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PM Kakar congratulates team Australia on winning WC Travis Head shattered billion dreams as Australia wins 6th World Cup title

Sports Desk AHMEDABAD: Opener

Travis Head hit a sparkling 137 to power Australia to a record-extending sixth World Cup title with a convincing six-wicket win over India in Ahmedabad on

Sunday.
Chasing a tricky 241 for victory in the final, Australia slipped to 47-3 before the left-handed Head hit his second century of the tournament to steer the team home with seven overs to

Indian Prime Minister

the Indian team despite

"Dear Team India, your talent and determination through the World Cup was noteworthy. You've played with great spirit and brought immense pride to the nation," he said

"We stand with you today and always," he

Opener Travis Head hit a sparkling 137 to power Australia to a recordextending sixth World Cup title with a convincing sixwicket win over India in Ahmedabad on Sunday.

Chasing a tricky 241 for victory in the final, Australia slipped to 47-3 before the left-handed Head hit his second century of the tournament to steer the team home with seven overs to

Head's knock and his marathon stand of 192 with Marnus Labuschagne, unbeaten on 58, ended India's dominant run of 10 unbeaten matches at the event.

Head fell after his 120ball knock laced with 15 fours and four sixes before Glenn Maxwell hit the winning runs to trigger wild cel-

ebrations in the Aussie

'Just thrilled to be a part of it," man-of-the-match Head told Star

"It's a lot better than seeing the World Cup on the couch at home (on his injury). I was a little bit nervous but Marnus played exceptionally well and soaked all the pressure.'

India's chances of ending a global trophy drought since their 2013 Champions Trophy win went up

LAHORE (INP): Thou-

sands of citizens have at-

tended Jamaat-e-Islami's

(JI) Gaza March in Lahore

to show solidarity with

Palestinians in besieged

densely populated strip

and occupied West Bank

suffering from the aggres-

sion of the Israeli occupa-

organised the Gaza Solidar-

Punjab University (PU) Campus Bridge today which was attended by

thousands of citizens in-

cluding women and children. The massive public event was addressed by JI

Pakistan Ameer Sirajul Haq,

pro-Palestinian slogans and

demanded an end to Israeli

Protestors chanted

While addressing the

politicians and clerics.

aggression in Gaza.

Jamaat-e-Islami (JI)

tion forces

Continued on page 2

Thousands attend

JI's Gaza Solidary

March in Lahore

ity March at Lahore's nothing in the Organisation

Gaza March, JI Pakistan

Ameer Sirajul Haq said that

the innocent children of Gaza were waiting for the help of Muslim countries

amid Israeli bombardment.

the Muslim countries for

doing nothing for the relief

of Palestinians except mak-

ing tall claims. He also

criticised that the rulers of

the Muslim countries did

of Islamic Cooperation

(OIC) summit except for

was passed in the OIC sum-

mit, ineffective to provide any relief to the Palestin-

ians and stop inhumane actions of the Israeli occupa-

nationals including the

Continued on page 2

He lauded the Western

"A dead resolution

consolation.

tion forces.

He slammed rulers of



Australia's Pat Cummins celebrates with the trophy and teammates after winning the ICC Cricket

LAHORE: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Siraj-ul-Haq addressing the Gaza March

Govt of Balochistan decides to start crackdown against social media indulged in anti-state propaganda

Interim Minister for Information Jan Achakzai confirms reports about crackdown, reveals social media accounts and pages spreading baseless propaganda about expulsion of illegal immigrants identified too

Independent Report

ainst the social media indulged in the anti-state propaganda about expulsion of the illegal foreign immigrants from the country.

According to the official sources, the social media accounts and pages spreading baseless and false propaganda about expulsion of the illegal immigrants have also been identified and as such the social media companies are being contacted through PTA so as to block them.

It has also been decided to take action against those running such pages and accounts under the Cyber Crime Act of the FÍA, the sources informed.

taker Minister for Informa-QUETTA: The Govern- tion, Jan Achakzai also mation said that some ment of Balochistan has confirmed the crackdown groups were busy in the decided to start crackdown against the social media in- anti-state and anti-governpaganda. He informed that the government has decided to take wholehearted action against the social media accounts and pages doing posts based on the lie against the repatriation of

illegal immigrants. In this regard, the lists of such social media accounts and pages have been prepared and the same are being sent to the digital media companies through PTA. While on the other hand, the Cyber Crime Wing of FIA is also being issued directives to investigate into the matter and take action against those running these social media



BEIJING: Caretaker Adviser to Prime Minister on Aviation, Air Marshal (Retd) Farhat Hussain Khan speaking at the inaugural ceremony of Pakistan's Serene Airline operations at Daxing Airport.

Two real brothers among three killed in Kech roadside explosion

Independent Report QUETTA: Three persons

including two real brothers were killed in a roadside bomb explosion took place in Hoshap area of Kech dis-trict on Sunday. According to the re-

ports reaching here, a vehicle was on its way carrying three persons in Hoshap in Kech district when it was hit by a roadside bomb explosive device.

As the explosive device went off after the vehicle struck it, three persons died on the spot, the reports suggested adding

those dead were included two real brothers.

The bodies of deceased were removed to their native area Balgitar. The area levies and administration reached the spot after the roadside blast and started investiga-

Meanwhile, as per the initial reports, the deceased were carrying the explosive material themselves when it

However, further investigations were in progress till ours going to

The Minister Informaking pages and accounts

counts and pages would not only be blocked.

Chakwal seminary sealed after sexual abuse cases surface

CHAKWAL (INP): The district police on Sunday sealed a local seminary in Chakwal after cases of sexual assault and torture with multiple students sur-

Two seminary teachers were arrested and a case of "unnatural offences' was registered against them following allegations that

they sexually assaulted multiple minor students. The two accused – Zeeshan and Anis – were arrested after the father and uncle of one of the victims approached District Police Officer (DPO) a day earlier. The police claimed the ages of the victims ranged between nine and twelve and according to them, the abuse had been going on for at least three to four weeks. The accused were apprehended in two separate raids conducted in Mianwali and Jatli. Doctors at the District Headquarters Hospital conducted examinations of the victims and revealed that at least eight students

on the social media. The fresh example of

which is the propaganda being made against repatriation of the illegal immigrants and posts against the Balochistan Health Card Project, he added. Jan Achakzai asserted that it is the state's firm decision to repatriate all the illegal immigrants completely at every cost. Under the given situation, some people are defaming the country and becoming instrument of foreign elements by using social media accounts, he said adding that all such ac-

Pakistani Community, Saudi Employers and HRM Exec. Malik paves way for enhanced collaboration in Saudia's job market

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Jawad Sohrab Malik, focused on developing the Pakistani workforce in KSA during his interactions with Saudi employers and

human resource executives on his visit to the kingdom. In Saudi Arabia, he concentrates on solidifying connections and optimizing

SLAMABAD (APP):

engaged in in-depth discussions with Saudi employers and human resource

JEDDAH: Minister Overseas Pakistanis, Jawad Sohrab Malik meets with

During the meetings, SAPM emphasized the crucial role of human resource development aligned with the requirements of the Saudi market and economy. He highlighted that the

Continued on page 2

Pakistan budget insufficient to tackle climate change: IMF

ISLAMABAD (INP): The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said on Sunday Pakistan had limited budget to tackle the aggravated climate condition in the country. An IMF report on public investment indicated. Pakistani economy might be affected by 9 percent by

the natural disruptions. The report said Pakistan was among the coun-

tries more likely to be effected by the climate change and earlier 30 million people were affected by the floods in 2022.

The report said Pakistan's developmental budget was 14 time more than the climate budget and every year since 2000, Pakistan was facing over \$2billion losses due to the climate change.

Independent Report QUETTA: The award cer-

The ceremony was organized by the Quetta

The Minister Inforextra ordinarily in different

Pakistan.

dren Day is "for Every child, every right." It may be mentioned here that World Children's Day is UNICEF's annual day of action for children, by children, marking the adoption of the Convention on the

He said that the gov-Rights of the Child. ernment is paying special attention on health of children besides ensuring education for all. The caretaker Chief

Minister stated so in an official hand out issued here on the eve of Universal Children Day being observed today (Monday) all over the globe including

Independent Report

province.

The theme of Chil-

Universal Children's Day being observed today: Govt.'s utmost endeavour is to

get every child in schools, says

caretaker Chief Minister

Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki says we have to

provide our children bright and safe future

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that it is our government's utmost endeavour to get every child in the schools all over

> The Chief Minister said that the children happen to be the builders of future, and their best upbringing is essential for for-

mation of the healthy soci-

is why, the government is paying special attention on the health and education of the children, Mr. Domki maintained.

He said that the children below five years of age are being administered the anti-polio vaccine besides implementing the routine immunization programme to save them from various diseases. He said that it is our endeavour to get every child in school. The government has also taken wholehearted measures for recreation and sports activities for the children in the edu-

He said that we have to provide our children a cational institutions and bright and safe future. This otherwise.

Zardari says: PPP to emerge as majority party in upcoming polls

Peoples Party (PPP) and former president Asif Ali Zardari has said that the general elections in the country should be held on time.

In his statement, former president Asif Ali Zardari said that the country is moving towards transparent elections and the People's Party is fully prepared for it.

He was of the view as the conditions in the country are conducive, elections should be held on time. He said that we have confidence

KARACHI (INP): Co- in the Election Commission Chairman of Pakistan that it would conduct a

transparent election. The former president said that the People's Party is the only party which is capable of contesting elections in any environment and will emerge as the majority party of the country on February 8.

A day earlier, UK High Commissioner Jane Marriott called on PPP leader Asif Ali Zardari at Bilawal House in Karachi. A party post up-

Continued on page 2



Ali Zardari exchanging views with Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan during meeting held in Karachi.

Award ceremony organized to recognize invaluable services of women in different sectors

Caretaker Provincial Minister for Information emphasizes women leadership have to play role to cope with challenges of modern era; announces women summit to be held in Qta

emony was held to recognize the invaluable services of women in different sectors here at the Government Post-graduate Girls College, Quetta cantonment on

235,821

Afghans

return to

homeland

ISLAMABAD (APP): As

many as 235,821 Afghans

have so far been repatriated

to their homeland, accord-

legal foreign nationals, in-cluding Afghans, to their

homeland is continuing. Thousands of Afghans are

returning to their homeland

on a daily basis through the

Chaman and Torkham bor-

ders, thanking Pakistan for

its generosity.

The repatriation of il-

ing to Radio Pakistan.

Citizen Rights Movement where the caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai was the chief guest.

mation gave away awards to the women who served

sectors including education, literature, social work, health, sports and others. Addressing the ceremony, Jan Achakzai highly

appreciated the organizers for holding the award ceremony for the women.

He said that it is really commendable to recognize the services of women in different fields and award

The Minister said that the interim government is doing its best to shine in different sectors just to provide maximum relief to the masses

He also spoke at

length about the issues faced by the women in the society. He stressed the need to provide conducive safe environment for the working women at their

workplaces.
The Minister Information said they the women and children didn't get opportunities of working in government and private sectors.

However, wouldn't make allegations on anyone, but would take practical measures, he

Continued on page 2



showed signs of assault.

QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Information Jan Achakzai and others addressing the ceremony of Emerging Women Award.



KARACHI: Participants are holding awareness walk on the occasion of World Children Day led by Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqir, Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister organized by Social Welfare Department, at Defence area.

Imran was the chief de-

stroyer with four wickets

for 28 runs while

Mohammad Abbas Afrid

serious hiccups in their

chase of the paltry target

getting home with five wick-

ets and 27.4 overs to spare

Mohammad Haris top-

scored with a quick-fire 46

from 33 balls featuring

bizarre fashion as he inad-

vertently whipped the bails

off with his bat resulting in

a hit wicket off Ghulam

Mudassar. The other four

wickets to fall were taken

by Noman Ali (two wick-

ets), Danish Aziz and Saim (one each). Multan's Haseebullah took home the

player of the tournament

and best wicket-keeper

awards for his tally of 326

runs including two centu-

ries and 10 dismissals. Saim

topped the batting chatting charts with 397 runs in

eight innings and was duly

named best batter of the

tournament. Multan leg-

spinner Zahid Mehmood

and Peshawar fast bowler

Abbas Afridi were the joint

winners for the best bowler

award with 15 wickets each

For his impactful figures of

4-28, Mohammad Imran

was declared player of the

Sahibzada was out in

seven fours and a six.

Peshawar did not face

got three wickets.

Locals welcome resumption of Sibi-Harnai train service

ISLAMABAD (APP): Residents in the vicinities of Sibi and Harnai districts in Balochistan province expressed a collective sense of relief following the restoration of train services connecting these twin cities after a 17-year hiatus.

The restoration of this vital transport link has been warmly received by the local community, heralding the resurgence of economic activities and offering prospects for enhancing the standard of living.

The renewed accessibility provided by the Sibi-Harnai train service is anticipated to not only catalyze commercial endeavors but also foster avenues for

the locals to elevate their socio-economic conditions. "The long-awaited railway line, traversing rugged and perilous terrains, including mountainous regions, has been hailed as a vital transportation link in

the province by Muhammad Asfand Khan, a local resident told APP on He highlighted the re-

stored railway track's significance, providing an af-fordable travel alternative and a catalyst for economic growth in the area. Originally established during the late 18th century under British rule, this railway section was deemed instrumental in Balochistan's de-

(MCL), in Peshawar.

Train mows

down over

50 sheep near

Ahmedpur

Sharqia

played a role, while also

accusing railway personnel

of allowing the animals to

pass through a forbidden

Punjab govt

allows hunting

of partridges

for two months

LAHORE (INP): The gov-

ernment of Punjab has al-

lowed the hunting of par-

tridges from December 1

2023 to January 31, 2024,

vincial government's noti-

fication, hunters will have

to bring licensed weapons

with them for the purpose.

make sure that they do not

hunt while sitting or stand-

ing in their cars. However,

all kinds of hunting will re-

main banned in the areas

declared 'protective' by the

provincial government.

According to the pro-

They will also have to

but only on Sundays.

of Ahmedpur East.

2006, a banned armed organization orchestrated bombings that extensively damaged bridges and tracks along this line.

Hikmat Khan Bugti,

another resident, emphasized the absence of proper roads, making train travel a much-needed alternative. The reopening of this railway track drastically reduces the travel distance between Harnai and Sibi, eliminating the necessity for a 330-kilometer journey to Quetta.

"Prior to the track's restoration, our travel between Sibi and Harnai cost us Rs 1500 to Rs 1800 by bus. Now, we reach our

velopment. However, in destination for just Rs 220," he added. Harnai, previously part of Sibi, became a separate district in August 2007. Despite its predominantly Pashtun population, it is home to Marri tribes linked to Kohlu and Sibi's mountainous regions.

Sarzameen Marri, a local landlord, welcomed the decision to revive the railway service, believing it would benefit over one million residents in the Sibi division. "With the train service resuming, the scenic journey through picturesque landscapes is expected to attract tourists, showcasing the region's beauty," he added

SIVI

Peshawar defeat Karachi Whites to win Pakistan Cup 2023-24

Peshawar clinched their third one-day cup title after defeating Karachi Whites at Pindi Cricket Stadium by five wickets in the AH Group Presents TransGroup Pakistan Cup

Nabi Gul hit the winning runs for Peshawar as the Sahibzada Farhan-led side pocketed a cash prize of PKR 5 million.

Peshawar's last national one-day title win came in the 2016-17 season when they beat the same opponent at National Bank Stadium, Karachi in the final by 124 runs.

Karachi Whites began their innings patiently after being put in to bat first by Peshawar on a surface

that seemed to assist the to 103 all out in 31.2 overs. fast bowlers. The first blow arrived in the eighth over with Habibullah dismissed by left-arm Mohammad Imran.

