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Senate passes resolution urging SC to reconsider its decision about military courts

Invalidation of jurisdiction of army courts likely to facilitate abettors of terrorism, reads resolution; Resolution says decision is legally flawed, shouldn't be implemented; Military courts played a pivotal role in delivering justice: Senators

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate on Monday passed a resolution, urging the Supreme Court (SC) to reconsider its decision about military court trials.

The resolution, which was moved by Senator Dilawar Khan in the House, said: "The Senate of Pakistan calls upon the apex court to reconsider its decision, urging alignment with the national security paradigm and sacrifices of the

martyrs in order to address the concerns raised regarding the ramifications of the judgment on the security and stability of the nation.

"The invalidation of the jurisdiction of army courts is likely to facilitate vandals and abettors of terrorism and anti-state activities. Military courts have played a pivotal role in delivering justice, particularly concerning acts of terrorism, often instigated by

neighbouring adversaries within Pakistan's borders," it added.

The resolution further said, "Resonating the concerns and sentiments expressed by various stakeholders in particular and public in general, regarding the recent judgment of the Supreme Court that declared Section 2(D)(1) & 59 (4) of the Army Act unconstitutional;

"Taking exception to

overriding an Act of Parliament, which was well within the previous and existing scheme of constitutional and legislative framework and duly enacted under the legislative competence of the Parliament. Prima facie an attempt has been made to rewrite the law by impinging upon the legislative authority of the Parliament."

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ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting on the matters related to the Federal Board of Revenue.



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki addressing a ceremony on eve of handing over of ambulances to Health Department from WHO

CM Domki lauds efforts of WHO for supporting to Balochistan Health Dept

QUETTA (APP): A delegation led by World Health Organization (WHO) Representative in Pakistan Dr Palitha Mahipala called on Balochistan Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki on Monday.

On this occasion, Dr. Palitha Mahipala handed over the keys to an ambulance to the caretaker chief minister of Balochistan.

Addressing the handover ceremony on this occasion, the CM said that

he appreciated the support and cooperation of the World Health Organization for the provision of health facilities in Balochistan.

He said that collaborative initiatives to enable and strengthen the healthcare system, including the provision of mobile health clinics, vaccine vans, ambulances, medicines, medical equipment and logistics support, would significantly improve the health sector, from the coronavirus pandemic to

the flood disasters.

He said that the WHO's role has been crucial for the improvement of the health sector.

The CM said that the caretaker provincial government was committed to providing all kinds of support to the World Health Organization (WHO), which was assisting in the health sector, services were remarkable and WHO was an important working partner of the provincial government.

Achakzai underscores significance of upholding constitutional principles

Independent Report LORALAI: Mahmood Khan Achakzai underscores the significance of upholding constitutional principles, stressing that the Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party will align with Nawaz

gret over the unequal distribution of resources among different regions in Pakistan, asserting that the challenge lies not only in a concentration of resources in the hands of a few, which is called elites capture, but



Sharif as long as he adheres to the supremacy of the constitution, parliamentary sovereignty, and federation with autonomous units.

During his addresses in Loralai as part of a people contact campaign, Achakzai critiques the global imbalance in resource distribution and highlights a similar issue within Pakistan.

Achakzai expresses re-

also in the imbalanced allocation across regions. He points out the double challenge faced by Pakhtuns, who, despite being endowed with natural resources, lack control and autonomy to exploit them for their well-being. Consequently, they are compelled to seek employment in other parts of the country.

Govt. endeavouring to provide healthcare facilities in remote areas, says Minister Health

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Health, Dr Ameer Muhammad Khan Jozgezi has stated that the government is endeavouring to provide healthcare facilities to the masses in remote areas of the province with cooperation of World Health Organisation (WHO).

He said that the coordinated efforts are also continued for providing the quality medical services to the common men as it is our priority too.

He thanked the WHO and other international partners for assisting the

provincial government in provision of the necessary health facilities.

The Minister Health was speaking on occasion of the handing over of vehicle, motorbikes, medicines and medical equipment here at the EPI head-quarter on Monday.

The head of WHO in Pakistan, Dr Palitha Mahipala, also present on the occasion, handed over the items to the Minister Health Dr Jozgezi and Secretary Health, Abdullah Khan. The WHO representative appreciated the timely response of the government to the outbreak of Congo virus in the province.

PM directs formulation of inclusive, comprehensive strategy to uplift FBR

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday directed the authorities concerned to formulate and present a comprehensive strategy, based on input from all the stakeholders, with a view to improve the performance of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR).

The prime minister, chairing a meeting to mull over the measures for improving the FBR's performance, said the utilisation of the modern technology was inevitable to improve the taxation system.

The meeting was briefed on the measures to widen the tax net and digitisation of the taxation

system.

The participants also deliberated over different proposals aimed at restructuring the FBR.

The prime minister said that the revenue collection was just like a backbone for the national economy.

He told the meeting that various effective measures had been taken recently to curb smuggling, though it required more hard work to achieve the desired results.

Caretaker Finance Minister Dr Shamsah Akhtar, Advisor to PM Ahad Cheema, FBR chairman, federal finance secretary and relevant senior officers attended the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Higher Education Commission, Dr Mukhtar Ahmed, called on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

15 students to be sent to China for professional education: Pakistan's first ship construction technical education being started in Balochistan: caretaker CM

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that the Pakistan's first ship construction technical education is being started in the province.

In addition to this, the higher professional education of civil and bridge construction is also being commenced in the province.

The Chief Minister announced this while speaking during his visit to the Government College of Technology Girls and Boys Section here on Monday.

He inspected different parts of the Government College of Technology. Also present on the occasion were the Secretary Higher Education, Zafar Buledi

and other concerned high ups besides the senior management of the Government College.

The Chief Minister also announced that in all 15 students of the province would be sent to China for obtaining higher professional education in the technical field.

The students would proceed for China in March next year, Mir Ali Mardan Domki maintained.

He said that the language classes are continued for the students proceeding to China for the professional education.

He also noted with contentment and pleasure that Level-V BS Tech has been launched in the Government College of Technology.

Noor Muhammad Khetran promoted as DGPR in BPS-20

Independent Report QUETTA: The Director Public Relations, Noor Muhammad Khetran (BPS-19) has been promoted on the post of Director General Public Relations (BPS-20).

According to an official notification issued by the Information Department, Government of Balochistan here on Monday, Noor Muhammad Khetran has been promoted on recommendation of the Provincial Selection



Board-I and with approval of the Chief Minister Balochistan with effect from March 27, 2023.

Over 100,000 illegal foreigners repatriated from Balochistan via Chaman border: Jan

Caretaker Minister Information asserts no compromise on expulsion of illegal immigrants at all; some 50,000 suspected CNICs blocked

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has informed that over 100,000 the illegal and undocumented Afghan nationals have so far been repatriated to their homeland from Balochistan via Chaman border.

He said that in view of the winter weather conditions, it is our endeavour to expedite the process of repatriation further.

The Minister Information was addressing press conference at the Quetta Press Club on Monday.

Jan Achakzai shared the data and details of the process of repatriation of illegal immigrants besides other related matters.



The Minister Information asserted that terrorism is being done from across border, and said that the befitting response would be given to those keeping an evil eye on the country.

He also asked the Afghan government to hand over those involved in the

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Balochistan population census case: SC seeks assistance on legal matters

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has given one week time to lawyer Kamran Murtaza for its assistance on legal questions in the matter of population census in Balochistan. The appeal plea against population census in Balochistan came up for hearing before a 3-member bench of SC presided over by Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan Monday. The court issued notice to Attorney General and Advocate General.

The counsel Kamran Murtaza argued that Chief Minister (CM) Balochistan kept on avoiding to participate in the meeting of Council of Common Interests (CCI) for 3 to 4 hours. The composition of CCI was not complete. CM Balochistan was brought to CCI August 5 meeting forcibly.

Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan remarked CM Balochistan himself supported population census by sitting in the meeting. No one objected to the decision of CCI.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq meets Nawabzada Lashkari Raisani

Independent Report QUETTA: The senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Sardar Ayaz Sadiq visited the Sarawan House here on Monday.

During the visit, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq met Nawabzada Lashkari Raisani and discussed the political and other matters.

During the meeting, also present were Provincial President of PML-N, Sheikh Jaffar Mandokhail and others.

It may be mentioned here Sardar Ayaz Sadiq reached Quetta on Monday ahead of the visit of PML-N central leader, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif.

Crackdown underway against illegal immigrants, not Afghan nationals: Bugti

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, informed the Senate on Monday that the government was carrying out a crackdown against all illegal immigrants in the country and not Afghan nationals only.

Winding up discussion on a motion to discuss the Federal Government's decision to expel the immigrants, including Afghan refugees from Pakistan in a short time, he rejected the notion that the crackdown had been launched against Afghan nationals.

The operation was underway against illegal immigrants who had been residing in Pakistan without any travel documents, the min-

ister added.

Bugti said no country allowed any foreigner to live, do business, or buy properties without legal documents. "Whether does any country, including Afghanistan, permit Pakistani people to cross their borders without legal documents?" he questioned.

He said that even in Afghanistan, Pakistani businessmen are required to produce guarantors before establishing businesses.

He said foreigners with valid visas and legal documents would be welcomed in Pakistan and even allowed to do business.

The minister said that the prime minister, during

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Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf exchanging views with Rear Admiral Sajer Bin Rafeed Al-Enazi Eastern Fleet Commander Royal Saudi Naval Forces at Naval Headquarters Islamabad.

Important personalities to announce joining: Nawaz, Shahbaz, Mariyam, senior leaders of PML-N due in Quetta today

Independent Report QUETTA: The central leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif is due to arrive in Quetta today (Tuesday).

The PML-N President and former Prime Minister, Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, party's chief organizer, Ms. Mariyam Nawaz and other senior leaders of the party would also be accompanied by Muhammad Nawaz Sharif during his two-day visit to Quetta.

The party command would be meeting with different political parties leaders and other personalities besides the party's provincial leadership during their visit to the metropolis.

The party sources informed that some important political personalities would be joining the PML-N during visit of the party's Quaid.

Some senior political leaders would announce the joining in presence of Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, a provincial leader of PML-N Chaudhary Naem Karim informed.

Moreover, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif would also be addressing the party leaders and workers to be gathered in Quetta tomorrow (Wednesday).

The welcoming billboards and hoardings have been placed for welcome reception of the PML-N leaders in different parts of the metropolis.



QUETTA: Chairman NADRA Lt. General Muhammad Munir Afsar meeting with Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan

Journalists' vibrant role urged for highlighting need of early peaceful solution of Palestine, Kashmir conflicts

MIRPUR (AJK): (APP): Speakers at a reception gathering, hosted in honor of visiting journalist members of National Press Club Islamabad here Monday emphasized the need for their vibrant individual and collective role to raise the urgency of an early peaceful solution to the Kashmir issue which involves the fate of two million people of the internationally-acknowledged disputed Jammu and Kashmir state, the jugular vein of Pakistan.

The ceremony was hosted by eminent local Urdu daily "Media Express" Publisher/Editor Sardar Shehzad Aziz with the coordination of Markazi Anjuman e Tajran (Ittehad Group) President Chaudhry Mahmood in honour of the visiting delegation of senior working journalists affiliated with mainstream national print and electronic media houses

from the federal metropolis. AJK Minister for Electricity Ch. Arshad Hussain was the chief guest on this occasion.

Addressing the ceremony as chief guest AJK Minister Ch. Arshad Hussain urged the national and regional press to focus on performing its due role to highlight the need for early peaceful settlement of the long-standing issue of Kashmir at the global level.

He said that the media can play an important role in shaping world opinion regarding the Kashmir dispute by highlighting the dire human rights situation in Indian illegally occupied Jammu Kashmir state and exposing Indian atrocities before the world.

The minister said that it was imperative that the media, civil society and leadership across the political spectrum should join hands

to promote the Kashmir cause both at the national and international level.

Addressing the ceremony Sagheer Chaudhry emphasized the need to raise the high image of Pakistan both at home and abroad through individual and collective efforts by all the communities including the intellect class including journalists, writers and analysts. "We can get the country rid of all sorts of crises through our respective intellect and pen", speakers underlined. The delegation also visited Mirpur Divisional Commissioner House where Commissioner Mirpur Division Chaudhry Shoukat Ali briefed the journalists on the ongoing and upcoming development projects of mass public welfare including the completion of mega two km long Rathua-Harayam Bridge over the Mangla dam reservoir link-

ing Mirpur city with adjoining Islamgarh town the ancestral town of millions of the UK and Western countries - based Kashmiri Diaspora community.

The delegation also visited the mausoleums of mystic poet of the sub continent Hazrat Mian Muhammad Buksh (RA) and the 18th-century preacher of Islam Hazrat Baba Peera Shah Ghazi (RA) and offered feteiha for the departed souls besides praying for integrity, solidarity, sovereignty and prosperity of Pakistan and Azad Jammu Kashmir besides for the earlier liberation of the occupied Muslim homelands.



