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Caretaker setup to remain impartial, ensure free & fair elections: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Friday, reiterating the government's resolve to fulfill its duty of ensuring free, fair and transparent elections, said the caretaker setup would remain fully impartial. Dismissing the impression that a certain political party was being favoured by the caretakers, he said the political parties normally tried to attract their voters in different ways and such allegations might be their tactics. "We are fully focused on holding the elections in a free, fair and transparent manner and are fully supporting the Election Commission for the purpose," he added

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ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Gwadar Shipping Clearing Agents calls on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Pakistan, Russia agree to collaborate on counter-terrorism

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Russia have agreed to strengthen collaborative efforts to effectively combat terrorism, underscoring the mutual benefits of such cooperation, the Foreign Office said on Friday. The two sides discussed various forms of radicalization, the spread of terrorist ideologies, and the misuse of information and communication technologies for terrorist purposes,

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JUI chief for collective efforts to form new future for country

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam, Moulana Fazl-ur-Rehman Friday said that the moth-



erland was created by matchless sacrifices of our forefathers and we should work collectively to give it a new future and identity in Islamic countries. Addressing a public gathering in Wazir Bagh to welcome new entrants, he said that our country was carved out by the sacrifices of our elders and we should work for its progress and prosperity. He said that the coun-

try was facing numerous problems including financial disorder, adding all the mess was the result of a conspiracy and ill planning of previous rulers. He said that institutions are being targeted for their efforts to bring improvements and added that countries that were behind were now far ahead. He said that the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had faced worst during last nine years while merger of FATA had not given anything tangible to tribal people.

Defence ministry challenges decision for stopping trial of civilians in military courts

ISLAMABAD (Online): Defence ministry has challenged the court decision for stopping the trial of civilians in military courts. The defence ministry has requested the court to nullify the decision on stopping the trial of civilians in military courts. The defence ministry has requested the court to restore the clauses of official secret act which have been nullified. The petition said section 59(4) of army act which has been declared null and void be also restored.



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), addressing the leading Islamic Scholars (Ulema o Mashaikh) of all schools of thought, interacted at GHQ.

No space for intolerance, extreme behaviour against anyone: COAS

Use of force by any militia, entity or group other than state 'unacceptable'; Pakistan belongs to all Pakistanis without any religious, provincial, tribal, linguistic, ethnic, sectarian or any other distinction

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir on Friday said there was no space for intolerance and extreme behaviour by against anyone, particularly against minorities and vulnerable segments of the society. He made these remarks in an interaction with leading Islamic scholars (Ulema and Mashaikh) of all schools of thought here at the General Headquarters, an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said. The Ulema and Mashaikh unanimously condemned extremism, terrorism and sectarianism, and pledged their continued support for the unifying efforts being made by the State and security forces for bringing tolerance, peace and stability in the

country. They underscored that "Islam is a religion of peace and harmony, and its any skewed and distorted interpretations by certain entities is for their vested interests only and has nothing to do with Islamic teachings". The COAS, while lauding the "Paigham-e-Pakistan" decree by religious scholars to nullify misleading propaganda disseminated by extremists and terrorists, called upon the Ulema and Mashaikh for its propagation and implementation in letter and spirit, and shun internal schisms. The Army Chief signified the role of Ulema in harnessing youth towards understanding of Quran and Sunnah and character-building alongside other academic knowledge and technical skills. The forum unanimously supported the

government's steps, including repatriation of illegal foreigners, implementation of the One Document Regime, anti-smuggling and hoarding measures, and anti-power theft drive. It also fully acknowledged Pakistan's position and concerns on terrorism emanating from the Afghan soil and urged serious actions by Afghanistan to address Pakistan's concerns. The forum also expressed anguish on the ongoing conflict in Gaza and atrocities being committed against hapless people of Gaza and termed them crimes against humanity. "Pakistan belongs to all Pakistanis without any religious, provincial, tribal, linguistic, ethnic, sectarian or any other distinction. Use of force and armed action by any militia, entity or group other than state is unacceptable.

Under Health Card Program: Free treatment of heart patients starts at Sandeman Hospital. Hospital. The free treatment of the heart patients started free of cost under the Health Card program.

It may be mentioned here that the Health Card Programme was launched by the Provincial Health Department in Balochistan recently.

