge to Erdogan in his

more than two decades in power.

In response to the Constitutional Court ruling, the Court of Cassation said the Constitutional Court's ruling was unconstitutional.

In a statement on Friday evening, the Court of Cassation, the country's top appeals court, accused the Constitutional Court of dragging the legal system into chaos with its rulings on individual applications.

In protest at the position taken by the Court of Cassation, lawmakers of the main opposition CHP party have staged a sit-in at the parliament's general assembly since Thursday.

"Our protest against the attempt to overhaul the constitutional order will continue until further notice," CHP leader Ozgur Ozel said in a post on X on Sunday.



Turkey's President Tayyip Erdogan attends Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) summit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

300,000 attend London's pro-Palestinian rally

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: More than 100,000 pro-Palestinian protesters marched through central London on Saturday, with police making more than 80 arrests as they sought to avert clashes between the marchers and groups opposed to the rally.

The pro-Palestinian march drew counter-protesters from far-right groups on Armistice Day, the anniversary of the end of World War One, involving commemorations of Britain's war dead.

Prime Minister Rishi

Sunak said it was disrespectful to hold the rally on Armistice Day, and ministers had called for the cancellation of the march — the biggest so far in a series to show support for the Palestinians and call for a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip.

Police said there were "significant numbers" of counter-protesters present in central London, and skirmishes broke out between them and police near the Cenotaph war memorial, close to the Houses of Parliament and in Westminster.

Some of the right-wing

protesters threw bottles at officers, and police vehicles sped around the city to respond to reports of tensions in the streets. London's Met Police said later it had made 82 arrests of counter-protesters in a move designed to keep the peace, as far-right groups had tried to get close to the pro-Palestinian rally.

"We will continue to take action to avoid the disorder that would likely take place if that happened," the force said in a statement on social media.



Britain's King Charles III, William, Prince of Wales, Prince Edward, Duke of Edinburgh, and Anne, Princess Royal, attend the National Service of Remembrance at The Cenotaph on Whitehall in London, Britain.

House Republicans split over aid for Ukraine, casting doubt on war effort

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: When President Joe Biden gave his State of the Union address in March 2022, five days after Russian forces invaded Ukraine, the Republicans and Democrats who filled the chamber showed nearly unanimous support for Kyiv's defense.

Twenty months later, that tone has changed. While most members of Congress still voice support for Ukrainians, a rift among the Republicans who control the House of Representatives has emerged and cast doubt on the prospects of passing even a fraction of the \$61 billion of additional aid Biden requested for Ukraine in October.

Cracks had started to emerge in the House GOP by the time Ukrainian President Volodymyr

Zelenskyy made a surprise trip to the Capitol to address a joint session of Congress in December 2022. Rep. Russ Fulcher, a Republican who represents the western half of Idaho, said at the time he was "not comfortable with burdening the American taxpayer" with more aid without proof that the money was being well spent.

The outlook for Ukraine has been complicated by the Oct. 7 Hamas terror attacks on Israeli civilians and Israel's retaliatory bombing campaign in the Gaza Strip, which prompted Biden to ask Congress for \$14 billion in extra aid to Israel. In an interview at the Capitol on Wednesday, Fulcher said he now hears a clear message from his constituents in North Idaho.

At least 40 Indian workers trapped in tunnel collapse: rescue worker

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: At least 40 construction workers were trapped on Sunday after the road tunnel they were building collapsed in northern India, with rescuers scrambling to reach them beneath piles of debris.

The collapse occurred early on Sunday morning in the Himalayan state of Uttarakhand when a group of workers were moving out and replacement workers were going in.

"About 200 metres (218 yards) of the tunnel have collapsed," Durgesh Rathodi, a state disaster response official, told AFP from the site.

"About 40 to 41 workers are trapped inside."

"Enough" conflict, says Pope Francis as he calls for more aid to Gaza

Monitoring Desk
VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis on Sunday reiterated his plea for an end to hostilities between Israelis and Palestinians, and called for "much more" humanitarian aid for Gaza.

"Enough, enough brothers, enough", Francis said, adding the wounded in the Gaza Strip needed to be taken care of immediately and the protection of civilians assured. He also said hostages held by Hamas must be freed.