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki inspecting computer lab of Government College of Technology for Boys



BEIJING: Ambassador Khalil Hashmi presented copy of his credentials to Mr. Hong Lei, Director General of the Protocol Department, Chinese MFA.

Senate passes resolution...

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It reiterated that the trial of those accused of violence against the armed forces under the Army Act "is an appropriate and proportional response in line with Pakistan's existing constitutional framework and statutory regime. Within the country's constitutional framework, the trial of individuals accused of anti-state vandalism and violence under the Army Act serves as a deterrent against such acts;

"Firmly standing with the families of martyrs, who have made significant sacrifices for the country, and have expressed feelings of insecurity and treachery due to this decision. Their concern that absence of military court trial is likely to encourage or embolden those responsible for acts of terrorism due to lack of stringent justice in regular courts, is fully endorsed.

"Noting with concern that judgment annuls the sacrifices made by martyrs of the Armed Forces, civilians and Law Enforcement Agencies in combating terrorism. Military courts have played a significant role in addressing terrorism by ensuring that those responsible for terrorist acts are brought to justice. However, this judgment while abandoning the spirit of martyrdom, grants lenient option to terrorists, anti-state actors, foreign agents, and spies to be tried in normal courts."

The resolution further said that the apex court "has not taken into consideration the existing procedures which make it abundantly clear that the sentences given by military courts are not arbitrary and are conducted following due process and formalities. While interpreting a certain provision the overall scheme that the certainty of well deserved & warranted punishment, rather than its severity, is a crucial deterrent, has been missed. The existence of an appeal process against mili-

tary court orders, which involves appeal avenues with the Chief of Army Staff and the President, as well as the option to file writ petitions in high courts that may eventually reach the Supreme Court, has been overlooked. The provisions of the Army Act and underlying procedures ensure that the right to a fair trial under Article 10A of the Constitution is not violated."

It reaffirmed that 9th of May would be remembered as a dark day in the history of the country and condemned the anti-state acts committed against the armed forces, which the enemies of Pakistan could not even dare to think of committing.

"The culprits of 9th May, who blatantly attacked defence installations and disgracefully dismantled memorials of martyrs, deserve no empathy or leniency rather they should be tried in military courts and stringent punishments be given to make them an example for internal and external enemies to Pakistan by creating a deterrence and upholding the supremacy of state."

The resolution recalled that amendment to the Army Act, specifically the addition of Section 2(I)(d), allowing for the trial of civilians who commit offenses like attacking military installations by military courts was carried in 1967. "Civilians have been tried in military courts in the past under this provision, and sentences have also been duly carried out. More so, the previous decisions of the Apex Court have upheld trials under the Army Act by a majority."

"The bench which announced the recent judgement was not in unanimity as opposed to the previous benches which upheld trials of civilians under the Army Act, hence the decision is legally flawed and should not be implemented unless it is considered by a larger bench," the resolution added.

Nawaz prepares road map for removing poverty, inflation: Abid

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Abid Shahi Ali on Monday said that Nawaz Sharif has prepared a road map for removing poverty and inflation from this country.

The people had observed and acknowledged the working style of Nawaz Sharif in the past, he said while talking to PTV.

The entire nation would support former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in the next elections on completing many development projects in Pakistan, he said.

"We will receive majority votes in the general elections from all provinces on previous performance and delivery to masses," he said.

Naat Khuwan shot dead in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): A tragic target killing incident was reported from Karachi's Orangi Town area, where a Naat Khuwan was shot dead by two culprits on Monday.

According to the details, the Naat Khuwan and Mauzin of a local mosque - named Raheem Ullah - was shot dead in the Pakistan Bazar area of Orangi town.

Senior Superintendent of the Police (SSP) West confirmed the incident as a targeted killing, adding that the two culprits on a bike approached the deceased and fired three shots.

After the incident, the mobile phone and other valuables were recovered from the victim, however, the forensic team also collected the 9mm bullet shells from the incident spot, while the body was shifted to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital.

Pak Consul General in Spain highlights significance of Iqbal's contributions

ISLAMABAD (APP): Consul General of Pakistan in Spain Murad Ali Wazir on Monday said that Allama Muhammad Iqbal's poetry not only resonated with the historical struggle for an independent Pakistan, but also carried timeless messages that remained relevant to the present-day youth of Pakistan.

He was addressing an event arranged by the Consulate General of Pakistan in Barcelona to commemorate Iqbal Day. The occasion served as a platform for the community to unite in honouring the life and contributions of Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal, a visionary poet, philosopher, and key figure in the Pakistan Movement, a press release said.

The consul general, in his address, drew attention to the multifaceted contributions of Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal, while

emphasizing upon both his literary brilliance and political acumen.

Murad Wazir underlined the need for the younger generation to engage with Iqbal's poetry, extracting guidance from his words to navigate the challenges facing the nation.

He further highlighted the importance of incorporating Iqbal's visionary ideas into contemporary discourse as a means to steer the country towards a bright and prosperous future. The event witnessed the presence of a sizeable number of Pakistani community members, demonstrating their deep appreciation for the legacy of Dr. Iqbal.

The atmosphere was charged with enthusiasm and a sense of pride as attendees gathered to pay homage to the intellectual personality who played a pivotal role in shaping the ideological foundations of Pakistan.

Australian cricketer takes six wickets in six balls to win match

PERTH (INP): An Australian club cricketer took six wickets in an incredible final over to clinch victory in a one-day game over the weekend, describing the rare feat as "surreal".

Facing almost certain defeat in the Gold Coast's Premier League Division 3, Mudgeeraba captain Gareth Morgan opted to bowl the last six balls himself with Surfers Paradise needing five runs to win with six wickets in hand.

They dramatically collapsed with Morgan removing opener Jake Garland for 65 then dismissing the next five batters for golden ducks. "It is funny, the umpire said to me at the start of the over that I needed to take a hat-trick or something to win the game," Morgan told the Gold Coast Bulletin after his exploits attracted national attention.

The most wickets in an over in professional cricket is five, achieved by New Zealand's Neil Wagner (2011), Bangladesh's Al-Amin Hossain (2013) and India's Abhimanyu Mithun (2019), according to ABC.

Crackdown underway against...

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A cabinet meeting, gave a clear policy that no illegal immigrant would be mis-handled, and assured that the police would treat Afghan refugees with dignity.

Two to three station house officers (SHOs) had been suspended for their involvement in mishandling cases, he added.

Bugti elaborated that the operation against illegal immigrants was being executed strategically, with committees established at divisional and district levels to address the issue.

The provincial stakeholders, along with the Afghan consulates, were also taken on board, he added.

He said over 300,000 Afghan nationals, including 294,000 voluntarily, had so far returned to their native country. Only 8,000 Afghan were sent back by the Government of Pakistan, he added.

A portal and helpline had been established for complaints, with 86 percent of the 569 received complaints solved, the minister said.

He said "holding centers" with essential amenities, had been set up across the country to accommodate illegal immigrants before deporting them to their home nations. The centers were providing food and medical facilities, he said, assuring that women, children, and elderly people would be treated respectfully.

The foreigners without legal documents would not be sent to jails, rather kept in the centers and then sent to their respective countries, he reiterated.

The minister reaffirmed that the government would not compromise on the expulsion of illegal immigrants from Pakistan.

Earlier, the senators engaged in a discussion on the motion, during which

Interior Minister Bugti urged the movers to replace the phrase "Afghan Refugees" in their motion with "illegal aliens," emphasizing that the ongoing operation was specifically against the undocumented foreigners residing in Pakistan and not the refugees.

Senator Shafiq Tareen, who presented the motion, appealed to the government to reconsider its decision concerning foreign individuals who had been residing in the country for decades. He cited an ongoing protest in Chaman over the imposition of passport requirements.

Senator Tahir Ahmed Bizinjio called for a new Afghan policy. He proposed the Senate chairman to convene a meeting of the Committee of the Whole, ensuring representation from both the government and opposition leaders, as well as all relevant stakeholders to discuss the issue.

Leader of the Opposition Shahzad Waseem stressed on dispelling misunderstandings, acknowledging the significant sacrifices made by the Pakistani nation and forces in the war against terrorism. He emphasized the historical assistance provided by Pakistan to the Afghans and urged for removal of the misperception.

Senator Mushtaq Ahmed endorsed the call for a meeting of the Committee of the Whole, emphasizing the shared traditions between Pakistan and Afghanistan. He stressed the importance of restoring confidence between the two nations.

He called for developing a comprehensive plan in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and ensuring the repatriation of Afghans in accordance with the established procedures.

Morne Morkel becomes first casualty of Pakistan's World Cup humiliation

LAHORE (INP): Morne Morkel on Monday stepped down Monday as the Pakistan cricket team's bowling coach following the team's humiliating exit from the World Cup 2023.

According to media reports, the former South African fast bowler had signed a six-month contract with the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) due to his engagements with different leagues. The cricket body will announce his replacement in due course.

Former cricketer Umar Gul, who has already served as the team's bowling coach in the past, is expected to take on the role once again, said the sources. Meanwhile, Gul said that he hasn't been contacted by the PCB regarding the position. He added that Morkel's contract as the bowling coach was till December.

"I have represented Pakistan before and will do

it again if I get the chance," added Gul. Morkel coached the national team for the two-match Test series against Sri Lanka which the Green Shirts won 2-0, and a one-day international (ODI) series against Afghanistan which ended in Pakistan white-washing the opponents. He also coached the team for the Asia Cup and World Cup. Morkel, 38, served the South African cricket team in 318 international matches and claimed a total of 544 wickets. His 544 international wickets consisted of 309 Test wickets in 160 innings, 188 in 114 ODIs and 47 in 44 T20Is.

Meanwhile Pakistan cricket team captain Babar Azam landed in Lahore from Dubai in the wee hours of Monday after dismal performance at the World Cup 2023.

Babar Azam along with some members of the PCB including the team

manager reached Lahore from Dubai by a private airline. The captain of the national team was escorted to his car under strict security. The fans who gathered at the airport chanted slogans in favour of the Pakistan team.

Masses present at the airport raised "Pakistan Zindabad" slogans after seeing the skipper and took selfies with him.

Pakistan team failed to reach semi-finals and finished fifth in the mega event where they won only four matches and lost five. The Green Shirts faced defeats from India, Australia, South Africa, South Africa and England.

The Pakistan captain is under criticism for his cautious batting approach and captaincy.

Many legendary cricketers have called for the replacement of Babar Azam as captain. Now, Basit Ali is the latest addition to the list of the batter's critics.



QUETTA: Metropolitan Corporation (QMC) Administrator, Jabbar Baloch inspecting the cleanliness drive during his visit to different areas of city, in Quetta.

Over 100,000 illegal foreigners...

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He said that while over 100,000 illegal immigrants have been repatriated to their country via Balochistan, the process is being expedited further in view of the weather condition.

However, we are providing the warm clothes and other necessary goods to those repatriating, Jan Achakzai maintained.

The Minister Information also said that the ille-

gal immigrants coming from Sindh and Punjab are also being facilitated in their repatriation. He said that some 30,000 immigrants have gone to Afghanistan from Sindh province.

Jan Achakzai appreciated the NADRA, FIA and local administration who are engaged in the process of repatriation and the facilitation to the immigrants.

He said that the action is being taken against those who got prepared the fake

CNICs or those facilitated them in preparation of the same.

He said that some 50,000 suspected CNICs have been blocked in the province. Besides the Pakistani CNICs, irregularities have also been done in the Proof of Registration and Afghan Citizenship cards, adding he noted with concern.

He said that those abused the system would also be taken to task.