Saim Ayub, who starred with 95 in the semifinal triumph for Karachi Whites, was the second batter to exit the stage when Imran struck again to have him caught by Azam Khan. Wickets continued to tumble as none of the top five batters could register a score above 13.

per Sarfaraz Ahmed was dismissed courtesy a sharp catch by Iftikhar Ahmed for just 22 off 25 balls. Azam Khan was the last man out for 30 off 46 deliveries as Karachi merely scrambled

Karachi Whites skip-



BEIJING: Ambassador of Pakistan to China Khalil Hashmi speaking at the inaugural ceremony of Pakistan's Serene Airline operations at Daxing

Travis Head..

Continued from page 1 over South Africa in

in smoke once Head got going with Labuschagne. Head's century was the seventh in a World Cup final and third by an Australian after Ricky Ponting

(140 not out v India in

2003) and Adam Gilchrist (149 v Sri Lanka in 2007). The bowlers set up victory for an Australian side that bounced back after two losses to win nine in a row as Mitchell Starc (3-55) and Pat Cummins (2-34) helped bowl out India

for 240. India hit back when Mohammed Shami shared the new ball with Jasprit Bumrah and struck on his second delivery to get David Warner caught behind for seven.

But it was Bumrah's double strike in quick succession that raised the roof as he had Mitchell Marsh caught behind for 15 and Steve Smith lbw for

Head stood firm with Labuschagne for company to thwart the Indian attack despite captain Rohit Sharma rotating his bowlers in a hunt for a breakthrough.

Head, who suffered a fractured hand in South Africa in September, was in danger of missing the World Cup but Australia kept him in the squad until he was fit

He hit a match-winning century against New Zealand in the team's sixth league game and after a few low scores hit an attacking 62 in his team's nervy three-wicket semi-final win

United Kingdom (UK),

France, Australia, Ireland,

United States (US) and

Canada for showing solidar-

ity with the Palestinians.

Haq said that the French

people forced their govern-

ment to change its narrative

through a powerful cam-

paign.
"The people of Aus-

tralia and Canada have also

exhibited solidarity with

Palestinians. I also thank

Thousands attend..

He turned India's nemesis a second time this year after his 163 proved decisive in Australia's World Test Championship triumph at the Oval in June. Head reached his 100 in 95 balls and raised his bat

dressing room. "What we've achieved today is unbelievable," said Labuschagne

to an applauding Australian

'It's the best achievement I've ever been part of. India have been the team of the tournament, but you know if you play your best cricket, you have a chance. Our bowlers were sensational and Travis put on one hell of a display," he said.

Warner said, "Our bowlers were fantastic, they set the tone from ball one. The fielding supported

Australia elected to field first and the players backed up Cummins' decision with disciplined bowl-

ing and impressive fielding. Virat Kohli and KL Rahul hit 54 and 66 respectively after Rohit's attacking 47 but the ball dominated the bat on a slow, dry

Head took a stunning catch while running back from cover point to cut short Rohit's innings off spinner Maxwell.

Cummins bowled Kohli, who ended as the leading batsman in tournament with 765 runs, to silence the crowd of 92,453 fans, who like the home team in the middle had a forgettable day.

Army to compete Faisalabad in National **Basketball opener** ISLAMABAD (INP): De- basketball championship

fending champion Pakistan Army will compete against Faisalabad in the first match of the opening day of National Basketball Championship for Men's 2023 starting from today (Monday) at the Government College University Lahore.

According to the Pakistan Basketball Federation (PBBF) Secretary General Khalid Bashir, top eight teams from around the country will be in action in the national men's Pool "B".

organised by Punjab Basketball Association and all arrangements have been completed for the successful five-day championship.

He said top eight teams are divided into two groups as Pool "A" comprises defending champion Pakistan Army, Pakistan Ordnance Factories (POF) Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Faisalabad while Wapda, Lahore, Navy and Islamabad are included in

Construction work of Rwp Ring Road in full swing: Commissioner

RAWALPINDI (APP): The construction work on the Rawalpindi Ring Road project is in full swing, and the land required for the ring road has been completely handed over to the contractor for the construction work, said Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Liaquat Ali Chatta.

He informed me that the caretaker, Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi, had conducted three visits during the last 25 days to review the project's route and observed the onprogress and inspect the going work.

project's earthwork. The CM had directed the authorities concerned to accelerate the pace of work on the project. Giving necessary instructions to the district administration authorities and FWO officials, the CM also ordered that all-out efforts should be made for the early completion of the project, the Com-

missioner informed. The

Chief Minister also con-

ducted an aerial inspection

of the entire 38-kilometer mercilessly Karachi crushed them along the The blame game ensued among locals, attaching the incident to both the negligence of the shepherd and the alleged oversight by railway staff. Witnesses claimed that the shepherd's failure to guide the animals safely across the bridge



KARACHI: Mayor Karachi, Barrister Murtaza Wahab addresses during the Sindh Moorat March to raise awareness and support for the transgender community's fight for equal rights held at Frere Hall in Karachi.

PPP to..

Continued from page 1

loaded on social media website X, formerly twitter, the former president was upbeat about the prospects of the PPP in the February 8 general elections. However, he expressed his party's concerns about level playing field in the run-up to elec-

They said Mr Zardari told Ms Marriott that one party [PML-N] was being given priority treatment which belied claims of the caretaker government of giving level playing field in

the elections The British envoy asked the PPP leader about the party's strategy and the prospects of polls on Feb 8, the insiders added.

The PPP post on X mentioned that the former president stressed the British government's role in bringing an end to the Israeli aggression in

Mr Zardari wished well King Charles on his birthday and congratulated former prime David minister Cameron on becoming foreign minister.

Sources informed that the British diplomat was eager to understand the PPP's confidence regarding the prospects of elections on February 8. She also wanted to know the party's strategy for the upcoming national elections.

PPP bigwigs have launched a series of remarks against the PMLN's performance in the 16-month stint of the PDM government.

41,000 students across Sindh participate in **MDCAT 2023**

KARACHI (INP): The Karachi (at Expo Centre), (MDCAT) 2023-24 was

3,600 for MBBS and 1,190 for dental studies were available at the public and private sector medical institutions of the province.

across Sindh participated in the test. Officials said four

Medical and Dental College Jamshoro (at Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences), Shaheed Benazirabad (at Bilawal Sports Complex) and Larkana (at Police Training School bus terminal).

A total of 15,000 students took the paper in Karachi, 13,000 in Jamshoro, 4,000 in Benazirabad (Nawabshah) and 9,000 in Larkana, they added. Speaking at a press conference at the Karachi Expo Centre on Saturday, DUHS Pro Chancellor Prof Nazli Hussain, who is the focal person for

Malik paves way for..

close coordination and a strong exchange of ideas among stakeholders in overseas employment to effectively leverage opportunities for Pakistani manpower in the Saudi Arabian mar-

gaged with the Pakistani community at the Consulate General of Pakistan in Jeddah. Prominent community members and business leaders discussed a variety of issues, including challenges encountered by expatriates, during their inter-

action with SAPM. the community, affirming the Pakistani government's

Malik shared the ongoing endeavours of the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis to address the needs of overseas Pakistanis, particularly those residing in the kingdom, and ensure their well-being.

ence from the Pakistani diaspora, including businessmen, professionals, entrepreneurs. SAPM's visit to KSA is a deliberate step towards bolstering cooperation in manpower employment between the two coun-

Aero-modelling Sports Club hold Aircraft competitions crowds of aviation en-

Peshawar Aero-modelling AHMEDPUR SHARQIA Sports Club Wows Enthu-(INP): A speeding train has siasts with a Spectacular crushed to death at least 50 Model Aircraft Competisheep and half a dozen tion at Regi Model Town cows at the Chani Goth area here on early Sunday morn-

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali talk-

ing to media persons during the Final Match of RMI Media Cricket League

Eyewitnesses re-The skies above Regi counted the harrowing Model Town, Peshawar, scene as a herd of sheep atwere ablaze with excitetempted to cross the Abbasia Link Canal Bridge ment as the Peshawar Aero-modelling Sports when a train- Hazara Exsuccessfully press from Rawalpindi to hosted a thrilling model in awe of their precision aircraft event, drawing and expertise.

thusiasts and spectators alike. showcased the incredible

skill and ingenuity of model aircraft enthusiasts from Khyber across Pakhtunkhwa Islamabad. Pilots navigated their meticulously crafted aircraft through challenging aerial maneuvers, leaving the audience

72 families forced to endure hardships in pursuit of justice

KARACHI (INP): 72 families are forced to endure hardships in pursuit of justice as they have been deprived of their rightful ownership of lands. For the past 28 years, they have been struggling, knocking on every governmental door but have received no relief except false assurances.

According to the details, the Association of Affectees of Plot Numbers RS-1 to RS-72 (ST-2) Block 10, Federal B Area Scheme 16, Mansoora, Karachi, have been continuously submitting requests for the possession of lands purchased from KDA (Karachi Development Authority) over the past 28 years, facing bureaucratic hurdles. There isn't a single governmental institution where the affected parties haven't submitted their requests.

Recently, the General Secretary of the Association, Professor Shariq Iftikhar Uddin, Meeting held in the office of Director Land KDA, Ashfaq Ahmed Mallah, urging their protest to be officially recorded for obtaining possession of the plots.



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) President, Asif Ali Zardari exchanging views with Salman Abdullah Murad, Deputy Mayor Karachi during a

Altaf says:

Muslim world should follow suit of South Africa to pressurizing on Israel

KARACHI (INP): The Gaza genocide, the biggest holocaust in the history of world is continuing with impunity because the Muslim world has failed to exert any pressure on Israel and its occupation army, said Pasban Democratic Party (PDP) Chairman Altaf Shakoor here Sunday.

He said the OIC, that is dubbed as the organization of the Muslim countries, didn't even summon courage to slap economic sanctions on Israel. He said the rulers of Arab countries have shown the worst cowardice of their history which is a shame for the Arab world

lukewarm.

that the Muslim countries should make their own political block on the pattern of the European Union and a military block like the NATO. He said attack on any Muslim country should be considered as attack on all Muslim countries. He said the Muslim countries should relax visa restrictions for their citizens and one common cur-

rency like the Euro should

be adopted by all the Muslim countries. He said in Karachi, the largest Muslim city in the world, no befitting protest demos and rallies against the Gaza genocide have been arranged. Even in London more and bigger anti-Israel rallies have been staged than in Karachi. which is the question mark on the courage of Pakistanis

and Karachiites. He said if the people

Altaf Shakoor said of the Muslim countries don't take to streets to express solidarity with the Palestinians who else would. He said the big political parties, PPP, PML-N and PTI have yet to stage a big rally in favour of the Palestinians.

Altaf Shakoor asked the government to order to hoist the national flag at half mast to mourn the killings of women and children in Gaza at the hands of the Israeli occupation army. He urged the caretaker

prime minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar to issue a bold statement against Israel to express the real feelings of the Pakistani people. He said Pakistan as the sole nuclear power of the Muslim world should have played a more assertive role against the Gaza genocide but this has not happened as yet which is very dis-

the people of Ireland, Washington and London for raising strong voices for Gaza." The JI Pakistan Ameer said that the massive rally was a 'message of death' to the enemy. "Israel is an evil state created

by the imperialist forces.

Continued from page 1 Palestinians have never accepted Israel and they are standing firmly against the occupation forces.

He said that Israeli people are also protesting Benjamin Netanyahu. Our public event gives a message to Gaza that they are not alone and we are standing sideby-side in this Jihad.

Sirajul Haq slammed the Pakistani rulers, saying, 'I wanted to see the prime minister, chief minister, Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) politicians in this march but the political personalities are currently busy lobbying in Balochistan and Sindh [for the forthcoming general elections].

Admission held afresh on Sunday across Sindh with 41,000 students take part in the examination. The earlier held test was cancelled after complaints of cheating.

A total of 4,790 seats

41,000 students from

centres have been set up in the MDCAT.

Continued from page 1 unwavering commitment to

paramount value lies in

The SAPM also en-

The SAPM assured

supporting the Pakistani community in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other

The gathering in Jeddah saw a diverse pres-

> He said oil-rich Arab nations have practically become meek slaves of Israel. He said the attitude of the whole Muslim world collectively to the Gaza genocide is shamefully too



AMABAD: First Lady Begum Samina Alvi inaugurating Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association's Annual Charity Bazar, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Late breast cancer diagnosis causes 44,000 deaths annually in Pakistan: Begum Alvi annual charity bazaar

ISLAMABAD First Lady Begum Samina Alvi said on Sunday that nearly 44,000 women die of breast cancer every year in Pakistan due to late diagnosis and stressed that thousands of women and their families could be saved if it was diagnosed at an earlier stage, with chances of survival up to 98 percent.

However, she regretted that there was a lack of awareness about the early symptoms of this disease in Pakistan. As a result, the disease kept spreading silently and proved fatal.

The first lady was addressing the Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association's (PFOWA)

bypass Sahiwal (KM 1099)

to western bypass Sahiwal

(KM 1099) in the north-

bound lanes will be closed

Moreover, on the Motorway Central-II, the

(Pindibhatiya to Abdul

Hakeem), three sections are

closed due to road work

from NFC Society (KM 1231) to NFC Society (KM

1231) in the southbound

lanes, from Kehror Chowk

(KM 862) to Evershine

pump (KM 861.5) in the

southbound lanes and from

Adda-5 Faiz (KM 908 to

909 SB) in the southbound

lanes, the spokesman added. He said that IMDC,

N-75 Highway (Islamabad

to Murree), two sections

are closed due to road work.

from 41 (KM Nursery) to 42 (KM Lakot) in the

northbound lanes, from 13

(KM 17mile) to (KM Due

to asphalt work) in the

northbound lanes and the

drivers are advised to plan

Motorway

due construction work.

'One of the major chal-

organized stalls on the occasion depicting the culture, cuisine, and artifacts of their respective countries. The proceeds of the charity bazaar will be used for the welfare of the lowincome staffers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The spouses Islamabad-based diplomats

Begum Alvi said that they had started a comprehensive, inclusive, and nationwide breast cancer areness campaign.

lenges before us was to convey our message to women living in far-flung areas of the country. Most of the cancer cases in Pakiwhich not only made the treatment painful and expensive but also reduced the chances of survival. Apart from this, mammography, ultrasound, and screening facilities are either lacking in our country or these facilities are very expensive," she added.

Referring to autism, children with disabilities, and the importance of early detection of breast cancer issues, she said that these initiatives hold immense importance, as they have the potential to save many

About progress on public awareness, Begum Alvi said that they had ring-back tone and messages, and in this year, over 140 million SMS on breast cancer had been sent to mobile users in Paki-

She said that now the number of cancer cases in the third and fourth stages has decreased in different hospitals in Pakistan, while the reporting of cancer cases in the first and second stages has increased.

Now, mammography, ultrasound, and screening facilities are being provided at subsidized rates in different hospitals across the country, and the number of these facilities has also instan were reported in the reached out to millions of creased, she added

1,700 centers nationwide offer free TB diagnosis, treatment: Health Secretary

ISLAMABAD (APP): The government is firmly committed to fighting tu-berculosis (TB) in Pakistan, offering free diagnosis and treatment at 1700 centers across the country, said Federal Secretary of Health Iftikhar Ali Shallwani.

Speaking at the Union Conference on Lung Health in Paris, Shallwani mentioned that the Government has allocated significant resources for the diagnosis and quality treatment of the disease. The Government has pledged \$33 million for this cause, supporting 1,700 state-of-the-art diagnostic and treatment facilities across Pakistan.