Addressing the crowds in St Peter's Square after his weekly Angelus prayers, Francis said arms would never bring peace and that the conflict must not widen.

"I am close to all those who suffer, Palestinians and Israelis," he said, adding he was praying for them. Israel said on Sunday it was ready to evacuate babies from Gaza's largest hospital, but Palestinian officials said people inside were still trapped as intense fighting rages nearby.

EU 'appalled' by reports of 1,000 killed in Darfur

Monitoring Desk
The European Union (EU) said on Sunday it was "appalled" by reports of more than 1,000 people killed this month in Sudan's West Darfur in an apparent "ethnic cleansing campaign" by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

"These latest atrocities are seemingly part of a wider ethnic cleansing campaign conducted by the RSF with the aim to eradicate the non-Arab Masalit community from West Darfur, and comes on top of the first wave of large

violence in June," EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said in a statement.

Since April, forces loyal to army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan — Sudan's de facto head of state — have been at war with the RSF commanded by his former deputy, Mohamed Hamdan Daglo. The EU statement said there were "credible eyewitness reports [that] more than a thousand members of the Masalit community were killed in Ardama, West Darfur, in just over two days."

UK lawmakers urge govt to prosecute Iran's Revolutionary Guard

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: British lawmakers and members of the upper house of parliament have called on the government to prosecute Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps as a terrorist organisation, saying it would be a step towards restoring stability to the Middle East.

Proscribing the IRGC as a terrorist group would mean it would become a criminal offence in Britain to belong to the group, attend its meetings or carry its logo in public.

Japanese island holds disaster drill in shadow of Taiwan threat

Monitoring Desk
YONAGUNI: Japan on Sunday conducted a tsunami evacuation drill on its westernmost island, an exercise that could also help residents respond to an emergency arising from any attempt by China to take control of nearby self-ruled Taiwan, an official said.

About 200 island officials and members of Japan's military, known as the Self-Defence Force (SDF), took part in the exercise on Yonaguni, Japan's westernmost island, 2,000 km (1,240 miles) southwest of the capital, Tokyo.

But SDF helicopters and landing craft from ships that had sailed more than 1,000 km (620 miles) from the main Japanese islands were unable to join the exercise because of strong winds.

"We can't choose the time when we will face a disaster. We have to think about the worst thing that

can happen and plan for that," the mayor of Yonaguni, Kenichi Itokazu, told officials at the island's town hall at the start of the drill.

Japan is prone to earthquake-triggered tsunami. Nearly 20,000 people were killed by one on the northeast coast of its main island of Honshu in 2011.

But Koji Sugama, the Yonaguni official in charge of preparing the island's 1,700 residents for disasters, said the community also had to be prepared for the danger of conflict.

"Today we conducted a disaster drill, but it also gives people something to think about that will come in useful in a Taiwan emergency," Sugama said.

Yonaguni is only 110 km (68 miles) from Taiwan. In August last year, China fired missiles into nearby waters in response to a visit to Taiwan by the then US House speaker.



The leading candidate of the Dutch Labour Party, Frans Timmermans, attends The March for Climate and Justice to demand political change before the elections in Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Myanmar fighter jet crashes, rebels claim responsibility

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: A Myanmar fighter jet has crashed during clashes between the military and an insurgent group, both sides said, in another setback for a junta facing the biggest challenge to its rule since a coup in 2021.

The jet went down over Kayah State in eastern Myanmar, near the border with Thailand, on Saturday during fighting between the military and the Karenni Nationalities Defence Force (KNDF),

which said it shot down the plane.

Junta spokesperson Zaw Min Tun told state-run MRTV the jet crashed due to a technical problem and the pilots had ejected safely and were in contact with the military.

The incident comes as Myanmar's military battles opposition forces on multiple fronts, as ethnic minority forces and anti-junta militias mount a rebellion that security analysts say is being carried out with an unprecedented level of coordination.

Tens of thousands protest across Spain at proposed Catalan amnesty

Monitoring Desk
MADRID: Tens of thousands of people protested across Spain on Sunday against acting prime minister Pedro Sanchez's plans to grant amnesty to Catalan separatists in exchange for support for another term in office.