QUETTA: Members of Christian Community are holding protest demonstration against land grabbing of Christian Cemetery at Quetta press club.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER			
The Deputy Conservator of Forest Quetta City has invited the sealed tenders Form (as per Schedule B and A) on the Composite Schedule of Rates 2018 GOB from interested firms of following work. Tender Fee Rs. 1000/- BID SECURITY/ Earnest Money 2% in Shape of Call Deposit at Schedule Bank			
S.No	NAME OF WORK	E/COST	TSE No
1.	Water Resources Development	5,000,000/-	TSE-232411361073
The Procurement shall be carried out in accordance with Balochistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority rules, 2014, BASIC ELIGIBILITY: The Firms must have valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council who also has deposited case for renewal (2023-24) in relevant Category, and registration with tax authorities i.e. (NTN and Sales Tax Department), including three years similar nature work experiences & Bank Statement (Turnover). Firms (Single Entity) having valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in the Category C-6 or above with required Specialized Code is CE09(ii), CE10(i). Valid Registration with Income & B.RA. Turnover of at least PKR 3,500,000/- in the last three years showing financial capacity of the firm. Other Mandatory conditions and Detail Marking Criteria mentioned in the Bidding Documents. The bidder who offered bid of 10% below the of the total estimated cost will deposit 08% addition security in the shape of call deposit in the name of the undersigned. In case of failure of additional security, the 02% earnest money will be forfeited in favor of Government of Balochistan & bidders will be recommended for blacklisting. Sequential page numbering of Proposal. Signing and stamping of proposal (Technical and Financial) wherever indicated as well as initial/ signature and seal on all other pages of proposals. The Proposal is bound to deny addition/ removal of pages. METHOD OF PROCUREMENT: Single Stage-Two Envelope procedure. BIDDING/TENDER DOCUMENTS: ISSUANCE: The Firms can obtain the bidding Documents from the office of the Deputy Conservator of Forest Quetta City upon payment (non refundable) bidding document fee Rs. 1000/- deposited in government treasury under head C-03370 through Green Challan Form in National Bank of Pakistan (NBP). (The NIT & Bidding Document can also be downloaded from www.bppra.org.pk. in this regard, the interested bidders must submit Green Challan Form deposited in government treasury one day prior to the bid opening in the office of undersigned. Dead line for last date of Submission: The bidding Documents duly filled and attached with copies of supporting documents must be delivered in sealed envelopes by hand or through registered mail to the address mentioned below on or before on 28/11/2023 at 10:45 am. Opening: The tender document will be opened on 28/11/2023 at 11:45 am, before procurement committee in the presence of contractors or their authorized representatives/agents. And their financial bid will be retained and only successful bidders will be called/invited through courier for opening of financial bid. The financial bid of disqualified bidders will be returned unopened. Place of issuance and submission will be: - Address: Deputy Conservator of Forest Quetta City Bid Validity Period: Ninety (90) Days. Phone no: 0819204754			
PRQ No.964/13-11-2023			
DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FOREST QUETTA CITY			
www.dpr.gov.pk @dpr_gob dpr.gob f @dpr.balochistan			

Privilege motions against President NBP, DG CAA referred to committee

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate Monday referred a privilege motion lodged by Independent Senator Naseebullah Bazai against the President of the National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) to the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges.

Senator Bazai, who heads a sub-committee addressing NBP employee issues, visited the bank's head office along with two other committee members.

He called for the removal of the NBP president, alleging a lack of respect for members of the Senate.

Other committee members including Senators Tahir Bizenjo (NP) and Shafiq Tareen (PKMAP)

also criticized the NBP head's behavior, advocating against assigning important portfolios to individuals with such attitudes.

Leader of the House, Senator Ishaq Dar, condemned the NBP head's conduct and suggested summoning officers to Parliament in the future with a proper mechanism in place.

Other senators, including Senator Kamil Ali Agha, also supported taking appropriate action against the NBP head and making him an example.

Minister for Interior Sarfraz Bugti emphasized the supremacy of Parliament and expressed the intention to raise the issue with the Prime Minister personally.

Chairman Senate, Sadiq Sanjrani referred the motion to the committee.

He instructed the Senate Secretary to send the motion to the Principal Secretary of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Finance for action against the official.

Another privilege motion against Direction General Civil Aviation Authority regarding his misconduct with Senators Saleem Mandviwala and Faisal Saleem Rehman and Syed Muhammad Sabir Shah was also referred to the committee. A privilege motion of PPP Senator Taj Haider against misconduct of police official with him was also referred to the committee.



ISLAMABAD: President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood addressing during the "Foundation Stone Laying and inauguration of the University of Poonch Rawalakot" at Kashmir House.

PMDC to launch national mental health awareness campaign

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) in collaboration with the Pakistani Psychiatry Association (PAPANA) will launch a comprehensive mental health awareness campaign across Pakistan.

This was decided in a meeting between President Pakistan Psychiatry Association of North America (PAPANA) Dr. Muhammad Zeeshan and President PMDC Prof. Dr. Rizwan Taj.

Dr. Zeeshan apprised that 600 to 700 psychiatrists are currently working in Pakistan whereas more than 1000 Pakistani Psychiatrists doctors are practicing in United States.

Dr. Zeeshan stated that there was a huge need for mental health awareness, relevant courses, and training to cope with rapidly growing depression, anxiety, and other mental illnesses etc.

He added that President PMDC Prof. Dr. Rizwan Taj was kind enough to allow me to collaborate and for that, we have started working on online courses, child psychiatry, addiction psychiatry, elderly psychiatry, etc.

He added that since there was not much literature available on psychiatry in Pakistan and in light of that Dr. Rizwan Taj, myself, and Professor of

Harvard University Dr. Harrison wrote two books namely Psychiatry for medical and nursing students. Dr. Zeeshan said that our society aims to further collaborate with PMDC to improve the training, certification courses, and short courses regarding psychiatry. "Without collaboration, we cannot achieve the objective."

He said that our core objectives are to raise awareness and combatting societal stigma associated with mental health issues by fostering open conversations and understanding, and education by providing accessible and accurate information about various mental health conditions.

ITP, a best traffic force in world: Sarfraz Bugti

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Interior Minister, Sarfraz Bugti on Monday said that Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) were the best force in the world and there was no one above the law.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony of the new building at the traffic police headquarters, he said that discrimination between the VVIP and the common man would be removed.

The event was attended by Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, senior police officers and other officials.

A smart contingent unit of the police force presented a guard of honor to the chief guest.

The newly estab-

lished Traffic Police Office aims to streamline traffic-related affairs and facilitate the citizens of the federal capital.

The minister emphasized the importance of upholding the law without any political interference, urging the officers to prioritize public service.

He commended the dedication of the ITP officials for maintaining smooth flow of traffic in the capital during challenging weather conditions and public events.

The minister stated, "Law is equal for everyone; ensure its enforcement without any bias. Let your commitment to public service be your motto. You have been chosen by Allah for this service; take pride in your responsibilities."

ICCP Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan highlighted the achievements of the ITP for managing traffic efficiently during adverse weather conditions and construction activities.

He praised the use of modern technology, including citywide surveillance cameras, to enforce traffic



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti addressing the inauguration ceremony of the new building at the traffic police headquarters.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani in a meeting with the delegation of Parliamentary Reporters Association (PRA) at Parliament House.

CDA initiates studies for recycling of Solid Waste

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has initiated studies for recycling and disposal of the Capital's Solid Waste intending to reduce environmental pollution which is posing a threat to the health of the general public.

"The detail of studies included waste characterization studies, waste generation studies, situational analysis report, municipal solid waste (MSW) collection, haulage, treatment and disposal, rapid assessment report of landfill sites Islamabad and communica-

tion and behaviour change strategy," an official told APP. The Urban Unit Lahore carried out studies during the period from January to March 2023 with a total cost of Rs. 21.926175 million. However, this is an unfortunate fact that CDA has been unable to develop an international system for solid waste disposal, in the capital owing to land availability and legal issues.

The authority is working on developing a system whereby it will be initiating a mechanism of solid waste minimization, reuse, segregation at source

and recycling of waste keeping in view the standards for optimum disposal using the method of landfilling. These activities will take an approximate time of one year.

It is also pertinent to mention here that CDA launched a pilot project to segregate solid waste last year to reduce environmental pollution and use items for recycling on a commercial basis.

It is a critical requirement since it enables recycling, reuse, treatment, and scientific disposal of different components of waste.

Caretaker govt's authority excludes extensions, appointments, Kamran

ISLAMABAD (APP): Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam Pakistan (JUIP) Senator Kamran Murtaza on Monday voiced strong opinions regarding the limitations of the caretaker government's authority, asserting that extensions or significant appointments did not fall within its purview.

Senator Murtaza emphasized that Section 230 of the Election Act, 2017 explicitly restricted the caretaker setup from making any major appointments or extensions.

During the session, he also addressed the establishment of a separate ministry dedicated to handling affairs related to the minerals of Balochistan.

Expressing his reservations, he questioned the justification behind such a move, calling for transparency and accountability in the decision-making process. On a separate note, the senator raised concerns about the recent abduction and subsequent recovery of Allama Iqbal Open University and the University of Gujrat, according to a press release on Monday. He has also to his credit the establishment of the campus of FAST National University at Faisalabad.

He urged the authorities to enhance law and order in Balochistan, emphasizing the need for improved security measures to safeguard the well-being of citizens.

Dr. Zia joins HEC as Executive Director

ISLAMABAD (APP): Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum joined the Higher Education Commission (HEC) on Monday as its Executive Director for a period of four years.

With around three decades of administrative, teaching and research experience in the higher education sector, Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum has previously served as Vice Chancellor of Allama Iqbal Open University and the University of Gujrat, according to a press release on Monday. He has also to his credit the establishment of the campus of FAST National University at Faisalabad.

Kashmir dispute could spark South Asia's nuclear fuse: APHC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has expressed serious concern over the prevailing situation in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir terming it as a nuclear flash point in South Asia.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the APHC leadership in a statement issued in Srinagar feared that the unresolved Kashmir dispute could provide the spark to light South Asia's nuclear fuse, as the territory is the highest militarized zone in the world with over one million Indian

troops deployed in cities, towns and villages to suppress the Kashmiri people brutally.

It urged the United Nations to intervene to resolve the dispute to avoid a nuclear catastrophe in the region.

The leadership said that forces' personnel have set up roadblocks at various places where they keep pedestrians standing for hours in severe cold for frisking. Besides, crackdowns are carried out in various areas where men and women are paraded indiscriminately.

FIA registers case against 11 personnel on direction of IHC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Monday told the Islamabad High Court (IHC) that a case had been registered against 11 police personnel in a matter pertaining to keeping the children in custody illegally.

The FIA said that five accused out of the eleven have been arrested while the others were on pre-arrest bail.

Justice Babar Sattar of IHC heard the case filed by a woman Meraj Bibi against illegal custody of her children by the CIA personnel, a wing of Islamabad police. The FIA submitted its report to the bench during the hearing.

The FIA said that the case challan would be submitted in next week to the trial court.

The state counsel on the occasion said that the Inspector General of Police, ICT had initiated departmental action against the police personnel and the accused had been served show-cause notices.

The court said that after the report of the FIA, it was disposing of the case.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Health Minister Dr. Nadeem Jan visited the Regional Training Institute of Health.

Vandalism case: Court returns Asad's exemption plea with objection

ISLAMABAD (Online): District and Sessions Court Islamabad has returned Asad Umar's exemption from attendance plea with objection in vandalism case.

The case registered against Asad Umar in police station Secretariat came up for hearing before District and Sessions court Islamabad Monday.

Duty Judge Muhammad Sohail conducted the hearing of the case being Additional Sessions Judge Abdul Ghafoor on leave. Amna Ali, counsel for Asad Umar appeared in the court.

During the hearing of bail before arrest plea duty judge inquired where is Asad Umar sahb.

Nadeem visits regional training institute of health

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan Monday visited the Regional Training Institute of Health and received briefing and inspected the attendance sheet.

He expressed displeasure over the absence of the Vice Principal.

He directed to issue explanatory letter on his continuous absence.



ISLAMABAD: Sanitary Workers are shouting slogans during protest outside Aabpara Police Station, for demanding their three months salary, in Federal Capital.

Without paying compensation SC imposes Rs 1 million fine on Punjab govt for constructing road

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has imposed fine amounting to Rs 10 lac on Punjab government for building road without paying compensation to owner of 9 marla land.

The court has directed the amount of penalty be also paid to the owner of land.

The court ordered government of Punjab to pay compensation to owner of land within 30 days as per current rate.

A 3-member bench of SC presided over by the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa took up the case for hearing Monday.

On frivolous litigation the CJP Qazi Faez Isa expressed resentment with Additional Advocate General (AAG) Punjab Baligh uz Zaman.

The CJP while moving to AAG Punjab remarked the petitioner had not gifted land to government nor did the govern-

ment acquire land as per law. What is duty of AAG? How such frivolous application was filed. Why did you file petition of such frivolous case in SC.

The CJP inquired how did the government build road on some one's land without permission and without paying compensation. Are we left with only this job that we should keep on teaching constitution to advocate generals. As to why we should not slap fine on you for such frivolous litigation.

The time of court is being wasted besides public resources by filing frivolous cases. The frivolous and wrong cases are filed by sidelining real cases.

The court while rejecting Punjab government appeal plea ordered to pay compensation to owner of the land.

Appellate court and high court gave decision in favor of the owner of the land and SC upheld it.

3-day expo on Seerat-e-Tayyaba concludes

ISLAMABAD (APP): A three-day educational "Seerat-e-Tayyaba Expo" concluded in the Federal Capital on Monday, highlighting the importance of being fully aware and guided by the biography of Holy Prophet Muhammad's (Peace Be Upon Him). Under the auspices of US International Schools at Multi Garden B-17, the expo was held at PIPS Schools B-17 Campus Islamabad from November 11 to 13.

