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SIFC reviews existing level of collaboration, approves initiatives to be broached with friendly countries

PM stresses realisation of SIFC's envisioned long-term economic dividends; COAS Munir reaffirms support to govt for durable economic recovery; Pakistan, Kuwait to ink seven MoUs for \$10b investment during PM's upcoming visit

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Friday, appreciating the efforts of relevant ministries for identifying prospective areas of collaboration under the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), directed all stakeholders for efforts to realise the envisioned long-term economic dividends.

He was chairing a special session of the Apex Committee of SIFC held here to foster strategic partnerships with friendly

tended by Chief of Army dertaken by the Govern-

Staff General Syed Asim ment of Pakistan. Munir, ministers and highlevel government officials, a PM Office press release

The apex committee reviewed the existing level of collaboration and unanimously approved various initiatives to be broached with friendly countries and directed to fast-track implementation of various projects conceived under these initiatives.

The Chief of Army Staff assured the unwavering resolve of the Pakistan Army to support eco-The meeting was at- nomic initiatives being un-

Meanwhile Pakistan and Kuwait will sign seven
Memorandums of Underexpansion of water reserstanding (MoUs) for investment worth \$10 billion in Pakistan through seven ests in coastal areas, inforprojects in multiple fields including environment, mining and food security.

In this regard, the federal cabinet, in its meeting held on Friday approved seven MoUs to be signed during the upcoming visit of Caretaker Prime Minis-ter Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar to Kuwait.

Consequent to the efforts by the Special Investment Facilitation Council





Committee of SIFC held to foster strategic partnerships with friendly countries.

PM lauds Saudi Arabia for always standing with Pakistan in turbulent times

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Friday said Saudi Arabia always stood with Pakistan in difficult times and extended support to it in diverse fields. Talking to Imam-e-Kaaba Dr Sheikh Saleh bin Abdullah bin Humaid, the prime minister said Pakistan and Saudi Arabia were tied in the strong historical relationship, based on commonalities of religion, values, and traditions

PM Kakar expressed gratitude to Saudi Arabia for providing development assistance to Pakistan in the fields of education and health. He said that the Saudi government was extending exemplary support to the Pakistani manpower working in the Kingdom.

The prime minister highlighted that recently, the Custodian of the Two

ISLAMABAD (APP): Holy Mosques and the Crown Prince expressed unconditional support for the Palestinians by convening the emergency session of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

PM Kakar, during the meeting, strongly condemned the atrocities committed against Palestinians and the massacre of the children in Gaza.

He emphasized the opening of a corridor for uninterrupted supply of humanitarian assistance to the people in Gaza.

On Islamophobia, the prime minister stressed the need to educate the young generation through documentaries on Islamic teachings, history, and culture.

He said the translation of these documentaries into different languages and their broadcast across the world, could help project the true essence of Islam.

Caretaker CM vows to achieve sustainable development goals in Balochistan

Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki hails allocation of one third resources for Province in UNDP Pakistan's national programme during current year

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has made a pledge to achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs) in the province.

He said that the achievement of SDGs would be ensured by bringing improvement in the governance.

The Chief Minister was speaking to a delegation of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), who called on him under leadership of its representative in Pakistan, Dr. Samuel here at the Chief Minister's secretariat on

Dr Amir Bilal

appointed as

tion and Patient Care.

ministers in the caretaker

cludes 18 federal ministers,

3 advisers and 6 special as-

Polio campaign

again deferred

in Chaman due

to security fears

CHAMAN (INP): The au-

thorities in Balochistan's

border city of Chaman have

once again deferred the

launch of polio campaign

for law and order reasons

missioner Raja Athar Abbas

informed that the polio

campaign was postponed in

the city for seven days due

trict Administration had

decided to postpone seven-

day special anti-polio cam-

paign in Chaman district

due to the sit-in on the Pak-

Afghan border highway.

The Chaman DC had then

said that the decision was

made due to the sit-in, law

and order situation and

other problems in the area.

here that for the past nine

days, thousands of politi

cal workers, traders and

tribesmen have been protest-

ing against the government's

decision to only allow trav

ellers with a passport and

visa to enter Afghanistan.

It may be mentioned

Three weeks ago, Dis-

Chaman Deputy Com-

reported on Friday.

to security fears.

The interim cabinet in

cabinet has risen to 27.

sistants.

meeting, the ongoing and proposed projects of NDP in Balochistan were Referring the UNDP

assisted projects, the Chief Minister maintained that the ongoing programmes for improvement in the governance are very impor-

He also said that the ongoing projects being executed in planning and development, policy and law, education and health sectors are guarantors of the sustainable develop-

He said that the allocathe project.

tion of one third resources During the course of for Balochistan in national programme of UNDP Pakistan during current year is welcoming

He said that that we are resolute to achieve the sustainable development goals set in different sectors in the province.

Referring the climate change, the Chief Minister said that we are making planning to combat the impacts of climate change in the province. he on the occasion assured that the provincial government would extend wholehearted cooperation to implement the five-year plan of UNDP in

Punjab govt. assures to resolve issues of students of Balochistan studying in Punjab universities

Punjab.

assured to provide scholarships and other facilities to students

The assurance was made by the caretaker Provincial Minister Education Punjab, Mansoor Qadir to counterpart of

talked about the issues being faced by students from the province studying in

Sargodha university, Agriculture Faisalabad, Sahiwal univerof students of Balochistan sity and Bahauddin Zikria According to details,

dents of Balochistan in

the students from Balochistan couldn't get admission in the universities of Punjab in time just because of certain hurdles created by some officers in bureaucracy.

As a result, the students from Balochistan were facing different problems in the universities.

However, the caretaker Minister Punjab talked to his Punjab counterpart on Education Balochistan the related issues and discussed different options to resolve them.

In this regard, Dr. Qadir Bakhsh also had interactions with the higher au-The issues were related thorities of Punjab and started endeavours on emergency basis.



Education Prof. Dr. Qadir Bakhsh Baloch in a group photo with Caretaker Punjab Minister for **Education Mansoor Qadir and Secretary Higher** Education Punjab Kamran.

kicked off in three high risk districts of Balochistan The Coordinator of

Emergency Operation Center (EOC), Syed Zahid of Health Department, representatives of World Health Organization, UNICEF were also

administered anti-polio vaccine to the children below five years of age at the inauguration ceremony of the campaign.

Imam-e-Kaaba's visit matter of honour for people of Pakistan: COAS | MARDAN (INP): A dis-

RAWALPINDI (APP): Imam-e-Kaaba Sheikh Saleh bin Abdullah bin Muhammad Humaid called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir here at the General Headquarters on

Friday.
The Army Chief on the occasion said, "Visit of H. E. Imam-e-Kaaba to Pakistan is a matter of honour for the people of Pakistan." During the meeting,

matters of mutual interest were discussed, am Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The Army Chief welcomed the dignitary and highlighted that the Muslims from all across the world had boundless reverence for Harmain Shraifain and profound respect for their custodian.

Independent Report

QUETTA: The United Na-

Programme (UNDP) Paki-

agreed upon working to-

gether with mutual coop-

eration in the Balochistan

tween the Representative

of UNDP in Pakistan, Dr

Samuel Rizk and Caretaker

Minister for Information,

Jan Achakzai and Director

General Public Relations,

Muhammad Noor Khetran

during a meeting here on

representative reached

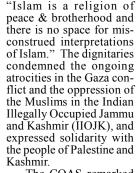
Direcorate of Public Rela-

The UNDP country

The consensus was be-

province.