The government secured a deal with Catalan separatist party Junts on Thursday which includes passing a contentious law granting amnesty to those convicted over Catalonia's attempt to secede from Spain in 2017.

Thousands in Honduras march in anti-government protest

Monitoring Desk
TEGUCIGALPA: Thousands of people took to the streets of the Honduran capital on Saturday in anti-government protests against leftist President Xiomara Castro, angered by attempts to engineer what they say is an unconstitutional power grab. In a demonstration sponsored by opposition parties, protesters in the Central American country accused the Castro government of seeking to transform Honduras by hand picking public officials. "We are here in defense of democracy because we do not want a dictatorship in Honduras like those in Cuba, Venezuela

and Nicaragua, which is what the leftist government of President Xiomara Castro is leading us to," David Chavez, president of the right-wing National Party told reporters on Saturday.

Roughly 10,000 people gathered in Tegucigalpa, the capital, according to a Reuters eyewitness, in a march that ended without incident. An official estimate from the Honduran authorities was not immediately provided.

The opposition protest was sparked after the ruling party elected a new interim chief prosecutor on November 1, without holding a congressional vote.

Hundreds of activists demand plastic action in Kenya

Monitoring Desk
NAIROBI: Hundreds of environmental campaigners marched in the Kenyan capital Nairobi on Saturday demanding drastic curbs on plastic production, ahead of a meeting to negotiate a global plastics treaty.

Representatives from more than 170 nations will meet in Nairobi from Monday to negotiate what concrete measures should be included in a binding world-wide treaty to end plastic pollution. Marchers called for the talks to focus on cutting the amount of plastic produced and waved placards reading "Plastic crisis = climate crisis" and "End multi-generational toxic exposure".

After two-month hiatus, Moscow hits Kyiv again

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Ending nearly two months of relative calm in the Ukrainian capital, a missile targeted Kyiv on Saturday without causing casualties, as frontline regions fended off waves of drone attacks overnight.

"Just between yesterday evening and this morning, (Russia launched) almost 40 drones and rockets against Kyiv, Odesa, and the Kharkiv region," said Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

A missile targeted Kyiv "after a long pause of 52 days," said the head of the Kyiv city military administration Sergiy Popko. AFP journalists in

central Kyiv had heard two strong explosions and saw trails in the sky at dawn. Air sirens sounded soon after that.

The air force said it destroyed a missile approaching Kyiv — either an Iskander ballistic missile or an S-400 anti-aircraft missile — without reporting casualties.

Air defences last downed a missile in Kyiv on September 21.

The falling debris wounded seven people, including a child.

Two missiles hit a field between two settlements in the wider Kyiv region, damaging five private homes, said regional military administration chief Ruslan Kravchenko said.

King Charles, UK PM lead remembrance services overshadowed

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: King Charles and Prime Minister Rishi Sunak led Britain in remembering the country's war dead on Sunday, seeking to unify communities a day after a large pro-Palestinian march was marked by skirmishes between far-right counter-protesters and police.

At a solemn ceremony at the Cenotaph war memorial on Whitehall in central London, Charles, Sunak, other politicians and senior members of the royal family held a two-minute silence and then laid wreaths to honour those killed in war.

Sunday's events were overshadowed by scenes of violence on Saturday, when far right protesters against a pro-Palestinian march skirmished with police, and accusations that Britain's interior minister had fuelled the tensions.

Suella Braverman, whom opposition politicians and some in the governing Conservative Party have called on to step down,

praised the police for their handling of Saturday's events "for their professionalism in the face of violence and aggression".

It was a more measured tone compared with an article last week when she accused the police of adopting "double standards" in its treatment of protests, notably pro-Palestinian marches - an argument opposition Labour lawmakers said stoked the anger among right-wing groups.

But Braverman maintained her position that more needed to be done to combat instances of antisemitism at protests.

There were, she said, "sick, inflammatory and, in some cases, clearly criminal chants, placards and paraphernalia openly on display at the march" and that "this can't go on".

"Week by week, the streets of London are being polluted by hate, violence, and antisemitism. Members of the public are being mobbed and intimidated."