Shallwani emphasized that the Government of Pakistan is firmly dedicated to eradicating tuberculosis (TB), and comprehensive efforts are underway towards this goal.

than 424,566 TB cases were effectively treated nation-

persistently carried out the

distribution of aid and gifts

to Afghan refugees at the

lect-group of philanthro-

pists, IRCRA initiated the

assistance process for Af-

ghan refugees from the very

outset. Concurrently, vari-

ous charitable organiza-

tions, including local tribal

elders, actively participated

in aiding and supporting the

the Afghan refugee commu-

nity expressed gratitude

towards IRCRA and the

Pakistani community for

this compassionate gesture.

Muhammad Israr Madani

emphasized that a prosper-

ous and stable Afghanistan

Talking to media,

President

Participants among

departing refugees.

IRCRA

Supported by a se-

Torkham border.

IRCRA distributes

aid to Afghan refugees

at Torkham Border

The International Research achieve this goal, the orga-

Council for Religious Af- nizations, institutions, and

fairs (IRCRA) on Sunday citizens of both countries

must collaboratively

tribute. President Madani

underscored the need for

Pakistan and Afghanistan to

formulate a unified strategy

addressing common con-

cerns, such as terrorism and

extremism, to foster eco-

nomic stability in both na-

tions. He stressed the im-

portance of fostering strong

working relations between

the two fraternal nations to

address these challenges ef-

tude to the Afghan refugees

for their continual contri-

butions to the development

of Pakistan. In return, the

Afghan refugees acknowl-

edged the generosity of the

Pakistani people in keep-

ing their doors open during

challenging times and pro-

viding them with ample

He expressed grati-

fectively.

wide, with a treatment success rate of 94% compared to the TB cases reported in 2021. The diagnostic services comprise a network of 1,800 microscopy labs, 420 GeneXpert molecular diagnostics, 17 Culture labs, and 3 DST labs.

The Health Secretary revealed that 3,684 cases of Drug Resistant TB were registered for second-line anti-TB treatment, target-ing an estimated 15,900 DR TB cases through 50 DRTB healthcare services.

He mentioned that a TB/HIV Collaboration included screening 61% of registered TB patients for their HIV status. Additionally, enrolled patients received social support in the form of cash incentives, to-taling PKR 12,000 per month during their treatment. It was conveyed that over 7,500 healthcare work-In the year 2022, more ers have undergone training

doctors and paramedics. The Federal Secretary of Health disclosed that the National TB Control Programme in Pakistan, with backing from the Global Fund, WHO, and other collaborators, is executing a national strategic plan (NSP) from 2020 to 2023 aimed at eradicating TB in the country. Additionally

earmarked over USD 185 agnostics. from 12 to 136, fortifying 37 Divisional Laboratories.

million for tuberculosis (TB) in Pakistan, covering the implementation period from January 2024 to December 2026. Looking ahead there are plans to enhance the scale of rapid molecular di-GeneXpert machines from 420 to 774 in the year 2024. Other initiatives include expanding Digital X-ray and Artificial Intelligence (AI) machines for TB diagnosis

an NSP for the years 2024 26 has been formulated. The Global Fund has

increasing

Fog, smog to

engulf plain

areas of

Puniab: PMD

ISLAMABAD (APP)

Fog with smog is likely to

develop in plain areas of Punjab at morning hours during the next 24 hours as

per the Pakistan Meteoro-

logical Department (PMD)

for most parts of the coun-

try, while partly cloudy in

situation, a shallow west-

erly wave was present over

western parts of the coun-

main dry in most parts of

Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh.

Balochistan, Kashmir and

10 outlaws held:

drugs, liquors

and weapons

recovered

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad

Capital Police apprehended

10 outlaws from different

areas of the city during the

last 24 hours and recovered

drugs, liquors and weapons

with ammunition from their

possession, a public rela-

ing the special directions of

Islamabad Capital City Po-

lice Officer (ICCPO) Dr.

Akbar Nasir Khan, the

against the criminal ele-

ments in order to eliminate

team arrested an accused

Following these direc-

the crime from the city.

He said that, follow-

tions officer said.

The weather will re-

Khvber

Mainly dry weather

As per the synoptic

forecast on Sunday.

upper parts.

Puniab.

Gilgit Baltistan.

NH&MP issues updates ECP to settle delimitation disputes regarding road closures and traffic diversions

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Highways and Motorway (NHMP) on Sunday issued traffic advisory for travelers across Pakistan for the awareness about closures of several road and traffic diversions till next updates.

According to the spokesman of NHMP, the Motorway North Zone has issued updates for the commuters that on the M-1 Motorway (Peshawar to Islamabad) and told that two sections are closed due to road work from Wali Interchange (KM 450) to Near Wali Interchange (KM 451) in the northbound lanes, while from Near Swabi Interchange (KM 422) to Near Swabi Interchange (KM 422.400) in the southbound lanes will remain closed due to maintenance work

The NHMP authorities warned that Motorway Central-I that it one section will be closed from (Kot Momin to Lahore) due to

work. their trips accordingly and allow extra travel time.

for thirteen districts in next two days ISLAMABAD (APP): The two benches assigned by the Election Commission of Pakities said that the western

stan (ECP) are set to address representation filed in connection with delimitation of constituencies in thirteen districts on Monday and Tuesday.

According to the timetable provided by the ECP spokesperson on Sunday, Bench No. I will handle objections pertaining to Mandi Bahauddin and Khanewal districts, while Bench No. 2 is designated for objections related to Kech and Gujrat

The proceedings of the ECP (Election Commission of Pakistan) Bench will commence with Bench No. I focusing on addressing objections pertaining to districts DG Khan and Sahiwal on Tuesday.

Concurrently, Bench No. II will be dedicated to hearing representations concerning the delimitation of constituencies in districts Jhal Magsi, Jaffarabad, Nasirabad, Kachi, Sohbatpur, Usta Mohammad and Harnai on the same day.

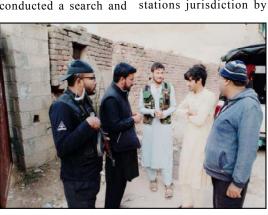


ISLAMABAD: Workers of Capital development Authority (CDA) is installing artificial green grass alongside Constitution Avenue in Federal Capital.

Search, combing operation conducted against illegal foreigners

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: According tives, a search and combing to the details, the Islamabad Capital Police Counter Ter- different areas of Bani Gala rorism Department (CTD)

Following these direcoperation was conducted in and Sabzi Mandi police stations jurisdiction by



combing operation against illegal foreigners at Bani Gala and Sabzi Mandi police station jurisdiction, a public relations of-

ficer said. He said that, following the special directives of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the search and combing operations are being conducted in different areas of the city, to ensure the safety and security of the Islamabad

CTD, FC, QRF and local police teams under the supervision of SP CTD.

During the search and combing operation 48 houses and 111 individuals were thoroughly checked, while 05 suspects were shifted to the police station for further verification pur-

ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan said that the purpose of the search and combing operations was to heighten the security in the Federal Capital.

NDRMF working out plan 37the annual general meeting to transform IIA into 'zero of PSDE to he held today

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) is organizing 37th Annual General Meeting and Conference of the Pakistan Society of Development Economists (PSDE) to deliberate on how international financing aligns with domestic growth agendas on Monday.

The theme of the event titled "Breaking the Aid-Debt Chains," which will be organized in collaboration with Bahauddin University Zakariya (BZU), Multan scheduled to take place from November 20 to 23, 2023, and seeks sustainable solutions to economic challenges, especially in the context of recent environmental catastrophes like devastating

floods, said a press release. A crucial aspect to be explored during the conference is the assessment of government spending at various tiers and revenue realization against potential over the last decade. This evaluation, encompassing federal, provincial, and local levels, is vital for achieving consolidated fiscal balances and efficient governance.

emission' EV-based airport ISLAMABAD (APP): was making dedicated ef-The National Disaster Risk forts in this regard to (NDRMF), a dedicated fi-"Moreover, the Fund nancial entity focused on is also working on the investments in disaster risk country's first ever risk fireduction, risk financing, nancing strategy, which will

and climate change, is workbe tabled at the highesting on a plan to transform level forum of the federal the Islamabad International cabinet for approval." The fund, he said, had Airport (IIA) into an emisredefined its role as a finansion-less electric vehicle (EV)-based airport, which cial intermediary working to will be the first of its kind strengthen the fiscal space of the country in terms of and an environmentally friendly initiative. dollar value by promoting Pakistan approved its carbon markets, saffron, EV policy back in 2019 and olive oil harvesting-like with its global nationally initiatives, whereas it was determined commitments also venturing into updat-(NDCs) pledged under the ing the oceanographic data

> also done back in 1986. The country has huge knowledge gaps in disaster

of the country, which was

ing of its conference of the parties to the convention and climate risk modeling (COP) forum to convert 30 that need to be addressed percent of transport over through modern and advanced technological solu-EVs by 2030. An official of tions providing informed the NDRMF told APP that it was a unique initiative to and real-time data. To adset a model of EVs replidress that issue, the Fund cable across the country has established a special and enable the key players data center with the assisto initiate steps for rolling tance of the Pakistan Space out better options for inand Upper Atmosphere troducing electric vehicles Research Commission (SUPARCO), which will be He added that it was a rolled out in January 2024 tedious task, and the fund and will be accessible to all.

Cutting educational expenses through novel methodologies

Islamabad Capital Police has intensified crackdown education expenditures were reaching beyond parents capacity, experts believe that modern and novel tions the Secretariat police teaching methodology

could be one of panacea to

address this issue. namely Kashif Igbal and recovered 190 gram heroin In a tug of war between the parents and owners of private educational institutions, either the students miss the opportunities of quality education or the lives of their parents become miserable.

citizens

The owners, despite earning significant profit, are often seen complaining of extra expenditures in running their institutions due to the price hike of essentials. If, for a moment, their claims were accepted, there could have been no justification for them to continue with this business if there was no profit. But they go with it, and the easy way to recover their expenditures is to shift the burden to parents through an increase in fees.

Therefore, educational experts have come up with the notion of adopting proper planning, the use of the latest technologies, and

ISLAMABAD (APP): As a systematic approach to continuously increasing reducing education costs at schools.

For them, it might initially seem counterintuitive to invest in new technology. However, choosing the right software and tools can reduce the need for working capital and minimize the use of material resources. 'In many cases, pri-

vate institutions are charging hefty amounts, and the government should actively engage with them to get fee structures rationalized," remarked former Vice Chancellor Allama Iqbal Open University (AÎOU) Dr. Shahid Siddiqui. "When they are earning millions of rupees, the chargeable amount is becoming unbearable even for middleclass parents, while kids of poor people cannot even think of studying at these institutions.

"The government and the owners of private institutions should sit together and think out a way forward to address this issue," he added. He pleaded in favor of

the idea of distant learning through the latest online techniques and said, "It will make us technologically efficient and help save money

Ďr. Siddiqui said different schools use bulk paper to maintain records of teachers and students and prepare reports, timetables, syllabuses, and much more. "Imagine how much money is spent on maintaining this physical record. But, by going paperless and moving databases to the cloud, they can cut down on a size-

able amount of money." He regretted that nonformal education had been a deprived area since 1974, as after AIOU, only Virtual University was established to provide distant education. "Virtual or distant learning is an easy source for students to access quality education on lesser fees than to physically approach the educational institutions.'

"Then there is another dilemma of the number of books and notebooks," he mentioned and said, "it is unkindness to our babies, seen carrying kilos of books on their backs."

"Why do we overload our primary-level students with books and notebooks?" he stated. "Can't we reduce the number of books and shift them to the latest modes of learning in this era of the latest technologies?"

United Nations Framework

Convention on Climate

Change (UNFCCC) meet-

He said the formal universities are converting to an online system, which will surely reduce the cost of education.

hardships of parents, Vice Chancellor Islamia University Bahawalpur, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali, came up with the idea of amending the laws and creating a corporate cluster by using the physical assets of education departments to earn money and provide cheaper education to students.

"We can use science and technology parks as money-making hubs, and by cutting extra expenses, we can establish 'endowment funds' at colleges and universities to support needy students," he stated.

Recently, the Higher Education Commission (HEC) under the Higher Education Development in Pakistan (HEDP) project conducted an extensive capacity-building session for public sector universities

on financial autonomy and revenue generation.

This meeting was aimed at encouraging higher education institutions (HEIs) to develop projects for generating funds and revenue to meet their needs. 75 vice chancellors, treasurers, and registrars from public sector HEIs discussed Keeping in view the the possibility of resource generation. As, for decades, edu-

cation has remained a neglected sector, the expert strongly pleads to enhance the budget for the education sector. "First of all, the gov-

ernment should take education as a top priority and allocate at least 5% of the GDP for this sector," said Renoqued educationist Murtaza Noor. "As per law, education is free from Grade I to 16, and the state should ensure facilities for such students, especially scholarships for those in dire need." He suggested establishing students' alumni to support poor students, control the cost of education, and award scholarships to kids from marginalized segments through charity.

was the shared aspiration opportunities. **CDA** initiates studies for recycling of capital's 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

"The detail of studies included waste characterization studies, waste generation studies, situational analysis report, municipal solid waste (MSW) collec-

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 mechafor optimum disposal.

tion, haulage, treatment and nism of solid waste minimifrom their possession. The disposal, rapid assessment zation, reuse, segregation at Margalla police team arreport of landfill sites source and recycling of waste rested an accused namely Islamabad and communicakeeping in view the standards Zeeshan and 20 liters of li tion and behaviour change quor from his possession.

ISLAMABAD: Japanese children performing traditional dance during Pakistan foreign office Women's Association (PFOWA) annual Charity Bazaar 2023 at a local hotel in Federal Capital.

Daily Joice of Masse Independent

Monday November 20, 2023

Rupee's recovery against dollar

The rupee is expected to maintain its upward trend in the coming week, helped by dollar sales by exporters and optimism about the country's economy following its deal with the International Monetary Fund for the that matter every, election. next loan tranche what the dealers and analysts believe.

The rupee recovered 0.36 percent against the dollar over the week, breaking a 17-day losing streak in the interbank market and rising from 287.55 on Monday to 286.50 on Friday. The local unit has recently appreciated due to the optimism sparked by the IMF review and its positive response, which boosted investors' confidence in the economy, according to dealers. According to a currency dealer, we expect the rupee's rally will continue as the market's inflows have started to improve. Exporters are returning to the market to sell dollars in anticipation that the rupee will appreciate further in the coming days. Improved supplies and a positive outlook support the rupee.

Worthwhile to mention here is that IMF staff and the Pakistani authorities recently reached a staff-level agreement on the first review under Pakistan's stand-by arrangement (SBA), subject to approval by the IMF's executive board. Upon approval, the country is set to get approximately \$700 million, bringing the total disbursements under the SBA to nearly \$1.9 billion.