A large number of people from various strata of the society, including teachers, students, parents, and political, social and academic personalities from different cities, including Rawalpindi and Islamabad, visited the exhibition to show their love for the Holy Prophet (PBUH).

According to the organizers, the main objective of the exhibition was to highlight the various aspects of the Holy Prophet's life so that the people, particularly the youth, could follow his footsteps. Director of US International Schools Dr Sumira Gull said the students and the staff of different schools put in a lot of hard work of weeks to prepare research papers, models and presentations to

highlight the Prophet's life and teachings. The Makki and Madani periods of the Holy Prophet's (PBUH) life, Ghazwat, Hajjatul Wida, Treaty of Hudaibiyah, Hijrat (Migration), Miraj-ul-Nabi, Ghar-e-Hira and Gha-e-Sor were particularly highlighted through presentations and research papers, she added. An important part of the exhibition was to present in a practical and visual manner the intricacies of the Prophet's blessed life through a number of unique models, Dr Sumira said.

All Pakistan Colleges and Academies Association

Chairman Rana Nasr Mahmood, at the concluding ceremony, appreciated the organizers for holding a unique exhibition, which was a good effort to make the new generation aware of the Seerat-e-Tayyaba.

He said following every aspect of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) would bring about a significant change in an individual's personal life as well as the country's development.

The characteristics like tolerance, patience, struggle, honesty, truthfulness and above all 'the fear of the Almighty' should be inculcated by all for success.

Senior Photo Journalist of Online News Network Sultan Bashir receiving certificate from Caretaker Federal Minister for Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah on his best media service and coverage of annual Lok Mela 2023.

Zong 4G celebrates success of Lok Mela

ISLAMABAD (APP): Zong 4G Pakistan's leading telecommunications company is playing a pivotal role in fostering cultural unity and celebrating Pakistan's rich heritage.

Embracing the theme of "Peace and Harmony through Cultural Diversity," Zong 4G actively contributed to the immersive experience of Lok Mela 2023. Lok Mela served as a unifying platform for artisans, performers, and culture enthusiasts nationwide.

The 10-day event started on November 2 and encompassed diverse activities, including folk music and dance presenta-

tions, demonstrations of traditional crafts, culinary exhibitions, and more.

Zong 4G expresses its appreciation to the organizers for orchestrating an immersive experience that effectively showcased the rich cultural tapestry of Pakistan.

Zong 4G demonstrated a steadfast commitment to fostering cultural unity, emphasizing the festival's reflection of Pakistan's multifaceted traditions.

The company took pride in showcasing the unique tapestry of Pakistan, underlining its dedication to celebrating the nation's diverse cultural heritage.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Moulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri, Chairman Senate standing committee on religious affairs and inter-faith harmony and members of the committee in a meeting with a delegation of Muslim dialogue network, Norway at Parliament House.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Tuesday November 14, 2023

OIC inaction

Not much was expected from the joint OIC/Arab League summit held in Riyadh on Saturday to discuss the blood-soaked tragedy underway in Gaza. And sure enough, the presidents, princes and potentates that hold sway over the Muslim world lived up to expectations, with no clear action plan emerging to stop the massacre.

As the Muslim world's rulers discussed the matter in a luxurious conference centre, the hungry, destitute and bloodied people of Gaza — dazed after burying their loved ones and neighbours day after day — waited for the next Israeli missile to strike.

In Riyadh, there were calls for a ceasefire and condemnation of Israeli violence, but beyond that little of substance, as the Palestinian president demanded an end to this "genocidal war", while urging the US to use its good offices to ask Tel Aviv to stop the Gaza slaughter.

It is unlikely that those who matter in Washington or Tel Aviv will heed this request. Algeria, on the other hand, wanted Muslim and Arab states to suspend ties with Israel, while Iran recommended a boycott of Israel and the designation of the Israeli military as a "terrorist group".

There were few takers for these proposals. It is indeed tragic that despite the murder of over 11,000 Palestinians in the Israeli onslaught, the high and mighty of the Muslim world — with their standing armies, tens of billions of dollars and vast economic clout — could not even agree to a common framework that would clearly communicate to Israel and its powerful backers that the massacre of Palestinians must stop.

If Israel were to be convinced by strongly worded statements and impressive conferences, the Palestine question would have been solved decades ago.

Meanwhile, the extermination of the Palestinian people continues, as the world looks on, as if tuned in to some grisly reality show — the livestreaming of a virtual genocide. Israel has upped its attacks on Gaza's hospitals, all in the name of getting Hamas.

In the eyes of the Jewish state and its staunch defenders, slaughtered Palestinian babies appear to be a fair price to pay to avenge Israel's wounded pride in the aftermath of Oct 7. Yet even some of those who had rushed to be by Israel's side after the Hamas attack are beginning to have second thoughts; the French president has said Tel Aviv must stop killing "babies and women".

Sadly, those who have the power to stop this butchery are either aiding Israel's blood-thirsty campaign, or making weak entreaties for the massacre to be toned down.

However, hundreds of thousands of common people, with no political power but with great moral clarity in Sana'a, New York, London and other cities, are demanding an end to the massacre. Will the callous global elite listen to their voices?



Maleeha Lodhi

With general elections scheduled for Feb 8, the coming weeks will see political parties swing into electioneering mode to rally support for the contest ahead. The announcement of an election date ended the prolonged political uncertainty in the country. But doubts persist about whether the election would be free and fair.

It is unclear if the polls will be inclusive and whether there will be a level playing field for everyone to contest freely. Doubts have been reinforced by the renewed, ongoing wave of arrests of members of Imran Khan's PTI. Nearly all its top leaders are now in jail. The party has conveyed a list of obstacles to the Election Commission of Pakistan which it argues will constrain its ability to

freely conduct its election campaign.

An opinion survey conducted by Gallup-Pakistan in June 2023 found only a quarter of Pakistanis expressed enough confidence in the fairness and transparency of the upcoming election.

The majority of respondents had little faith in the integrity of the polls. This kind of public scepticism can deter voter participation and contribute to a low voter turnout, which can undermine the election's legitimacy. That makes it imperative for the election to be credible and transparent.

Pakistan's history of disputed elections offers a cautionary tale about the destabilising consequences of electoral exercises marred by irregularities and ballot fraud. If the February election becomes controversial in another exercise in what is euphemistically called 'political engineering' it will undermine political and economic stability, which Pakistan can ill afford.

The country today faces a multiplicity of challenges — weak governance, economic stagnation, mounting inflation, rising

threats to internal security, education deficit, uncontrolled population growth and erosion of the institutional capacity of the apparatus of governance.

These vexing issues need to be urgently addressed. The electorate's expectation is for participants in the electoral race to offer solutions to these problems, especially how the country can achieve economic recovery. The public want political leaders to lay out a road map of where they want to take the country.

This should urge politicians to see the election not just as a means to secure power but an opportunity to empower themselves to meet the country's challenges. This is especially because politics in recent years has increasingly been issue-less, focused on power struggles and denigration of opponents rather than matters of public concern.

It is much too early to assess where parties stand on different issues and whether their leaders have given careful thought to issues pivotal to Pakistan's economic and political future. Party manifestos have

yet to be issued. But they are usually full of platitudes, which makes them indistinguishable between parties.

Will parties now inject substance into their manifestos and offer a coherent, implementable programme given the imposing challenges Pakistan faces today? Also important is how seriously political leaders will speak to the country's challenges and spell out their policy priorities during the campaign.

At least three aspects of the election will be noteworthy. The first is voter turnout. This could be an important indicator of how free and open the electoral process is perceived by people. A low turnout would have a bearing on the strength or otherwise of the winning party's mandate to govern.

Turnout in past elections has ranged between 51 per cent (2018), 53pc (2013), 44pc (2008) and 41pc (2002). The lowest — in 2002 — reflected the electorate's lack of confidence in an election held under military rule, which was neither deemed to be free nor fair. If turnout drops considerably below, say,

44pc, those who secure public office by a minority vote resting on a low turnout will have questionable representative credentials.

The second key factor in the upcoming elections will be the youth vote. The July 2023 figures from the ECP show that voters between the ages of 18 to 35 constitute 45pc of the electorate — 57,095,197 out of 126,980,272 (latest unpublished statistic on the size of the electorate is around 128 million).

This reflects the country's youthful demographic profile and makes young voters a significant factor in determining the election outcome. ECP statistics also show that about 22m new voters have been added to the electoral rolls since the 2018 election. That's a significant 18pc of the electorate. Most are young, first-time voters. Who they vote for will be consequential to the result.

Another area to watch would be the expected four-way fight in the battleground province of Punjab — primarily between PML-N and PTI, but with the PPP (in a much weaker position in the province) and the newish Istehkam-i-

Pakistan Party (comprising mostly deserters from PTI) also in the fray. It is too soon to say how alignments and seat-adjustment deals will shape the contest. But if it is a four-cornered race, marginal seats would be even more fiercely contested.

Given these margins, young voters can tip the outcome if they participate in the election in significant numbers. In any case, the prospect of vote splintering will make the result in many constituencies harder to predict than in the past. More importantly, a fractured vote can deny any single party a majority and make another hung parliament likely.

With three months less than three months away, a mixture of hope and anxiety characterises the public mood. Hope that the election will end the drift and disarray of recent years and provide a fresh mandate to the winning party to tackle Pakistan's challenges. But also, apprehension that if the election is not inclusive and lacks integrity it will denude the country of the stability it desperately needs. -- Courtesy Dawn

Manipulating consent



Amanat Ali Chaudhry

The advent of information technology was rightly hailed as a game-changing development. No other scientific intervention in history has revolutionized the manner of human interaction and thought formation the way the development of information and communication technologies has.

Among other things, it empowered a regular, common person and gave him/her power to shape events. As monopoly on information gave way to its democratization, a regular person could no longer be ignored in the emerging scheme of things. S/he was no more a passive 'zombie' ready to be manipulated but a shaper of events who acquired freedom to assert his/her agency to influence decision-making.

While the positive impact of the information revo-

lution is well-documented, the deluge of its harmful effects has begun to overwhelm the entirety of human life. A combination of ongoing global challenges such as proliferating geostrategic conflicts, and natural disasters has provided a fertile ground for the spread of misinformation, fake news and disinformation. In the absence of an agreed-upon code of conduct owned and adhered to by the stakeholders within the information echo system, the dangers of information manipulation are becoming more dire and graver by the day.

Disinformation, fake news and misinformation represent the innovative and unconventional threats to the civilized world. The urgency of dealing with these challenges cannot be over-emphasized. As the global crises deepen in the absence of long-term solutions, fake news and disinformation have begun to be deployed strategically. The consequences of these strategic campaigns lead to are not just the intended ones; rather, as has been witnessed in many instances, they have the potential to bring about outcomes that erode the people's trust in the govern-

ment. Mercifully, the global conversation has now begun to center on information integrity as a way to deal with and neutralize the harmful effects of disinformation. Efforts are underway at both the national and multi-lateral levels to achieve some level of uniformity in thinking on countering the spread of disinformation through a code of conduct, which puts the interest of the people at the heart of such endeavours.

However, this is easier said than done. Formulating an agreed-upon code of conduct to ensure information integrity on digital platforms is a stupendous challenge. Those who are wary of such exercises base their opposition on the plea that they are often attempts at 'regulating' the generation and flow of information. While the debate around what constitutes information integrity, including how to set up voluntary mechanisms to uphold it on digital places will remain inclusive, there are certain aspects of this debate that crystallize the need for corrective measures to allow people access to accurate, reliable and authentic information. The following is in-

structive in this regard:

First: Given its potential to inflict widespread harm, the issue of disinformation, hate speech and fake news needs to be analyzed, debated and addressed from the perspective of human rights. Doing so will inject the urgency, and seriousness into our efforts we need the most to arrive at workable solutions.

Second: Our recent experience suggests that in addition to non-state actors who thrive on a culture of misinformation, state actors too have been found involved in deploying fake news as part of disinformation campaigns to mislead and misinform the international community. The busting of a vast, clandestine disinformation network by EU Disinfo Lab in 2021 indicated the depth and scale of the challenge. Our multilateral forums are more prone to such targeted campaigns.

Third: Allied to this is the more potent threat of muzzling of the freedom of expression when some states choose to impose information blackout, institute digital surveillance and target journalistic voices that dare report the truth. This is done as part of a carefully

crafted strategy to play down human rights abuses. There is a need to attend to the denial of the right to freely express oneself especially in occupied territories such as IIOJK, declared so by the UN resolutions. It is important to set parameters that allow the people to distinguish between what is a UN-sanctioned struggle for right to self-determination and what is not. This issue needs to be approached from a non-partisan manner. Fourth: Digital spaces are most vulnerable. There is all the more reason to accelerate our work on formulating a code of conduct to ensure information integrity in digital spaces. There is no denying the fact that it is a difficult task, given the diversity, and complication that such an endeavor presents.