US, Japan, South Korea defence chiefs to share North Korea missile data

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: Defence chiefs from South Korea, Japan and the United States have agreed to start as planned a real-time data sharing scheme on North Korean missiles in December, South Korea's defence ministry said on Sunday.

US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin met his South Korean counterpart Shin Won-sik in Seoul on Sunday with Japanese defence minister Minoru Kihara joining the meeting online.

The ministers discussed strengthening their three-way cooperation in the face of "severe security environments", Kihara told reporters. It was the first time for the three ministers to hold such a gathering, he said. "We confirmed that we are steadily making adjustments, bringing the process to the final stage," Kihara added.

US President Joe Biden agreed with South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida at

an Aug 18 summit that by the end of this year the three countries would share North Korea missile warning data in real time.

The ministers also condemned growing military cooperation between North Korea and Russia as a violation of UN resolutions, the South Korean defence ministry said in a statement, and also stressed the importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait.

Separately, General Charles Q. Brown, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, held talks with his South Korean counterpart in Seoul on Sunday, the South Korean military said.

In his first visit to South Korea since he took office in October, the top US general discussed the "continuous provocations" of North Korea including missile launches, and reaffirmed the United States' commitment to the defence of South Korea, the South Korean joint chiefs of staff said in a statement.

Mexico's ruling party again picks woman to run for mayor of capital

Monitoring Desk
MEXICO CITY: Mexico's ruling party picked veteran politician Clara Brugada to be its candidate for Mexico City mayor, placing her in a strong position to win the election next June.

Brugada could become the second woman in a row to be elected as mayor of the Mexican capital if her campaign for President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador's leftist National Regeneration Movement (MORENA) is successful.

"Thank you to everyone who gave us their trust," Brugada wrote on social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter.

"Today we came out strong and united to win the heart of our great capital."

To pursue the post, two-time congresswoman Brugada stood down as mayor of Iztapalapa, a sprawling borough in the southeast of the capital of over 1.8 million people where she built up a respected track record during

three stints in charge.

New gender parity rules on political representation in Mexico secured the nomination for the 60-year-old Brugada, even though the capital's former chief of police Omar Garcia Harfuch comfortably defeated her in polling commissioned by the party.

Nine heads of regional government will be elected next June, including the mayor's job, and the parity rules meant that parties needed to nominate at least five women for the posts.

As runner-up for the capital, Brugada will run for the job to meet the quota, MORENA party leaders said.

Mexico City has for decades been a bastion of the left, but MORENA suffered a major setback in midterm elections in 2021, losing more than half the city's boroughs to the opposition.

The city's top job has also served as a springboard for presidential ambitions.



Climate activists chant slogans and hold banners as they march in Nairobi to demand drastic reduction in global plastic production.

PTI releases a white paper on country's unimaginable economic destruction during last 20 months

ISLAMABAD (Online): The economic team of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has issued a white paper on the unimaginable destruction of the country's economy during the past 20 months.

According to PTI spokesperson, in the white paper, the details of PDM's incompetent and incompetent government's serious playing with the economy have been placed before the nation with data.

White paper also presented a detailed review of the best economic performance of the PTI govern-

ment in 17 years in 3.5 years.

The PTI spokesperson said that when PTI took over the government in 2018, the economy was under the worst crisis in history.

PTI inherited a revolving loan of 1.6 trillion rupees and annual capacity payments of up to 1.4 trillion thanks to the incompetence of the PML-N government: White paper.

In fiscal year 2018, the current account deficit was 19.2 billion dollars and the foreign exchange reserves were at the level of 9.4 bil-

lion dollars, spokesperson said.

He said that Pakistan needed immediate funding of 32 billion dollars to pay its external debt in 2018.

PM Imran Khan made every effort to reduce the current account deficit and obtain foreign loans from friendly countries to pay the external debt, spokesperson said white paper.

It is said in the white paper that the World Bank has included Pakistan in the top three countries that are fighting the best against the Corona epidemic due to Prime Minister Imran

Khan's commendable handling of the Corona epidemic. Imran Khan also ensured the investment agriculture, construction and industry. Spokesperson said that Imran Khan limited the inflation rate to 12.7% while protecting the nation from the effects of the highest global inflation due to the commodity super cycle.