The Tresmark, a financial technology firm, in a weekly client noted that "As soon as the staff-level agreement was announced with the IMF, the top machinery, including the caretaker prime minister, the interim finance minister, and the governor of the State Bank of Pakistan came out with guns blazing and spoke all positives to re-inforce the sentiment." It further said that the verbal intervention was accompanied by market tactics to bring down the local currency. Allegedly, import payments were postponed, and new letters of credit issuance were restricted and oversight in market trad-

The reversal in currency's trend has reintroduced exporters to sell for- encyclopaedia of literature wards, even though forward premiums and politics that have influwere down by 30 percent (one and three months ended the week at 190 and 430 paisa). According to Tresmark, the market now estimates that the Rupee will strengthen to around 282/\$, whereupon the SBP picture of the cultural that promotes a synthesis will restart its dollar buying. Positive news flows like lending from multilaterals and the IMF's executive board approvals will keep Rupee buoyant. As of November 10, Pakistan has \$12.5 billion in foreign exchange reserves, up from \$8.5 billion in May. The remittances and exports are improving. The current account deficit for October is expected to shrink to \$100 million. It is projected that Pakistan will get approximately \$1.2 billion in financing from the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank before the end of the year. The government also expects more inflows from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to support the country's economy. Over the last 20 days, the global oil prices (Brent) have decreased by 17 percent, from \$97 to stand words like 'woke' \$80 per barrel. Treasury bills and bonds' cut-off yields are trending downward. Due to the base effect and tight monetary policy and base effect, inflation is predicted to decline significantly starting in January; interest rates are positive on a forwardlooking basis. But it's too early to who complained they did claim success, said Tresmark adding that the geopolitical risks in the region are substantial, the US fiscal crisis is a global threat, highly likely opposite — 'truly underchances of recession in Europe, the UK, China, and swathes of emerging markets where sovereign debt trades at distressed levels, Ukraine/Russia conflict and China's epic property/ debt crises will keep markets on their not accurately representing toes. But the real disappointment is communities, or even trystill the slow progress of reforms within the country, which includes low productivity, low tax to GDP, fiscal mismanagement, energy reforms, privatisation of loss-making SOEs, etc.

No amount of verbal intervention and optics management will improve the country's financial health. With less than 3 months to the next elections, we can hear investors say, welcome to the real world. Positive developments are helping to sustain the rupee's upward trajectory in the coming days. The government hopes that the country's foreign exchange reserves will increase following the country's impending IMF loan installment, which will also facilitate the swift unlocking of financing from other multilateral partners that the government has already negotiated.

Level playing field?



Ahmed Bilal Mehboob

It is both fair and legitimate to demand a level playing field for the coming, and for The PTI, being the aggrieved party since its ouster from government in April 2022, has been at the forefront complaining about an uneven electoral playing field. But lately, the PPP has also been very vocal in raising its demand for a level playing field. Let us look at Pakistan's electoral journey before trying to unpack what constitutes a level playing field in the context of elections.

Although direct elections to four of the five provincial assemblies (Punjab, NWFP, Sindh and East Bengal) were held between March 1951 and April 1954, the first direct elec-

tion to the National Assembly could only take place in December 1970.

tion is considered the most fair and free in the history of Pakistan, though it is only true in a relative sense. As put by the late air marshal (retired) Asghar Khan: 'By Third World stanfree and fair." There were several complaints about the government supporting Khan Abdul Qayyum Khan's faction of the Muslim League even materially and the PPP loudly protested against what they saw as blatant support for the 'rightist' parties by the then information minister, Nawabzada Sher Ali Khan Pataudi. The playing field was, therefore, not exactly level even at that time.

The playing field was thoroughly uneven during the 1977 general election when the ruling PPP heavily rigged the election and faced the wrath of the people in the form of one of the bloodiest agitations subsequently. The rules of the game were drastically changed by Gen Ziaul Haq's martial law government by resorting non-party general elections in 1985 to fore-lowed to return to power.

The playing field was The 1970 general elecheavily tilted against the PPP during the fourth general election in 1988 when, as later publicly admitted and even regretted by the DG ISI Lt-Gen (retired) Hameed Gul, an alliance of anti-PPP parties bearing the dards, the elections were name of IJI was created and officially sponsored to thwart an overwhelming victory of the PPP both at the centre and in Punjab. The same pattern was seen during the 1990 general election when IJI was even monetarily supported by the DG ISI as later revealed in an affidavit submitted to the Supreme Court by retired Lt-Gen Asad Durrani who was DG ISI during the 1990 polls.

The Nawaz Sharif government was sacked by the president in 1993 on charges of corruption and misgovernance and a number of cases were instituted against the former prime minister and his party colleagues. They were greatly harassed before the general election of 1993, giving a clear signal to the fence-sitters that Nawaz Sharif and

stall the possible victory of PPP. The same story was repeated in 1996-97, when the Benazir Bhutto government was dismissed by the president and a number of criminal investigations and cases were instituted against her, her husband and her party colleagues and the state media ran a huge campaign to discredit her, to the point that it became extremely difficult for PPP to even run a meaningful elec-

tion campaign

Nawaz Sharif, who had won the 1997 general election with a two-thirds majority, was sent packing through a military coup led by Gen Pervez Musharraf in 1999. The next general election was held by the military government in 2002, while Nawaz Sharif and his family were exiled to Saudi Arabia and a 'king's party' called the PML-Q was created through the intelligence apparatus to do Gen Musharraf's bidding. The result of the 2008

election was also fixed, if one is to believe former prime minister Chaudhry Shujaat Husain who claimed in his book Sach Tau Yeh Hai (this is the truth) that Gen Musharraf had reached an understanding with the PPP to let the

party win. General election 2013 was relatively free and fair as there was no evidence of interference by the state intelligence agencies and a commission of inquiry headed by the chief justice concluded that "it cannot be said that on an overall basis, the elections were not a true and fair reflection of the mandate given by the electorate...". The PTI, however, considered the election heavily rigged and

against the election result. The 2018 election saw a heavily tilted playing field against the PML-N and Nawaz Sharif. It favoured the PTI, right from the preelection phase continuing in the post-election phase and beyond.

mounted an agitation

In this historical context, it should not be difficult to infer the kind of playing field one should expect for the coming election. If one has to assess how level the electoral playing field is, one can ask the following eight questions: how far are the election laws evenhanded? (Largely, these are, and they are not targeted at any party.)

How far is the Election Commission impartial

and neutral? (The PTI doesn't think it is, but the jury is still out.)

How neutral are the caretaker governments at the centre and in the provinces? (The general impression is that they are not

neutral.) To what extent is justice being dispensed evenly to all political parties and leaders by the lower and superior judiciary? (One probably needs to wait and see.)

To what extent does the state-owned media exercise neutrality? (Generally, it does not, but the outreach of the state media is limited, anyway.)

How far is the delimitation of constituencies fair and without intended disadvantage to one or some of the political parties? (It is premature to say as final delimitations will be notified by end November, but apparently, these don't seem to give an advantage to any particular party or parties.) Normally, the voters list is also an instrument of tilting the playing field but, fortunately, our CNIC-based electoral rolls are beyond large-scale manipulation. -- Courtesy

History, language and Sufism



Dr Naazir Mahmood

Seldom does one come across two books by the same writer that enchant readers so deeply.

As a student of history and languages, I am compelled to share my impression about Farrukh Yaar's books: 'Dorahey' (intersections) and 'Ishq Nama Shah Hussain: tasavvuf and malamat' with my readers.

'Dorahey' covers a wide range of topics such as belief systems, languages, places, and mythologies. This 230-page is a enced societal evolution in the Subcontinent, espe-

This multidimensional study presents a detailed causes that underpin the of cultures within and dissipated. It is the lamen-

sides of the border.

been experiencing for decades, or perhaps for centuries. Farrukh Yaar's main focus has been on the local dynamics of historical processes that have shaped the social fabric of this region.

The approach is entirely unbiased in advocating the local origins of local issues, as the writer believes that a denial of our shared history in the Subcontinent has caused much damage to societies in both India and Pakistan. This common development of society made this region a fertile land of cultures and ideas that shaped a civilizational identity we cannot just wish

Farrukh Yaar identifies the tendency of some local people to relate more with alien ideas and foreign denominations rather than associating with this land and its people.

A major weakness, as the writer highlights, in our through his highly readable ruling elite is that it has con- and convincing poems and sistently denied the poten- prose. tial of local creativity and diversity while stressing on ful composition of scatcially in Punjab on both a uniform culture and linguistic identity that people are unable to relate with.

'Dorahey' is a book

crises that this region has across the borders. The tation of a tragedy unfoldsyncretic culture that thrived here for centuries now finds itself threatened by parochial and hyperpatriotic elements who never was want to develop an artificial identity that is more exclusive than inclusive,

> based on hatred not love. The Subcontinent has undergone deep fissures and ideological clashes that have damaged cultural affinities, during and after the colonial period. This process of polarization has been increasing both unilaterally and bilaterally whereas religion has emerged as a major polarizing force nationally and internationally

> Farrukh Yaar attempts to reverse – or at least to reduce – this process by his books that challenge a tainted view of culture and religion. Peaceful coexistence is the mantra that he has been promoting

> 'Dorahey' is a beautitered concepts and expressions that used to connect, but gradually have lost their meaning as populations dispersed and cultures

ing, a representation of a more believable past – with warts and all – and not of a 'glorious past' that perhaps

To Farrukh Yaar, the glorious past is more of a deception than reality, and that is the reason he wants his readers to understand some real causes of our backwardness stemming more from cultural poverty than economic one.

aware of our disappearing identities that have torn apart the society itself while sapping all its energies and intelligence. He has been successful in bringing forth the pages of our lost histories and a composite culture that can still play a role in restoring our confidence in ourselves

since the 1980s when he contains some fairly inter- The News

was young. He has published four collections of poems with 'Karaiz' being a fairly long poem that has documented human struggle within a post-modern mi-

'taqayya',

'khalifa', 'jati sati', 'rawal',

and 'guru granth sahib'.

early 18th century. Then

he moves on to the war of

He received the UBL Literary Award for Best Poetry in 2018. History and research are his particular areas of interest with a specific focus on the 16th century Punjabi poet, Shah Hussain. While 'Dorahey' He wants us to be is an attempt to understand cultural ingredients of our

bakhti'

Linguistic and ethnic diversity is rooted in a shared past that we must resurrect to find our way out of this morass that has engulfed the Subcontinent for decades. His message is Sikh history and the clear and his style is con-struggle of Banda Bahadur

Since Farrukh Yaar is also a poet of considerable repute, his diction is poetic. He has established his name

esting vignettes about 'Dars-e-Nizami', 'Karbala Gamay Shah' and the origin of Muharram processions in Lahore.

While reading you find these figures in absolute rapture and ecstasy; they compose poetry, dance in unison, and at times work miracles.

The second chapter is about 'sangeet' (music) in South Asian mystical tradition with a reference to Shah Hussain. Farrukh Yaar has dived deep into every line of Shah society, his book on Shah Hussain, discussed the Hussain has a much wider provenance of the various The first section of ragas and explained the 'Dorahey' deals with bepoetic symbolism ingrained in Shah Hussain's liefs and mythologies wherein he discusses concompositions. After 200 pages of the detailed backcepts such as 'Nirgun ground to mystical thought in the Muslim world, the book gives an-The second section is about other 200 pages of Shah Hussain's poetry with achistory, mostly dealing with Puniab and its adjoincurate translations and ing areas. He begins with each word beautifully and a brief introduction to painstakingly explained.

'Dorahey' and 'Ishq Nama Shah Hussain' are against Mughals in the both worth reading. Farrukh Yaar and his publishers – Book Corner Jhelum and independence and the role Maktaba-e-Danval Karachi various personalities – deserve accolades for the mainly thanks to his poems played in it. This section two books. -- Courtesy

Being seen & heard



Muna Khan

Going to graduate school in the US as a mature student meant I felt a disconnect with younger students, especially around language and identity issues. It took some time for me to underand 'gaslighting' but it provided much humour in the

classroom. I was studying journalism having practised it for about 20 years and had more in common with my professors than students not feel seen or heard. I took 'seen and heard' to mean as sources in reporting whereas they meant the stood'. Who has time to sit and truly understand sources, people, communities when you're racing against the clock, I'd argue. They blamed the media for ing to, which is why the news media was losing audiences who feel invisible. I warned them that talks about feelings will not sit well in a newsroom.

Donald Trump won the election a few months into these discussions. His unexpected victory was blamed on Russian hackers, Facebook ads, Hillary Clinton; but a Harvard study blamed it on the "specifically the overwhelmingly negative tone of news coverage".

The very classmates I ridiculed had the answer to why the media got it wrong: the liberal elite coastal media did not attempt to understand or fairly report on Trump supporters. It was a big teaching moment for absence of values born of

me and I said I would al- kindness. ways try to understand the other perspective in my work but it's been a struggle especially when those oth-

ers use abusive language.

David Brooks' new book How to Know a Person offers insight on how to better see, hear and also be heard in an age where rael. The US has made a digital connectivity has caused isolation. That sense of being understood can only come from genuine rights and is fighting back human connections, he writes, and he offers practical steps on how to engage with people or reconnect with old friends.

This may sound like

self-help territory but unlike other guides, Brooks' book is meticulously researched. He references neuroscience, psychology, history, education, and the arts to present an understanding of human connections. His concern is to understand the 'decline' of morals in America and offers interesting tidbits, like how words in books have reduced in the 20th century. Using a software tool, he learned how 'bravery' was down 66 per cent in books, 'humbleness' by 52pc and 'gratitude' by 49pc. Parents aren't teaching their children about character, instead it's about winning.

Some of his self-help suggestions — how to start conversations — while trite, even silly, speak to a larger issue, not just in the US. Our screen time has upended our social skills. It was possible to have friends with opposing views on a host of issues but that seems impossible now. We — myself included — use emojis to communicate feelings. If you cut yourself off from emotions you risk cutting a respectful exchange of yourself off from intimacy

and life itself. Along with social media, he holds the widening inequality, populism, bigotry and a decline in religion and community participation responsible for an

Here, I disagree with him slightly based on my time as a student in the US where I saw an emergence of a new moral code and I believe that doesn't sit right with Brooks, a white conservative who supported the Iraq war and is pro-Isgreat deal of strides in diverse political representation, gender and LGBTQ against racist and anti-climate policies. It represents a rejection of a world order that has seen a rise of centimillionaires (people with investable assets greater than \$100 million) whose number has doubled in the last 20 years according to a

wealth advisory firm. I believe the pushback to Israel's propaganda is also proof that young people are calling out the lies because they now can 'see, hear' Palestinians, who have been denied space in the press. Go to TikTok to see the videos of users reading a 20-year-old letter by Osama bin Laden to the Americans and agreeing with him. There is a genuine interest in wanting to know, to understand 'others' and ourselves in the

This is the purpose of journalism and I hope the press can find its way back to representing communities fairly.

Of course, societies need more empathy and human connections are vital for us to thrive. It's why I support ease of travel restrictions between India and Pakistan especially for families and artists, sports people, students on exchange program-mes. Let us connect, talk, listen and have ideas so we can ease some of the social pain Brooks says we are all in. These small steps — versus grand PR-driven gestures — can help us become a better friend, neighbour, partner, values I hope we can all support. -- Courtesy Dawn

Issue of refugees



Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

Hundreds of thousands of undocumented Afghan refugees are returning to their country. In principle, it makes perfect sense. No country allows illegal foreign nationals to stay on its land. Pakistan, too, has that right. Notably, at this stage, only undocumented refugees are being obliged to return home. The caretaker interior minister said in a Senate hearing that the government would want the return of refugees to proceed without any manhandling, and with immediate

However, since this forced return has coincided with the steep rise of terrorism in Pakistan, a correlation has developed in the public consciousness that the expulsion of Afghan refugees is Pakistan's answer to the Taliban government's non-cooperation on the issue of the TTP, which is carrying out terrorist acts against Pakistan. This perception needs to be

redressal of complaints.

addressed. There is a view that Afghan refugees were victims of foreign aggression and oppression. Some would even suggest that Afghan refugees have lived in Pakistan long enough to be deemed economic migrants. As it is, many of those returning now might come back to Pakistan in the near future because there is no real economic pull for them to settle in Afghanistan. Hence the need to talk to Kabul for creating pull factors, such as offering land.

Amidst this diversity of views, the debate has

begun to affect the overall US pressure, Pakistan why the Taliban government is not sensitive to Pakistan's high concern about TTP-sponsored terrorism. The answer lies in recognising the fact that the Taliban of Afghanistan and the Taliban of Pakistan are two sides of the same ideological coin. Both derive their inspiration from the founder of the Taliban movement. The TTP helped the Afghan Taliban during the latter's fight with Americans. The Afghan Taliban are returning the

Further, the TTP wants to do what the Afghan Taliban would welcome: establish an Islamic emirate in the tribal belt straddling the Pak-Afghan border. It is clear that the Afghan Taliban are unlikely to take any kinetic action against the TTP on their soil. It is worth recalling how their first government defended the Al Qaeda leader's right to stay in Afghanistan despite intense US pressure.

Given these realities, our government needs to adopt a two-pronged ap-Politically, Islamabad should sustain its efforts to persuade Kabul to not allow the TTP to plan attacks against Pakistan using Afghan soil. Kinetically, this is a fight that Pakistan will have to win on its own, as it did in Swat and Waziristan. The perception of the forced return of refugees being titfor-tat action could have serious implications and cause an open rift with Kabul.

Let us also address a related question that is being asked, ie, why the Afghans are not grateful to Pakistan for all that was done for them in the past four decades. Indeed, Pakistan had helped Afghans push out the Soviet forces and also gave them humanitarian access during the USled 'war on terror'. Despite

trajectory of Pak-Afghan never took kinetic action ties. Pakistanis wonder against the Afghan Taliban leadership that often visited Pakistan to meet their families and receive medical treatment. Consequently, Washington accused us of playing 'good Taliban (Afghan), bad Taliban (Pakistani)', meaning a double

> In hindsight, when the US started a dialogue with the Taliban and managed to obtain some written commitments from them in return for withdrawing its troops in 2021, should Pakistan not have opened its own dialogue with the Taliban on how they should deal with the issues of TTP, border management, and the return of refugees, if and when they returned to power? They were under immense pressure and would have been more amenable to talks then rather than now when they are in power and unchallenged by any internal faction.

Yet, we must stay engaged with them on the diplomatic and political tracks for candid discussions on the bilateral issues mentioned. If we are to learn from history, all such matters should be discussed in Pakistan's parliament. A diversity of views enriches debate and helps generate sound and consensual policy decisions.

The Afghans tend to view their country as the 'economic roundabout' that could connect West and Central Asia with South Asia. They cite a verse of Allama Iqbal, which characterised Afghanistan as the 'heart of Asia'. This provides an enormous win-win foundation for both countries to work together on regional energy projects and transit trade. This will help make mutually beneficial economic projects the centrepiece of Islamabad's relations with Kabul, in tandem with Pakistan's pivot to geo-economics espoused in our first National Security Policy 2022. -- Cour-

CM Baqar condemns killing of children in Palestine on Children's Day, leads walk

Caretaker Chief Minister Justice (Retd.) Maqbool Bagar has said we are commemorating World Children's Day all over the world but simultaneously Israel is killing innocent children in Palestine, which needs to be condemned in strong words. This he said while talking to the media persons just after leading the Walk organized by the Sindh Child Protection Authority (SCPA) of the protection and care. Social Welfare Department

at Seaview to commemorate World Children's Day here Sunday. The walk was attended by Minister Health Dr Saad Niaz, Secretary of Social Welfare Department Sajid Jamal Abro, Secretaries and senior officers of different departments.

The event brought

together children, parents, community leaders, NGOs, and government officials. The Caretaker Chief Minister emphasized the significance of children's rights, their promising future, and the government's commitment towards Child Protection. We must remember the children being killed by Israel in Palestine," he said and prayed for their

The CM said that World Children Day observed globally each year dedicated promoting and advocating for the rights and wellbeing of children. He added that the walk was initiated to raise awareness about the rights and needs of children, emphasizing collective responsibility in ensuring children's secure and promising future.

completion of digital

record of patwar system

public service outlets/

offices by the end of this

concerned high ups to set

up a Centralized Monitoring Cell for the

surveillance of those

cameras and to put in place

a mechanism for direct

access of the Chief Minister, Chief Secretary

ANP Constituency PK 90 Candidate Yakub Khan, ANP District Kohat

Sher Alam Khan also

nature of the upcoming

election, portraying it as a

momentous opportunity

for the people of Pakistan.

citizens to choose leaders

wisely, emphasizing the

importance of candidates

dedicated to address the

fundamental issues

He urged the fellow

He also directed the



KARACHI: Sindh Caretaker Minister for Health Dr. Saad Khalid Niaz talking to media persons regarding MDCAT test outside Exo Centre. **KPCM** directs

PESHAWAR (APP): As an complete installation of

important step to ensure IPCs at all aforementioned

necessary steps on urgent basis to install live Internet Protocol Cameras (IPCs)

Minister, Chief Secretary and Inspector General of Police offices to those

Sher Alam emphasizes

significance of election

Nakband Sher Alam Khan Leader Rahab Noor Afridi

on Sunday said that the and the event organizer

critical and significant for address the gathering. In his

Pakistanis to find their address, Sher Alam Khan

destiny. He was addressing underscored the critical

public services delivery in

a more efficient and

transparent manner in

various service delivery

outlets of the provincial

government, the Caretaker

Chief Minister Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa Justice ®

Syed Arshad Hussain Shah

has directed the concerned

authorities for taking

KOHAT (APP): Leader of Awami National Party (ANP) Village Council

forthcoming election was

a ceremony organized

under the banner of ANP

at the constituency PK 90 in Village Council Nakband,

The event was attended by village

dignitaries, community

leaders, entrepreneur Farooq Khan and a sizable

number of local youth.

DCs, ACs, DPOs, DSPs need

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali inspecting the various stalls during culture day at Edwards College Peshawar.

Naqvi visits Chakwal, assures madrasa students of justice

CM also visits Bagh-e-Jinnah, seeks its upgradation

Independent Report

Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi reached Chakwal on Sunday and met madrasa students who subjected to molestation and torture by some teachers and assured them and their parents of complete justice.

According to a handout issued here, the CM acquired information about the incident and remarked that those responsible would not be responsible would not be able to go Scot-free. of police (IGP) had been "Children are our future and it is our responsibility investigating the case and trauma," promised Mohsin the park.

concerned to immediately

issue proper directives in

written regarding installation of IPCs at all

over a meeting of the Board of Revenue held here at

Chief Minister's House. Provincial caretaker

Minister for Information

4 international

smugglers

arrested

Secretary Excise Taxation

and Narcotics Control

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Ihsanullah Khan on Sunday

said that operations were

underway to eliminate

drugs from the society and

strict action was continued

on drugs smugglers by

arresting four international

smugglers. On the direction

of Secretary Excise Aftab-

ud-Din, Director Narcotics

Control Zahid Iqbal Khan,

Sved Naveed Jamal Circle

Officer Mardan Regio and Akif Nawaz Khan SHO

Police Station.

(APP)

PESHAWAR

He was presiding

aforementioned offices.

to provide them justice," he secretary prosecution said and promised that would perform his duty harsh punishment would be given to the culprits.

The CM was informed that both the

accused had been arrested after their identification through CCTV cameras. Talking to the media later on, the CM said, "We feel a lot of sorrow and shame over the incident. Every madrasa is not bad and few people had committed an

diligently during the court proceedings. The CM ordered for taking care of privacy of the affected children. "We honour the decision of not holding a medical. I request the local media not to make public the names and pictures of the affected children," he requested. "The affected children need to be brought out of trauma and their evil and immoral act." He normal life needs to be

the commissioner and deputy commissioner for undertaking measures for education rehabilitation of the affected children. The IG Police. Doctor Usman Anwar, RPO Rawalpindi,

Meanwhile, Punjab

Commissioner Rawalpindi, DPO Chakwal and Deputy Commissioner Chakwal were also present. Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited Bagh-e-Jinnah here on

Sunday and reviewed overall conditions at



HYDERABAD: Workers of Majlis Wehdat-e-Muslimeen participating in a solidarity rally in support of Palestinians at SSP Office Road.

Technology Dr Najeeb Repatriation of Ullah, caretaker Minister for Finance and Revenue Ahmed Rasool Bakhsh, foreigners continue in Chief Secretary Nadeem at patwar kahanas, police stations and offices of cameras via IP network. Aslam Chaudhry, stations and offices of He underlined the Additional Chief Secretary KP to their homeland initiate Syed Imtiaz Hussain Shah

and Tehsildars across the province implementation of this project without any delay and directed the quarter attended the meeting. repatriation of the illegally staying foreigners from different parts of the country, including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), continues, the home and tribal affairs department KP officials said here Sunday.

Last day, 472 more foreign families were sent to Afghanistan, including 901 men, 541 women and 925 children, the official said. According to the data of KP Home Department, 2,21441 people have gone Afghanistan via Torkham border

Likewise,

PESHAWAR (APP): The back home from Angor Ada, the official of the Home Department said here while another 419 foreign nationals have been transferred to their homeland from the Khar Lachi border. Since September 17, a total of 2,25,149 people have gone to their homeland, the official informed.

Similarly, 592 illegal foreigners were also deported through the Torkham border, a total of 3,855 illegally residing Afghans have been repatriated so far, said the official. As many as 3009 3289 illegal Afghans were foreigners have been sent repatriated from KP.

5 marriage halls sealed, 30 arrested over violation of rules

LAHORE (APP): The regulations and operating district administration has hour restrictions. sealed 5 marriage halls, registered 12 cases, imposed Rs 43 lakh fine on the owners and got arrested 30 people over violation of the relevant laws.

A spokesperson said here on Sunday that the Lahore division witnessed inspection of 316 marriage halls, and commence of laws violations at 25 locations.

district administration responded with fines totalling Rs 7 lakh and initiation of eight FIRs. Furthermore, three wedding hall proprietors

Rawalpindi division, 119 raids on marriage halls and marquees found infringements of the Marriage Function Act at nine venues. Consequently, a fine of Rs 5.15 lakh was imposed, leading to closure of two marriage halls.

Meanwhile, the Dera Ghazi Khan division underwent scrutiny with inspections conducted at 1,463 marriage halls. Violations at 15 locations resulted in imposition of fines amounting to Rs 4.65 lakh, sealing of two faced arrest for non-marriage halls, and compliance with one-dish initiation of two legal cases.

Ex-ministers quit PTI, ioin IPP

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and former federal minister Ali Nawaz Awan parted ways with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and joining announced Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party

According to party sources, Ali Nawaz met IPP Patron-in-Chief Jahangir Khan Tareen and President Aleem Khan in Lahore and announced joining their party. Aoun Chaudhry and other IPP leaders were also president.

Jahangir Tareen and Abdul Aleem welcomed Ali Nawaz in the party folds.

Separately, former provincial minister Sardar Asif Nakai also announced quitting the PTI and joining the IPP in a meeting with Jahangir Khan Tareen and Aleem Khan. Aoun Chaudhry, Samsam Bukhari, Nauman Langriyal and other leaders also participated in the meeting.

Over 13,000 candidates take admission test in LUMHS

HYDERABAD (APP): The Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT) for admission in the degree programs of MBBS and BDS was conducted at Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences (LUMHS) Jamshoro district on Sunday. The LUMHS spokesman informed that some 13,354 candidates including 7139 female candidates appeared in the test.

Minister for introducing Sindh's tourist attraction at international level

Provincial Minister for Tourism and Environment Arshad Wali Muhammad on Sunday said that the Sindh government was taking steps to introduce the Sindh province's tourist attractions at the international level in the World Travel Market, Sites with London. attractive scenery will be included in international tourism. He expressed these views while meeting a delegation of journalists.

The caretaker provincial minister said that the tourism industry is investing heavily in the world travel market and the Sindh government is trying hard to ensure that Sindh can get its due place in the industry

KARACHI (APP): The formulating an integrated strategy for aviation companies, management industry and guides to promote the trend of local and international tourism in Sindh in a market-oriented manner, resulting in employment opportunities at the local level and suitable environment will be available for foreign investment.

The provincial minister further said that the natural lakes and the difference in ambient temperature at the highest point in Sindh are a source of attraction for tourists, in the context of which the tourism department is making proposals for the promotion of the hotel industry, which will be finalized very soon.



HYDERABAD: Vice president Pakistan society of internal medicine sindh Prof, Bikha Ram giving shield to senior vice president Pakistan society of internal medicine Prof Aftab Mohsin during world diabetes day seminar organized by Pakistan society of internal medicine Sindh.

KP govt decides to make universities self-sufficient

Independent Report PESHAWAR: A high level meeting chaired by Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Syed Arshad Hussain Shah on Sunday

decided to develop financial plans to make all public sector universities financially self-dependent.

The meeting also decided to activate search committee

week to the provincial education institutions.
minister. The CM For this purpose,

administrative affairs and governance of the universities to solve the problems being faced by the universities. The chief minister

asked to promote high standard of higher education based on the demand of market adding that priorities should also be given to quality of research work.

He said the secondary appointment of Vice and higher secondary Chancellors. education system should The committee would be aligned with the submit its report within a priorities of higher For this purpose, the

emphasized to improve the CM asked to hold consultation with the



part in Sindh Moorat March.

Dadocha dam to supply 35 mln gallons water per day to Rwp City

RAWALPINDI (APP): years, Liaquat Ali Chatta The Dadocha Dam would said. help overcome water after construction of the dam, it would supply 35 million gallons of water per day to Rawalpindi city, Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Liaquat Ali Chatta.

scarcity has become a global problem and different countries are considering different ways to meet the shortage.

the countries suffering from a water crisis, the Commissioner said. Due to the non-

construction of dams, per

capita availability of water

Due to the shortage of

shortage in Rawalpindi as dams, millions of cusecs rainwater is wasted every year or causing floods, he

The government of Punjab is giving priority to the problem of water scarcity and is paying He said that water special attention to the construction of small dams, he said and informed that the approved cost of the dam being built in Dadocha village near Rawat Industrial Estate Pakistan is also one of was Rs 6492 million, which would now be estimated again.

The Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Liaquat Ali Chatta has said that construction work of here has decreased four Dadocha Dam would be resumed soon

Stemming out domestic violence still a far cry

LAHORE (APP): Despite beatings, and tragically Islamic teachings and essential legislation and repeated efforts to control this menace, domestic violence still persists in societies worldwide thanks to ignorance of people to religious and legal obligations and their deep entrenchment in primitive sociocultural

It persisted as an insidious issue in our society for decades that transcends geographical, economic, racial, and boundaries,

sometimes even murder. The repercussions extend far beyond mere physical injuries, reaching

JAMSHORO: Students are solving their question papers during Pre entry

test for admission in the Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences

into the realms of compromised health, weakened psychological well-being and profound emotional distress. Unfortunately, our country is also not immune to this pervasive problem.

The roots domestic violence are deeply embedded and multifaceted with factors women's inflicting its impact on education, poverty, lack of women through verbal a w a r e n e s s, abuse, physical assault, misinterpretations of

adherence to customary and prevalent cultural customs contributing to this menace.

Significantly, this issue disproportionately affects families in the lower socio-economic strata as men with higher education exhibiting lower propensity to abuse their family women.

'Besides factors, domestic violence against women is a case of failure of respective institutions in effective implementation of relevant laws," remarked Sabahat incidents.

Rizvi, Secretary Lahore High Court Association.

"Being practitioner, I can validly attribute the increasing cases of domestic violence to a general tendency of overall lethargy by such institutions and a spirit of male dominance in society," she added

Sabahat argued that women's welfare is not a government responsibility alone as she also pointed out a growing societal conservatism contributing to the rise in such

"Men, personal capacity, perceiving themselves as more powerful, engage in acts of violence against women," she explained. "Therefore, the remedy lies in proper awareness of women and rigorously enforcing relevant legislation to curtail men.'

The Punjab At the same time government has taken several measures to counter this negativity on part of men folk and its detrimental consequences by establishing Punjab Women's Helpline 1043 and Women Safety Mobile Application.



KARACHI: Parents of students waiting outside Expo Centre as the Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT) 2023-24 is being held.

Mudassar Iqbal says: UN FAO's 40 ambitious projects to revolutionize agriculture in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): strengthening Pakistan's innovation while helping The United Nations Food agriculture and food Pakistan adapt to the security sectors. These challenges posed by Organization's (FAO) on initiatives Sunday unveiled a dynamic portfolio of 40 diverse projects strategically dispersed across various regions of Pakistan. These initiatives, with varying financial parameters, and target hunger and malnutrition. audiences, underscore the FAO's commitment to fortifying the agriculture and food security sectors in the country.

In an exclusive panel interview with the Associated Press of natural Pakistan (APP), Country Representative Florence Rolle and Assistant FAOR (Programs) Dr. Aamer Irshad highlighted the proactive role of the FAO in numerous initiatives and programs aimed at

including spectrum, enhancing agricultural productivity sustainability, supporting livestock and fisheries development, implementing food security programs to alleviate

FAO's involvement extends beyond traditional agricultural support. The organization actively engages in sustainable resource management, providing humanitarian assistance during emergencies, and collaborating closely with the Pakistani government on policy development. Additionally, the FAO supports research and

climate change.

Rolle outlined FAO's

2023–2027 priorities with Pakistan: enhancing food availability, strengthening climate-responsive planning, and improving agricultural value chains The focus includes nutrition policy, climate frameworks, support for enterprises, disease control, and women's empowerment agriculture. She explained that project selection is based on a thorough consultative process. aligning with the United Nations Sustainable **Development Cooperation** Framework (UNSDCF) 2023–2027. The FAO's Country Programming Framework (CPF)

US transition

to electric

vehicles

faces delays

NEW YORK (AFP/APP)

The US transition to

electric cars has hit a speed

bump, with concerns about

vehicle range and limited

charging capacity adding to

weeks have pushed back

EV sales targets and

delayed capital projects as

they seek to reduce

inventories of unsold EVs

EV sales is much more

pronounced than it is for

other categories of vehicles

and that isn't related to the

economy," said Neil

problem attached to it," he

said. "It's a much more

difficult and complex

purchase because of the

range of the vehicles and

infrastructure."

Farmers

advised not to

burn paddy

stubble

LAHORE (APP): The

Department has advised

farmers not to burn paddy

stubble as it is an improper

way to get rid of crop

residue. A spokesman for

the department said on

Sunday that burning crops

residue causes smog, which

was a dangerous type of

leaves negative impact not

only on humans and

animals but also on plants.

High-level of smog affects

the growth of plant, he

added. He further said that

growers should avoid

burning paddy stubble as

this harms the fertility of

the land. The spokesman

He said that smog

environmental pollution.

Agriculture

Punjab

director of GlobalData.

The slowdown in

'The EV has a

managing

at dealerships.

Saunders,

Automakers in recent

core affordability issues.



KARACHI: Activists of National Union Trade Federation shouting slogans during protest against inflation in Pakistan, outside press club, in Provincial

Use of certified seeds crucial for achieving agriculture growth

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Pakistan Hitch Hybrid Seed foundation for robust and Association (PHHSA), sustainable crop yields. Shahzad Ali Malik Sunday Hybrid seeds, in said that the use of certified particular, offer numerous seeds, particularly hybrid advantages, such as achieving sustainable better disease resistance, agricultural production in and improved adaptation Pakistan.

Speaking to a delegation of progressive farmers, he said, "By promoting their adoption, we can contribute to increased food production, economic growth, and environmental resilience."

He urged stakeholders, including government bodies, agricultural extension

He said, "Certified to local environmental

conditions."
Adding to that, he said, "These seeds are meticulously developed through advanced breeding techniques, resulting in plants that exhibit desirable traits, ultimately enhancing crop quality and quantity." He said, "In the context of Pakistan, where agriculture plays a pivotal services, and seed role in the economy, the producers, to collaborate in adoption of certified seeds, role in the economy, the fostering an environment especially hybrids, can that encouraged the significantly contribute to widespread adoption of food security and economic development."

Railways retrieve 1,037 acres land from illegal land grabbers

ISLAMABAD (APP): anti-encroachment Pakistan Railways has retrieved as many as 1,037 acres of its precious land worth millions of rupees from illegal land grabbers during various antiencroachment operations

across the country.
"As many as 507 acres retrieved in Punjab, Pakhtunkhwa, 343 acres in Balochistan," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP on Sunday. He said that about

3,287 acres land in Punjab, 832 acres in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 5,180 acres in Sindh and 687 acres of land in Balochistan was encroached.

in light of the directives of the Supreme Court, the operations for retrieval of encroached railway land all over the Railway network were initiated and a joint procedure order was issued divisional all superintendents

retrieval of railway land from encroachment."The anti-encroachment 153 acres in Khyber schedules, on a threemonth basis, are being Sindh and only 34 acres in prepared and sent to all concerned in line with the joint procedure order," the official added.He said Pakistan Railways had also decided to accelerate its ongoing anti-encroachment operation against land grabbers across the country to recoup its land from

suggested the farmers to different individuals, bury paddy stubble in land The official said that groups, and even and later use urea and business organizations water as per the guidelines which were using of the Agriculture.

CHINIOT: A farmer busy in thrashing rice in traditional way in his field.



HYDERABAD: Hyderabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (HCCI) President, Adeel Siddiqui take keen interest at stalls during Furniture Expo

Govt's move of establishing **Industrial Advisory Council** commendable: Atif Akram

ISLAMABAD (INP): Presidential candidate of FPCCI, Atif Ikram Sheikh has commended the government's move of setting up the Industrial Advisory Council and Raza Mansha, Aamir assured the full Fayyaz Sheikh, Waqar cooperation of the business community. He said that the council headed by the Federal Minister of Industry and Production Gohar Ejaz, comprises reputable personalities have been included in the who will advise the council. government to boost industrial production in the council members include all country and tackle issues confronting industrialisation

Sheikh, who has also served as VP FPCCI. Chairman PVMA and President ICCI said that Muhammad Ali Tibba, Fawad Ahmed Mukhtar, Ahmed Malik, Abdul Samad Dawood, Shehbaz Yasin Malik, Shahzad Asghar Ali, Syed Haider Ali, Farooq Naseem, Ahsan Bashir and Sameer Chinoy

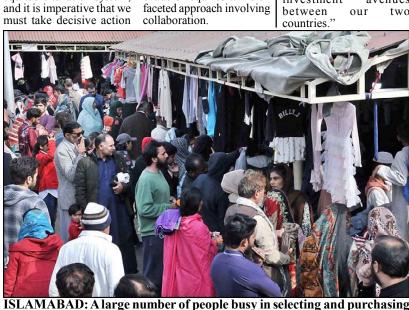
Moreover, the provincial chief secretaries, including the

chief secretaries of Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-In a statement issued on Sunday, Atif Ikram secretary, the commerce **Need urged for**

broadening tax base ISLAMABAD (APP): to identify and net those State and Federal Tax Ombudsman Meher Kashif Younis Sunday emphasized the critical need for broadening the tax base by targeting tax evasion in Pakistan.

Speaking at a round table conference themed "Impact of broadening tax base on the economy by checking tax avoidance " organized under the aegis equitable taxation system,

Coordinator to Minister of evading their tax obligations. The current state of our tax base is cause for concern, with a significant portion of potential revenue slipping through the cracks due to evasion, he said adding that this not only hampers the government's ability to fund essential services but also places an unfair burden on law-abiding citizens who fulfill their tax of Gold Ring Economic responsibilities. Hailing Forum, a strategic think FBR's decision of tank, he said our economic establishing 145 district stability and growth are tax offices across the contingent on a robust and country said identifying tax



second hand warm clothes at weekly Sunday Bazaar, Aabpara.

power theft in various

police stations whereas the

police also arrested 3,227

FESCO teams detected

electricity theft at 1266

points in Faisalabad

He said that the

Rs 478.5m fine imposed on 3,943 power pilferers

FAISALABAD (APP): were registered against The Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) caught 3,943 Company power pilferers during the last 72 days and imposed over Rs 478.5 million for stealing electricity in various areas of the company during the ongoing special anti-power

theft drive. Sheikh said here on Sunday that over 10.3 million charged. A sum of over Rs. 2,970 million was also recovered from defaulters. million under 1455,000 He said that 3,722 cases detection units.

Spokesman Tahir 3285,000 million detection detection units were FESCO teams caught 433

pilferers.

In Jhang district, the electricity thieves and imposed a fine of Rs.59.9

and private vehicles. district and imposed a fine According to DC of Rs.151.8 million on office officials, a team led them under the head of Commissioner Dera Farhan Ahmad, following the

instructions of Deputy Commissioner Mansoor Arshad, launched a crackdown on illegal supply of LPG.

Four LPG

shops sealed

in DI Khan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN

(APP): The district

tightened a noose around

illegal supply of liquefied

natural gas (LPG) and

sealed four shops over a

charge of illegally

supplying LPG to public

has

Assistant

administration

CDA needs to focus on development works in markets: Trade **Associations**

associations of the markets of the federal capital Islamabad have urged the Capital Development Authority (CDA to focus on development works in all major markets to facilitate the growth of trade activities.

They were speaking during a meeting at the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) on Sunday.

Addressing the office bearers of market associations, President ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that traders were paying various taxes to the CDA and were making significant contributions to its revenue, therefore, it was the responsibility of the civic body to develop markets on modern lines for smooth growth of trade activities.

secretary, the industry and

production secretary and

the chairman of FBR.He

said the council would meet

every week and submit a

report in 10 weeks, adding

that the business community is pinning high

said that the industry is a

struggling sector in Pakistan that needs the

attention of policymakers

as it can resolve the issue

of employment, borrowing

Pakistan's exports were

\$25 billion in 2013. These

are around \$30 billion in

2023. Imports were \$ 43

billion in 2013 against \$ 70

PFC delegation to visit

Uzbekistan

next month

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Executive Officer

(CEO) of the Pakistan

Furniture Council (PFC),

Mian Kashif Ashfaq, said on Sunday that a PFC

delegation was set to visit

Uzbekistan next month for

the promotion of bilateral

directors meeting, he said,

"The primary purpose of

this visit is to explore and

enhance the possibilities of

expanding trade relations,

identifying potential

joint

avenues

fostering

collaboration,

investment

Chairing the board of

He informed that

and forex earnings.

billion in 2023.

The business leader

hopes on them.

He said that with the efforts of ICCI, CDA has allocated spaces in various markets for the installation of filtration plants and assured that ICCI would keep pushing CDA for the uplift of markets. He said

ISLAMABAD (INP): that ICCI in collaboration The presidents of trade with market associations was planning to organize a winter festival in Islamabad and hoped that all markets would fully cooperate in making the festival successful.

Vice President ICCI Engineer Azhar ul Islam Zafar said that unity among traders is the key requirement to get their issues resolved and assured that the ICCI would keep fighting for their cause.

Group Leader ICCI Khalid Iqbal Malik said that the business community was the main stakeholder in the revenue generation of the CDA and the civic body should compensate them by ensuring better development of all the markets. Former President and Secretary General UBG Pakistan, Zafar Bakhtawari said that Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari was making all-out efforts to resolve the key issues of the business community and assured that he would continue to work closely with the CDA to start the needed development works

in the markets.



in a Sunday weekly bazaar at North Karachi area.

Pakistan's Serene Airlines inaugural flight arrives in Beijing, China

Pakistan's private Serene investment, trade, travel Airlines started its operation for China with its inaugural flight arriving at the Daxing International increased business,

stopping in Islamabad and

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, Caretaker Adviser to the Prime Minister on Aviation, Air Marshal (Retd) Farhat Hussain commencement of this flight operation as another milestone in advancing China-Pakistan relations through connectivity, travel and tourism.

It also signified Pakistan's commitment to providing seamless travel facilities to the people of the two nations and fostering strong people-topeople ties.

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Khalil Hashmi said that the launching of airline services by the private sector will not only between Pakistan and

(APP): China but also boost and tourism.

The new route is Airport Beijing on Sunday.
The flight originated from Karachi while nations, he added.

He noted that in then left for Daxing airport addition to bolstering in Beijing. The maiden economic ties, increasing flight was received amidst air connectivity aims to contribute to the growth of the tourism sector as well.

As part of the launch celebration, Serene Airlines hosted a ceremonial event at Beijing Daxin Airport, (Retd) Farhat Hussain attended by government Khan described the officials, diplomats and representatives from the aviation industry of China and Pakistan.

Meanwhile, the Head of Serene Air's Beijing representative office, Zeng Qiang said that the inauguration of the new China-Pakistan international route signifies the growing friendship between our two countries. We are optimistic about increased Pak-China collaboration in the aviation sector."

He also highlighted the recent signing of a strengthen the air bridge General Sales Agent (GSA) joint venture agreement



antique vehicles during Annual Vintage and Classic Car Show 2023 held at Services Club Pakistan in Peshawar.

Grand Souq Lahore to foster business growth, say experts

Authority (PCBDDA), also known as Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab), has announced the launch of Grand Souq Lahore (GSL). to foster local and national business growth.

It will be constructed at an expansive 68-kanal area at the Rescue 1122 Academy at LOS bus stop, Ferozepur Road, here. A spokesperson for the CBD told APP that the project aims at facilitating and empowering the local business community,

LAHORE (APP): The drawing inspiration from Punjab Central Business international architectural District Development marvels in Dubai and Turkey, adding it will be meticulously crafted to meet global standards.

To further ease business operations, CBD Punjab has introduced an accessible installment plan interested stakeholders, he said. The GSL will boast an outstanding sophisticated infrastructure in local

history, including three floors with versatile retail spaces ranging from 350 to 550 square feet and underground parking, he added. CEO CBD Punjab, adding the project Imran Amin, while landscape, providing a construction would be expressing his plans for the platform for local

construction of mega project told APP on Sunday that the local business community and investors serve as the backbone of our economy.

Grand Souq Lahore is an anticipated hope marking a significant milestone in empowering these enterprises while fostering economic growth.

To a query he said that the strategic location of GSL at LOS here ensures accessibility for visitors from key areas such as Ferozepur Road, Shadman, Icchra, and Samnabad, adding the project is poised to transform the business

businesses, thriving and Amin further expressed meet to diverse consumer needs

Exploring immense potential of GSL. business industry experts anticipate it to be a gamechanger, elevating the local economy and setting new benchmarks in business development.

The project would further help promote environment-friendly urban regeneration projects on vertical principles. Pre-financial feasibility has been determined based on development as economic advancement and shall generate employment in various formations of the characteristics project, Amin said. Imran

that development shall also enhance vertical activity in the surrounding areas, GSL, especially within the main markets including Anarkali, Gulberg, Mall Road, and other commercial activity areas with a boost in major business activity. Imran Amin further said the GSL project would be associated with CBD directly and that development has been categorized into five districts namely, Commercial Zone, Digital District, Residential District, Entertainment

and Government Zone.

each district having unique

dvnamics

Heavy fighting in north Gaza after hostage deal report denied

Monitoring Desk GAZA: Fighting raged on Sunday between Hamas militants and Israeli forces in parts of north Gaza and Israeli air strikes killed dozens of Palestinians in the enclave's centre, witnesses said, as a report of a tenta-

tive hostage release deal was denied. The Washington Post reported that Israel and Hamas had reached a tentative US-brokered agreement to free dozens of women and children held hostage in Gaza in exchange for a five-day pause in their war, citing people familiar with the matter.

It said the hostage release could begin within the next several days, barring last-minute hitches. All parties would freeze combat operations for at least five days while 50 or more hostages are released in groups

every 24 hours, the Post reported. Hamas took about 240 hostages during its deadly cross-border rampage into Israeli communities on Oct. 7.