Development



Imam-e-Kaaba said,

The COAS remarked that Pakistan and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had strong strategic relations based on exemplary historic religious and cultural ties, and unique reverence of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the hearts of the Pakistanis apart from the unanimity

of views among the two

Ministry of Information and UNDP agree

on working with mutual cooperation

Caretaker Minister Jan Achakzai says Information Department

to be put on modern lines keeping requirements of modern era

in view; UNDP representative Dr Samuel assures cooperation

for building capacity of concerned officers

tions where the Minister

Information and DGPR

try of Information have nized system would be tion briefed Dr. Samuel

government's initiatives to

Information department

would also be put on the

requirements of modern

tative on the occasion said

UNDP would take effec-

tive steps for building ca-

pacity of officers of the de-

The UNDP represen-

modern lines in view of

Speaking on the occa-

sion, the Minister Infor- ated it's role.

developed to provide about overall functioning

prompt awareness and in- of the department besides

formation about the the future course of action.

He also said that the ness on working together

formation.

Samuel Rizk

welcomed him.

the people.



RAWALPINDI: His Excellency Sheikh Saleh bin Abdullah bin Muhammad Humaid, Imam-e-Kaaba called on General Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at General Headquarters, in City.

stan and Provincial Minis- mation said that an orga-

Asad Qaiser sent to jail in May 9 case

Mardan on Friday sent the PTI leader to jail on a fourday judicial remand in a case pertaining to violent protests in the country on May 9.

The PTI leader was presented before a district and session court in Mardan.

During the hearing, Charsadda police submitted a request seeking Qaiser's five-day physical

Bilawal leaves for Dubai

KARACHI (INP): Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari left for Dubai unexpectedly on Friday without brining into notice of party leader-

According to details, the PPP chairman has left for Dubai through a private airline flight.

It should be mentioned here that the development comes a day after former President Asif Ali Zardari said that his son and PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari was "not fully trained" in politics and would "take time" getting up to speed.

Meanwhile, the UNDP

The Minister Informa-

The UNDP represen-

The DGPR Noor

tative expressed willing-

with the Ministry of In-

Khetran thanked the

his visit to the Directorate.

Minister Information and

DGPR presented com-

memorative shield to Dr.

NDP representative on

During the visit, the

visited the Information

Cell in Directorate of Pub-

lic relations and appreci-

Pakistan actively engaged in ending Gaza crisis, resolution of Palestine issue: FM

Palestine issue.

Responding to a notice raised by Senator Mushtaq Ahmed the siege of land, sea, and air routes of Gaza by the Israeli occupying forces and the killing of innocent Palestinians by dropping phosphorus bombs on residential units, hospitals, schools, refugee camps, and mosques which is worst form of terrorism and violation of International Law and Human Rights, the minister said, "Pakistan has been actively involved in the resolution of Palestine issue for several years, particularly in the last month and a

Highlighting Pakistan's contributions, he said, "Pakistan, along with Saudi Arabia, co-sponsored the OIC extraordinary session of foreign ministers held last month in Jeddah, and the extraordinary session of OIC was also held in Jeddah due to efforts of Pakistan".

He said Pakistan played a crucial role among the eight foreign ministers who collaborated on a unanimous document during the OIC

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti

The minister said, "Pakistan played a pivotal role in the passage of the resolution presented by Jordan at the United Nations, garnering support from numerous countries." I have received calls of appreciation from around 10 to 15 foreign ministers globally for our efforts in building consensus at the UN on the Jordan resolution in UN" he said. He said, "There is no doubt that Israel has committed aggression against Palestinians. In fact, it amounts to genocide against the innocent people of Palestine. The situation in Gaza is dire, with a severe lack of water, health facilities, and food, leading to a major humanitarian crisis.'

Condemning Israel for war crimes in Gaza, he urged, "Israel must be held responsible for these actions, and we call upon the international community to focus on the Palestine issue and play a decisive role in ending the crisis.



Minister Jan Achakzai and resident representative of UNDP in Pakistan, Dr. Samuel Rizk visiting Information Cell of Directorate of Public Relations. DGPR Muhammad Noor Khetran is also present.

chairing National Action Plan Coordination Committee Meeting.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani informed the Senate on Friday that Pakistan had actively engaged in ending the Gaza crisis and resolution of the

special assistant to prime minister ISLAMABAD (INP) Caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar on Friday has appointed Dr Amir



Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Government of Puniab has assured to resolve the issues

studying in various public university Multan. sector universities of The Puniab government

Balochistan.

Balochistan, Dr. Qadir Bakhsh Baloch on Friday. The caretaker Minister

Bilal as his special assistant. Dr Bilal has been appointed as Special Assistant to PM on Medical Educadifferent universities of Puniab. With the latest appointment, the number of

to the scholarships and other facilities for the stu-



Anti-polio vaccination campaign

Independent Report

OUETTA: The seven-day anti-polio campaign was Shah, other senior officials kicked off in three polio high risk districts of Balochistan on Friday.

The Health, Abdullah Khan formally inaugurated the polio immunization campaign in Quetta, Pishin and Killa Abdullah districts here at the civil sec-

The Secretary Health

Secretary present

QUETTA: A delegation of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) under leadership of its representative in Pakistan, Dr. Samuel Rizk meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki.

Daily soice of Masse Independent

Final electoral rolls: significant step towards Feb 8 polls

With the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) concluded hearings on objections to the new delimitation of constituencies, the printing of final electoral rolls has begun. No doubt it is a significant step towards the February 8 general election.

During a meeting chaired by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja, it was announced that the final report on redrawn constituencies will be published on Nov 30, as planned. All told, the ECP received 1,403 representations challenging the delimitation of national and provincial assembly constituencies. An analysis by Pattan highlighted that challenges to the preliminary delimitation were filed from 124 of the country's 143 dis-

In Punjab, the battleground province in elections to grab political power, the preliminary delimitation was challenged from every district except for one. Some 80 per cent of the examined petitions claimed gerrymandering by the delimitation committees. Almost every petitioner alleged non-compliance with principles outlined in Section 20 of the Elections Act 2017.

In Thursday's meeting, the ECP stressed that it was ready to hold general elections on Feb 8 and directed the acquisition of army services to ensure voters' security. The Election Commission emphasised that if the police force was found insufficient, timely alternative arrangements should be ensured and the services of the Pakistan Army should also be availed to ensure a secure and peace-

The meeting, which reviewed the overall election preparations, saw participation from four ECP members, its secretary, the provincial election commissioner of Punjab and other officers. The provincial election commissioners of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh and Balochistan joined the meeting via a video link. The participants were informed that the Election Commission had completed hearings on all objections to the initial delimitation. Consequently, the list of final constituencies will be published on Nov 30. Additionally, the printing and distribution of final electoral rolls are underway at Nadra and their timely deliv-

ery will be ensured. The ECP has also finalized a code of conduct for the elections in consultation with political parties and it will be formally notified in the next few days. The commission was told that the training plan for district returning officers, returning officers, and polling staff was ready and that timely training of

the related election officials would be ensured. Similarly, necessary arrangements for printing ballot papers and purchasing election material have been completed. his clearly means that the Election Commission is ready to hold the elections in the country

Collective crimes

of a land through the con-

nivance of the West and

some Arab states. Their

land was usurped and con-

stantly encroached upon

by Jews sent from Europe

until they were restricted

to a narrow strip and

blocked from support

from others. It just so

happens that the majority

of Palestinians are Mus-

lims who have not merely

been forsaken, but delib-

avowed enemy, Hitler.

of the Israeli military. Bo-

livia, a non-Muslim coun-

try, has also cut ties, as

has South Africa and a

few others. As these

words are written, Israel

has bombarded heavily

populated refugee camps

while Palestinians are try-

ing to find bodies in the

rubble that Gaza has be-

come. Thousands of Pal-

estinians have lost their

lives in this mass-scale

slaughter whilethe wheels

of the world continue to

churn out the usual rheto-

ric. This holocaust is pre-

sided over by none other

which has caused much

concern, is the coerced af-

fidavit that was signed by

a young teacher who had

to swear that Darwin's

theory of evolution, that

he was teaching, was false

and that he believed

women are inferior to

men. As he signed this lu-

dicrous declaration (other-

wise he would have had to

suffer dire consequences

along with his loved ones),

he was flanked by many

The other event,

than the US.