Eighth: The world is saddened by the recent killing of over three dozen journalists in the line of duty in Palestine. More importantly, the reports of some TV channels taking down their anchors presumably due to their faith and known positions on the Israel-Palestine issue are deeply concerning. Add to this the issue of embedded journalism whose most recent manifestation was the spread of "fil-

tered and curated" news by the Israeli army. The multi-lateral efforts to formulate a unanimous code of conduct should address these aspects of information manipulation.

In conclusion, diligent efforts are needed in effectively conveying information on a broad spectrum of ongoing crises, including critical issues like climate change and natural disasters. These endeavours have underscored the vital role of media outlets as a reliable source of accurate and unbiased information, thus highlighting the need for investment in building their in-house capacity for fact-checking and training the journalists. They can no longer evade this responsibility of stepping up to the plate.

Addressing the scourge of disinformation, fake news and misinformation needs to be assigned the highest priority at multiple levels. In the absence of determined and sustained corrective actions, disinformation will upend the life we have known so far, thus reversing human gains and releasing genies that will be hard to be bottled back. -- Courtesy TheNews

Climate adaptation



Huma Yusuf

World War III will get us before climate change. This is an increasingly common refrain, an understandable response to tragic and terrifying world events. As the Israel-Gaza war dominates headlines, it's not surprising that developments in the lead-up to the annual UN climate change conference, COP28, have been sidelined. But one disaster does not negate another, and we will equally have to contend with conflict and the consequences of climate change.

For most Pakistanis, the latter is arguably more immediately existential. The World Meteorological Society in May this year reported that the world would by 2027 breach the 1.5 degrees Celsius climate threshold agreed at the 2015 Paris climate summit, meaning that average global temperatures are likely to rise by more than 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. That's three years away. How old will you be? Your children?

Facing failure in the face of this key target, global climate leaders are seeking success elsewhere. Attention is turning to climate adaptation — the need to adjust social, economic and ecological systems to adapt to the reality of climate change and its impacts. Climate efforts so far have coalesced around mitigation (reduction of GHG emissions), but there is growing recognition that as we seem incapable of giving up our addiction to fossil fuels, we must learn to adapt to the consequences of burning them. According to a recent UN report, developing coun-

tries need \$387 billion a year to adapt to climate change, an amount that has increased by \$47bn since the last count. The UN report found that the adaptation financing need was 10 to 18 times more than current international public finance flows, which have dwindled in recent years. According to former climate minister Sherry Rehman, Pakistan alone needs \$348bn by 2030 to build climate resilience. But as of November 2022, the country had only received \$86.2 million since 2016 in bilateral grants with a climate adaptation focus. The numbers are stark enough that the president-designate of COP28 last week conceded that adaptation doesn't get adequate financing.

Pakistan has already recognised the need to prioritise adaptation (floods that put over one-third of your land mass under water would do that). The climate change ministry in July published Pakistan's first-ever National Adaptation Plan (NAP). The plan was 11 years too late as per the country's own climate strategy, but timely in the run-up to COP28. Covering the seven-year period to 2030, NAP aligns with UN's best practice approaches and climate adaptation frameworks. Its recommendations also align with key findings of a recent McKinsey report that advocates for a systemic approach to climate adaptation. That approach highlights the importance of 'a climate risk management mindset; technological and behavioural adaptation levers; economic and societal adjustments; and governance, institutional support, and commitment'.

McKinsey's economic and societal adjustment bucket calls for "compensating mechanisms for vulnerable communities and institutions" and under its governance category it pushes for community awareness and engage-

ment. Pakistan's NAP echoes these principles with recommendations for evidence-based decision-making, the need to act locally, and a major emphasis on inclusion and equity (particularly for women, youth and marginalised communities), and with clear language promoting social justice and insisting that no one be left behind. Here's the elephant in the room. These principles are not the reality of our society. Inclusion and equity are an afterthought when it comes to other areas such as access to healthcare, justice, rule of law, education or public finances. Adaptation strategies will indeed work best when developed and implemented locally, but how will that work in a country that shuns and disempowers local governments? And women and marginalised communities are no doubt most at risk from climate impacts, but given how we violate their rights in normal circumstances, why would we behave differently when faced with heat, floods or fire?

Critiques of climate adaptation approaches are still too high level. McKinsey celebrates that 84 per cent of the parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change have adaptation plans, but points out these are not grounded in the physical risks they ameliorate, do not articulate financing needs, and are yet to be executed. Even critiques of NAP focused on the lack of details around financing mechanisms and the scant specifics on implementation. But there is little mention of the disconnect between adaptation planning and societal attitudes more broadly. Without meaningfully changing ourselves and our society, we will not successfully adapt to a climate change-affected world. -- Courtesy Dawn

Afghan refugees



Arif Hasan

The manner in which Afghan refugees are being repatriated from Pakistan is unfortunate. Under the Citizens' Act, anyone born in Pakistan is a Pakistani citizen. If you apply this law, relatively few Afghans will be repatriated. According to international law, only those who are not registered as refugees can be deported, and that too under specified conditions (which are not being followed), one of which emphasises safeguarding their dignity.

Disturbing news is emerging from the Afghan detention centres and from thence that are involved in "rounding them up". There are cases where minor children have been sent to locations in Afghanistan while their parents have been left behind. There have been cases where women and their babies have forcibly been put on a bus to Afghanistan without a male relative.

Meanwhile, corruption is rampant. I personally know of cases where Rs20,000 per month is paid to a middleman who guarantees that repatriation will not take place. In addition, the staff of state agencies do not allow persons at the detention centre to meet their family or lawyers, and there have also been cases where the deportees, both old and young, have been beaten up by police and Rangers for no obvious reason.

The majority of the deportees have been born in Pakistan, and they have never seen Afghanistan in their lives. Also, they have no families left in Afghani-

stan. They are especially concerned about their women, who will not be able to work or study in Afghanistan and will be discriminated against in other ways after they have enjoyed a more liberal society in this country. A number of musicians, singers, and artists are equally afraid for their lives and punishment from the Taliban regime.

Karachiites have many complaints against the Afghans, and they seldom differentiate between Afghans and KP's Pakhtuns. They claim that Afghans introduced the culture of guns and drugs in the city and that other groups had to resort to the same tactics to protect themselves. They also claim they have become big shareholders in Karachi's businesses. They finance construction companies, real estate purchases, and even small entrepreneurs in setting up roadside businesses. They claim that much of the finances for all this have come from the Afghan transit trade and from supplying Nato troops in Afghanistan. With these enormous earnings, the Afghans have purchased textile, electronic goods, used clothes and shoes and a number of other markets in the city. They also charge for arranging protection for roadside Pashto-speaking rehirs. All this has made them major players in Karachi's economy. They also work as building site labour and as coolies at Karachi's wholesale markets which is their main occupation.

The strongest support for Afghan repatriation understandably comes from Sindh nationalists. Migration to the province (especially to its urban centres) has changed its demography, and if it continues, the Sindh-speaking population might well become a minority. The migrants have occupied land in the urban areas and are also becoming

middlemen to service agricultural production.

However, it must be remembered that almost all of these 'crimes' against the original population of Sindh were the result of government policies that were designed with the approval of powerful Sindh politicians and implemented by senior Sindh bureaucrats. Three remarkable books (The Case of Sindh by G.M. Sayed; The Case of Karachi and Sindh Under One Unit both by Prof Aijaz Ahmed Qureshi) tell us the whole story. Unlike the 1947 migrants, the Afghan migrants had no hand in developing these policies.

The Afghan re-patriation has divided the progressives of Sindh into pro- and anti-repatriation groups. This is unfortunate and needs to be reconciled. There can be a case made for Afghan repatriation, but on humanitarian and legal grounds, it needs to be revisited. Persons who have been born and grown up in this country should not be deported. The same applies to women who have been born in Pakistan and who face a bleak future in an anti-women country. Similarly, artists and entertainers should not be sent back for they will not only lose the opportunity of performing but also fear for their lives.

However, more important than anything else is that the repatriation process should respect the human rights of the deportees and with proper documentation. Given the brutal nature of our state and the strong anti-poor bias of our elite policymakers, this is difficult but should be attempted. Also in dealing with the repatriation process it should be remembered that it is more than possible that Pakistan will require the support of the Afghan nation in the not-too-distant future to stabilise itself. -- Courtesy Dawn

CM seeks carbon credits plan to accelerate tree plantation

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has sought a comprehensive carbon credit plan for afforestation and valuable carbon exchange.

During the meeting, attended by provincial ministers Amir Mir, Ibrahim Hasan Murad, secretaries of forests, finance & industries departments and others, a consensus was reached to enlist the expertise of a consultancy firm for the strategic acquisition of carbon credits. The briefing illuminated the diverse sectors, numbering ten in total, from which carbon

credits can be obtained. These sectors include waste management, transportation, renewable energy, industry and land use, among others.

It was underscored

that the acquisition of carbon credits is intricately tied to activities such as the preservation of forests and the proactive management of environmental pollution. An important

aspect highlighted in the meeting was the practice of countries with higher carbon emissions channelling investments into afforestation and environmental.

CM Punjab reviews health reforms

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi chaired a special meeting focusing on health reforms here on Monday.

During the meeting, the Secretary Health provided a comprehensive overview of initiatives aimed at enhancing emergency facilities. The meeting affirmed the principled decision to implement a Ventilator Management Information System, enabling the tracking of ventilators as required. The Punjab Information Technology Board's assistance will facilitate real-time identification of both in-use and available ventilators through a dedicated app, ensuring prompt allocation during high-demand situations in hospitals. Furthermore, it was agreed to establish a linkage between DHQ Hospital Kasur and General Hospital Lahore. As part of the stroke management campaign, capacity building for 1122 rescuers will be a priority.

Dr. Qasim Bashir, Head of Neurology at Services Institute of Medical Sciences, presented a detailed plan on stroke management.



LEEPA VALLEY: Younger girls students are attending class at open air school during the extreme cold weather due to unavailability of school building of Government Girls Primary School Moji Chityra area of the Kashmir.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali takes oath from caretaker Provincial Ministers.

WB Mission vows to continue playing role in development of Pakistan

KARACHI (APP): The World Bank will continue playing its role in the development of Pakistan and Sindh Flood Emergency Rehabilitation Project (SFERP) is a step toward this direction to improve the living conditions of masses.

The Bank was concerned to see the ground conditions of flood hit areas which necessitated this multi-sectoral project to restore the infrastructure and alleviate poverty in these flood devastated areas. The project is first of its kind with a multi-sectoral approach including

irrigation, road network, drainage, drinking water and livelihood program for the locals affected by the floods.

These remarks were made by the Members of World Bank Mission during their visit to Gadap, District Malir, to review the pace of work on the construction of Lat-1 Dam to mitigate the effect of Urban flooding (Karachi), in future from rain caused floods. The project is funded by World Bank and is part of (SFERP) and implemented by the Irrigation Department, Govt of Sindh with a cost of Rs 1.6 billion.

During the briefing, the team members were informed that Dam would also store water for irrigation as well as raise ground water level.

The Water discharged from the dam would be 16570 cusecs, with a storage area of 56 acres and storage capacity of 364 acres feet. It would also have a drinking water facility for local population which is part of the project. That water stored would be contained to mitigate the effect of flood, as well as the water stored in the Dam would be used for irrigation purpose.

LHC orders to immediately change DG environment

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has ordered to immediately change DG Environment for not making better arrangement for eradication of smog.

The court also expressed displeasure over performance of care taker government Punjab.

The court ordered to close the private and government schools and colleges on Saturday.

The court remarked it is there only this solution with government to announce holidays in

Punjab for eradication of smog.

A single bench of LHC led by Justice Shahid Karim heard the petitions filed by Haroon Farooq and others in eradication of smog case Monday.

Commissioner Lahore and other officers appeared in the court.

Court remarked Commissioner Lahore only talks when he comes here but his performance is nil.

The court remarked the situation is adverse and videos are coming from different areas.

Home deptt identifies 22347 illegal foreigners in major cities of KP

PESHAWAR (APP): The Home and Tribal Affairs Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has compiled data of illegal foreigners including Afghans residing in major cities of the province and sent it to the Ministry of Interior. According to the report of the Home Department, as many as 22347 Afghans were still

residing illegally in 32 districts of the province including 17832 in Peshawar, 1523 in Khyber, 1228 in Kohat, 607 in Lower Waziristan and others in Batagram, Tank, Torghar, Kohistan Swabi and Mansehra. The Home Department said that so far 206,018 people of 16,530 Afghan families have voluntarily.



PESHAWAR: Members of Jamiat Business Forum are holding protest demonstration against Israeli cruel and inhumane acts and express unity with the innocent people of Palestine, held at Peshawar press club.