PTI achieved 6% growth rate in the third and fourth year of the government, PTI is the only government after 2007 which has grown at a speed of 6% for 2 consecutive years.



KARACHI: A large number of people participating in the solidarity conference for the people of Palestine organized by Pakistan Markazi Muslim League at Shahr-e-Quaid.



RAWALPINDI: President Pakistan Ex-Servicemen Society Abdul Qayyum Malik posing for a group photograph along with participants after the meeting at a local hotel in the city.

Govt fails to make progress on World Bank funded projects

ISLAMABAD (Online): The progress on more than half of the federal projects worth 6.7 billion dollars sponsored by the World Bank is unsatisfactory, while the World Bank has expressed serious concerns about these projects in its report.

The progress on the projects has been described as unsatisfactory.

The World Bank, together with the Ministry of Economic Affairs, has reviewed 20 projects worth \$6.7 billion.

Progress on projects worth \$3.4 billion has been found to be partially satis-

factory, while projects worth \$453 million have been identified as problematic.

The worst irregularities have been found in the WAPDA department, which has been ruled by retired generals for decades.

Apart from this, projects related to National Transmission and Dispatch Company, FBR, Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Finance and State Bank are also facing problems, due to which benefits from these projects have been delayed.

According to the review report, Pakistan took

a loan of 213 million dollars from the World Bank for the rehabilitation of flood victims in Balochistan in July this year, but still the project management unit is inactive and no bank account has been opened to receive the funds. Due to which not even a penny has been received from the World Bank yet.

Pakistan took a loan of 400 million dollars from the World Bank in 2019 to increase the tax net, but the plan could not be implemented and once again both parties are restructuring the plan.

JUI-F clarifies stance on seat adjustment, electoral alliance

ISLAMABAD (INP): Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) leader Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri has clarified his party position on seat adjustment and electoral alliance ahead of the General Elections 2024.

Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri said in a statement that JUI-F would reject the General Elections 2024 results if the tradition of 2018 is repeated. He added that Jamiat would resist more if 2018 election practices are repeated in the next general polls.

He clarified that the JUI-F central leadership allowed provincial chapters to go for seat-to-seat ad-

justment, however, it has not made a decision on electoral alliance with any political party so far.

He said that JUI-F safeguards the Islamic Constitution of Pakistan and the religio-political party could transfer the country into an Islamic welfare state. He criticised that the Constitution was approved in Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's era but Islamic laws were not implemented.

Haideri added that all former prime ministers including two-time PM Benazir Bhutto late and three-time PM Nawaz Sharif had not implemented Islamic laws.



KARACHI: Former Federal Minister and PML-N leader Khawaja Saad Rafiq addressing a press conference at the Karachi Press Club.

PTI accuses ECP of planning to rig elections

ABBOTTABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) General Secretary Umar Ayub has accused the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) of planning to rig the upcoming general elections.

In a statement on social media, Ayub alleged that the ECP is planning to appoint District Returning Officers (DROs) and Assistant District Returning Officers (ADROs) of grade 17 and 18 who have less than one year of retirement. He claimed that these officers will be specially rewarded if they follow the instructions of rigging, and will be shown the retirement stick if they fail.

Ayub said that this is a clear attempt to rig the elections, and that it is pushing Pakistan towards a path where there will be no way to restore democracy.

"The rigging plan before the general elections makes it clear that we are entering dark days," he said.

The PTI spokesperson has also condemned the negative propaganda campaign carried out against the party, and said that PTI is the only political party that fully believes in the observance of the constitution and the law.

"In its 27-year political history, Tehreek-e-Insaf struggled in the light

Zubair Jamali greets Hindu community on Deewali

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Captain (Retd) Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali has congratulated the Hindu community on their festive occasion of Deewali.

In a felicitation message issued here on Sunday, the Minister Home expressed good wishes for the Hindu community on Deewali.

He also appreciated the active role and valuable services of Hindu community in social, economic and political fields of the country.

He said that the diversity of beliefs has been the source of stability of Pakistan.

The Minister also said that the interim government is determined to give equal rights to segments of the society and communities irrespective of their beliefs.

Zardari, Bilawal wish Hindu Community on 'Diwali'

KARACHI (APP): Former President Asif Ali Zardari and Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari have extended their heartfelt greetings to Pakistan's Hindu community on "Diwali", the festival of lights, and expressed their best wishes for them.

The former President and PPP Chairman, in their separate messages on the occasion of Diwali, said that this festival was a symbol of light and joy as well as a message of victory of light over darkness and good over evil.

They said that PPP believed in inter-faith tolerance and harmony as well as brotherhood and unity. Equal rights had been given to minorities in the Constitution-1973 given by the former Prime Minister Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto.

President should represent all political parties: Solangi

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi here on Sunday said President Dr. Arif Alvi should represent all political parties in accordance with the law and the Constitution for fostering unity in the country.

Talking to media, Solangi said that the President's role was not limited to one party, urging him to speak on behalf of all the political parties.

He said if President Alvi continued to speak for one political party, it would undermine his own

credibility. To a query, he said the country would be governed by the elected representatives, adding adherence to the Constitution should be a collective commitment. Highlighting the essence of democracy as a platform for dialogue, Solangi dismissed concerns over complaints and grievances, stating that every party and individual had the right to voice their concerns at appropriate forums including courts and the election commission. As regards the upcoming elections, Solangi pledged the caretaker government's full cooperation and assistance.

PPP declares Dar as illegal leader of House in Senate

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader Nayar Hussain Bukhari has declared Ishaq Dar as an illegal leader of the House in the Senate.

In an interview with local news Channel, Bukhari said that Dar is illegally taking the facilities of the Leader of the House and using this position for his own political purposes. He also questioned why Shahbaz Sharif was proposed as Leader of the House when he is no longer the Prime Minister.

Bukhari further alleged that the governor's house is being used by the Muslim League-N (PML-N) for political purposes, and that its leaders have gone there to condole and distribute tickets. He said that no one, including the Election Commission, has raised any questions about this, which is unacceptable.

"We have also filed cases," Bukhari said. "We have not left the party. If someone commits a crime, he should be dealt with according to the law. In 2018, people were sent to a party. This should not happen again today."



KARACHI: Consul General of UAE Bakhait Atiq Al-Romiti, Maulana Bashir Farooqui, Atif Bajwa, Salman Rafique and others visiting National Stadium during mega IT entry test organized by Sailani Welfare Trust

Students take Mega IT entry test

KARACHI (APP): As many as 20 thousand male and female students took the mega Information Technology (IT) entry test conducted by Saylani Welfare International Trust at National Stadium here on Sunday.

The test was conducted under the Saylani Mass IT Training Programme.

The Consul General of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Bakheet Ateeq Al-Remeithi was the special guest on the occasion.

While addressing the entry test ceremony, the Consul General of United

Arab Emirates (UAE) Bakheet Ateeq Al-Remeithi said that today was the important day for Pakistan and her nation.

He said that the future of the children was significant. He said that Pakistan had talent and UAE would support her endeavours.

The CG said that he would support, whoever desired to go to UAE. He said that Saylani Welfare was doing a good job for the country.

Remeithi said that the students could play their part to change Pakistan's current situation into prosperity.

PPP to start general election campaign from KP next week

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) is likely to start an election campaign next week from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) for general polls to be conducted on February 8, 2024, by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

"Chairman PPP, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will lead the election campaign and address the public during the corner meetings and

public gatherings in different cities of the province," official sources of PPP told APP. The local leadership and workers of KP have been directed to finalize all the necessary arrangements regarding the election campaign by the party chief in the province. The election strategy of PPP has entered into the final stage with reference to general elections after consultation.

Ashrafi emphasizes urgency of implementing 'Joint Declarations on Palestine'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Representative to the Prime Minister on Religious Harmony and the Pakistani Diaspora in Middle East and Islamic Countries, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Sunday said Saudi Arabia, a key regional player in the Middle East, continued to play a crucial role in addressing the ongoing conflict between Palestine and Israel.

Addressing the media after the Joint Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit in Riyadh, he underscored the imperative of executing the declarations articulated during this significant gathering of Muslim world lead-

ers regarding the Palestine issue. Ashrafi who is also the Chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council, necessitated mutual understanding and collaborative endeavors to realize shared objectives. He said as the situation in the region remains tense, the Kingdom's diplomatic efforts, humanitarian support, and commitment to a just resolution had garnered global attention.

He noted that the participation of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi, Jordanian King Abdullah, Amir

of Qatar Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Pakistani Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, and other dignitaries at the summit was a testament to their collective determination to pursue both temporary and permanent resolutions to the Palestine issue in the current circumstances.

Ashrafi said Saudi Arabia had been actively engaged in diplomatic efforts for an immediate ceasefire and to seek a peaceful resolution to the conflict mentioning that the Kingdom's leadership had conducted high-level discussions with various international counterparts, emphasizing the importance of ending the hostilities.

Multan-Sukkur Motorway M-5 closure due to fog

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a precautionary measure to ensure the safety of commuters, the entry of all kinds of traffic from RYK Toll Plaza (559 SB) has been restricted due to fog in patches and decreased visibility in the area of Beat-27 of Motorway section MW (C-II) MULTAN, Sector-II, M-5.

The diversion is being established at 579 rukan pur to 525 Azampur.



DOHA: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Sirajul Haq meeting with Chief of Hamas Ismail Haniyeh

Siraj meets Ismail Haniyeh in Qatar, expressed solidarity with Palestinians

LAHORE (Online): Jamaat-e-Islami Amir Sirajul Haque met Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh in Qatar. On this occasion, the central leadership of Hamas and Director of Foreign Affairs of Jamaat-e-Islami Asif Luqman Qazi were also present.

Ismail Haniyeh, head of Hamas, gave a full briefing to Jamaat-e-Islami leader Sirajul Haque on the current situation in Gaza.

Ismail Haniyeh said in the meeting of Sirajul Haque that we are grateful to Jamaat-e-Islami and the Pakistani nation for expressing solidarity with the people of Gaza and Palest-

ine. Jamaat-e-Islami Amir Sirajul Haque while talking to Ismail Haniyeh said that the whole Pakistan nation and Muslim Ummah stands with you.

Sirajul Haque invited Ismail Haniyeh to address the historic Gaza March in Lahore on November 19.

Meanwhile, Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Sirajul Haque has returned to Pakistan after a six-day visit. He visited Iran, Turkey and Qatar during his six-day visit.

Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami Sirajul Haque met with Iranian leader Ayatollah Agha Qumi and other leaders in Tehran.



QUETTA: President BNP (Awami) Mir Asadullah Baloch addressing a press conference

Zehri says: Grand jalsa on PPP's 56th foundation day to be held in Quetta

Independent Report HUB: Pakistan Peoples Party is the most popular party in the country and will participate vigorously in the upcoming general elections in February 2024. Balochistan is the stronghold of the Pakistan Peoples Party. If anyone has taken practical steps to solve the problems of Balochistan, it is the Pakistan Peoples Party.

These views were expressed by the spokesperson of the former president Asif Ali Zardari, senior leader of the Pakistan Peoples Party and the District Hub President Mir Ali Hassan Zehri said in his statement. He said that the 56th foundation day of the party will be held in Quetta and on that day a grand Jalsa will be held in Quetta, which will be addressed by party chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and that Jalsa will represent the people of Balochistan.

Mir Ali Hassan Zehri said that seeing the increasing popularity of Pakistan Peoples Party, the opponents are talking about unity-in-between for their own interests, while the fact is that no alliance will be able to stand in front of the public sea of peoples party's scumbags and voters.

He further said that Pakistan Peoples Party is an undisputed reality and we will win more seats across Pakistan including Balochistan and form the government in all provinces including the center. Mir Ali Hassan Zehri also said that with the announcement of the elections, the vested interests have started against the Pakistan Peoples Party and so-called alliances are being talked about.

He said that the series of public involvement in Pakistan Peoples Party is a face-to-face answer to the opponents.



TURBAT: Central President National Party Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch and Central Secretary General Jan Muhammad Buledi addressing a ceremony held on eve of 8th death anniversary of Dr. Yasin Baloch