By Nikhat Sattar Two unrelated and very different events, one far away from us and the other in our own country KP, to be specific have given us cause to lament. Perhaps it is time to take

notice. Truth and justice tend to lose their meaning when fabulously rich countries and their extremely wealthy rulers are unwilling and unable to provide food, water and medicines to thousands of battered people, the majority of them children. As a genocide in real time is being carried out by a rogue state targeting a small strip of land that has been deprived of human living conditions for decades, and which is constantly bombarded with ammunition provided by the world's 'best democracies and custodians of human rights', nearly two billion Muslims remain voiceless.

There is no end in sight to the sufferings of the Palestinians, except painful death, or a crippled life. The world's leaders look on.

Of course, one can try and find some peace in the thought of the Day of Judgement, when all criminals will be brought before their victims and given just punishment. If one can do so, one might pray that those who remained silent or looked away when they could have done something would also be considered abettors and facili-

thesehorrendousdeeds. As these words are be-

ing written, one is very conscious of the fact that the Palestinian cause is neither in favour of Muslims nor against Jews or Christians. It is a tragedy

wrought upon the people other incarnation of the men who have over the centuries denied denounced and hounded men of science and those who would have dared to attempt to question common

> beliefs. This piece is not about whether or not Darwin's theory is against Islamic

lamic scholars have sug-

gested that the theory

Many renowned Is-

erately left to fend off Isdoes not deny in any way raeli settlers and the terstatements in the Quran rible Israeli military that that explain how the first has learnt much from their human being came into exist-ence. What is most The Muslim world, in reprehensible is that a regeneral, is besotted with ligion that is critical of navel gazing and their rulhow the clergy in earlier ers are busy amassing faiths concentrated power wealth and in displays of in the hands of a few, has been misused to threaten pomp. It is no wonder then, that of the 57 Musand force a person to deny lim countries that have opinions. Islamicway of dealing with formed a toothless organisation, only one had statements that some believe are religiously wrong the gumption to expel the Israeli ambassador in prowould be to have calm, test against the bestiality scholarly and compassionate discussions.

> Let us keep Darwin's contentious theory aside. Which Quranic injunction did these 'men of religion' refer to when they had the young man vouch for male superiority? The one about having two male witnesses to a financial deal or the one to bring another woman to court in case the first one forgets? Both can be argued on the basis of the need of the time and the socioeconomic conditions in the seventh versus the 21st century. No wonder, then, that the Muslim world has been unable to produce women and men of knowledge, wisdom and understanding in significant numbers, who are able to express differences of opinions and beliefs without confronting hatred and

The clerics in KP are a mere microcosm of the obscurantism that assails the Muslim world. It has become impotent and selfserving, and its rulers seek power, rather than justice selfdeclared custodians of and compassion.—Courfaith. They are merely an- tesy Dawn

Public opinion

destruction caused by

the Israeli aggression.

bodies of children be-

ing slaughtered by

Israel's airstrikes and

running from pillar to

post, carrying their in-

ured children. Hospi-

tals, schools, churches,

mosques and homes

are being destroyed in

Gaza, and innocent

people are being killed. The besieged

civilian population is facing food shortages,

and many people are

radicalized sections of

the youth and the

working class. Many

young people and

workers are saying

that they will not sup-

port the Democratic

Joe Biden in the next

tions in 2024; it is im-

government's policy

on the Israel war on

people have been dis-

illusioned by the

Labour Party leader-

ship and might opt for

the Green Party in the

protests around the

world are the biggest

anti-war demonstra-

tions since the 2003

Iraq war. While mil-

lions are calling for an

immediate ceasefire in

Palestine, govern-ments in the US, Brit-

ain and Germany are

which continues to

commit atrocities in

Gaza and the West

Bank. Western govern-

Chairman of National

Business Group Pakistan,

Intellectuals Forum, All

Karachi Industrial Alliance,

and former provincial

minister Mian Zahid

Hussain has said on that

the number of children born

in Pakistan per yearl was

more than the total

population of many

businessmen on Friday, he

said that the country's

economy and resources cannot bear the burden of

an increase in population

of six million people per

said that the population

growth rate in Pakistan

Mian Zahid Hussain

developed countries.

Talking

President

Businessmen

Israel

Mian Zahid says: Pak population growth

higher than total population

of many developed nations

supporting

The pro-Palestine

next elections.

The situation has

starving.

By Khalid Bhatti

As Israel's war against Gaza enters its second month, public opinion is gradually turning against the war, devastation and genocide of Palestinians. The solidarity movement with Palestine is growing by every passing day. Public opinion is

also turning against pro-Israel govern-ments in the West. The pressure is mounting on the Biden Administration in the US and the UK government to withdraw their blanket support to Israeli war crimes in Gaza.

Millions of people have so far shown solidarity with Palestine. And millions have come out on the streets from London to Washington and from Jakarta to Mexico City; big demonstrations are taking place in American and European cities.

From Europe and the Middle East to Asia, football fans have shown solidarity with Palestinians during football matches. Jamstadiums packed across the world call for an immediate ceasefire and an end to war. These people have shown their anger against war, killings and destruction.

massive Three demonstrations have taken place in London so far with millions of people in attendance. Hundreds of thousands of protesters took to the streets of Washington a few weeks ago to oppose the pro-Israel policy of the Biden Administration. The UK and the US are the epicenters of these solidarity demonstrations.

Young people in-cluding sections of the middle class are participating in these demonstrations in big numbers. It is the first time that many young people have witnessed such horrific scenes coming out of Gaza.

For the first time, the role of apologists they are watching the

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for Israel. However, there is no denying that the They are watching the ruling class and governments are feeling the pressure. British Prime Minister Rishi the desperate parents Sunak was forced to sack Suella Braverman for making derogatory remarks against pro-Palestine protesters. The opposition to the position taken by US President Biden is also growing. Many officials of the Biden Administration have expressed their opposition to the blanket support provided to Israel. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has written a letter to the concerned officials of the State Department in an effort to

Party of US President Biden Administration. There is a reason for presidential electhis anger and growing opposition. People portant to mention around the world are that young voters played a key role in the watching on their TV screens or on their victory of President Biden in 2020. But now mobile through social media they are turning their backs on the Demothat Israel is committing war crimes. Israel has destroyed The same political thousands of homes in trend is also emerging Gaza and made 1.6 milamong young people in Britain. The leaderlion people homeless. For more than a ship of the Labour month, Israel has con-Party is blindly foltinued with its relentlowing the Tory less bombardment. Its ground forces with tanks are also moving Gaza. Many young inside Gaza, leaving

pacify the growing op-

position within the

no space safe for Ísrael's attacks have left not a single hospital fully operational. No medicines, electricity, fuel and other necessities of live are available in Gaza. First, Israel bombed hospitals and now ground troops are causing more destruction in these hospitals. It is surprising to see that while Israel is committing war crimes with impunity, the US, the UK and other Western countries are still supporting it in the name of 'the right to self-dements are still playing fence.—Courtesy The News

Pakistan's population

growth rate was 2.55%

India's 0.7%, China's 0.1%

and Bangladesh's 1.1%, he

added. The business leader

said that due to the weak

economy and growing

population, forty percent

of children in the country

lack adequate nutrition; the

maternal and child

mortality rate was the

from Afghanistan, only

Pakistan has the honor that

polio disease has not been

population lacks clean

drinking water, jaundice

and tuberculosis were common, and one in four

further said that nearly two

Mian Zahid Hussain

He said that apart

highest in the world.

eradicated here. Much of

adults has diabetes.