The CNICs holders belonging to Balochistan would be entitled to get free medical treatment upto Rs. one million under the Health Card Programme.

CT Minister for Education calls for taking right decisions to control situation after disasters

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Education and Culture, Dr Qadir Bakhsh Baloch has stressed that the district administration should take right decisions at the time of natural disasters and help the needy persons after

nar here on Friday. The participants were briefed in detail about natural disasters especially earthquakes, heavy rains, snowfall and floods as well as drought, fire eruptions besides the related issues and steps for solution to them

Dr Qadir Bakhsh Baloch said that the training and awareness is well coming for combating the natural disasters and the first provincial level simu-

lation exercise. The caretaker Minister for Education, Dr Qadir Bakhsh distributed certificates among the participants of seminar. The minister said SimEx has provided a platform to enhance the capacity of district-level stakeholders in disaster management and promote collaborative efforts towards ensuring preparedness and response during likely disasters. The purpose of conducting multi-hazard mock exercises was to enhance the preparedness and response capabilities of Balochistan's disaster management agencies to deal with emergency-like situations. Six syndicates participated in the mock exercise in Quetta, including representatives from the Armed Forces, Provincial Disaster

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CJP reconstitutes NJAC to improve efficiency of judiciary

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP), Mr. Justice Qazi Faiz Esa has reconstituted the National Judicial Automation Committee (NJAC) to improve the efficiency of the judiciary in Pakistan. The Committee will be led by Mr. Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, a judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, and Mr. Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, another judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, will also be a member. Judges from the High Courts and the Federal Shariat Court will also be part of the committee. The National Judicial Automation Committee (NJAC) will work towards the digitalization of the court's processes and records, introduce mobile applications for better access to justice and improve case management. The Committee aims to automate and integrate the judiciary and also introduce Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the legal processes and research. It will prepare a national plan based on technology and AI to improve the efficiency of service delivery of the judiciary. Justice Mansoor Shah believes that the justice sector in Pakistan should take advantage of the new devel-

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UOB to hold 20th Annual Convocation today

Independent Report

QUETTA: The University of Balochistan (UoB) is going to conduct its 20th convocation at 10:00 AM today (Saturday). The Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan will be the Chief Guest at the UoB's Convocation. The 20th convocation ceremony will be held at expo centre of UoB during which degrees and gold medals would be awarded to students (BS 517, PhD 21, M Phil 59 and Gold medal 81).



ISLAMABAD: Care-taker Federal Minister of National Heritage and Culture Division Jamal Shah along with the Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan Dr Reza Amiri Moghadam taking interest in posters during "Poster Exhibition".

Jan asks Afghanistan to hand over wanted terrorists: Interim Govt endeavouring to ensure repatriation of all Afghan refugees by end of Dec, Achakzai

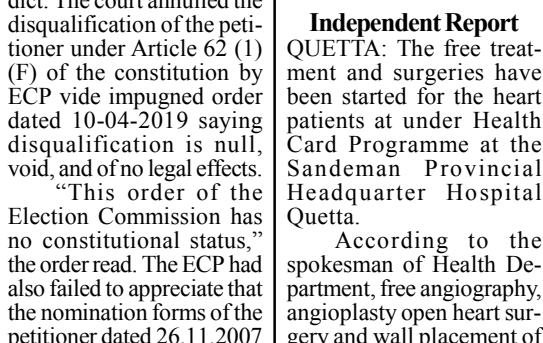
Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has categorically stated that it is endeavour of the interim government to ensure rehabilitation of all Afghan refugees by end of December this year. He mentioned that Afghanistan has shared the list of terrorists with Pakistan, however, it (Afghanistan) should hand over the wanted terrorists to Pakistan. He said that as the civil war has been ended in Afghanistan now, therefore, all the immigrants should return to their homeland. He said that it is the firm stance of the government that all the illegal immigrants have to leave Pakistan. Jan Achakzai ap-

would be made on the secret agencies. He asserted that the stern action would be taken against the facilitators of terrorists in the country. The Minister Information was addressing a hurriedly called press conference here at the Quetta press club on Friday. He said that as the civil war has been ended in Afghanistan now, therefore, all the immigrants should return to their homeland. He said that it is the firm stance of the government that all the illegal immigrants have to leave Pakistan. He said that unfortunately the land of Afghanistan government to abolish sanctuaries regarding terrorism from their land. He also asked the Afghanistan government to hand over the terrorists to us. He mentioned that the Foreign Office has shared the detail of existing sanctuaries of terrorism in Afghanistan with the Afghan government. He said that Pakistan firmly condemns every kind of terrorism and would not tolerate on it's land it all. He said that unfortunately the land of Afghanistan

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Advertisement for Balochistan Shuhada Forum. Text in Urdu: بلوچستان شہداء فورم. Includes contact information: HBL 300402443, PK74UNIL01900030040244:3 (IBAN), and website www.shuhadaforum.com.