The pause is also in-

tended to allow a significant amount of humanitarian aid in, the newspaper reported, adding that the outline of the deal was put together during weeks of talks in Qatar. But both Israel's prime minister and US officials said no agreement had been hammered out yet, with a White House spokesperson saying efforts were continuing to clinch a deal. The Post's report came as Israel appeared to be preparing to expand its offensive against Hamas militants to densely populated Gaza's southern half after air strikes killed dozens of Palestinians, includ-

ing civilians reportedly shel-

tering at two schools. Israeli forces invaded late last month after a devastating aerial blitz in response to Hamas's attack, and say they have wrested control of large areas of the north and northwest around Gaza City.

But guerrilla-style Hamas resistance remains fierce in pockets of the heavily urbanised north including parts of Gaza City and the sprawling Jabalia and Beach refugee camps according to Hamas and local witnesses. Witnesses reported heavy fighting overnight between Hamas gunmen and Israeli ground forces trying to advance into Jabalia, the largest of the enclave's camps with nearly 100,000 people, most of whom rejected Israeli appeals to evacuate to



cellor Olaf Scholz before the "Compact with Africa" summit in Berlin,

Japanese troops drill on island seen as vulnerable to China

Monitoring Desk

JAPAN: Japanese marines in amphibious assault vehicles stormed an island beach at the edge of the East China Sea on Sunday in a simulated attack to dislodge invaders from territory that Tokyo worries is vulnerable to attack from China.

As tensions run high with neighbours China, Russia and North Korea, the drill on the southwest island of Tokunoshima capped an 11-day series of exercises nationwide dubbed 05JX, meant to show the readiness of landing ships anchored off-

Monitoring Desk

YEREVAN: Armenia and

Azerbaijan have been able

to agree on the basic prin-

ciples for a peace treaty but

are still "speaking different

diplomatic languages", Ar-

menian Prime Minister

Nikol Pashinyan said on

The two countries have been at odds for de-

cades, most notably over

the breakaway Azerbaijani

region of Nagorno-

Karabakh, which Baku's

forces recaptured in Sep-

tember, prompting a mass agreed.

Saturday, according to things Russia's TASS news "

ground, sea and air forces to defend Japan's territory and infrastructure, including nuclear power plants. "The goal of JX is to show that if there is an emer-

gency situation resulting from an attack, that we are able respond in a joint way,' General Yoshihide Yoshida, chief of staff of the Self-Defence Forces' Joint Staff, said after observing the drill on Tokunoshima.

Ground Self-Defence Force amphibious assault vehicles launched from two Maritime Self-Defense Force

exodus of ethnic Armenians

there had been some

progress in talks over a

peace treaty even though he

was cited as saying that the

two countries still often

struggled to agree on some

bad news about the Arme-

nia-Azerbaijan peace pro-cess," TASS quoted Pashinyan as saying in

basic principles of peace

Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force's Amphibious Rapid Deployment Bri-

gade (ARDB) soldiers take part in a marine landing drill as a part of the

country's nationwide 05JX military exercises at Tokunoshima island,

ment of the missile which will

contribute to the lasting cred-

ibility of France's oceanic de-

terrence in coming decades,

the ministry said in a state-

ment on Sunday. It added that

with Azerbaijan have been

But Pashinyan said

'We have good and

"It is good that the

Azerbaijan, Armenia

agree on principles of

peace treaty

shore. Other troops arrived in semi-inflatable rubber boats, with heavy equipment carried to shore on military hovercraft. Unlike many of the beaches along Japan's southwest island chain stretching toward Taiwan, the one on Tokunoshima does not have a coral reef that would make military operations more difficult.

The scope and pace of military exercises in Japan are likely to increase over the next few years, including with US forces, after Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in December.

US sees 'significant pause' if prisoners are released

Monitoring Desk

Joe Biden's main adviser on Saturday there would be a "significant pause" in fighting if Hamas agrees to re-

tarian relief, the surge in fuel, the pause... will come when hostages are released," Brett McGurk told a security conference in Bahrain.

Release of a large number of prisoners would result in "a significant

MANAMA: US President

the Middle East said on lease prisoners. The surge in humani-

pause... and a massive surge of humanitarian re-lief", he said.

APEC divided on wars in Gaza, Ukraine

Monitoring Desk SAN FRANCISCO: Pa-

cific Rim leaders showed divisions over the wars in Ukraine and Gaza after a two-day summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum on Friday.

Days of meetings in-volving ministers and leaders were dominated by a summit on Wednesday between US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping aimed at cooling tensions between the world's two largest economies, which have alarmed the region.
The 21 APEC mem-

bers, which include Russia and Muslim-majority Indonesia and Malaysia, went into the meetings divided over Russia's war in Ukraine and the Israeli war on Gaza, and that is how Riyadh summit.

by the US echoed last year's APEC leaders' declaration in saying that "most" APEC members 'strongly condemn aggression against Ukraine. It said the leaders ex-

changed views on the Gaza crisis, with some objecting to language of the chair's statement in an accompanying "Golden Gate Declaration" covering economic issues "on the basis that they do not believe that APEC is a forum to discuss geopolitical issues." Some APEC leaders shared the united messages of the Nov. 11 joint Arab-Islamic summit in Riyadh, the chair's statement said. Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia in a joint statement said they were among those who supported the messages of the

Argentina readies to vote in likely presidential election thriller

Monitoring Desk

BUENOS AIRES: Argentines head to the polls on Sunday in a delicately poised presidential runoff, with voters seeking a solution to triple-digit inflation and rising poverty and two clashing visions for the country's future on offer.

The election sees Peronist Economy Minister Sergio Massa go headto-head with outsider libertarian Javier Milei. Massa offers continuity but has been at the helm during the worst economic crisis in two decades. Milei pledges economic shock therapy, from shutting the central bank to ditching the peso.

With many voters unconvinced by either, some have characterized the vote as a choice of the 'lesser evil'': fear of Milei's painful economic medicine or anger at Massa over the economic crisis. Many Argentines say they won't vote at all.

Whoever wins, it will shake up Argentina's po-

grains, lithium and hydrocarbons, and its global ties with partners including China, the United States and Brazil.

"The election will mark a profound rupture in the system of political representation in Argentina," said Julio Burdman, director of the consultancy Observatorio Electoral.

"I think all the political forces as we have known them are going to be transformed.

The story of the election race has been the shock rise of 53-year-old economist and former TV pundit Milei, driven by the disenchantment of Argentines with the traditional political parties on both the left and right.

Milei has a slight edge in opinion polls, but most show a tight and uncertain race. Massa, 51, an experienced political wheeler-dealer, has been clawing back votes with tax cuts and campaigns highlighting Milei's radical plans to litical landscape, its economic roadmap, trade in slash state spending.

500 Rohingya refugees land in Indonesia

Monitoring Desk BIREUEN: The mostly Muslim Rohingya are heavily persecuted in Myanmar, and thousands risk their lives each year on long and expensive sea journeys, often in flimsy boats, to try to reach Malaysia or

Indonesia. United Nations refugee agency protection associate Faisal Rahman told AFP one boat had arrived in Aceh province's Bireuen district with 256 people aboard, while at least 241 others arrived in Aceh's Pidie region and a smaller boat carrying 36 arrived in East Aceh.

"They were found in several spots," Rahman

said Sunday.
Of the 256 aboard the Bireuen boat, 110 were women and 60 were chil-

dren, he said. It was the same boat that locals had pushed back out to sea on Thursday, leaving it stranded off the

cording to Rahman. "It's confirmed... because many people were identified by security officials during the landing," he said.

coast for several days, ac-

The latest arrivals mean more than 800 refugees have landed in Aceh province this week alone, after 196 arrived on Tuesday and 147 on Wednesday, according to local officials.

An AFP journalist saw the Rohingya boat docked on the beach in Bireuen after the refugees had disembarked. The refugees were be-

ing held at a temporary shelter while awaiting a decision from authorities on their fate and were mostly in good health. Bireuen regional secre-

tary Ibrahim Ahmad told reporters Sunday the refugees' cases would be handled by other institutions, without elaborating.

In Pidie, Marfian, a spokesperson for the local fishing community who like many Indonesians goes by one name, confirmed to AFP that a boat of nearly 250 refugees landed overnight.

One of them, 20-yearold Aziz Ullah, said he was living in a camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh before the group started their jour-

Pro-Palestinian demonstrators rally across Europe

Monitoring Desk PARIS: Thousands of protesters rallied across France and Britain on Saturday calling for a ceasefire in Gaza, while hundreds of others turned out again in cities across Europe. Protests have been

held across Europe since the unprecedented October 7 Hamas attacks on Israel unleashed the latest Gaza

Several thousand people marched through central Paris in torrential rain behind a banner saying 'Halt the massacre in Gaza and West Bank, immediate ceasefire".

"France must immediately call for a ceasefire so that the guns go silent," said CGT union secretary general Sophie Binet, one of several union leaders to

speak at the rally. The CGT estimated that 60,000 people rallied in the capital and a further 40,000 gathered in dozens of other towns across the

The interior ministry however said 7,000 people marched in Paris and 45,000 nationwide for the third straight Saturday. In Marseille, AFP saw

several hundred people stage a minute's silence for Palestinian victims of the war, while in Toulouse more than 1,200 people took part in a march, according to Israel says Hamas mili-

tants killed more than 1,200 people, mainly civilians, and took 239 hostage when they stormed across the border on October 7. The Hamas-run health

ministry in Gaza says around 12,300 people have died in the Palestinian territory in Israel's relentless military response, more than 5.000 of them children.

Elsewhere in Europe. organisers said around 4,000 people marched in Geneva, lighting candles displayed as a map of Gaza in front of the United Nations' European headquarters.



Argentine presidential candidate Javier Milei greets people on the day of the second round of Argentine presidential election, in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

the Organisation for Is-

lamic Cooperation and the

Arab League in Saudi

Arabia's capital on Nov.

11, Muslim states did not

agree to impose wide-rang-

ing sanctions on Israel, as

requested by Iran's Presi-

latest comments while at-

lamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' Aerospace

Force, including the

Fattah 2, a new version of

what is said to be Iran's

said was its first domesti-

cally made hypersonic bal-

listic missile in June, and

said it could bypass the

most advanced anti-ballis-

tic missile systems of the

Thursday. She was arrested

in her native St. Petersburg in April 2022 and charged

with spreading false infor-

mation about the military

with her messages opposing the war in Ukraine.

bombed an arts school in

Mariupol. Some 400

"The Russian army

United States and Israel.

Russian doctors call for

release of imprisoned artist

who protested Ukraine war

Iran unveiled what it

first hypersonic missile.

Khamenei made his

dent Ebrahim Raisi.

Iran's Khamenei urges Muslim states to cut political ties with Israel for 'limited period' mit between members of

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei appealed to Muslim states with political ties with Israel to at least cut them for "a limited time", state media reported on Sunday, weeks after he called for an Islamic oil and food embargo

ernments have condemned Israeli crimes in assemblies while some have not. This unacceptable," Khamenei said before reiterating that the main task of Islamic governments should be to cut off Israel from energy and

"Islamic govern-ments should at least cut off political ties to Israel for a limited time,"

Monitoring Desk

LONDON: More than 100

Russian doctors signed an

open letter published Sat-

urday that demands the im-

mediate release of an artist

and musician who was sen-

tenced to seven years in

prison for swapping super-

market price tags with an-

Sasha Skochilenko to be

freed was addressed to

Russian President Vladimir

Putin and warned that time

in prison could lead to a

"significant deterioration"

in the 33-year-old artist's

The letter calling for

Khamenei added. During a joint sum-

Turkiye will try to rebuild Gaza if fighting stops

make efforts to rebuild damaged infrastructure, hospitals and schools in Gaza if a ceasefire is achieved there, Turkish media reported President Tayyip Erdogan as saying on Saturday. "If a ceasefire is reached, we will do whatever is necessary to comtending an exhibition showcasing the "latest achievements" of the Isreturning from a trip to Ber-

> German leaders. 'We will make efforts and energy facilities," he broadcaster A Haber on its website.

Musk's X dumped by blue chip House rebuke **Monitoring Desk**

cause "euphemisms that

people were hiding in it imply genocide". from the shelling," one replaced price tag read. Another said, "Russian conscripts are being sent to Ukraine. Lives of our children are the price of this bers of the Jewish commuwar." A customer at the supermarket who found the original post was perceived as a reference to a longtime weaken white majorities.

Most notoriously, the idea was promoted by the man who carried out a mass shooting at a synagogue in Pittsburgh in 2018.

Monitoring Desk ISTANBUL: Türkiye will

lin, where he held talks with

to rebuild the damaged infrastructure in Gaza and rebuild the destroyed schools, hospitals, water was cited as saying by

firms after White

SAN FRANCISCO: Elon Musk, the billionaire owner of Tesla, SpaceX and social platform X, came under fire from all sides this week after endorsing an anti-Semitic conspiracy theory and then — in an ostensible attempt at damage control terming phrases associated with the Palestinian

On Wednesday, the world's richest man sparked outrage by endorsing an antisemitic post on X that falsely claimed that memnity were stoking hatred against white people. The conspiracy theory among White supremacists that Jews have a secret plan to bring in illegal immigrants to



Ukrainians hold banners that read 'Money to the AFU', or Armed Forces of Ukraine, while attending a demonstration in central Kyiv, Ukraine.

Kagoshima prefecture, southwestern Japan France test-fires long-range ballistic missile in bid to boost nuclear deterrence to confirm a major improve-

Monitoring Desk PARIS: France has successfully test-fired an M51.3 long-range ballistic missile, boosting the credibility of France's nuclear deterrence capabilities, the defence

ministry said on Sunday. The missile, which did not carry a nuclear weapon, was fired from the French army's Biscarosse missile testing site in southwest France and landed in the North Atlantic, "hundreds of kilometres from any coastline" the ministry said, without giving further detail. "The flight has allowed

maintaining operational credibility of France's nuclear weapons is required given the international environment. Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, President Vladimir Putin has repeatedly warned the West that he would be ready to use nuclear weapons to

defend Russia.

UN plastic treaty talks grapple with re-use, recycle, reduce debate

Monitoring Desk NAIROBI: A third round of tonnes of waste every year. United Nations negotiations in pursuit of the oil and petrochemical exworld's first treaty to control plastic pollution has drawn more than 500 proposals from those involved. participants said on the last day of the talks on Sunday.

Some said the number of submissions represented progress, while campaign group Greenpeace said it was "chaos'

Negotiators, who have spent a week meeting in the Kenyan capital at talks known as INC3, have until the end of next year to strike a deal for the control of plastics, which produce

an estimated 400 million The plastics industry, porters, including Russia and Saudi Arabia, have said a glo-

bal deal should promote recycling and re-use of plastic, but environmental campaigners and some governments say much less needs to be produced in the first place. Greenpeace said a successful deal would require the United States and the European Union to show greater leadership than they have so "The hard truth is that INC3 has failed to deliver on its core objective: delivering a mandate to prepare a first draft of a treaty text.

as a woman wearing a hijab sprayed with a foreign substance and worshippers. France to send new medical

Toronto police

arrests man over

hate-motivated

incidents targeting

Muslims in

three attacks

Monitoring Desk

TORONTO: Police on Sat-

urday announced the arrest

of a 28-year-old man in

three hate-motivated inci-

dents, with the latest one

taking place early this

morning at the Toronto Is-

Toronto is facing over a

dozen charges in incidents

that saw a taxi driver, as well

Chandler Marshall of

lamic Centre.

France will send an airplane with more than 10 tonnes of medical supplies at the start of the week, and will contribute to European Union medical aid flights on Nov. 23 and 30. France is also preparing a second hospital ship, the helicopter-carrier Dixmude, which will arrive in Egypt in coming days. A first French helicopter carrier - the Tonnerre, which has about 60 beds and two operating

supplies, hospital ship to Gaza

PARIS: France will send more medical supplies and a second hospital ship to Gaza, President Emmanuel Macron's office said in a statement on Sunday.

Monitoring Desk

CPEC has transformational impact on socio-economic landscape in Pakistan: Ahsan

China-Pakistan Economic ized infrastructure and cre-Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), has emerged as a transformative force reshaping the socio-economic transformational impact on the lives of people in Pakistan, former Minister for Planning and Special Initiative Ahsan Iqbal said.

"When we started CPEC in 2013, Pakistan was suffering from a major energy crisis. We were experiencing power shortages for 16 to 18 hours per day, and we had major infrastructural bottlenecks with very poor physical infrastructure," he said in an exclusive interview with China Global Television Network (CGTN).

And because of a lack of electricity, energy was not there, and industrial and agricultural production was suffering, which meant there was more unemployment, which was a major contributor to more poverty, he added.

Ahsan Iqbal said that through the CPEC, in three years, more than \$25 billion of investment came

BEIJING (APP): The into Pakistan that modernated new roads to connect many regions. It provided more than 8,000 megawatts of new power, which helped the country overcome power shortages.

'As we had energy in the economy, our agriculture and industrial outputs improved, which brought more employment for thousands of young people and also helped them come out of poverty," he added. About special eco-

nomic zones, he said that

nine special economic zones have been identified in different regions of Pakistan and added, "All regions are taking part and taking benefit from CPEC, which is another indicator that it is a very inclusive project and it does not leave anyone behind." "We are now working with China to set up industries in these special economic zones, through which both Pakistan and China can work together and export goods to third countries,"

'Gwadar Economic Zone is developing very fast, but in addition to that, nine more economic zones

GWADAR: Women are participating in protest organized by Haq Do Threek.

The Speaker further

elaborated on the effective-

taken by the 15th National

Assembly, namely the 1st

School, under 18 Internship

competition held on the

floor of the National As-

sembly along with 1st ever

Children's Parliament and

the formation of 1st ever

Parliamentary Caucus on

Parliament is completely

committed to the mission

of welfare and betterment

of children. Speaker NA ex-

pressed deep resentment

over the shameful violation

of child rights and war

crimes being committed

against Palestinian and

Kashmiri children and stated

that instead of launching col-

lective and universal initia-

tives for the betterment of

children the world is still si-

lently witnessing such hei-

nous and gruesome acts.

He reiterated that the

Child Rights.

Program, children's speech | ing fast.

NA Speaker says:

Parliamentary Caucus

on child rights to ensure

well-being of children

bly Raja Pervez Ashraf ness of the child-friendly

stressed on the significance and child welfare initiatives

ways vigorously worked ever Summer Democracy

Speaker National Assem-

of child rights and stated

that the Parliament has al-

for the welfare and well-

being of children. He stated that the Par-

liament, especially the 15th

National Assembly, has

achieved many milestones

as regards to effective leg-

islation for child welfare and

child safety. He further said,

"There is a positive corre-

lation between the socio-

economic progress of a

country and the state of

well-being of its children".

these views on World Children's Day which is

commemorated on Novem-

ber 20 (tomorrow) of each

year. Speaker National As-

sembly Raja Pervez Ashraf

expressed dismay over the

poor state of welfare and

well-being of children

worldwide and the growing

socio-economic problems.

NA Speaker expressed

kistan, in which we hope that investment that will come from China will help us in industrialization and that will be a major contributor towards structural transformation of the economy." He opined that it would create more jobs, and most importantly, Pakistan needs to improve its export performance, adding, "We hope that with Chinese technology and in-

to global supply chains, we will be able to improve our exports as well." Terming CPEC a game changer for Pakistan and the region, he said that the future of economic development lies in regional cooperation. 'We can create an eco-

vestment and their access

nomic market for a huge benefit for three billion people living in South Asia, China, Central Asia, and the Middle East through regional connectivity," he added. He said that therefore, programs like CPEC and BRI could help people eliminate poverty and unemployment and realize the dream of shared prosperity as well as people-to-people



QUETTA: Former Speaker Balochistan Assembly Rahila Durrani and Allama Maqsood Ali Domki take part in a protest against Israeli aggression on Palestine organized by MWM at Quetta Press Club.

Media action sought to promote MHM in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speakers at a workshop here on Sunday said that highlighting issues pertaining to Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) was an urgent need of the hour to ensure the well being of women and girls. They were sharing their views with the participants of recent groundbreaking media workshop on 'Communicating Menstrual Hygiene Management,' organized by the MHMWG Secretariat, Balochistan in collaboration with the Education Support Programme (ESP) funded by UNICEF Pakistan.

Commissioner Gwadar Tabish Baloch assured that the district government would lend its all-out support to efforts that are aimed to raise awareness on MHM in society. Chair-person of the Menstrual Hygiene Management Working Group (MHMWG) Balochistan, Dr. Tahira Kamal underscored the strong correlation between promoting MHM and education. commending ESP for its noteworthy initiative to collaborate with MHMWG for media engagement on MHM. She said this collaboration would contribute Additional Deputy to advancing Sustainable

Development Goal 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 6.2 (Clean Water and Sanitation). The collaborative effort seeks to harness the power of local and national media to create a platform for constructive dialogue on MHM, she added.

During the workshop, insights on crucial aspects of the MHM situation in Pakistan were shared by Shafqat Aziz, a senior communication specialist and trainer. Stressing the vital role of media in societal awareness and policy influence, he highlighted the advocacy for MHM-friendly

Trauma Center to be setup in BMC Hospital soon, says Secretary Health

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Secretary Health, Abdullah Khan has announced that trauma center would be established in the Bolan Medical College (BMC) Hospital a.

The decision has been made keeping in the view the increasing rush of patients, stated the Secretary Health during visit to the Trauma center in Sandeman Provincial Headquarter Hospital Quetta on Sun-

The Managing Director Trauma center, Dr Arbab Kamran, Medical Superintendent Sandeman Hospital, Dr center.

Ishaq Panezai and other concerned officials were also present. The Secretary Health

was briefed about the performance of Trauma center. The Secretary Health inquired about the health of patients admitted in the auma center

Speaking on the occasion, he directed the concerned authorities to make maximum efforts for provision of the quality medical services to the patients.

He assured that more modern medical machinery and equipment would be provided to the Trauma

Bugti condoles death of Tariq Jameel's son ISLAMABAD (INP):

Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfaraz Ahmad Bugti condoled with Maulana Tariq Jameel the death of his son Asim Jameel, at his home in Islamabad on Sunday.

The Interior Minister also prayed for for-giveness and offered Fateha for the deceased.

While condoling the minister said the death of the son at a young age is a great sorrow and shock for the

entire family.
"May Allah grant all
the bereaved the courage and fortitude to bear this shock", prayed the Interior Minister.



QUETTA: Secretary Health Balochistan Abdullah Khan visiting the Trauma Centre at Sandeman Provincial Hospital.

Ashrafi stresses Afghan cooperation in effort to restore order ISLAMABAD (APP): thought emphasized the

ligious Harmony and the Pakistani Diaspora in Middle East and Islamic Countries,

Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Sunday said Pakistan not only prioritizes peace in Afghanistan but also places equal importance on maintaining peace within its own borders.

He, in an exclusive talk with APP, highlighted the objective behind the removal of illegal Afghans to restore order to the homeland, expecting that registered Afghan refugees and the Afghan government would collaborate with the

The PCAA has informed all the airlines regarding the upgrading of the Turbat Airport after issu-

Special Representative to importance of complete the Prime Minister on Re- cooperation on matters concerning Pakistan. They explicitly declared any armed struggle by groups Hafiz other than state institutions as forbidden, reassuring the state of their unwavering support, he added.

He said Pakistan was actively engaging with friendly nations, including Saudi Arabia, to effectively manage the situation in Gaza adding that Pakistan had not only doubled its aid to Palestine but was also open to considering additional increases to provide

further support. Ashrafi emphatically refuted the propaganda, clarifying that there was not placement of security glass between both the Army Chief and the scholars.

He emphasized that such misleading information serves as an adversary to Pakistan, aiming to sow

Bilawal accuses PML-N of lying on PIA's privatization

KARACHI (INP): Completely throwing his weight behind the Pakistan International Airlines' (PIA) employees protest against proposed privatization of the airline, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said on Sunday what he had discussed with the PML-N was not the airline's privatization, but its restructuring.

Sources in the Bilawal House stated that while talking to a delegation of the PIA employees, Bilawal Bhutto alleged, "Just like the PML-N lies to the nation in political matters, it is not stating the facts about the discussions we had on the subject."

FIA arrests five human smugglers

GUJRANWALA (INP): Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has arrested five accused for their involvement in human smuggling. The FIA has arrested Khizar Hayat, Farasat Ali, Shaukat Ali, Zain Ahmed and Hassan Tariq, accused of their involvement in human smuggling and keeping citizens in illegal captivity abroad and to extort money from their families.

Five human smuggling accused were arrested from various parts of Gujranwala and Gujrat districts, FIA officials said. Khizaı

Accused Havat received 1.13 million rupees from a citizen for sending him to abroad, FIA

Nawaz to be next PM, claims Marriyum

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan faced various fake corrup-Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Sunday that her party's Quaid Mian Nawaz Sharif would be the next prime minister

after February 8 elections. Addressing a press conference here at the party secretariat, she said only free and fair election was solution to the challenges being faced by the country. The former information minister said her party's political opponents knew it well that Nawaz Sharif would become the prime minister for the fourth time, adding that the PML-N's manifesto would be provision of relief to people. About her PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif's acquittal in the Ashiana Housing Scheme reference by a Lahore accountability court, she said the former prime minister was vindicated once again. Marriyum said his statement about said Shehbaz showed loy- transparent elections was alty with his brother and encouraging.

tion cases. Marriyum Aurangzeb said that Pakistan Tehreek-

e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman

Imran Khan was imposed

on the country through deliberate failure of the result transmission system (RTS) in the 2018 elections. 'Today's youth must know what kind of game was played and the people had to bear the brunt of it," said the PML-N leader. She added that a game was played with the opposition and the system of the country. Pakistan, after a tumultuous five years, was approaching one of the most crucial general elections of its history, which are set to take place on February 8 next vear. To a question about the recent statement of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Co-chairperson Asif Ali Zardari on elections, the PML-N leader



ISLAMABAD: First Lady Begum Samina Alvi visiting the Palestinian stall and expressing her condolences for the martyrs of Gaza, at Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association's Annual Charity Bazar.

Shujaat says: Electoral alliance to be based on PML-Q's political position

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) Central President Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain said on Sunday that he would decide on any kind of election alliance while maintaining his party's individual political

position in polls. PML-Q Lahore General Secretary Nadeem Pehlwan met Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain and discussed with him election campaign activities, seat adjustments and related is-

matters, according to Nadeem Pehlwan. Ch Shujjat said political parties should understand well that rhetoric would not work now, adding that they would have to deliver for the country, as the PML-Q had been supporter of practical measures for the public from the beginning.

Chaudhry Shujaat said reconciliation should be promoted in the country, and all parties should play their role to nurture the tradition. He said that society was in dire need of toler-The party president ance and for the purpose said consultations were un- political leadership should

Senate election likely to be held in March

Senate elections are anticipated to take place in the first week of March.

Following the announcement of the general election, the relevant authorities initiated the preparations for the senate

It is highly anticipated that the schedule for the Senate election may be released immediately after the general elections.

A total of 50 senate members are expected to retire on March 11, meanwhile, the total number of senate members will remain coming general elections.

ISLAMABAD (INP): The at 96 after four seats be-

Following the general elections, the elections will be held for the 48 vacant seats in the Senate. Elected members from national and provincial assemblies will vote for senators. Earlier in the day, the

Former president Asif Ali Zardari has said that the country has been moving towards transparent elections. Talking to media Zardari said that his People's Party has been fully prepared for the up-



OUETTA: Former Chief Minister Balochistan Nawab Sanaullah Khan Zehri in a group photo with President Balochistan Civil Secretariat Staff Association Younas Zehri and others.

Social media campaign by a political party to defame Pakistan exposed

ISLAMABAD (INP): An- whenever an opportunity other social media campaign to defame Pakistan launched by a political party has been exposed as certain elements are involved in accusing Pakistan of providing arms to Israel. This social media cam-

paign was launched while keeping their interests in mind at the cost of the country as the political party's supporters levelled this allegation in connection with the ongoing atrocities committed by Israel targeting the Palestinians in Gaza Strip and West Bank.

And this baseless accusation was promoted by the Indian media by presenting it as a news – a practice followed by India May 2023 in Mianwali.

is provided by such elements. The fabricated story was created and spread on social media by claiming that an aircraft transported weapons from Pakistan to Israel. However, there is no truth in it. In fact, even the plane and the said flight had nothing to do with Pakistan.

Actually, the flight was a part of the British efforts to shift the Afghan refugees, again showing how propaganda works in the post-truth world with social media being the main tool for promoting lies and deception. Earlier, an old video of a dummy fighter jet set ablaze by supporters of the PTI chairman in

QUETTA: Director General Balochistan Levies Force Naseebullah Kakar enquiring about the health of injured Levies personnel at Trauma

Hassan Zehri says: Conspiracies to wall the People's party will fail

Indepenent Report HUB: The time has come to bury the so-called theory of necessity and traditional selection politics in Pakistan. The country needs new thinking and new leadership at this time. Those with stereo-

typical and corrupt thinking and who have been in power for more than 40 years are not leaving the country and whose failed and anti-people policies have destroyed the country has reached the brink. These failed elements

are once again trying to get

power by consolidating.

These views were expressed by senior leader of

Pakistan People's Party

and spokesperson of

former President Asif Ali

Zardari Mir Ali Hassan

Zehri while addressing a

Pakistan under whose leadership Pakistan can come out of backwardness, economic hardship and diffi-

> tenure of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari as Foreign Minister, a positive foreign policy was adopted and the positive image of Pakistan was brought before the world and to continue this process, it is necessary to make Bilawal Bhutto Zardari the Prime Minister.

gathering in Hub. He said that the time has come for the zealous people of Pakistan to put the politicians with old thinking at home and give a chance to the young leadership with new thinking to take the reins of the country. Mir Ali Hassan Zehri said that Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is the only hope of

He said that during the

ECP had decided to give laptops to the returning officers (ROs) as well as district returning officers (DROs) so that they could

ECP gets

2,000 laptops

from HEC

for ROs, DROs

ISLAMABAD (INP): In

pursuance of the agree-

ment, the Election Com-

mission of Pakistan (ECP)

had signed with the Higher

Education Commission

(HEC), the former has re-

ceived 2,000 laptops from

the latter as the general elec-

tions, 2024 are approach-

perform their duties with ease. It was after feeling helpless in the face of coalition government's reluctance to hold elections despite its order, the Supreme Court (SC) finally on November 3, 2023 said that enough was enough and ordered the government to ensure the conduct of general elections on February 8, a day after President Arif Alvi and Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja unanimously

PCAA upgrades **Turbat Intl Airport**

TURBAT (INP): The Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority has upgraded the Turbat International Air-

The PCAA upgraded the Turbat Airport to the Aerodrome Reference Category C-3 where wide-bodied aircraft will be able to

After its upgradation, large planes like Airbus 320 and Boeing 737 could be able to land at the airport. Previously, only ATRs and other small planes used to land at the airport.

Sources said that it is expected that foreign airlines could also start their flights at the airport after its upgradation.

Pakistani government in this effort. Ashrafi who is also the chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council mentioned that in a meeting with the Army Chief, the religious scholars of all schools of



OUETTA: Renowned Politician and former Senator Nawabzada Haji Lashkari Raisani in a group photo with journalists of Balochistan.