Commerce News

Business leaders call for Pak, Kazakhstan FTA to increase bilateral trade up to \$1b

ISLAMABAD (APP): Irfan said that The local business leaders Pakistan and Kazakhstan and traders on Friday called for the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) to take Both countries want to bilateral trade between work on regional Pakistan and Kazakhstan economic integration up to the level of \$1 billion.

After the FTA, there is huge potential to take bilateral trade to \$1 billion on both sides, in which the role of the business community is vital, President Federation Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry

as Kazakhstan was the largest economy in Central

were geographically significant in the region. using their geo-strategic position, he said.

between Pakistan and Kazakhstan was \$195 million, which was much less than its potential.

expressed the hope that (FPCCI) Irfan Iqbal Sheikh the business communities told APP here.

He said that the joint trade potential of Pakistan and Kazakhstan was very

and Kazakhstan was very

of Pakistan and Kazakhstan will play a significant role in increasing bilateral trade in trade between Pakistan and Kazakhstan depends on the

Irfan said that major cities of Lahore and Almaty, which will benefit the business communities

of both sides

Meanwhile, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtavari said that Pakistan and Kazakhstan He said that at the end are major two countries in of 2022, mutual trade the region whose bilateral trade volume is much less than its potential.

He said that Central Asia is very important in President FPCCI the global trade and energy resources with which Pakistan has centuries-old

He said that recently businessmen of both



ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Sweden held their 17th round of Bilateral Political Consultations in Stockholm on Friday and reviewed the entire range of bilateral relations, including political, economic, trade, investment and education.

Additional Foreign Secretary (Europe), Ambassador Shafqat Ali Khan, led the Pakistan delegation, while the Sweden side was co-led by Director General and Head of Global Department Dag

Asia and the Pacific Oscar Schlyte of the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The two sides expressed confidence in the trajectory of bilateral cooperation noting that next year, Pakistan and Sweden would celebrate 75 vears of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

They also agreed to promote bilateral dialogue and mutually beneficial engagement cooperation.

Additional The

successfully completing the term of EU Presidency this year and expressed Pakistan's desire to further enhance cooperation in renewable sustainable technologies, waste management, information communication technology, and rehabilitation

development. He welcomed more Swedish companies to take advantage of the businessfriendly environment in Pakistan, the Foreign Office said in a statement

issued here.

In a statement, the

growth rate was lower than of schooling, and a few that of African countries, percent of those who have which shows the deterioration of the access to schools were forced to seek substandard education. Colonization of industrial

was the highest in the and a half million children

world. In contrast, the in Pakistan were deprived

estates top priority of

govt: SM Tanveer

LAHORE Caretaker Punjab Ministér for Industries SM Tanveer said that colonization of industrial estates was the first and foremost priority of the government.

He said this while presiding over the meeting of Punjab Small Industries Corporation's Board here on Friday.

The board discussed PSIC Employees Welfare Scheme, medical policy, PSIC Hajj Policy and approved other administrative financial matters.

The board approved the sale of plots in Small Industrial Estates of Jhelum and Taxila, and the PSIC Voluntary Fund Rules 2023. The board also approved the revised PC-I and the renovation work of the industrial estates, he the Business Facilitation added. Secretary Industries

(APP): Center of the PSIC house. In the meeting, it was also approved to increase the honorarium of the members of the PSIC Board from Rs 15000 to 25000. The board directed to send the committee to again review the PSIC Transport

> Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce SM Tanveer while addressing the meeting directed that all the matters and affairs of PSIC should be conducted according to the rules. adding that the process of auction of plots in Jhelum and Taxila should be completed in a transparent manner.

Investors would be given all possible facilities to set up new factories in



PESHAWAR: A delegation of Kohat Chamber of Commerce and Industry meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali.

Drop in iron products prices welcomed

LAHORE (APP): The Association sources told construction industry and traders on Friday expressed gratitude for the governments' measures for reducing prices of iron details, prices of iron products in the markets of ton. Besides, branded rod, selling at Rs.2,60,000 per ton, has decreased by Rs.10,000.The business community and consumers associated with the drop in iron prices, said that construction industry rejoiced at the cheaper Pakistan.covers a wide range

APP that the drop in Iron prices is a great incentive for the construction sector. saying projects worth billions of rupees had products. According to the started in the country, which would generate economic activities worth the city decreased by billions and create Rs5,000 to Rs10,00 per hundreds of thousands of billions and create new

employment opportunities.Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) President Kashif Anwar, rejoicing at the the construction industry in price of iron. Pakistan Iron of projects that presents Steel Merchants numerous opportunities.

Nawaz to address **SCCI today** AHORE (APP): PML-N

leader Mian Nawaz Sharit will visit Sialkot tomorrow for a one-day visit, party official sources told APP.

Nawaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz have returned from Murree and reached Jati Umra here Friday, Nawaz Sharif will leave tomorrow for a oneday visit to Sialkot. The PML-N supremo will visit the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) tomorrow at 11 am and address the office bearers.He will also meet party leaders at Khawaja Asif's residence in the afternoon.

Juhlin-Dannfelt and Acting Head of Department for congratulated Sweden on **Progress on jobs** for Pakistanis in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH (Online): More progress has been made on the issue of jobs for Pakistanis in Saudi Arabia and now the technical skills training and test will be held in Pakistan, and immediate visa will be given upon passing.

Saudi Arabia has agreed to set up a network of training centers in Pakistan for professional skills, under which the number of advanced technical skill centers in Pakistan will be increased from 26 to 123.

New training centers will be opened in the small and big cities of the four provinces in collaboration with NEOTECH, by increasing the number of training centers, 6 lakh skilled workers will be able to complete training in their country every year.

The Saudi work visa will be subject to the training course and the test will be conditioned with the standard of Saudi testing company "Takamol". "Takamol" team will also visit Pakistan in December.

Happy seeder machines help prevent smog

MULTAN (APP): The Punjab government was providing Happy Seeder Machines to farmers at subsidized prices that are helpful in preventing Smog.

Agriculture spokesman said on Friday the Punjab government was enforcing a set of guidelines for the prevention of smog and happy seeder machines were one of them.

The machine not only mix paddy crop remains in the soil enriching its fertility but also completes sowing for the next crop. Thus, it saves farmers from the botheration of burning

Governor awarded honorary degree of PhD to the **Ambassador of UAE**

Appreciates role of UAE Ambassador in strengthening the cultural and trade relations between two countries

Governor Punjab/ Chancellor Muhammad Balighur Rehman today awarded an honorary degree of PhD to the Ambassador of UAE, Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salim Al Zaabi at the special convocation of the Institute of Art and Culture at Governor House Lahore today.

The ambassador of UAE was awarded an honorary degree in recognition of his valuable services in the promotion of relations, especially in the field of trade between Pakistan and

(Online): congratulated ambassador of UAE on receiving the honorary degree of Ph.D. Vice Chancellor Institute of Art and Culture, Faisal Janjua, Pro Vice Chancellor Ijaz A. Qureshi, Member Senate Institute of Art and Culture, Imran Masood, Pakistan's first woman astronaut Namira Saleem, a large number of teachers and students were present in the

addressing the ceremony students said that he felt honoured UAE. Governor Punjab to award the honorary Pakistan and UAE.

the degree of doctorate to the Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates, Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Al Zaabi. The Governor of Punjab appreciated the role of the UAE Ambassador in

strengthening the cultural and trade relations between Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates and people-to-people contacts between the two countries. He said that there

Punjab should be exchange Governor, Muhammad Balighur Rehman while degrees or short visits of educational institutions of

Caretaker Minister calls on Imam-e-Kaaba, discuss matters of mutual interest

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Industries, Commerce, Technical Education and Newly Merged Districts Affairs, Dr. Aamer Abdullah, called on Imam-e- Kaaba Sheikh Dr. Saleh bin Abdullah bin Humaid in Islamabad, who is on a four-day visit to Pakistan and discussed matters of mutual interest with him said a press release issued here on Friday. On this occasion, the Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan, His Excellency, Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmed Al-Malkiy was also present. During the meeting, the caretaker minister welcomed Imam-e-Kaaba on his arrival to Pakistan on behalf of the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa especially the tribal areas, and said that the people here have more respectful feelings for Imam Kaaba due to special association with Holy Harmain Shareefain.

He termed Imam Kaaba's visit to Pakistan as a blessing and thanked him for his arrival and requested him to offer a special prayer for the unity of Muslim Ummah and the removal of divisions among them. On this occasion, Imam-e-Kaaba expressed that the main cause of problems and difficulties being faced by the Muslim Ümmah.



LAHORE: Activists of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) are holding protest demonstration against Israeli cruel and inhumane acts and express unity with the innocent people of Palestine, at Lahore press club



LAHORE: Namira Salim, First Pakistani Astronaut being presented a shield by the Institute of Art and Culture (IAC) in the presence of Mr. Baleegh ur Rahman Governor Punjab, H.E. Dr. Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al Zaabi, Ambassador of the UAE to Pakistan and Mr. Muhammad Faisal Janjua,

Naqvi for maintaining hope to ensure future generation's prosperity

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Naqvi has Mohsin expressed unwavering optimism about the future of Pakistan, dismissing pessimism and affirming the

nation's upward trajectory Addressing participants of the Air War College Institute course at Al Hamra Hall here on Friday, he emphasizing the importance of maintaining hope for the prosperity of future generations. He urged collective efforts, stating that if individuals foster hope, it would substantial achievements in

resonate positively with agriculture, including an their children, shaping a brighter future for

Reflecting on the past 10 months of the caretaker setup in Punjab, Mohsin Naqvi highlighted a resolute decision to tackle the circular debt of wheat, which had surpassed 600 billion rupees. The success, he emphasized, was a result of effective teamwork and passion, turning even challenging tasks into achievable goals. The CM reported

Reign of smog: Lahore ranks first in air pollution again

Friday, Lahore once again has been ranked first in terms of air pollution in the world. The Meteorological Department sources told APP that an average Air Quality Index (AQI) on Friday was recorded at 356 in the provincial capital. DHA Phase-VIII was recorded at 457, Lahore 26 degrees Celsius was American School 356, recorded on Friday.

LAHORE (APP): On Cantt Polo Ground 488, Aitchison College 389, Quaid-e-Azam Highway 545, and Johar Town was reported at 308. The city is getting colder as the temperature drops due to dense smog. The Met office said that minimum temperature of 14 and maximum temperature of

increased area under cotton cultivation, resulting in saving three billion dollars in foreign exchange. Rice cultivation witnessed a remarkable 100 percent growth, contributing a total of 2 billion dollars. Commending prudent decisions, he announced

significant savings in Safe City projects in Gujranwala, Faisalabad and Rawalpindi. Despite an initial budget of 100 billion rupees, these projects are being executed at a cost of 12.5 billion rupees.

suspect with weapons MIRPURKĤAS (APP)

CTD apprehends

The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) Police apprehended a suspect with weapons in a proactive intelligence-based operation on Friday in Mirpurkhas

According to a press release, the operation was conducted in response to threats from banned terrorist organizations indicating plans to target the

CM directs civic agencies to resolve jurisdiction issues, improve city's image

Minister Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar brought all the civic agencies, provincial as well as federal, to the table and directed them to resolve their jurisdiction issues and, mend their ways so that the plight of the city in terms of provision of water, cleanliness, fixing of overflowing gutters, repairing of dilapidated roads, streets, footpaths and streetlights could be improved.

"Karachi is one of the largest cities of the world, but our civic agencies have left no stone unturned to deface it," he said and added that the agencies responsible for providing civic services in the city keep fighting on the jurisdiction issue and the condition of the city keep deteriorating day by day which is intolerable," he

The meeting was Caretaker Sindh Chief attended by Mayor Minister Justice (Retd) Karachi Murtaza Wahab, Secretary Finance Kazim Jatoi, Secretary Local govt Manzoor Shaikh, Secretary Works Nawaz Sohoo, Commissioner Karachi Saleem Rajput, Secretary Transport Asad Zamin. DGs of KDA, LDA, MDA, COO water board, deputy commissioners, representatives cantonments boards, KE. solid MDwaste management, cable operators, and others.

The CM said that no civic agency was working in the interest of the city and its people and under the garb of jurisdiction they keep passing on the buck when asked about

their performance.
"The roads are dilapidated, walkways are under encroachment, water is theft, transport is not properly regulated, people have no water to drink.

Minister stresses awareness about family planning in rural areas

Population Welfare Dr. Jamal Nasir emphasized the necessity of raising awareness about family planning among the rural population and ensuring easy access to necessary facilities. He addressed the closing session of the 24th annual conference organized by the Population Association of Pakistan as the chief guest on Friday. Dr. Nasir stressed the importance population growth would of gaining support from religious scholars to dispel misconceptions about population environmental planning, highlighting a sustainability. Highlighting consensus among them the need for collective

LAHORE(6AM Report): Punjab Minister for

mother and child. Expressing concern management policies and about Pakistan's rapidly programs.

growing population, the minister cited the alarming implications on poverty, unemployment, and social issues resulting from the imbalance of population and resources. He pointed out the challenges posed by climate change and population growth, noting the adverse effects on agriculture, forests biodiversity, and food cultivation in the country lead to severe impacts on food production, water scarcity, and overall regarding the need for efforts from all societal appropriate intervals stakeholders, the minister between children to emphasized the importance enhance the health of both of implementing effective population

International News

Guns fall silent as cease-fire in Gaza comes into effect on Israel-Hamas war

GAZA STRIP. Palestinian Territories (AFP/APP): A fourday truce in the Israel-Hamas war took effect on Friday, with hostages set to be released in exchange for prisoners in the first major reprieve in seven weeks of war that have claimed thousands of lives.

Starting from 7:00 am (0500 GMT), the pause was set to silence guns and stop bombings in a conflict that erupted after Hamas's murderous raids into Israel on

Later on Friday, 13 hostages held in Gaza are expected to be freed, followed by an undefined number of Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails, according to Qatari

Over the four days, at least 50 hostages are expected to be released, leaving an estimated 190 in the hands of Palestinian militant groups. Meanwhile, 150 Palestinians prisoners are expected

to be released. For Gaza's two million-plus residents, the deal spells

a respite from weeks of sustained Israeli bombardment. The territory's Hamas government says the war has so far killed about 15,000 people and displaced countless

a knife attack outside a school

The exact number of casualties is impossible to independently confirm, but it is clear that for many Palestinian and Israeli families, the pause in violence has already come too late. The living here are the ones who are dead, Fida Zayed, a Gazan whose 20-year-old son Udai was killed in a recent air strike, told AFP. "The last thing he said to me was that he was waiting for the truce on Friday," she told AFP. "He asked me to prepare him a feast of rice and chicken."