Regional Ombudsman hears complaints against SPECO, SSGC

LARKANA (APP): On the special directives of Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi, Regional Head Federal Ombudsman at Sukkur Syed Mehmood Ali Shah heard complaints against SPECO and SSGC at the Provincial Ombudsman's Office, Larkana, on Monday.

Revenue Officer SPECO Larkana Sohail Ahmed Khuhawar, R/O SPECO Kambars-Shahdaddot Shah Murad, Executive Engineer (Rural) SEPCO and other related officers, while on behalf of Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC), Syed Mazhar Ali Shah and Deputy Manager Saeed Ahmed Korejo and petitioners also appeared and presented their issues against SPECO and SSGC including complaints of over-reading and deduction.

Regional Head Syed Mehmood Ali Shah reviewed the complaints received and 39 complaints presented against SPECO of which 35 complaints were decided on the spot and the rest were given date in 04 applications/complaints. However, 19 complaints were received

against SSGC, 15 were reviewed and decided and 04 complaints were dated for the next hearing.

He directed the officials of the concerned department that the complaints of the victims should be resolved as soon as possible and no one should be treated unfairly.

He assured the petitioners that their complaints would be acted upon within 30 days, otherwise, the case would be sent to the Federal Ombudsman and legal action would be taken against the officers violating the order.

He also directed the concerned authorities to take strict legal action against the meter readers for over-reading.

The Regional Head Ombudsman at Sukkur also directed that decisions will be implemented otherwise the case of non-compliance will be referred to the Federal Ombudsman and strict legal action will be taken against those responsible.

He said that Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi was committed to providing immediate justice to the poor people.

Religious leaders unite in urgent appeal for peace in Gaza

LAHORE (APP): Religious leaders from across the nation, representing diverse faiths and beliefs, on Monday joined forces to make a global appeal for an immediate end to Israel's aggression and brutality in Gaza. Addressing a unified audience at the Palestine Conference here at Cathedral Church, they urged the world powers to immediately play their role in ending the persecution of the oppressed Palestinian people.

Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir

Mahmood Ashrafi, and Archbishop Dr. Sebastian Francis Shaw were among the prominent figures who emphasized that the ongoing situation in Gaza was not a matter confined to followers of any specific religion but a violation against humanity itself.

Ashrafi who is also the Special Representative to the Prime Minister on Religious Harmony and the Pakistani Diaspora in Middle East and Islamic Countries, stated that Saudi Arabia and the Muslim world were actively playing their role against Israeli aggression,

urging the global community to step forward to end Israeli oppression. He stressed the need for international solidarity to halt Israel's atrocities and called for an immediate ceasefire to stop the bloodshed in the Gaza Strip so that relief operations could be started in the region. According to a report of United Nations, 300,000 people of Gaza did not have food, water or medicine, he added.

Ashrafi warned, "If this war spreads, everyone from Lebanon to Syria will be under its influence and it will harm mankind."

Three killed over land dispute

SARGODHA (APP): A man killed his mother, sister and brother-in-law over land dispute here at Chimmni mohalla under the jurisdiction of city Bhakkar police station.

Police said that Muhammad Akram (32) s/o Yaseen had a land dispute with his family. On the day of incident, he strangled his mother Zaitoon bibi (70) to death, clubbed his sister Amina (34) to death and killed his brother-in-law Asim (33).



MULTAN: Professor Dr. Herman Vourgh addressing the 3rd international Seerah conference at Women's University Kachehry.

All set to join Hong Kong Convention soon: SAPM

KARACHI (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Maritime Affairs Vice Admiral (Retd.) Iftikhar Ahmed Rao has said that Pakistan is all set to join Hong Kong Convention (HKC) very soon.

He said, "We have competed almost all the formalities and just the formal decision by cabinet awaited."

While addressing a three-day IMO National Seminar on "The Ratification and Implementation of the Hong Kong Convention, Pakistan-2023" organized by International Maritime Organization (IMO), Ministry of Maritime Affairs of Pakistan, Balochistan Government and Pakistan Ship Breakers & Recyclers Association at a local hotel here on Monday, the SAPM Iftikhar Ahmed Rao assured that Pakistan

would be able to join HKC within this month and it would be a good step to promote this significant industry.

He said that the Pakistan government was fully behind this industry and the Ministry of Maritime Affairs was totally focused on it.

The SAPM said that the Ship recycling facility in Pakistan had been very important in the past also and she wanted to take it up to the same level in the near future.

He said that the Pakistan government and Ministry of Maritime Affairs were making all-out efforts to promote the entire maritime sector, specially ship recycling facility. He further said, "It used to be on the top of the world in the 80s."

Rao said that Gadani beach was one of the ideal beaches of the world for the purpose.



LAHORE: Chairman Pakistan Ulema Council Hafiz Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi addressing along with the representatives of different religions and sects during ceremony regarding Inter Faith Harmony at Cathedral Church.

Five development schemes worth Rs 7.073b approved

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Development Working Party (PDWP) Punjab approved five developmental schemes of Roads, Urban Development, and Local Government sectors with an estimated cost of Rs 7073.47 million in its 26th meeting of current financial year 2023-24 chaired by P&D Board Chairman Iftikhar Ali Sahoo here on Monday. The approved schemes are: Construction of By-Pass from Royal Hotel (N-5) to Sarwar Chowk via Adda Mai Wali Masjid, Length=13.70 Km, District Sahiwal at the cost

of Rs 1667.762 million; Repair/Rehabilitation of road from Sohawa Chakwal Road to Khol Hameed Incl Link from Mohra Kalayat to Mohra Jariyan, Length 9.50 km, Tehsil Gujar Khan, District Rawalpindi at the cost of Rs 530.763 million; Repair/Rehabilitation of Road from Gujar Khan to Pir Phulal Road Incl Link from Mohra Sheikhhan to Village Kontrilla (Length=29.80 km) (km 29.35+3.60 =32.95), Tehsil Gujar Khan at the cost of Rs 1408.423 million; Establishment of Sports Complex at Faisalabad City.

Arranging talks of Imran with his sons: court adjourns hearing

RAWALPINDI (Online): Official secret act special court has adjourned the hearing of contempt of court plea against superintendent Adiala jail till Friday due to non availability of counsel in the case of arranging Chairman PTI talks with his sons. Judge Abul Hasnaat Zulqarnain of special court took up the case for hearing Monday. Petitioner's advocate Sheeraz Ahmad Ranjha did not appear in the court. Chairman PTI has filed separate contempt of court petitions on the matters of arranging his talks.

ANF recovers 225 kg drugs in 10 operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 10 operations managed to recover 225 kg of drugs and arrested eight accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday.

He informed that in an operation at Allama Iqbal International Airport, 59 hashish-filled capsules were recovered from the possession of a passenger, leaving for Bahrain on flight number GF-768.

81 heroin-filled capsules were recovered from a passenger at Multan Airport. The accused, a resident of Lahore, was

leaving for Sharjah by flight number PA-812. 105 kg hashish was recovered from an accused resident of Quetta in an operation conducted on Hazarganj Road Quetta.

Five kg of hashish hidden for smuggling was recovered in an uninhabited area of Zakhakhel Khyber.

Over 4.2 kg of Ice drug was recovered from the trolley bag of a foreigner in Jinnah International Airport. The accused was leaving for Bangladesh by flight number FZ-336.

3.6 kg hashish was recovered from an accused resident of Bajor, rounded up in Bahria Town Karachi.

Formation of caretaker govt in KP completed after oath-taking of 9-member Cabinet

PESHAWAR (APP): Following the oath-taking of a nine-member caretaker Provincial Cabinet at Governor House here Monday, the formation of the interim Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has been completed, experts said. The formal discharge of official duties was formally started in Peshawar where newly appointed interim KP Chief Minister, Justice @ Syed Arshad Hussain Shah has assumed the charge of office today. "All the controversies and propaganda that started

after the death of caretaker Chief Minister Muhammad Azam Khan on Saturday due to protected illness was proved wrong after consensus was reached between former Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Mahmood Khan, and ex-opposition leader, Akram Khan Durani on the name of new caretaker Chief Minister Justice @ Syed Arshad Hussain Shah, who was later appointed by the KP Governor Haji Ghulam Ali on November 12.

The oath-taking of nine members caretaker Cabinet of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa today and interim CM KP Arshad Hussain Shah on Sunday night have completed the formation of the interim setup in KP," said constitutional expert and senior lawyer, Syed Noman Ali Shah Bokhari while talking to APP on Monday. He said the fresh oath of the caretaker Provincial Ministers was a constitutional obligation after the dissolution of the provincial cabinet of Chief Minister, Azam Khan after his death.



FAISALABAD: Justice (R) Nazer Ahmed Ghazi participate in protest rally outside District Bar to show solidarity with the Oppressed Muslims of Palestine, in City.

SAPM explores opportunities for Pakistani workforce in Saudi Arabia

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (SAPM on OP&HRD), Jawad Sohrab Malik, initiated a five-day visit to Saudi Arabia aiming to foster collaboration and explore employment opportunities for the Pakistani workforce in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The visit is aimed at initiating several groundbreaking projects that are expected to significantly impact the labour market. Among the key projects that will be part of the discussion, for seeking employment opportunities for Pakistan migrant workers, during the visit are: Red Sea Project, Development Plan of Extension of the Holy

City of Makkah, Jabal Omar, Recreational Tourism Projects, New Taif City, The NEOM Project, Qiddiya Project - The Capital of Entertainment Sports, Diriyah Gates, AIUla - UNESCO World Heritage Site, Hammaya Program, King Salman Park and Green Riyadh.

These projects offer extensive employment opportunities, especially in fields such as Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, media policy, strategy and research, health and safety specialists, project coordination & managerial strategy, financial modelling, eco-system-based management specialists, senior water scientists, climate action directors, managers of geothermal energy, solar generation specialists, and more.

During the visit, the discussions will also revolve around the evolving labor market trends in Saudi Arabia. The SAPM, during his meetings with Saudia Arabia's Minister for Labor,

Economist (Ops), Joint Chief Economist for Macroeconomics at Planning Commission and other relevant stakeholders.

During the meeting, Chief Growth & Employment gave a detailed briefing highlighting the various aspects of PIMA and Climate-PIMA and its action plan. The action plan underscores the importance of a Climate Responsive Public Investment Framework, integrating climate considerations into the planning and execution of all development projects.

This approach aligns with the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), signifying Pakistan's dedication to climate-smart policies and practices.



ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed chaired a meeting on Public Investment Management Assessment (PIMA) and Climate-PIMA.



Caretaker Federal Minister for Privatisation Fawad Hassan Fawad chairs a meeting with management of HBFC.

CDNS secures Rs 35 bln in Islamic finance bonds

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has secured Rs 35 billion in Islamic finance bonds in the mid of second quarter of the Current Fiscal Year 2023-24.

He added that the directorate had set a target of Rs 75 billion for the new financial year 2023-24 for Islamic finance bonds.

The National Savings has issued Islamic bonds for the promotion of the Islamic finance system, which will help the development of the Islamic economy in the country, a senior official of the Directorate of National Savings told APP here on Monday.

Repeating to another question, he said the CDNS had collected an investment of Rs 16 billion in July 2023-24 through Islamic investment bonds.

Repeating to another question, he said the CDNS had collected an investment of Rs 16 billion in July 2023-24 through Islamic investment bonds.

Mobilink Bank carries the day at Veon's Ignite Awards held in Istanbul

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's leading digital microfinance bank, Mobilink Bank, outperformed at Veon's

across countries that are home to more than 8% of the world's population. Ghazanfar Azzam, President and



Ignite Awards held in Istanbul by winning in three of the most highly contested categories, including 'Double-Digit Growth', 'Financial Services', and 'Diversity and Inclusion'. The Bank's recognition at the group level and enviable accomplishments across various categories mirror its steadfast commitment to excellence.

CEO Mobilink Bank, received the awards on behalf of the institution and delightfully dedicated it to his team for sustaining the Bank's upward growth trajectory.

"This goes out to my team for its remarkable professionalism, commitment to excellence and penchant for innovation," shared Ghazanfar Azzam. "Mobilink Bank's robust financial performance, affordable, and accessible financial services and a strong workplace culture are the outcomes of years of our hard work. Our success is driven by our commitment to excellence in everything we do to make a difference for our customers and communities.

Tax regulations means tax and other laws statutes, ordinances, rules, orders or other applications of the law applicable in a given country as well as any international treaty whereas tax compliance is the framework designed by the regulators to ensure transparent governance in the individual or business decision to comply with the tax laws in a given country, according to an NPO document shared here on Monday.



LAHORE: A Worker is busy in Embroidery on clothes with the help of machinery at his working area on Ravi Road in Provincial Capital.