QUETTA: The free treatment and surgeries have been started for the heart patients at under Health Card Programme at the Sandeman Provincial Headquarter Hospital Quetta. According to the spokesman of Health Department, free angiography, angioplasty open heart surgery and wall placement of the patients has been started in the Cardiac Department of the Sandeman

Education minister stresses technical education for economic development

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindh has emphasised the importance of skills development and technical education for the youth to ensure economic development of the country. He was addressing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signing ceremony, held at the Virtual University (VU) of Pakistan here on Friday. The MoU was signed between VU and the National Vocational & Technical Training Commission (NAVTC), aimed at jointly developing and launching technical and vocational education training (TVET) e-learning programmes. VU Rector Prof. Dr. Arshad Salem and NAVTC Executive



LAHORE: Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindh of the visiting in the auditorium of the University of Lahore.

CM orders crackdown on underage drivers Naqvi inspects work at Bedian Road underpass project

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has issued a directive to launch a crackdown on underage drivers operating vehicles and motorcycles without a licence throughout Punjab. Emphasising the need for swift action, he said that measures should be taken against such drivers to resolve the issue once and for all. Inspector General of Police, CCPO Lahore, and all RPOs were given explicit instructions by CM Mohsin Naqvi to carry out the crackdown. He specified that vehicles and motorcycles driven by underage drivers should be intercepted, with a daily report of actions taken to be submitted from all regions, including Lahore. Naqvi underscored the inherent dangers posed by young drivers not only to themselves but also to others on the road. He appealed to parents, urging



LAHORE: Caretaker Minister for Planning, Forests, Wildlife and Fisheries Bilal Afzal visits the Zoo to examine the renovation work in Provincial Capital.

Akhtar Hayat says: KPK Police strives to curb terrorism and ensure security

Independent Report
ABBOTTABAD: Inspector General (IG) Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Akhtar Ahsan Gandapur Friday has underscored the vital role of youth in preventing terrorism and maintaining peace in the province. Highlighting districts such as Lakki Marwat, Tank, and Dera Ismail Khan as more susceptible to terrorism, he revealed the uncovering of ISIS networks in several areas, including Peshawar. IGP Ijaz Ahsan Gandapur expressed these views while talking to the media after the inauguration of the new headquarters building of

Director Aamir Jan signed the MoU. The minister congratulated both the organisations for officially entering into a strategic partnership, saying that the collaboration seeks to revolutionise TVET in the country by leveraging VU's expertise in online professional development programmes. Madad Ali Sindh said that Pakistan's future lies in enhancing youth employability by improving soft and hard skills, required at workplaces. Elaborating on skills, he stressed the need to enhance opportunities for the youth to learn skills across country. He acknowledged the working of NAVTC and suggesting them to enhance their publicity campaign as it was also critical to achieve results. He was of the view that skills development and technical education have played an important role for country's development and also proved to be a source of opportunities for the youth. The minister expressed his displeasure at prevailing situation of the public sector schools, saying that the condition of government schools needs to be improved as education was among the basic facilities of citizen and around 80 per cent children are studying in these schools. He suggested that political governments should form a comprehensive strategy for bringing betterment in the education system and improving the condition of public sector schools across country.

Hearing of cipher case in Adiala jail adjourned till Nov 21

Independent Report
RAWALPINDI (Online): The hearing of cipher case in Adiala jail has been adjourned till November 21 without proceedings. The hearing of cipher case against PTI chairman Imran Khan and former foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi was adjourned in the light of stay order issued by Islamabad High Court (IHC). Judge Abul Hasnant of Special court established under official secret act heard the missing cipher case against chairman PTI and Shah Mehmood Qureshi in Adiala jail Friday. Former first lady Bushra Bibi and sisters of chairman PTI had reached Adiala Jail. The special court adjourned the hearing of cipher case till November 21 without proceedings.

CCPO orders swift action on pending cases

LAHORE (APP): Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Lahore Bilal Siddique Kamyana chaired a meeting of the Investigation Wing's top officers at his office on Friday. A comprehensive review of performance was held, focusing on pending road certificates, ongoing investigations, and elusive suspects. The CCPO expressed strong disapproval of sub-divisional police officers over their failure to submit pending road certificates, instructing them to enhance their performance and promptly resolve these matters. Directives were issued to the officers concerned to apprehend thieves, bandits, proclaimed offenders, and drug dealers, emphasizing the need for improved recovery. The CCPO stressed the urgency of addressing cases that have been pending for over a month and tightening the grip on individuals engaged in electricity theft. Bilal Siddique Kamyana underscored the importance of avoiding wrongful arrests and urged immediate action against guilty parties to ensure their swift apprehension. Emphasizing the prime responsibility of Lahore Police to provide a peaceful environment for citizens, he urged officers to contribute to establishing a secure society through their competence.



PESHAWAR: Governor KP Haji Ghulam Ali and VC SBBWU Prof. Dr. Safia Ahmed in a group photo with other officials after meeting here at Governor House.

Sufferings of Palestinians heart-wrenching: Governor

Independent Report
LAHORE: Country Head of Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) Ann Masterson, called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House Lahore here. Executive Director of a non governmental organization, Sabiha, working for the empowerment of youth, was also present on this occasion. During the meeting, the country head of (NCA) Ann Masterson told the Punjab Governor about humanitarian assistance to people in different parts of the world, especially in Palestine. Anne Masterson, Country Head of Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) said that her organization is working to provide medical aid to the wounded and shelter to the displaced people in Palestine. Speaking on this occasion, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that the sufferings of Palestinians, especially innocent children in Palestine, are heart-wrenching. He said that service to humanity is a noble spirit, and the way NCA is serving the suffering humanity in Palestine is admirable. He also appreciated Norwegian Church Aid's services for women empowerment, protection of minority rights, and poverty alleviation. Meanwhile, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rahman dispatched a truck of relief goods under the auspices of Quaid-e-Azam Trust (UK) to the flood-affected people in suburban areas of Bahawalpur Division at Governor House Lahore. Blankets and water Proof tents were included in the relief goods for the flood affected. Chairman of Quaid-e-Azam Trust (UK) Raja Muhammad Ishtiaq, members of the trust, Raja Arsalan, Rana Bakhtiar Ali, Sameer Ahmed and Chaudhry Iftekhar Ahmed were also present on this occasion.

Caretaker CM visits BKMCH, Police Control Room

SWABI (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Chief Minister, Justice (Retd), Syed Arshad Hussain Shah on Friday visited Bacha Khan Medical Complex Hospital (BKMCH), Shah Mansoor Swabi and Command and Control Room Swabi Police Station. Caretaker CM visited various sections of the hospital including the outpatient department, emergency, intensive care unit, laboratory and wards. He also met with patients and inquired about their problems and issues. He attended a briefing

Detention order for 30 days issued in respect of Khadija

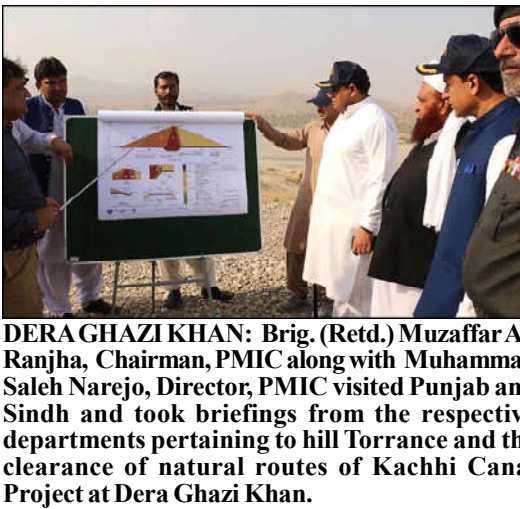
LAHORE (Online): Detention order for 30 days have been issued in respect of renowned fashion designer Khadija Shah. Khadija Shah was detained on the recommendation of SP Cantt and district intelligence branch. It has been said in detention notification Khadija Shah remained involved in violent activities on May 9. The material against Khadija Shah has been reviewed. She can create law and order situation again.



FAISALABAD: Activists of Pharma Association are shouting slogans during protest at District Council Chowk, to show solidarity with the oppressed Muslims of Palestine, in City.

LHC orders to arrest those driving vehicles without license

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has ordered to arrest those driving vehicles without license. The petitioner had made care taker chief minister Punjab and CCPO Lahore respondents in the petition. The accused challenged the inclusion of murder clause in the case in LHC. The accused Afnan took the plea he has no personal enmity with the victims and including murder clauses is violation of human rights. The accused is underage, therefore imposing murder clauses is illegal. It has been requested in the petition that court should order to abolish murder clauses in the case. Police had included terrorism clause and section 302 in the case.



DERAGHAZI KHAN: Brig. (Retd.) Muzaffar Ali Ranjha, Chairman, PMIC along with Muhammad Saleh Narejo, Director, PMIC visited Punjab and Sindh and took briefings from the respective departments pertaining to hill Torrance and the clearance of natural routes of Kachhi Canal Project at Dera Ghazi Khan.

Governor urges students to enter research based education, emerging tech

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali here Friday urged women to venture into emerging fields of new technologies and said that it would help enable our young generation to meet the challenges of existing scenarios. He was talking to faculty members of Shaheed Banzair Bhutto Women's University (SBBWU) and organizers of the Women Literary Festival here at Governor House. Vice Chancellor SBBWU, Dr Safia Ahmed and Organizer Women Literary Festival, Dr Hamida was also present. The governor congratulated faculty members for holding the festival and underscored the need to provide opportunities of co-curricular activities to students. The governor stresses upon faculty members to divert the attention of students towards research and innovation to improve their capabilities. He said that students should be more practical in their lives and focus their energies on achieving their goals and life objectives. Highlighting the significance of education, he said that the promotion of education is necessary to reduce social differences in society and to lead the country on the course of progress and development. Later a delegation of South Waziristan Lower, led by Moulana Muhammad Saleh called on the governor and informed him about the problems of their area. The governor also met with a delegation led by Senator Moulana Abdur Rasheed. Governor also met with former world squash champion, Atlas Khan, Asian Champion, Danish Atlas and Director of News Radio Pakistan Islamabad, Muhammad Sajjad Lakhani.



LAHORE: Country Head of Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) Ann Masterson, called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House.

Latif Khosa says: If you want to make Nawaz king and remove Imran then script will be worked out

LAHORE (Online): Senior Lawyer Latif Khosa said that if you want to make Nawaz Sharif king and expel Chairman PTI then script will continue to be worked out. We have not learned from history. We should learn. While talking to media outside Islamabad High Court, Latif Khosa said that we expect justice from court. Constitution should be followed. People should be given fundamental rights. He said that statement of Alimah Khan can be explained by her. I have no interest. When chaos is created in our country then there is an external intervention. Look at whole Islamic world, same things happened in them. Chaos was created in Libya, Afghanistan, Egypt and Iraq and foreign in and foreign intervention destroyed the country. A jail trial is not a trial, it is secret.

Commissioner Sukkur reviews price control

SUKKUR (APP): Divisional Commissioner Sukkur, Samiuddin Siddiqui has said that due to the effective price control mechanism and the measures taken by the government, prices of essential items have stabilized to some extent. He said that overcharging of even a single penny will not be tolerated in the price of flour, pulses, vegetables, and other eatables. While presiding over a meeting to review Price control in the district, at his office here on Friday, the divisional commissioner directed that special attention be paid to maintaining a balance between supply and demand of essential items as well as stability of the prices and no effort be spared in the provision of high-quality food items to the masses at fixed rates. He said that heads of concerned departments will also be accountable in this regard.



KARACHI: Police personnel knock at the door of Afghan refugees during a search operation to identify alleged illegal immigrants, on the outskirts of Karachi.

CS warns units manufacturing m/c rickshaws illegally

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman has ordered the authorities concerned to take stern action against small industrial units manufacturing motorcycle rickshaws illegally. While presiding over a meeting at the Civil Secretariat here on Friday, he discussed the issue of unregistered motorcycle rickshaws and decided to launch a crackdown on the workshops unlawfully converting motorcycles into rickshaws. The chief secretary said conversion of motorcycles into rickshaws was illegal, and the three-wheelers manufactured without safety standards cause environmental pollution and accidents. He added that unregistered motorcycle rickshaws had been given one month's time for registration and only those meeting the fitness criteria would be registered. He warned that after one month, no unregistered motorcycle rickshaws would be allowed to ply the road. The chief secretary also issued instructions to the Industries Department Secretary to prepare a strategy for registration of motorcycle rickshaws.

Israel resumes action at Shifa hospital despite lack of proof

Monitoring Desk
GAZA: Fear grows for patients inside after Israel renewed its military operation at Gaza's largest hospital, targeting what it claimed was a Hamas command centre - hidden beneath thousands of patients, medics and displaced people - an allegation rejected by both Palestinian authorities and directors at the hospital.

Israeli forces raided the Shifa medical complex "for the second time in 24 hours" using bulldozers and military vehicles, reported Wafa, the official Palestinian news agency.

The Shehab news agency reported early on Thursday that Israeli tanks raided Al Shifa from the complex's southern side

and that gunfire was heard in the area.

The Israeli military, which had previously accused Hamas of building a network of tunnels under the hospital, made no mention of finding any tunnel entrances in Al Shifa.

In addition, Human Rights Watch also noted on Thursday that Tel Aviv had shown no evidence thus far that would justify stripping Shifa hospital of its protected status.

While US President Joe Biden said Hamas had committed a war crime by housing "their headquarters, their military hidden under a hospital", he warned Israel to be "incredibly careful" of harming civilians during the operation.

Israel's army claimed an initial raid in Al-Shifa had uncovered military equipment, weapons and what spokesman Daniel Hagari described as "an operational headquarters with comms equipment".

A video narrated by another Israeli army spokesman showed rifles, ammunition and ammo magazines inside an area he identified as Al-Shifa's MRI scanner building.

But the health ministry in Gaza said the Israeli military did not find any weapons when it raided the hospital.

This claim was also denied by Hamas, a spokesperson for whom accused Israeli forces of planting "weapons, clothes and tools ... in the hospital in a scandalous manner".



Palestinians wounded in Israeli strikes lie on the floor at the Indonesian hospital after Al Shifa hospital went out of service.

UN stops delivery of food and supplies to Gaza as communications blackout hinders aid coordination

Monitoring Desk
RAFAH: The United Nations was forced to stop deliveries of food and other necessities to Gaza on Friday and warned of the growing possibility of widespread starvation after internet and telephone services collapsed in the besieged enclave because of a lack of fuel.

Israel announced that it will allow for the first time "very minimal" daily shipments of fuel into Gaza for use by the U.N. and communications system. It appeared the amount would be far less than what the U.N. has said is needed to fuel water systems, hospitals and trucks to deliver aid - not counting the communications network.

Israel has barred entry to fuel since the start of the war, saying it would be diverted by Hamas for

Canadian man found guilty of murdering four Muslims

Monitoring Desk
OTTAWA: A 22-year-old Canadian man was found guilty on Thursday of murdering four members of a Muslim family who he ran over with his truck in 2021.

The jury took around six hours to return its verdict on Nathaniel Veltman, who attacked the family in London, a town in Ontario province.

He faces a life imprisonment sentence with no chance of parole for 25 years. Prosecutors argued the attack was an act of terrorism, saying Veltman's own writings showed he was a white nationalist who opposed mass immigration. Five members of the Afzaal family were out for an evening walk near their home in June 2021.

Ukraine's power plants need missile defence ahead of winter: DTEK CEO

Monitoring Desk
WARSAW: Ukraine's largest private energy company is ready for another winter and Russian attacks, but its power plants need more missile defence systems to operate safely, Chief Executive Officer Maxim Timchenko told Reuters. Since Russia's February 2022 invasion, Europe, including members of the Soviet Union and the ex-Communist bloc, have supplied hundreds of transformers, miles of cables and thousands of diesel generators needed to light and heat the country in winter, when temperatures fall well below freezing. But the experience of the past 12 months has prompted Ukraine to seek more air defense systems to protect its critical infrastructure.

"We need more Patri-

Italy PM says deal with Albania on migrants could serve as blueprint

Monitoring Desk
ZAGREB: A deal reached this month by Italy with Albania to build centres for migrants coming ashore by sea could serve as a blueprint for other EU countries, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said on Friday.

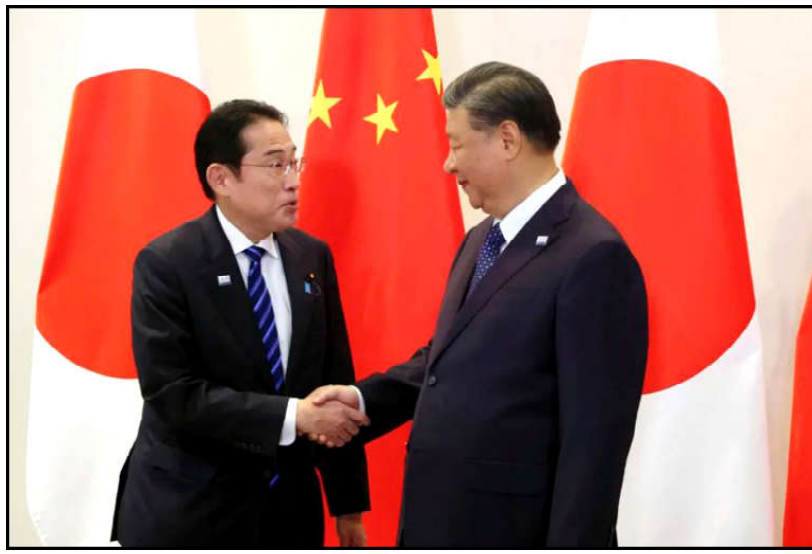
"I think this can be an example that other countries may follow, particularly if it functions well," Meloni said through interpreter during a visit to Croatia.

Earlier this month, Meloni and Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama announced a new scheme for Italy to try to bring down migrant numbers by building two centres that would initially host some 3,000 people when they are due to open in spring 2024.

The plan was immediately criticized by experts and human rights activists as being legally complicated and entailing lengthy procedures that could place unjustified burden.



A supporter of Argentine presidential candidate Javier Milei holds a fake chainsaw during the closing event of Milei's electoral campaign ahead of the November 19 runoff election, in Cordoba, Argentina.



Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Chinese President Xi Jinping shake hands prior to their bilateral talk on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, in San Francisco.

Japan, China agree on a constructive relationship, but reach only vague promises in seafood dispute

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed Friday to build a stable and constructive relationship but achieved only a vague agreement on easing a dispute over a Chinese ban on Japanese seafood, officials said.

Kishida told reporters after a 65-minute meeting with Xi on the sidelines of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco that they agreed to

US and Philippines sign a nuclear cooperation pact allowing US investment and technologies

Monitoring Desk
MANILA: The United States and the Philippines have signed a nuclear cooperation pact under which U.S. investment and technologies are to help the Southeast Asian nation transition to cleaner energy and bolster its power supply.

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. witnessed the signing of the deal by his energy secretary and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Thursday on the sidelines of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco. "We see nuclear energy becoming a part of the Philippines' energy mix by 2032 and we are more than happy to pursue this path with the United States as one of our partners,"

The top UN court has ordered Syria to do all it can to prevent torture

Monitoring Desk
THE HAGUE: The United Nations' top court on Thursday ordered the Syrian government to "take all measures within its powers" to prevent torture, in a case in which the Netherlands and Canada accuse Damascus of a years-long campaign of torturing its own citizens.

The interim order is intended to protect potential victims while the case accusing Syria of breaching the torture convention proceeds through the International Court of Justice, a process likely to take years.

The court's President Joan E. Donoghue said the panel was ordering Damascus to "take all measures within its power to prevent acts of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

The court also called on Syria to "ensure that its officials, as well as any organizations or persons, may be subject to its control, direction or influence do not commit any acts of

Biden to wrap up four-day diplomatic summit by meeting Mexican president

Monitoring Desk
SAN FRANCISCO: U.S. President Joe Biden concludes a four-day diplomatic push with China as well as other Pacific nations on Friday in a final meeting with world leaders and a visit with Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador.

Biden, who met with President Xi Jinping on Wednesday and used Thursday to highlight strong economic ties between the U.S. and the other Pacific nations, will have one final large gathering of leaders on Friday where he will formally transfer the chair of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation to Peru President

New Maldives president is sworn in and vows to remove Indian troops

Monitoring Desk
MALE: Mohamed Muizzu was sworn in Friday as the Maldives' fifth democratically elected president and said he will ensure there is no foreign military presence in the archipelago.

Muizzu, who is seen as pro-China, campaigned on a promise to evict Indian military personnel and balance trade, which he said was heavily in favor of India under his predecessor, Ibrahim Mohamed Solih.

"Lines of independence and sovereignty will be drawn clearly. The foreign military presence will be removed," he said.



Police stop activists of the Islami Andolan party during a march towards the election commission in Dhaka in protest against the announcement of the date for elections.

Bangladesh opposition mourns 'death of democracy' ahead of vote

Monitoring Desk
DHAKA: Bangladesh's beleaguered opposition says the winner of the next general election will be no surprise: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, credited with turning around the economy but called authoritarian by opponents, is set for her fourth straight term.

The country of nearly 170 million will vote on Jan 7, the Election Commission said on Wednesday, leading to jubilation for Hasina's party and a sense of resignation from the main opposition,

Parts of river Rhine in south Germany closed to shipping

Monitoring Desk
HAMBURG: Parts of the river Rhine in south Germany remain closed to shipping on Friday after a rise in water levels following heavy rain this week, German authorities said on Friday.

Rhine river shipping has been stopped around Maxau in south Germany since Wednesday night, the WSA Inland Waterways navigation agency said. High water means vessels do not have enough space to sail under bridges and the blockage prevents vessels sailing to Switzerland.

Finland will close 4 border crossings with Russia, accusing Moscow of organizing a flow of migrants

Monitoring Desk
HELSINKI: Finland will close four crossing points on its long border with Russia to stop the flow of Middle Eastern and African migrants that it accuses Moscow of ushering to the border in recent months, the government said Thursday. Finnish Prime Minister Petteri Orpo and Interior Minister Mari Rantanen said the southeastern crossing points - Imatra, Niirala, Nuijamaa and Vaalimaa - will be closed at midnight Friday on the Finland-Russia land border that serves as the European Union's external frontier.

It runs a total of 1,340 kilometers (832 miles),

Magnitude 6.7 quake shakes south Philippines, kills one

Monitoring Desk
MANILA: A magnitude 6.7 earthquake struck the southern Philippines on Friday, killing one person, injuring dozens and damaging buildings, authorities said. The quake struck off Mindanao island at a depth of 60 km (37.3 miles), according to the German Research Center for Geosciences (GFZ).

Angel Dugaduga, a disaster response official in the coastal town of Glan near the epicentre, said at least one person died and 18 others were injured based on an initial report. The town's municipal office building and gymnasium were also damaged from the quake and electricity had been knocked out by the tremor.

5 European nations and Canada seek to join genocide case against Myanmar at top UN court

Monitoring Desk
THE HAGUE: Five European countries and Canada are seeking to join a case brought by Gambia at the United Nations' highest court that accuses Myanmar of committing genocide against its Rohingya minority. The International Court of Justice said Thursday that Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the UK had joined with Canada in filing a "declaration of intervention in the case." The Maldives filed a separate declaration.

Under the court's rules, the declarations mean those countries will be able to make legal arguments in the case brought in 2019 following international outrage at the treatment of the Rohingya, a Muslim minority. Hundreds of thousands fled to neighboring Bangladesh amid a brutal crackdown by Myanmar forces. Gambia argued that it and Myanmar are both parties to the 1948 convention outlawing genocide and that all signatories have a duty to ensure it is enforced. It asked the court

More than 240 Rohingya refugees afloat off Indonesia after they are twice refused by residents

Monitoring Desk
ACEH UTARA: Some 240 Rohingya Muslims, including women and children, are afloat off the coast of Indonesia after two attempts to land were rejected by local residents.

Officials said the boat most recently tried to land in Aceh Utara district, in Indonesia's Aceh province, on Thursday afternoon, but left a few hours later.

It is the fourth boat to reach Indonesia's northernmost province since Tuesday. Three others arrived in a different district and were allowed to land.

Residents of the Ulee Madon beach in Muara Batu sub-district said they would not accept the latest group as Rohingya have come to the area several times and caused discomfort to the residents.

"From a humanitarian perspective, we are concerned, but from another perspective, they are causing commotion. We provided shelter to them, but we also cannot accommo-