"I hope me and my children die here so we don' have to mourn each other.'

Qatari officials said the "first batch" of 13 hostages released would be women and children from the same families. Teams of Israeli trauma experts and medics await them—along with specially trained soldiers who, according to guidelines, will promise to keep them safe and will carry a child's favourite food item, be it pizza or chicken

An Egyptian security source told AFP that Israeli security officials, International Red Cross-Red Crescent staff and an Egyptian team would deploy to Rafah, on the Egypt-Gaza border, to receive the hostages, who will

Biden thanks Mexico for arrest of accused fentanyl trafficker

Washington (AFP APP):President Joe Biden thanked Mexican authorities on Thursday for the arrest of an accused trafficker of weapons and fentanyl, the synthetic drug behind a wave of US deaths. Nestor Isidro Perez Salas, alias "El Nini," was captured Wednesday afternoon in Mexico's northwest Sinoloa state.

His arrest came less than a week after Biden and Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador met in San Francisco and pledged to coordinate more closely on fighting drug trafficking, especially that of fentanyl.

hits China's many citizens, facing breathing difficulty BEIJING (Online): In China, another deadly virus similar to Corona has caused a

After Corona, new epidemic

number of citizens to fall ill, suffering from breathing difficulties and symptoms similar According to a foreign news agency, the disease with symptoms like corona and



asked for data from schools and hospitals.

2024 tourism promotion

campaign kicked off in Lao

capital Vientiane on Thurs-

History" with the mascot

of an elephant holding a

khaen, a Lao traditional

Disease is spreading so fast that the World Health Organization has also requested records from the Chinese government, while the United Nations has also urged to provide information about the disease. On the other hand, World Health Organization (WHO) has expressed concern over the increase in undiagnosed pneumonia cases among Chinese children, while the United Nations said that no new disease has yet emerged but needs to be investigated. Meanwhile, China has responded to the WHO that these cases have been spreading since May this year due to the prevention of Covid, as well as known pathogens such as Mycoplasma pneumoniae, which is a common bacterial infection and mostly affects children.

Chinese government also said it is aware of the spread of the disease and has asked the public to take precautions during long waits in crowded places and hospitals, but these are not the same restrictions as Covid.

Tourism promotion campaign Visit

Laos Year 2024 officially launched

bus, while crowds broke into stores and looted goods on one of the city's main shopping streets. The unrest—the worst in Dublin in years—came after a five-year-old girl sustained serious injuries in a suspected stabbing in Parnell Square East, north central Dublin. Two other children and two adults—a woman and the suspected perpetrator of the attack—were taken to hospital after the incident shortly after 1:30 pm (1330

Violence erupts in Dublin

after school knife attack

DUBLIN (AFP/APP):Protesters on Thursday fought running battles with police, torched vehicles and looted shops in Dublin, after three young children were injured in

them with chants and set off fireworks.

Near O'Connell Bridge, over the River Liffey, flames rose from a torched car and

Police in riot gear stood guard on the streets in the Irish capital as crowds taunted

Police chief Drew Harris blamed the unrest on a "complete lunatic faction driven by far-right ideology". e warned against "misinformation" as rumours spread on social media about the suspected attacker's nationality.

One protester told AFP that "Irish people are being attacked by these scum." Ireland has been facing a chronic housing crisis, with the government estimating that there is a deficit of hundreds of thousands of homes for the general population. But widespread dissatisfaction has fed into a backlash against asylum seekers and refugees and far-right figures have promoted anti-immigration sentiment at rallies and on social media with claims that "Ireland is full'



Flames rise from the car and a bus, set alight at the junction of Bachelors Walk and the O'Connell Bridge, in Dublin

Afghanistan permanently shuts down its embassy in India

NEW DELHI The Afghanistan embassy has announced its permanent closure in Indian capital New Delhi and as of now there are no diplomats from the Afghan Republic in Delhi, reported Indian news agency ANI.

Releasing an official statement on the closure of its diplomatic mission in New Delhi, the Afghan embassy said, "Effective from November 23, 2023, owing to persistent challenges from the Indian government. The decision follows the embassy's earlier cessation of operations on September 30, a move made in the hope that the Indian government stance will favourably change to let the mission operate

The embassy said it was 'cognizant' that some may attempt to characterize this move as an internal conflict, allegedly involving diplomats who switched allegiance to the Taliban, adding "that this decision is a result of broader changes in policy

and interests "To the Afghan citizens in India, the embassy extends its sincere gratitude for their understand-

ing and support throughout our mission's tenure," it added.

Despite "limitations in resources and power", the Afghan embassy said it has worked "tirelessly for their betterment and in the absence of a legitimate government in Kabul". Over the past two

years and three months, the Afghan community in India has witnessed a significant decline, with Afghan refugees, students, and traders leaving the country, the embassy noted in its statement, adding that the number has nearly halved since August 2021, with very limited new visas being issued during this period.

presence and work of

Taliban-appointed and af-

filiated diplomats.

vibrant atmosphere for "We assure the Afghan economic stimulation. community that the mis-Speaking at the opension operated with transing ceremony, Lao Prime parency, accountability, Minister Sonexay and a commitment to fair Siphandone said the govtreatment based on the ernment views Visit Laos goodwill and interests of Year as a crucial and mean-Afghanistan considering ingful event, especially afhistoric ties and bilateral ter the tourism industry relations with India." it was severely impacted by added. "Unfortunately, efthe COVID-19 pandemic. forts have been made to This year's program takes the theme "A Paradise of Culture, Nature and tarnish our image and hinder diplomatic efforts in order to justify the

VIENTIANE (Xinhua/ APP): The Visit Laos Year prosperity.

Sonexay urged con-

certed efforts nationwide day, expected to create a by assisting and providing services to visitors from around the world with warm smiles and open

"This is an opportunity to showcase Laos' rich culture and traditions to the world, to create a memorable experience for visitors, and encourage them to revisit Laos in the future," he added.

Also speaking at the ceremony, Lao Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism Suanesavanh Vignaket, who is also deputy head of the national musical instrument, as a committee responsible for

symbol of good luck and Visit Laos Year 2024, said another goal of Visit Laos Year 2024 is to create a vibrant atmosphere for eco-"in hosting Visit Laos Year nomic stimulation, both directly and indirectly, across all sectors

According to her, Visit Laos Year 2024 will feature 79 major events and activities, including 14 at the national level and 65 at the provincial level.

"Visit Laos Year 2024 is one of the most important events in Laos. Apart from promoting tourism, it aims to conserve the country's arts, culture and traditions as well as inform visitors about Laos' long history and the sustainable use of its natural resources," Suansavanh

PM outlines interim govt's key steps as 'legacy of good governance and reformative approach'

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on governance and reformative approach, the interim government would leave a legacy on the domestic

In an interactive session titled 'Breakfast with the Prime Minister' organized by Jang Group of Publications, PM Kakar said the caretaker government had to its credit for tackling tough challenges in areas including economy, privatization, and connec-

spoke about his vision about the prospects for a better Pakistan, terming 'skilled human capital as the answer to several chal-

lenges".

He said Pakistan, being an important regional member of the Economic Cooperation Organization, boasted a strategic location at the confluence of central and south Asia besides its priority in the list. In this change of governments.

with a huge youth bulge under the age of 25 adds value to human capital, he added. He, however, pointed out that it was utmost crucial to provide skill sets to youth through targeted training programmes and warned that non-utilization of their energy could lead to detrimental consequences. Kakar said one of the priorities of the caretaker government was to focus on a programme, which would train one million nurses in one decade.

Also, the government The prime minister was exploring partnerships with international conglomerates including Siemens, Germany for the development of skills in different

The prime minister said the government was privatization of State Owned Enterprises and related entities, with Pakistan International Airlines on

rich natural resources. The regard, he said, some tanto be achieved by mid-January. PM Kakar dismissed the notion that people leaving the country to move abroad was a sign of any failure. "Brain drain can become a brain asset [in future] and this is a sanguine and positive way to perceive it... Pakistan is a civilization of diversified creative potential which makes it "rich" in a true sense," he said. On attracting foreign investment, he said the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) was providing an opportunity for ease of business, adding that the country expected good news in weeks about foreign investment of billions of dollars in areas of agriculture, information

technology and mining. He expressed confidence that SIFC, a platform with representatives from civil and military domains, would ensure the continuity of projects despite the



under leadership of its representative in Pakistan, Dr. Samuel Rizk meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

HEC project team, Secy HED Balochistan discuss measures for teachers capacity building

The Higher Education Dévelopment in Pakistan (HEDP) project team of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) Friday met with Secretary Higher Education Department, Balochistan, Zafar Buledi to discuss the way forward in building the professional capacity of teachers and student as- ingout its activities in close sessment for implementing collaboration with all prothe revised Undergraduate vincial departments nation-Education Policy (UEP) vincial departments nation-wide. Test (LSAT) developed with the support of HEDP,

The officials explored opportunities for collaboration in uplifting the standard of higher education in affiliated colleges in Balochistan, ensuring their

province to equip teachers with new methodologies and technologies, said a press release issued here.

All affiliated colleges, constituting the tertiary education system of Pakistan, are under the administrative control of provinces, and the project is roll-

Consultant HEC, Dr. Syed Afaq Husain introduced the salient features of a large sample of underthe revised UEP by emphasising that the successful implementation of the policy depended on the



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Information Minister Jan Achakzai in a meeting with Director General Quetta Development Authority Saadat

After cease-fire, find lasting solution to Palestinian issue: Pak urges Security Council

Spokesperson of Foreign Office Mumtaz Zahra Baloch reiterated Pakistan's demand for immediate ceasefire in Gaza and the main responsibility for this

is on the Security Council. "After the cease-fire, an international conference should be convened to find a lasting solution to the Palestinian issue," she added.

ISLAMABAD (INP): Israeli countries to put pressure on Israel for a cease-fire," Foreign Office

spokesman said. "According to international laws, it is the duty of the Security Council to establish a ceasefire in Gaza, Mumtaz Zahra Baloch

added. "A strong stand was taken in OIC and Arab League meetings for an im-"It is the duty of pro- mediate ceasefire," she said.

BTTN delegation visits academic & research institutions in Lahore

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Think Tank Network's (BTTN) delegation headed by Brig ® Agha Ahmad Gul, on a four-day trip to Lahore, visited three different academic and research institutions to discuss the possibilities of mutual collaboration between BTTN and the respective institutions.

BTTN's delegation visited the Center for Public Policy and Governance at Forman Christian College University (FCCU), Lahore where they were received by eminent Professor Dr Saeed Shafqat and his team. BTTN introduced itself to them, and there was a fruitful discussion about the potential for joint future projects based on shared interests, according to a press release issued

here on Friday.

BTTN delegates also visited the Political Science Department at Government College University, Lahore which is a 160 years old institute with a rich academic history. The delegation was received by the Chairperson Dr Fauzia Ghani and her team.

Both sides discussed the misconceptions surrounding Balochistan province, the overall socio-political and economic situation of the province and the psycho-social integration of Balochistan with the rest of the country.

BTTN also paid a visit to the Kinnaird College for Women University, Lahore. The delegation was received by the Dean Social Sciences Dr Masha

ISLAMABAD (APP): to the far-flung areas of the dation of an education system. It is imperative that the faculty of higher education institutes can use new teaching methodologies and technologies to manage this paradigm shift from earlier -year degrees to new asdegree and bachelor's programmes. Principals were also briefed on the new Learning Skills Assessment

> graduate students. This test will help compare the learning skills of students and gauge the learning achievements through revised UEP.

with the support of HEDP, which will be conducted

throughout the country for

Pak Army, FC install three hydropower turbines in **Buner**

PESHAWAR (APP): The Pakistan Army and Frontier Corps North, supported the Pakhtunkhwa government, have installed three hydropower turbines in the Elum Valley of Buner district addressing the essential needs of the neglected ar-

These recent installations would prove a milestone in ensuring a consistent power supply to 1500 households in an area that had been without electricity for the past seventy

Among the installations, a 150-kilowatt hydroelectric turbine now ghts up 500 homes in Ellum Kalay and Karapa

Kalay. **IHC disposes** of Imran's plea for early decision on

his case

ISLAMABAD (APP) The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday disposed of a miscellaneous application of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman for early hearing on his application seeking to withdraw appeal against the decision of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in the Toshakhana case. Chief Justice Aamer Farooq, who heard the plea, observed that all the matters were proceeding together. The court would decide the matter in next week. The PTI chairman, in the miscellaneous petition, had stated that the application was filed on January 18, to withdraw his appeal. The court had reserved its verdict on September 13, after hearing arguments from two sides.

WPRC providing early response to victims of violence: Mushal Mullik

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Human Rights and Women Empowerment, Mushal Hussein Mullik, on Friday said the Women Protection and Rehabilitation Centers habilitation (WPRC) were providing early and prompt response to the victims of violence at all levels. Mushal Mullik said WPRC working at the Federal, Provincial and District levels, had been providing early response to the victims of violence by extending medical, legal, psychological support and rehabilitation services.

She was addressing the launch of 16-day Awareness Campaign "Activism Against Gender-Based Violence" including a Transit Advertising Cam-

paign, organized by the Ministry of Human Rights. The advertising campaign will kick start by November 25 in collaboration with the Ministry of Railways and with the support of UN Women Pakistan.

Highlighting the importance of the promotion and protection of women rights, the Special Assistant to Prime Minister said that the Ministry of Human Rights was reviewing laws and policies with regard to wmen protection. She informed that Zainab Alert Response and Recovery Act, 2020; Enforcement of Women Property Rights Act 2020; The Anti Rape (Investigation and Trial) Act 2021: and the Protection against

Harassment of Women at

Workplace (Amendment).

PSQCA declares 20 brands of bottled water unsafe: Senate told

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ministry for Parliamentary Affairs, Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Friday informed the Senate that Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) declared 20 brands of bottled water unsafe due to certain issues during its quarterly report for a period of April-June

Replying to a question during Question Hour, the minister said out of the total declared unsafe, only two were registered with PSQCA while others were not registered. The action was taken against the registered brands and their production was stopped, he

He said the remaining brands were fake and action was also taken against all such groups which were producing substandard and unsafe things. However, he said as per PSQCA law,

only a Rs 50.000 fine and one-year jail punishment could be awarded to such culprits through courts. Rs 50,000 fine and one-year imprisonment was very insufficient as such people were putting the lives of common people in danger,

He said it needed effective legislation to enhance fines and punishment for such culprits. The minister said

PSQCA was mandated to formulate Standards and monitor the quality of products falling under the Com-pulsory Certification Mark

In response to Sena-tor Mushtaq Ahmed query, he said that it was regrettable to dub a government institution a hub of corruption without any evidence. If the Senator has any proof of corruption in the institution, the government would certainly investigate it, he said.



QUETTA: Caretaker Home Minister Captain (retd) Muhammad Zubair Jamali inspecting various sections of District Jail Quetta.

Senate told MP scales devised in 1998

to bring professional from private to public sector ISLAMABAD (APP): The process of pack-Caretaker Minister for Fiage enhancement was nance and Revenue

Shamshad Akhtar on Friday apprised the Senate that anagement Position (MP) Scales were devised in 1998 to bring highly professional persons from private sector to Public sector. Replying to a calling attention notice raised by Mian Raza Rabbani regarding the revision of Management Position (MP) Salary package with effect from 1st October, 2023, she said the package was also revised in 2007, 2012 and 2017. The package was also duly approved by past leadership, she said. She said in July 2022, basic pay of civil servants was also enhanced

around 48 per cent.

started in July 2022 to take on board the Cabinet and the Establishment Division, she said. The minister said that the prime minister ap-

proved it after limiting it to per cent of basic salary. She said there were

some technical areas in energy, economy and Finance etc which needed specialized persons and specialized skills. Earlier, moving the calling attention notice in the house, Raza Rabbani said that persons appointed in MP scales had already getting hefty perks and privileges than the elected representatives- senator and member national assembly.

Campaign against unregistered syringes' sale continues

Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination on Friday continued its campaign against the sale of unregistered and banned conventional syringes.

According to an official of the Ministry of National Health Services, a market survey has been

ISLAMABAD (APP):The started on the instructions of the Minister for Health in this regard. He said that Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan took notice of the sale of unregistered banned traditional syringes across the country. The official said that the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) has issued instructions to its field.



QUETTA: Activists of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) are holding protest rally against Israeli cruel and inhumane acts and express unity with the innocent people of Palestine, at Mannan Chowk.



ISLAMABAD: Imam-e-Kabah H.E Professor Dr. Sheikh Saleh bin Abdullah bin Humaid calls on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Provision of basic facilities of life in rural areas big challenge for Govt, says Governor

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that the major portion of our population is settled in rural areas of the province, therefore, it is a big challenge for the government to provide all basic facilities of life to them there.

The Governor said that cooperation and guidance of the international agencies is required to put the livestock and agriculture sectors on modern

Malik Abdul Wali Kakar was speaking to the Resident Representative of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Pakistan, Dr. Samuel Rizk who called on him along with the Programme's delegation here at Governor House on Friday.

Sister to meet Aafia Siddiqui in US Jail

ISLAMABAD (Online): A meeting will be held between Dr Aafia Siddiqui who is imprisoned in US iail and her sister Dr Fauzia Siddiqui in US jail. Both sisters will meet in America on December 2 and 3

Senator Mushtaq and Senator Talha will also accompany Dr Fauzia

Fauzia Siddiqui's law-yer Imran Shafique Advo-cate said that there were security concerns on Fauzia Siddiqui's visit to US. On which court has ordered. Court has directed

ensure the security of Fauzia Siddiqui. Aafia Siddiqui is imprisoned in a small cell of notorious prison of US. Aafia Siddiqui was tortured

in the Jail and she is living worse than animals.

Lawyer of Fauzia
Siddiqui said that we are trying to change her jail for immediate relief.

as vice-chair of UNESCO **Executive** Board till 2025

Pak elected

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa kistan on Friday was elected, with overwhelming support, as Vice Chair of UNESCO Executive Board for the term 2023-2025 from the Asia Pacific

The elections were held at the 218th Session of the UNESCO Executive Board held in Paris, a Foreign Office press release

"Pakistan is grateful to members of the Executive Board and all member states of UNESCO for their overwhelming support and the trust reposed in its candidature," Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in a statement.

egation informed the Governor about the ongoing projects and other initiatives of the UNDP in Balochistan.

The Governor was appreciative of the UNDP and other UN organizations for carrying out different projects and programmes for uplift of different sectors Balochistan.

The Governor said that the secret of ending the unemployment and overcoming different crimes lies in promotion of economic activities and generalize the technical and vocational

Referring the potential of investment in different sectors in Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Kakar said that present government is taking concrete

The members of del- steps for mobilizing all available resources to ensure good governance in the

He said that there are vast prospects of investment in different sectors including minerals, livestock, agriculture and fisheries sectors in the province, as such the investors should fully benefit from the same.

However, the Governor stressed the need to pay special focus on learning modern skills to the new generation in view of the changes taking place in the

He also sought cooperation of the international organizations to make the Information Technology initiative programme successful for imparting artificial intelligence and IT training to youth.



ISLAMABAD: Peoples Party (PPP) President, Asif Ali Zardari exchanging views with Kamran Tessori, Governor Sindh during meeting held.

Secretary Health maintains: Govt. making endeavours to reduce maternal and infant mortality rate in Balochistan

Independent Report QUETTA: The Secretary Health Department, Abdullah Khan has stated that the provincial government is making endeavours to reduce the maternal and infant mortality rate in the province besides prevention of diseases in them.

The Secretary Health appreciated the role of ÚÑFPA in reducing and controlling the mortality rate of mothers and infants, provision of medicines and equipment in hospitals, technical training of community midwife, doctors and nurses and its support for other public health.

He was presiding over the meeting of MNCH and UNFPA here on Friday. The meeting was at-

tended by the Additional Secretary Health, Arif Khan, provincial coordinator MNCH, Dr. Gul Sabin, Chief Planning Officer, Abdul Rasool Zehri, Provincial Lead UNFPA, Dr. Sarmad Saeed Khan, UNFPA's Dr. Anum and Anita and Staff Officer Shaukat Baloch. The Provincial Coor-

dinator Programme, Dr. Gul Sabin briefed the meeting about ongoing works under MNCH in the health centers of districts. Meanwhile, the Pro-

vincial Lead UNFPA Dr. Sarmad informed about the action plan of UNFPA for healthcare of mothers and infants in the provincial, district and other hospitals



QUETTA: Secretary Health Abdullah Khan inaugurating anti-polio campaign by administering drop to a child.

Number of AIDS patients increasing in Balochistan as cause for concern: Khalid

tended by Amanullah

cial Manager of Provincial AIDS control program, Dr. K h a l i d - u r - R e h m a n Qambrani on Friday said that the number of AIDS patients is increasing in Balochistan which is a cause for concern. He said that it is very important to control the epidemic of AIDS in Balochistan, in this regard, the provincial AIDS control program has started 15 days campaign this year to create awareness against it among the public.

OUETTA (APP): Provin-

He expressed these views while addressing the meeting organized by AIDS Control Program and NET member organizations to finalize the organization of activities related to World AIDS Day this year in the office of the Provincial AIDS Control Program. The meeting was at-

Kakar Socio Pak, Watan Yar Khilji Asaas PK, Mushtaq Mengal Leader, FPAP and others on behalf of Provincial AIDS Control Network. On behalf of PACP,

Deputy Manager Dr. Dawood Khan Achakzai Muhammad Khan Zehri Ashfaq Khan Yasinzai and Abdul Rauf Kiazai participated in the meeting.

In the meeting, concern was expressed over the increase in the number of AIDS patients and it was told that only in Quetta, the number of patients has increased by 250 this year compared to last year which is an alarming situation. In this way, the number of AIDS patients has increased instead of decreasing even in high risk districts, Quetta has the highest number of AIDS

patients, said in the meeting. It was decided in the meeting that this year the campaign to celebrate World AIDS Day which will be started from November 25 and this campaign will continue till December 10.

During this campaign, various seminars and awareness sessions will be held, while awareness programs will also be broadcast in different regional languages on radio and TV. A grand event will be held or December 1st on World AIDS Days while other activities will be organized to create awareness among people. Provincial Manager Dr. Khalid Qambrani said that the increase in the epidemic of AIDS is worrying for all of the government of Balochistan should provide resources to the provincial AIDS control program