Azerbaijan envoy visited FPCCI

LAHORE: Ambassador of Pakistan to Azerbaijan Bilal Hayee visited the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Regional office Lahore and met with President FPCCI Irfan Iqbal Sheikh. During the meeting, the matters of enhancing cooperation in diverse fields, including trade, investment, technology, and exchange of business delegations, were discussed.

Regional Chairman Muhammad Nadeem Qureshi, SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Vice President Mian Anjum Nisar and Vice President of FPCCI Riffat Malik were also present.

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh said that Business-to-Business (B2B) and People-to-People (P2P) linkages, relations and joint activities ultimately translate into bilateral trade, investment and economic cooperation. He said that Azerbaijan can benefit from Pakistan's textiles, fruits, rice, surgical goods, pharmaceuticals and IT expertise at competitive rates.

NPO to organize webinar on tax & regulatory compliance

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Productivity Organization (NPO) will conduct a webinar on 'tax and regulatory compliance' on November 21 (Tuesday).

The objective of the training aimed to help understand the basic taxation laws applicable, how to handle compliance, business to increase their credibility and to avail the benefits associated.

Minister briefed on PIMA, Climate-PIMA

ISLAMABAD (Online): The caretaker Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed was briefed on Public Investment Management Assessment (PIMA) and Climate-PIMA, and the suggested action plan by the International Monetary Fund IMF.

The briefing was given during a meeting chaired by the Planning Minister attended by Secretary Planning Ministry, Member Climate Change & Food Security, Chief Growth & Employment at Planning Commission, Joint Chief

Chief Economist for Macroeconomics at Planning Commission and other relevant stakeholders.

During the meeting, Chief Growth & Employment gave a detailed briefing highlighting the various aspects of PIMA and Climate-PIMA and its action plan. The action plan underscores the importance of a Climate Responsive Public Investment Framework, integrating climate considerations into the planning and execution of all development projects.



KARACHI: Head of delegation from IMO Mr. Jun Sun addressing at IMO Workshop under Integrated Technical Cooperation Program for Implementation of Hong Kong Convention, Pakistan in PC hotel.

Privatization Minister holds meeting with management of HBFC

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Privatisation, Fawad Hasan Fawad on Monday chaired a meeting with the management of House Building Finance Company Limited (HBFC). CEO HBFC, Imran Ahad apprised the minister on the recent performance of the company together with immediate and short term plans, said a press release issued here. He said that the company had seen a significant turnaround in its financial health which was also reflected in the recent upgrade of credit rating by two scales to AA(-). The HBFC has

issued a total portfolio of Rs 18 billion with 14,000 active borrowers, he said adding that presently it covered only 0.03% market share with a manifold growth potential considering even the regional countries like India and Bangladesh.

It was decided that immediate steps, that can help the government to realise a fair asset value at the privatisation, need to be completed at the earliest including, but not limited to, repurposing its real estate assets from residential to commercial wherever applicable and HR reform with particular emphasis on clearing up of the pension.



SARGODHA: A farmer busy threshing rice crops in their field at Jhang Moor.

Drop in Int Oil Prices FPCCI demands Rs. 18-20 reduction for coming fortnight: Irfan

KARACHI: Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has demanded that the federal government should announce a reduction of 18-20 rupees per liter in the prices of petroleum products as international oil prices are showing a declining trend despite the harrowing ongoing conflict and supply cuts announced by Saudi Arabia and Russia till December 2023. I can project that these major producers of oil will continue their cuts beyond December 2023, he added.

Mr. Sheikh added that international oil prices are now down to \$81.30 per barrel and that is below 50-day moving average of \$85.70. This indicates that global oil demand outlook is bearish; and, as per latest statistics, demand from both U.S. & China is down and U.S. reserves are up as well by 11.9 million barrels. Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh explained that this phenomenon categorically establishes the fact that the global economy is on a downslide cumulatively - and, wars between Russia & Ukraine and Israel - Palestine are the principle factors in the development of this bleak economic scenario for the world.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): The shipping activity reported at the port where four ships namely, Clipper Fair, Silver Eleanor, Sea Bulk and Nikitis, scheduled to load/offload Rice, Steel coil, Palm oil and Coal, berthed at Multi-Purpose Terminal, Liquid Cargo Terminal, Grain Terminal and Bulk Terminal respectively on Sunday.

Meanwhile two more ships, MSC Abyand Alberta also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port during last 24 hours.

A total of six ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships, Clipper Fair and Ioannis Theo are expected to sail on today afternoon.

A cargo volume of 117,640 tonnes.

Roadmap being prepared to boost agricultural exports: Minister

LAHORE: Caretaker Punjab Minister for Agriculture S.M Tanvir on Monday said the Punjab government was preparing a clear roadmap for increasing agricultural exports in consultation with all stakeholders.

He said this while presiding over a meeting held to finalize the Punjab Agriculture Strategic Plan 2023-33 at Agriculture House.

He said that government wanted to overcome challenges of the agricultural sector with the help of modern research and value addition. He said that the production of crops would be increased which, he added, would

enhance the profit of farmers.

He further said that the Punjab Agriculture Strategic Plan would prove to be an important milestone in the agricultural development of the province.

SBP Dy Governor says: SBP to facilitate business community

FAISALABAD (APP): State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) will make best efforts to facilitate the business community in stabilizing the national economy on a solid and sustained basis. This was stated by SBP Deputy Governor Saleemullah while addressing a reception hosted by Mian Muhammad Adrees, former FPCCI President, FPCCI, FPCCI and former International Director Lions Club in his honour. The function was also

attended by leading businessmen and bankers in addition to the members of FCCI. Speaking on the occasion, Mian Muhammad Adrees appreciated the services of Saleemullah said that he had already served Faisalabad and his prudent decision making was being still remembered. He particularly mentioned the strategy of SBP during corona pandemic and said that policies adopted during this period had helped Pakistan.



QUETTA: A delegation of Mines Owners Association led by Malik Shehryar Khan meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki.

Caretaker CM fixes minimum sugarcane price in Sindh at Rs 425/40 kg

KARACHI (APP): Secretary Agriculture Aijaz Shah briefed the chief minister about the cost of sugarcane cultivation and said that per acre cost has been worked out at Rs 244,984, and the average yield of an acre is 650 40 kg means Rs 377 per 40kg. If 12.7 percent profit over the total expenditures is added the price would come to Rs 425.

The meeting was held here at CM House on Monday and was attended by Chief Secretary Dr Fakhre Alam, Advocate General Sindh Hassan Akbar, Secretary Finance Kazim Jatoi, Secretary Agriculture Aijaz Shah, Secretary Food Nasir Abbas and other concerned officers.

Chief Secretary D Fakhre Alam said that he has also chaired a meeting of the agriculture department and the minimum price was worked out at Rs 425 and if the profit of 15% as demanded by the agriculturists were added the price would go to Rs 434 per 40 kg.

SECP registers 2,463 new companies in October 2023

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) registered 2,463 new companies in October 2023, raising the total number of registered companies to 205,456.

About 56% of companies were registered as private limited companies, while 41% were registered as single-member companies.

Almost 99.6 per cent of companies were registered online, and three foreign companies have also established places of business in Pakistan.

Biden, Qatari emir discuss Gaza, agree all hostages must be released

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: U.S. President Joe Biden spoke on Sunday with Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani about developments in Gaza and "urgent ongoing efforts" to secure the release of hostages being held by the Hamas militant group, the White House said.

Biden "unequivocally" condemned the holding of hostages by Hamas, including many young children, one of whom is a 3-year old American citizen whose parents were killed by the group on October 7, the White House said in a statement. "The two leaders agreed that all hostages must be released without further delay," the statement said.

Hamas fighters surged across the border from Gaza into Israel on Oct. 7, killing about 1,200 people and taking more than 200 hostages, according to Israeli officials. Only four hostages have been released to date. The Israeli bombardment of Gaza has since killed more than 11,000 Palestinians, around 40% of them children, according to counts by health officials in the Hamas-ruled territory.



U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, right, and his South Korean counterpart Shin Won-sik shake hands for a photo during a signing ceremony of the 55th Security Consultative Meeting (SCM) at the defense ministry, in Seoul, South Korea.

South Asia worst in world for water scarcity: UN

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: More children in South Asia are struggling due to severe water scarcity made worse by the impacts of climate change than anywhere else worldwide, the United Nations said Monday.

As of 2022, 739 million children were exposed to high or extremely high water scarcity, with 436m children — mostly in low- and middle-income countries — living in areas of "high or extremely high water vulnerability."

US not to accept Israeli reoccupation of Gaza

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan affirmed on Sunday that the United States will not accept the Israeli reoccupation of Gaza and will continue opposing the forcible displacement of Palestinians from the territory.



A woman cries as she stands by the rubble of a destroyed building following Israeli bombardment in Khan Yunis in southern Gaza Strip.

Israeli strikes on Gaza hospitals suspend prisoner swap talks

Monitoring Desk
GAZASTRIP: Amid Israeli bombardment, two major hospitals in northern Gaza — Al Shifa and Al Quds — closed to new patients on Sunday, with staff saying that a lack of fuel and medicine meant those already being treated could die.

Hospitals in the north of the besieged Palestinian enclave are blockaded by Israeli forces and barely able to care for those inside, medical staff said.

Intense fighting raged around Al Shifa hospital where doctors said thousands of Palestinians were trapped in dire conditions. Soon after the strike, Hamas said it is suspending negotiations for exchange of prisoners because of Israel's handling of the Al Shifa Hospital, a Palestinian official told Reuters.

Argentina's presidential rivals clash in key voter battlegrounds

Monitoring Desk
BUENOS AIRES: As Argentines prepare to elect a new president, the two hopefuls vying for the keys to the Casa Rosada palace are focusing on undecided voters in key battlegrounds, with campaign pushes around capital Buenos Aires and central Cordoba province that could tip the balance in a tight race.

Center-left Peronist economy chief Sergio Massa faces libertarian outsider Javier Milei in the Nov 19 vote, with polls suggesting a likely photo finish. Two wildly different visions for South America's no 2 economy are on offer.

Bangladesh unrest leaves another garment worker dead

Monitoring Desk
DHAKA: Hundreds of Bangladeshi garment workers rallied on Sunday, demanding fair wages after dismissing a pay offer as too small, as the death toll from the violent protests rose to four.

UK PM Sunak sacks interior minister Suella Braverman over comments on pro-Palestine protests

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak sacked his interior minister Suella Braverman on Monday after her criticism of the police's handling of a pro-Palestinian march divided his party and threatened his authority.

US conducts airstrikes against Iran-backed groups in Syria, retaliating for attacks on US troops

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The U.S. military conducted airstrikes on two locations in eastern Syria involving Iranian-backed groups, hitting a training location and a weapons facility, according to the Pentagon and U.S. officials.



People hold flags as they take part in a protest called for by the Popular Party against a deal reached by Spain's socialists with the Catalan separatist Junts party for government support, which involves amnesties for people involved with Catalonia's failed 2017 independence bid, in Madrid, Spain.



People try to douse a fire inside a bus allegedly torched by protesters during a nationwide transport blockade called by an opposition party, in Dhaka.

Nikki Haley will launch a \$10M ad campaign to try to overtake Ron DeSantis in the GOP primary

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: Nikki Haley's presidential campaign will reserve \$10 million in television, radio and digital advertising across Iowa and New Hampshire beginning in the first week of December, a massive investment designed to give the former United Nations ambassador an advantage over Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis at a critical moment in the GOP nomination fight.

Militants tie up, kill Congo villagers - local official

Monitoring Desk
BENI: Islamist militants tied up at least 19 villagers and killed them with machetes and other weapons in a raid in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo late on Sunday, a civil society leader said.

Myanmar army faces a new threat from armed ethnic foes who open a new front in a western state

Monitoring Desk
BANGKOK: Myanmar's military government, under pressure in the country's northeast where it recently lost strategic territory to an alliance of armed ethnic rebels, faced a fresh challenge Monday when one of the groups launched attacks in the western state of Rakhine.

Philippine court grants bail to jailed "drug war" critic

Monitoring Desk
MANILA: A Philippine court on Monday granted bail to a former senator and fierce critic of a former president's bloody "war on drugs" after nearly seven years in jail on charges she always denied.

US and South Korea sharpen deterrence plans over North Korean nuclear threat

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: The United States and South Korea on Monday updated a bilateral security agreement with the aim of more effectively countering North Korea's evolving nuclear and missile threats.

The move followed high-level military talks in Seoul, where the allies also discussed enhancing three-way defense exercises with Japan and improving information-sharing on North Korean missile launches.

Germany's support for Ukraine is to be 'massively expanded' next year

Monitoring Desk
BERLIN: Germany's aid for Ukraine will be "massively expanded" next year, the foreign minister said Monday as Kyiv heads into its second winter since Russia launched its full-scale invasion.

Germany has become one of Ukraine's top military suppliers since the war started in February 2022, sending material that includes tanks, armored personnel carriers, air defense systems and Patriot missile systems.

80 people freed from Australian migrant centers since High Court outlawed indefinite detention

Monitoring Desk
CANBERRA: Eighty people, including convicted criminals considered dangerous, have been released from Australian migrant detention centers since the High Court ruled last week that their indefinite detention was unconstitutional, the immigration minister said Monday.

A member of Myanmar's persecuted Rohingya Muslim minority won freedom Wednesday when the court outlawed his indefinite detention. Australia has been unable to find any country willing to resettle the man, identified only as NZYQ, because he had been convicted of raping a 10-year-old boy, and authorities consider him a danger to the Australian community.

Indonesia's Prabowo stretches lead in new survey on presidential contenders

Monitoring Desk
JAKARTA: Indonesian presidential candidate Prabowo Subianto has opened up a wide lead over his closest rival in a new opinion poll, despite controversy over his decision to pick the outgoing leader Joko Widodo's son as his running mate.

An Oct 27-Nov 1 survey of 1,220 people released on Sunday by Indikator Politik Indonesia showed 39.7% of respondents would vote for third-time presidential contender Prabowo while 30% would back the ruling party's Ganjar Pranowo.

Bid of trophy hunting of Markhor done in Rs. 24.5m: US\$ 0.1 million outstanding against foreign hunters in Balochistan, CM told

Mardan Domki directs to ensure early recovery of dues from foreign hunters; strictly implement ban imposed on issuance of new license of hunting

Independent Report
QUETTA: A hefty amount of US\$ 0.1 million of Balochistan is outstanding against the foreign hunters on account of the hunting fees and other dues. This was informed to the caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki during a briefing conducted about the protection of forests, wildlife and environment here on Monday. The high level meeting was chaired by the Chief Minister Domki and attended by senior high ups of the concerned departments including Asfandyar Kakar, besides others. He was briefed about the situation of wildlife, forests and other related issues besides the measures

being adopted for their protection in the province. The Chief Minister took serious notice of the arrears outstanding against the foreign hunters and directed the concerned high ups to ensure early recovery of the dues from them. He also directed them to ensure implementation of the ban imposed on issuance of the new licenses for hunting in the province. He also directed to ensure protection of the Persian Leopards as well as the animal and birds species and other precious herbaria and natural habitat in the province. He underlined the need to carry out research regarding the forests and wildlife in the public sector universities and directed to sign

MoUs with them in this regard. In addition to this, the Chief Minister also directed to start planning for launching the Ph.D and M.Phil programmes on the protection of forests, wildlife and environment in the universities. The Chief Minister also called for protection of the migratory birds who migrate from Siberia due to the harsh weather conditions there. Earlier, it was informed that the bid of trophy hunting for Markhor was done at Rs. 2 crore 45 lakh in the province. It was also informed that the hunting license fees for 10 days is Rs. 10 million in the province.



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki presiding over a high level meeting regarding environmental change and protection of forests and wildlife.

1 in 3 children exposed to severe water scarcity: UNICEF

ISLAMABAD (APP): The climate-changed world with dwindling water supply and inadequate water services is also changing children, altering their mental and physical health. One in three children or 739 million worldwide already live in areas exposed to high or very high water scarcity, with climate change threatening to make this worse, according to a new UNICEF report. Further, the double burden of dwindling water availability and inadequate drinking water and sanitation services is compounding the challenge, putting children at even greater risk. The report, a supplement to UNICEF's Children's Climate Risk (2021), also outlines the myriad of other ways in which children bear the brunt of the impacts of the climate crisis—including disease, air pollution, and

extreme weather events such as floods and droughts. From the moment of conception until they grow into adulthood, the health and development of children's brains, lungs, immune systems and other critical functions are affected by the environment they grow up in. For example, children are more likely to suffer from air pollution than adults. Generally, they breathe faster than adults and their brains, lungs and other organs are still developing. "The consequences of climate change are devastating for children," said UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell. "Their bodies and minds are uniquely vulnerable to polluted air, poor nutrition and extreme heat. Not only is their world-changing—with water sources drying up and terrifying weather events becoming stronger and more frequent—so too

is their well-being as climate change affects their mental and physical health. Children are demanding change, but their needs are far too often relegated to the sidelines." According to the report findings, the greatest share of children are exposed in the Middle East and North Africa and South Asia regions—meaning they live in places with limited water resources and high levels of seasonal and interannual variability, groundwater table decline or drought risk. Far too many children—436 million—are facing the double burden of high or very high water scarcity and low or very low drinking water service levels—known as extreme water vulnerability—leaving their lives, health, and well-being at risk. It is one of the key drivers of deaths among children under 5 from preventable diseases.

Senate told Govt blacklisted 111 social media-apps offering online interest based loans

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti on Monday informed the Senate that the government had not only blacklisted 111 social media-apps offering online interest based loans but also the Cyber Wing of Federal Investigation Agency confiscated Rs 1.8 billion amount of interest. Winding up discussion on a motion moved by Senator Mushtaq Ahmed about mushrooming of the social media-apps offering online interest based loans in the country, he said that FIA had also registered cases against those who were running such mobile apps. Their cases were pending before courts of law, he added.

He said that soon after the emergence of the issue, the government had started actions against the apps which were not registered with Security Exchange Commission of Pakistan. However, he said FIA's capacity regarding cyber-crimes was very limited, adding there were also some law related issues. Earlier, Mushtaq Ahmed said many students and educated peoples had been trapped in the clutches of these social media-apps offering online interest based loans. Initially the apps offered loans to the students and unemployment people on nominal interest but later, they were forced to pay hefty interest.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce & Industries, Dr. Gohar Ejaz receiving Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan for Trade and Investment Dr. Jamshed Khodjaev at Nur Khan airbase.

Uzbekistan's Deputy PM for Trade arrives in Pakistan on 2-day visit

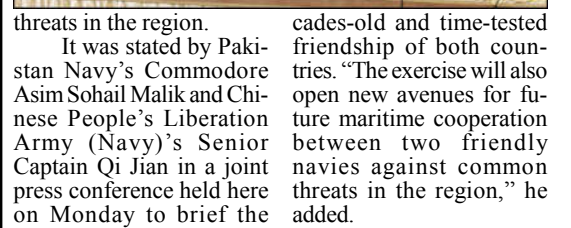
ISLAMABAD (APP): Uzbekistan's Deputy Prime Minister for Trade and Investment Dr Jamshid Khodjaev on Monday arrived in Pakistan on a two-day visit. The visit is aimed at further strengthening bilateral trade and investment ties between the two countries, said a press release. During the visit, Dr Khodjaev will meet senior government officials to discuss ways to enhance co-operation in a range of sectors, including trade and investment.

He will also lead a delegation of Uzbekistan's business leaders for meetings with their Pakistani counterparts to explore new opportunities for investment and collaboration. "Pakistan and Uzbekistan have enjoyed close economic ties for many years.

Sea Guardian 2023 to deepen Pak-China multi-dimensional strategic partnership

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan-China Joint Naval Exercise Sea Guardian 2023 will enhance bilateral security cooperation to develop a Pak-China multi-dimensional strategic partnership and also open new avenues for future maritime cooperation against common threats in the region. It was stated by Pakistan Navy's Commodore Asim Sohail Malik and Chinese People's Liberation Army (Navy)'s Senior Captain Qi Jian in a joint press conference held here on Monday to brief the

media about objectives, contours and conduct of the exercise Sea Guardian 2023. Commodore Asim Sohail Malik said that Pakistan and China have always enjoyed strategically unique and strong relationships and this exercise will further strengthen the



QUETTA: Members of Zamindar Action Committee are holding protest demonstration against prolong electricity load shedding and non-availability of water, held in Quetta.

ECP adjourns hearing of contempt of EC case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Election Commission (EC) has adjourned hearing of contempt of EC case against PTI chairman Imran Khan, Fawad Chaudhry and Asad Umar till December 6. Interior secretary presented written report for not presenting Imran Khan before EC. A four members bench of EC presided over by Member Nisar Durrani heard the contempt of EC case against Imran Khan, Asad Umar and Fawad Chaudhry on Monday. Interior secretary Aftab Durrani appeared in EC. Junior lawyer of chair-

man PTI also appeared in EC. He told EC counsel for chairman PTI is engaged in Supreme Court. We request for adjournment of the case or hearing be adjourned for some time. Member commission said if counsel has to come then all right because we have to hear delimitation of constituencies. Member commission said if there are security concerns then we can notify hearing in jail. Interior secretary said if you want to go to jail then you can notify. We allow that hearing be held in jail.



QUETTA: Senior journalist Saleem Shahid meeting with Caretaker Home Minister Captain (Retd) Muhammad Zubair Jamali.

PPP has best program to overcome financial crunch, claims Gilani

MULTAN (APP): Former Prime Minister, Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani, claimed that no political party other than the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has a better programme to overcome the economic crisis of the country. Addressing a gathering in UC Muhammadpur Ghota in Qasim Bela, he stated that if the PPP voted to power with a two-third majority in the upcoming general election, it would bring great news for a better future of the next generations. He reminisced that his party always served the people of the constituency in the true sense. Haji Owais Bhupla, Malik Farooq Bhupla,

Malik Zahid Bhupla, Malik Khizr Bhupla, Malik Fayaz Bhupla, Malik Shafiq Bhupla, Malik Zubair and others were present. The PPP made Pakistan nuclear power, sensitized people of their rights and ensured the priority-based measures for the development and prosperity of the country and the nation, a PPP Senator recalled. He hoped that the people have the best opportunity to give the PPP a heavy mandate in the elections to bring it into power. Gilani said that the people of UC Muhammadpur Ghota will make the candidates of PPP successful with a huge mandate in the general elections.

Huge quantity of smuggled fabrics recovered by Customs in Notal

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Pakistan Customs seized huge quantity of smuggle fabrics from the containers in Notal area near Dera Murad Jamali on Monday morning. The sources informed that the Customs mobile squad on the tip intercepted seven containers in Notal area. During the search, huge quantity of smuggled fabrics including different variety of cloths were re-

covered from the vehicles, the sources informed. The smuggled fabrics were seized and the containers impounded for further necessary action. The sources said that the value of seized items is stated to be in millions of rupees. However, the exact worth of the fabrics is being determined. Some arrests have also been made during the seizure, the sources of Customs informed.

PM visits late Azam Khan's residence, condoles with his family

CHARSADDA (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday visited the residence of deceased former Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Azam Khan in Parang to condole with his family members. He offered his heartfelt condolence to the sons of the deceased, Behram Azam Khan and Sikandar Azam Khan. The prime minister offered fatha and prayed for the departed soul to rest in eternal peace and elevation of ranks in paradise. Paying tribute to the late Azam Khan, PM Kakar said he was a capable officer and his services for the caretaker provincial government were unforgettable. Newly appointed Caretaker Provincial Chief Minister Arshad Hussain Shah also accompanied the prime minister.



CHARSADDA: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar offering Fatiha at the residence of late caretaker Chief Minister KP Azam Khan.

Four private members' bills introduced in Senate

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Upper House of Parliament (Senate) on Monday witnessed the introduction of four private members' bills and deferred six bills due to the absence of relevant lawmakers. Four bills introduced in the House included the Banking Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2023; the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2023; the Pakistan Names and Emblems (Prevention of Unauthorised Use) (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and the Pakistan Council for Science and Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2023. These bills were referred to the relevant committee for further consider-

ation as the relevant ministers did not oppose discussing them in detail in a committee meeting. Six other bills were deferred by the House due to the absence of relevant lawmakers. These bills were the Right of Access to Information (Amendment) Bill, 2023; the Guardians and Wards (Amendment) Bill, 2023; the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (Substitution of section 289 of PPC and subsequent amendment in schedule II of Cr. PC); the Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking (Amendment) Bill, 2023; the Prevention of Electronic Crimes (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and the Factories (Amendment) Bill, 2023.



QUETTA: Secretary Finance Babar Khan meeting with Caretaker Provincial Finance Minister Amjad Rasheed.

Minority community enjoys equal rights in Balochistan: DC Lasbela

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner Lasbela Noor Ahmed Mandokhail on Monday said that minority community, including Hindu communities, enjoyed equal rights and religious freedom in Balochistan. He made these remarks while addressing a get-together party organized at community Hall Othal in regard to Diwali, a religious festival of the Hindu community. The representative of Hindu Community Dr Tola

Ram Lasi, Chairman Municipal Community Uthal Syed Sumar Shah Qazmi were prominent others who attended the event. DC Lasbela acknowledged that minorities played an important role in the economic uplift of the country. "Foolproof security measures were in place during Diwali festival," he said and added that local administration is firm to ensure security to each member of the minority community.



QUETTA: Country representative of UNHCR Ms. Philippa Candler meeting with Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan.