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### **COAS Munir, Azerbaijan** top leaders vow to take military ties to new level

Army chief pays official visit to Azerbaijan, emphasises enhancing cooperation in fields of defence and training

RAWALPINDI (APP): the COAS emphasized on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir, who is on an official visit to the Republic of Azerbaijan, called on Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, Defence Minister, 1st Deputy Minister and Chief of General Staff and Commander of Azerbaijan Air Force.

According to a news release of Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), the COAS' visit is aimed at enhancing military-to-military cooperation and defence collaboration between the two brotherly countries.

During the meetings,

enhancing cooperation in the fields of defence and

He appreciated the high morale and remarkable standard of operational readiness of Azerbaijan's Armed

During the meeting Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev said that the friendly and brotherly ties between Pakistan and Azerbaijan were being successfully strengthened in various fields, including military cooperation.

Appreciating the successful cooperation between Azerbaijan and Pa- tries.

try, he emphasized the importance of conducting joint military training between the two countries.

Regarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the two countries at the international level, the Azeri president reiterated that Azerbaijan alway supported Pakistan on the issue of Jammu and Kash

pressed the confidence that



BAKU: Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir meeting with President of Republic of Azerbaijan

#### CM directs to expedite pace of work on ongoing projects under QDP

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Mir Ali Mardan Khan concerned quarters to expedite the pace of work on the ongoing development under the Quetta Development Package During brief. projects under Quetta Development Package

He asserted that no carelessness and leniency would be tolerated in the early completion of the development projects included different roads under the Quetta Package.
The Chief Minister

was on visit to the development projects being executed under Ouetta Development Package in the metropolis on Wednesday morning.

The Additional Chief Secretary Planning and De-

the development projects ment Package. During briefing, the Chief Minister was informed that the Sabzal road extension project would be completed by December 30, 2023. Similarly, the work on Link Badini has almost been completed while 90 percent work on Sariab road project has been com-

Ouetta Development Pack-

### Over 35,000 immigrants repatriated to homeland so far: Jan Achakzai warns of stern legal action against illegal immigrants without any discrimination

CT Minister Information says illegal immigrants being deported to their respective countries after detention; Commissioner Quetta says benami properties of illegal immigrants to be confiscated by govt. after due process

#### **Independent Report**

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has reiterated the interim government's firm resolve for stern legal action against the illegal immigrants residing in the province as the deadline set for them is already over.

He said that the crackdown has been started against the illegal immigrants and it would remain continued without any discrimination.

The action is being taken against all those re-



**Naval Chief discusses** 

naval collaboration with

leadership of RSAF

out any discrimination and any particular national is not being targeted in the drive against the illegal im-

The caretaker Minister Information was addressing a press conference along

Continued on page 2

#### PM invites Rwanda to open diplomatic mission for closer African ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday, conveying in 2021, according to a PM multi-sphere ties with the African continent, invited Rwanda to establish its diplomatic mission in Islamabad

The prime minister, in a meeting with a delegation of the Senate of Rwanda, led by Senate President Dr. Kalinda François-Xavier, reiterated the desire to strengthen Pakistan's ties with Africa, particularly in trade, investment, IT (in-

Pakistan has already opened its mission in Kigali

ISLAMABAD: President of the Senate of the Republic of Rwanda, Dr. Kalinda

Francois Xavier calls on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

The prime minister expressed satisfaction at the friendly and cordial relations between Pakistan and

Emphasizing the significance of parliamentary exchanges, Prime Minister Kakar welcomed and appreciated the first-ever visit by the President of Senate of Rwanda.

He also appreciated Rwanda's remarkable eco-

#### Caretaker FM says: No Afghan refugee having documents will be deported

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Foreign Minister (FM) Jalil Abbas Jillani has said no Afghan citizen hav ing documents will be deported.

Self respect of Afghan citizens will be given due regard, he said this while talking to media men outside parliament house.

He held misconception has arisen with reference to Afghan refugees. We should inform media in this regard He stated there are sev

eral categories of Afghan refugees. The Afghan refu gees who are holding regis tration cards are not being deported. Like this there are deprived sections of society who are concerned over it that they will have to face problems on their return to Afghanistan. Our attitude with them will be mild and tender.

We have asked those Afghan refugees who are having no documents to return with respect and honor

He underlined Prime Minister (PM) and cabinet had decided the respect of Afghan refugees, women and children will be taken care of and they will be taken to transit centre. They will be investigated and those having docu-ments will be allowed to

#### 25 killed during skirmishes between warring tribes in Kurram

PESHAWAR (APP): A least 25 people were killed during skirmishes between warring tribes over land dispute in Kurram tribal districts so far.

According to an official statement here issued by a spokesman of Home Department KP, the rival tribes now agreed to vacate the bunkers and trenches in affected areas of Kurram district where the situation started towards improve ment due to efforts of Khyber Government and law enforcement agencies.

Several peace jirgas were held during last week attended by the area elders and representatives of the Government and law en forcement agencies that brought significant im provement in the area

The government wa trying to open all roads in one of two days so that delivery of medicines, food and other necessary com modities could be ensured.

### Interior Minister says: No political party named

for unrest in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): ures, rather than politiciz-Dismissing any specific political party's involvement in the recent turmoil in Balochistan, Caretaker Minister for Interior, Senator Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti,

clarified his stance on the

matter in the Senate on

Wednesday. This statement came in response to a query raised by Senator Muhammad Qasim, who had expressed objections to Bugti's earlier remarks.

The Minister underscored that he had not directly implicated any political party, including the BNP-M. in the unrest.

He further emphasized that the BNP-M was a political ally in both federal and provincial governments, urging them to address the issue of missing persons during their ten-

ing it at present and making protest over it.

Highlighting the complexity of the situation, Senator Bugti drew attention to the presence of death squads affiliated with various militant groups, responsible for the targeted killings of innocent civilians, including individuals from diverse backgrounds such as Punjabis, teachers, doctors, and professors in

He specifically named organizations such as the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), Baloch Liberation Front (BLF), Majeed Brigade, United Baloch Army (UBA), Baloch Republican Army (BRA), Acho Group, and Lashkar-e-Balochistan as entities contributing to the unrest in

Balochistan

the region.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Mutaza Solangi , Lt Gen Sarfraz Ahmed, HI(M), Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, Mr. WADA Mitsuhiro along with other dignitries cutting cake as the Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, Mr. WADA Mitsuhiro and Mrs. WADA Naoko hosted a reception to celebrate the 69th anniversary of the Japan Self-Defense Forces(JSDF) Day. Defense Attaché, Colonel ABE Kazuo represented the Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) at the Embassy.

#### Six terrorists killed in **Zhob district**

ISLAMABAD (APP): At least six terrorists were killed in an intelligencebased operation (IBO) in general area Sambaza of Balochistan's Zhob district, Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a press release on Wednes-

The IBO was carried out last night by the security forces on reported presence of terrorists.

"During the conduct of operation, intense fire exchange took place between own troops and terrorists, resultantly six terrorists were sent to hell, while a cache of arms, ammunition and explosives has also been recovered," the ISPR

#### Solangi takes part in 69th Japan Self-**Defence Forces Day** celebrations

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Wednesday took part in the celebrations of the 69th Japan Self-Defence Forces JSDF) Day. The minister attended

a reception arranged by the Embassy of Japan in Islamabad to celebrate the 69th anniversary. In the reception, military officials, caretaker ministers, parliamentarians, diplomats, and other individuals were also present.

On the occasion, the minister felicitated the people and the Government of Japan, and highlighted the growing bilateral ties between Pakistan and Japan in the area of defence.

#### ISLAMABAD (INP): ration and regional mariissued here. Admiral

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf who is on official visit to Saudi Arabia called on the top leadership of Royal Saudi Armed Forces on Wednesday. The Naval Chief dur-

ing his meetings with Chief of the General Staff of Saudi Armed Forces, Gen Favvadh bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili at Ministry of Defence and Commander Royal Saudi Naval Forces Vice Admiral Fahd Bin Abdullah al-Ghofaily at Royal Saudi Naval Forces (RSNF) Headquarters discussed matters of bilateral naval collabo-

time security, said a press

Ashraf underscored the contribution of Pakistan Navy towards regional maritime peace and stability through its initiative of Regional Maritime Security Patrols (RMSP) and participation in Combined Maritime Force.

The Commander RSNF appreciated Pakistan Navy's role in support of collaborative maritime security in the region and acknowledged the significance of strong bilateral defence collaboration



RIYADH: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf exchanges views with Chief of the General Staff of Saudi Armed Forces, General Fayyadh Bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili during meeting held at Royal Saudi Naval Forces (RSNF) Headquarters in Riyadh Ejaz represents Balochistan in Kathmandu workshop:

#### Rising population major hurdle in way of progress of developing countries

**Independent Report** 

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Public Health Engineering and Population Welfare, Sardar Ejaz Ahmed Khan Jaffar has stated that rapidly increasing population is major hurdle in way of progress of the developing countries, and as such there is a dire need to make comprehensive planning to control population.

He said that if comprehensive planning was not made, then not only the developing countries, but the developed countries can also face problems.

The caretaker Minister was addressing the workshop held regarding planning 2030 in Kathmandu, Nepal on Wednesday.

Khan Jaffar represented the government of Balochistan in the important workshop. The population wel-

fare experts from all over

Sardar Ejaz Ahmed

the world participated in the workshop. he caretaker Minister highlighted the role of population welfare department saying that the department is playing important role for family planning besides providing better healthcare facilities to the people. In this regard, the provincial task force holds meeting on regular basis, he maintained.

Moreover, budget allocation has been increased for purchase of the equipment in the current year budget, adding he mentioned

#### formation technology), ag- nomic growth achieved in riculture and people-to- recent years Nawaz Sharif to come to Quetta on 2-day visit: Ayaz Sadiq expects important political personalities may join PML-N from Balochistan



**Independent Report** QUETTA: The senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) and former Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has stated that some important

political parties may join the party from Balochistan He said that the friends are being invited to join the party under leadership of Mian Nawaz Sharif. He said that it would be made clear today (Thurs-

day) as who is going to join the PML-N from the prov-

#### **SC** dismisses review petitions about Faizabad sit-in case verdict

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court (SC) on Wednesday dismissed the review petitions of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Intelligence Bureau (IB) and Defence Ministry about the 2017 Faizabad sit-in case after they were withdrawn by the petitioners.

The court said that the Federal Government, Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), and Pakistan Electronic Media and Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) also requested to withdraw their review petitions.

The three-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa and comprising Justice

Amin-Ud-Din Khan and Justice Athar Minallah, which heard the case, also declared the fact-finding committee as illegal in Faizabad sit-in matter and directed the attorney general to form a new inquiry commission. During the course of proceedings, Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Usman Awan informed the court that the government had constituted a fact finding committee on October 19, and its first meeting had already held on October 26. He said that the committee would also prepare its recommendations after inquiring into the mat-

Continued on page 2

#### ISLAMABAD (APP) Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday stressed upon complete utilization of natural resources of the Balochistan province.

PM for complete utilization of

Balochistan's natural resources

He was talking to Speaker of Balochistan Assembly Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali who called on him. the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The prime minister said that progress and prosperity of the people of Balochistan were among the top priorities of the Federal Government. During the meeting, they

also discussed different matters related to the province.

President Ilham ex the visit of COAS to his country would help in further stabilizing the cooperation between the two coun

Ilham Aliyev

munications, Commissioner Quetta Division and Chief Minister Balochistan, other concerned high ups were also accompanied Domki has directed the with the Chief Minister.

While speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister directed to ensure early completion of the roads and other projects under the



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki being briefed about Encomb Road construction project under Quetta Development Package

### Pakistan, Rwanda for stronger political, economic, trade ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa- isfaction over the fact that ians and called for an im Wednesday reiterated the desire to strengthen political, economic and trade relations for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

Both sides also underscored the need to increase economic and commercial cooperation.

This was discussed at a meeting between President Dr Arif Alvi and President of Senate of Rwanda Dr Kalinda Francois-Xavier, who along with the members of his delegation called on the president at Aiwan-e-Sadr, the President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

Talking to the delegation, the president said that Pakistan wanted to further cement its friendly ties with Rwanda and expressed sat-

kistan and Rwanda on both countries were cooperating with each other at the regional and international fora.

He said that Pakistan attached great importance to its relations with Rwanda and wanted to maximize bilateral trade to its true potential.

He informed the delegation that Pakistan was organizing the 4th Pak-Africa Trade Development Conference and Single Country Exhibition in January 2024 in Cairo.

He expressed the hope that Rwandan businessmen would also participate in the event to explore new business avenues between the two friendly countries.

The president highlighted the Israeli atrocities against innocent Palestinmediate ceasefire to prevent further destruction and bloodshed in Gaza.

The delegation thanked the president for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to it during its stay in Pakistan.

President of the Senate of Rwanda Dr Kalinda Francois-Xavier said that both countries enjoyed excellent relations and stressed the need to reinforce bilateral ties.

He said that Rwanda considered Pakistan a great partner and wanted to enhance bilateral cooperation in areas of mutual

Dr Kalinda Francois Xavier informed the president that Rwanda was considering to open its embassy in Islamabad.



QUETTA: Administrator Quetta, Jabbar Baloch is giving a briefing about IT Section to Balochistan Secretary Local Government Noor Ahmed Pirkani during his visit of Metropolitan Corporation building

#### Pak urges UN's top human body to address 'massive' rights abuses in Palestine & Kashmir

Pakistan has called on ÚN Human Rights Council to address the massive rights violations taking place in situations of foreign occu-pation and intervention, highlighting the terrible ordeals in Gaza and occupied Palestine as well as Jammu and Kashmir.

promoted comprehensively and Kashmir are also well and in a balanced manner." recorded," Ambassador Amhassador Munir Akram told the UN General Assembly on Tuesday while underscoring the need for avoiding selectivity and double standards in the 47-member Council's approach.

Speaking in a debate on the annual report of the President of Geneva-based Human Rights Council, the Pakistani envov said that it must address the massive human rights violations which take place in situations of foreign occupation and intervention.

"The heart wrenching slaughter that is taking place in Gaza and occupied Palestine is visible on our television screens today,' he said, pointing out that the occupying power --Israel has enjoyed impunity for these violations for over 50

"The massive viola-"Human rights must be tions in occupied Jammu Akram said. In both instances, he

said, the occupying powers—Israel and India -have sought to suppress the legitimate national liberation struggles under the guise of combating terror-

"The most recent conflict in the Middle East illustrates the danger of allowing the persistence of foreign occupation," the Pakistan envoy added, referring to the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

bassador Akram pushed for a "much more robust effort" to counter the rise of racial hatred, religious supremacy and extreme and violent nationalism and fascism in certain parts of the world.

"Islamophobia is a major element of the new phenomena manifested in the discrimination and attacks against Muslims, 'bans', the repeated burning of the Holy Quran, blasphemous caricatures and the vandalization of Islamic symbols and holy sites," he said, adding that such acts cannot be allowed under the cover of "free-dom of expression". "In our eastern neighbourhood-India -- the pandemic of Islamophobia poses the danger of Muslim genocide," the Ambassador Akram said, saying that the menace should be frontally dealt with by the Council.



ISLAMABAD: Workers are demolishing the illegally contracted houses at Afghan Basti I-12 as govt announce warning for people living in Pakistan illegally to leave the country as security forces on Wednesday rounded up, detained and deported dozens of Afghans who were living in the country illegally, after a government-set deadline for them to leave

### Jan Achakzai warns of stern legal...

Continued from page 1

with the Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat, here at the Quetta Press Club on Wednesday.

Jan Achakzai asserted that while it is firm resolve of the government to repatriate the illegal immigrants to their respective countries, however, those political parties are trying to exploit the situation should not do it.

"I warn those parties who are trying to take advantage of the situation, they should not take any such step that may harm them in future," maintained the caretaker Minister Information

About the repatriation of illegal immigrants, Jan mentioned that over 35,000 immigrants have so far been repatriated via Chaman border. He said that around 100 illegal immigrants have been detained in Quetta till

duly deported to their homeland.

He said that it is a complicated task to trace and identify the illegal immigrants, however, efforts are continued in this regard.

He said that two holding centers have been established in Quetta where the detained illegal immigrants would be kept for time being before their repatria-

He said that it is our endeavour to keep the minimum number of immigrants in the holding centers.

He said that data of illegal immigrants is being collected from all over the province. He said that action is also being taken against those illegal immigrants belonging to Iran, Iraq and other countries

besides Afghanistan. In addition to this, legal action would also be taken against those immigrants who got prepared

now, and they would be their documents through illegal means, the Ministe added.

He on the occasion ap preciated the role being played by the local admin istration for repatriation of the illegal immigrants describing it very important.

Speaking on the occa-Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat said that the drive of repatriation of the illegal immigrants i continued successfully.

He informed that the holding centers have been set up for the illegal immigrants in Quetta. They would be kept in the holding centers on temporary basis after detention for necessary arrangements, he added.

To a query, Commissioner informed that the benami (unnamed) properties of the immigrants would be confiscated by the government after due process

#### New gas tariff to be effective from Nov 1

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Petroleum Division (PD) of the Energy Ministry on Wednesday rejected a news item appearing in a section of media about the effectiveness of the new gas tariff from back date, clarifying that the revised prices would be applicable from November 1, 2023.

"Reports in some newspapers claiming that the prices are effective from back date, which is misleading. It is categorically stated that gas price revision is effective from November 01, 2023" a news release The ministry further

said that the press release issued by the petroleum division after approval of the cabinet and Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) on October 30 clearly stated that the revision of gas prices would be effective from November 1.

Shaheen Afridi goes to number one in ODI ranking Tuesday, a victory which

during his visit to Sandaman High School

kept alive their slim hopes LAHORE: Pakistan spearhead Shaheen Shah Afridi of making the semi-finals. has become cricket's topranked bowler but his prime Bangladesh opener Tanzid concern is keeping the Green Shirts in the World Hasan also gave him a 100th wicket in his 51st one-day international "I am delighted at completing 100 ODI wickets

The 23-year-old, who has 16 wickets at the tournament, has displaced Australian quick Josh Hazlewood at the top of the pile, taking the honour for the first time since making his international debut Skipper Babar Azam

retains his top spot in the ODI ranking for the batters, a position that the skipper has held for more than two

Afridi claimed 3-23 in Bangladesh in Kolkata on said Shaheen

"I watched some of the ndian Premier League (IPL) matches this year and the seven-wicket win over there was not much swing,"

China has reached with Belt

His dismissal of

but the biggest thing is that

all these wickets are for

Pakistan and my goal is always to do something that

helps us win," said

India has come despite a

lack of swing, prompting him to adjust his sights in

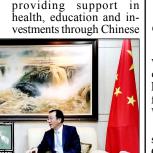
the campaign.

Shaheen's success in

#### Alluddin Marri meets new Consul General of China

**Independent Report** KARACHI: The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a major in-

& Road Initiative - BRI. Former Chief Minister particularly thanked the frastructure project and can Chinese government for bring economic growth and development Balochistan by improving



infrastructure, creating job opportunities, and enhancing trade, this was stated by former Chief Minister of Balochistan Alluddin Marri while meeting the new Consul General of the People's Republic of China Mr Yang Yundong in Karachi,

Marri expressed his optimism that the benefits of CPEC will be shared among the local population, he particularly thanked the People's of Republic China for giving special consideration to the Socio-Economic Development of Balochistan, he also mentioned that Balochistan province has strategic significance as it borders with Afghanistan and Iran where Balochistan.

companies in Balochistan Mr Yang Yundong lauded the support of former Chief Minister during his tenure and assured that his country has commitment to support the Socio Economic development in the province of Balochistan, he said Gwadar has been developed under CPEC which includes Sea Port, Airport, desalination plant, power project and roads, this infrastructure would help the people of coastal area to improve their quality of life, Consul General assured that he would work with local tribal elite and political leaders to bring CPEC benefits in

#### 140,322 undocumented foreigners voluntarily left Pakistan on govt's call ISLAMABAD (APP):

The ministry of interior on Wednesday shared a total number of returnees who volunteered and opted to go back to countries of month amnesty time pe-

According to the data shared by ministry's representative, 140,322 undocumented foreigners voluntarily left Pakistan so far.

Meanwhile, Minster for Interior, Sarfraz Bugti wrote a message on social media platform that the government bid a farewell to 64 Afghan nationals first day after the deadline as they embarked on their journey home

He wrote that the action was an expression of Pakistan's determination to repatriate any foreigner who did not have the necessary documents.

According to the ministry's handout, from November 1, the process of arrest and subsequent deportation of illegal aliens had begun, however, the voluntary return of illegally staying aliens would also continue and be en-

couraged.
All returnees and deportees would be treated with dignity and respect and all necessary facilities including food and medical origin with in the one aid would be provided to them in the holding centers,

it added.

The minister had already issued directives to the concerned officials and agencies to be respectful with detainees and undocumented immigrants while detaining

He warned of strict action against officials found involved in manhandling the immigrants including Afghan national while transporting them to the holding centers.

The ministry has also set up a helpline for complaints regarding the eviction of illegally staying for-

Foreign nationals can lodge any complaint regarding evacuation on these telephone numbers as well as people can also report information about illegal aliens at these numbers 051-111367226 and 051 9211685.

### JUI fully support fundamental rights of oppressed people Representatives of various

have been living for thou-

By Sardar Khondai CHAMAN: Provincial

Ameer of Jamiat-e-Ulemae-Islam Balochistan and Former Federal Minister Maulana Abdul Wasey while addressing the ongo-

be seriously considered. Thousands of people

are participating in it and they demand that passport visas are not accepted at the



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki talking with students

ing sit-in in Chaman said that we believe the demands of this sit-in are based on reality and assure full support of Jamiat Ulema-e-Is-

The workers are standing side by side with you, criticizing the caretaker government and saying that instead of creating problems for the tribes that

tribes living on both sides of the Chaman should be allowed to travel in the old way and the Lugri people, who number in thousands, should be allowed to work on the border so that The people of the border area can continue their work

Chaman border and that the

sands of years, it needs to political, tribal and social organizations also addressed the sit-in. Deliberately closing

the doors of employment to them is an act of state cruelty which cannot be condemned as much as it is. But there is no arrangement for employment outside

Jamiat Ulema Islam is with you in this difficult time and I pay tribute to all the political tribal social organizations participating in the current sit-in and the people of Chaman for this historic unity and agreement and Jamiat Ulema Islam Chaman. We strongly support the fundamental rights of the oppressed people, strongly oppose the introduction of the passport system and allow the movement of old CNIC cards and Boldak Tazkira and solve the problems of the people here, there are no employ-ment opportunities here. instead of harassing them further.

#### Ayaz Sadiq expects important.. Continued from page 1

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq was speaking to the mehis arrival in Quetta from Islamabad on Wednesday.

The PML-N leader said that he has come to Quetta on the party's invitation, and meeting the friends on directives of the party's Quaid, Muhammad Mian Nawaz Sharif.

He said that Nawaz Sharif would also be coming to Quetta on two-day visit.

He said that Nawaz Sharif has good relations with all political parties, and he wants to maintain these relations.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that although he is meeting the party leadership besides some friends, but he has no schedule of meeting with the political parties during his stay in Quetta. He said that the party

would make decision on whether to make seat to seat adjustment or contest election individually on the party ticket.

To a query, the PML-N leader said that all including Jam Kamal Khan are respectable to us. However, there is no mention of his (Jam Kamal) joining in the party as yet, he maintained. He said that no one including Jam Kamal has made any de-He said that those

who supported the party in the hard time would be preferred in it.

#### Chinese ambassador, **Fazal discuss ties** ISLAMABAD (APP): China's technology in agri-

with his delegation Wednesday met with Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman and discussed ties between the two countries.

According to a JUI-F Spokesperson, the delegation included Minister Counselor Zhang Nu, Zhang Duva and Wang Sita. The matters related to bilateral relations and

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) were also discussed in the meeting. The ambassador said

We want Pakistan to use in the meeting.

Chinese Ambassador to Pa-culture." The meeting also kistan, Jiang Zaidong along agreed to expand the scope the importance of including more projects in CPEC. Fazal expressed his resolve to form industrial and economic zones in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Balochistan.

The ambassador also invited the JUI-F chief to visit China

Mohammad Jalaluddin, a former ambassador, and adviser on foreign affairs, and Mufti Abrar Ahmed. who is the spokesperson for JUI-F were also present

#### **CNG** pumps fined for overcharging

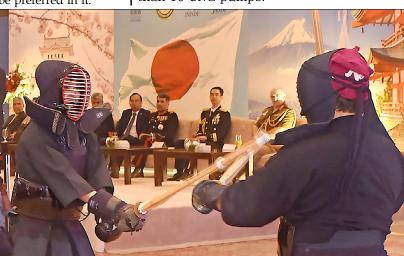
By Haroon Siraj SWAT: The Deputy Commissioner Swat Dr Oasim Ali took

stern action after receiving public complaints against the compressed natural gas (CNG) stations involved in overcharg-ing at different localities of District Swat.

The district administration team was fined several CNG pumps during action against profiteering and irregularities in gauge. Following the directives of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Swat Dr Qasim Ali, the team of district administration conducted raids on filling stations in various localities of the district during night time and fined more than 10 CNG pumps.

The CNG stations had increased the price of gas from Rs234 per kg to Rs309 per kg on their own the other day before the due time.

Talking to our correspondent DC SWAT Dr Qasim Ali Khan said that if any owner is found receiving extra money, his stations would be sealed or heavily fined, nobody could charge extra money until the government nounced the increase in the CNG price, he added. The Deputy Commissioner has directed all administrative officers for continued inspections of the filling stations and stern action against those keeping lower gauge and other violations.



ISLAMABAD: Japanese Players are demonstrating the Martial Arts performance during an event regarding the celebrations of the Japan Self- Defense Forces Day 2023 at local hotel in Federal Capital.





ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting regarding the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP).

### PM for mechanism to encourage financial self-reliance in society

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday, while appreciating outcomes of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), directed the relevant authorities to chalk out a mechanism for promoting economic self-sufficiency in

He said that BISP was yielding good results but Pakistan's durable future

was linked with the financially self-reliant citizens. The prime minister

chaired a meeting regarding BISP. The meeting was given a briefing over the performance of BISP and the future strategy.

The meeting was attended by BISP Chairperson Amjad Saqib, Secretary Ministry of Poverty Alleviation Yusuf Khan and other senior officials, the PM Office Media Wing

About 60 million members of 10 million families were being benefitted from BISP whose total

annual budget this year was Rs 471 billion, it was The prime minister praised the financial assistance extended to the deserving families and observed that with the provi-

sion of technical training to

the BISP beneficiaries, in

quirements of the market, would enable them to become financially self-suf-

He said that BISP was a good programme whose database could be used for providing targeted subsidies, and urged the big business entities and well-to-do elements in the society to become partners in BISP under corporate social re-

### Wafaqi Mohtasib team visits **CDA Central Directorate to** address citizens complaints

ISLAMABAD (APP): A struction of infrastructure be raised and settled within Wafaqi Mohtasib inspection team visited the Central Directorate of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) on Wednesday to ascertain the status of its service delivery arrangements and suggest remedial measures.

The team, comprising Senior Advisor Ahmad Farooq, Deputy Advisor Pervez Haleem and Senior Investigation Officer Adnan Ahmad, met CDA Chairman Capt (Rtd) Anwar Ul Haq and other executives to discuss public complaints about the traffic mess caused by the expansion work being carried out by Authority on the Park Road and Islamabad Expressway, depleted condition of roads and streets, defective sewerage system, delayed payments to contractors, substandard con-

from November 3.

ate, Sadiq Sanjrani, has taken

action on the matter of uni-

versity teachers protesting

outside the Higher Educa-

tion Commission (HEC)

and referred it to the stand-

after a point from Senator

Saadia Abbasi, who high-

lighted the grievances of the

protesting teachers, includ-

ing their demands for a

proper service structure

and fair promotion policy.

mented the lack of concrete

action despite previous di-

rectives to the HEC regard-

National Assembly and its

Senator Abbasi la-

This decision comes

ing committee.

and delay in payment of pension and retirement benefits to its workers.

The team also visited different sections of the CDA Directorate, including the One Window Facilitation Desk and interacted with the citizens who had come there to get redressal of their complaints.

The team observed that the public at large was facing problems due to an inordinate delay in the completion of the construction work. The team advised the

CDA authorities to come up with a time frame for the completion of its ongoing

**ISLAMABAD:** Caretaker Federal Minister for

National Heritage and Culture, Syed Jamal Shah

addressing media Briefing regarding annual Folk

festival "Lok Mela†to be held at Lok Virsa

Sanjrani refers issue of

protesting university

teachers to Committee

ISLAMABAD (APP): relevant Standing Commit-

The Chairman of the Sen- tee. Consequently, she ap-

pealed to the Chairman to

refer the issue to the rel-

evant senate standing com-

mittee for a more thorough

duly acknowledged the grav-

ity of the situation and ac-

cepted the proposal for fur-

ther consideration of the

matter in Senate Standing

Committee of Federal Edu-

cation and Professional

to summon the President of

the All Public Universities

BPS Teachers Association

(APUBTA) in the meeting

It was also approved

Chairman Sanjrani

examination.

Training.

ing the matter from the of relevant standing com-

Wafaqi Mohtasaib Inspection Team is attending to

the complaint of a customer during their inspec-

of CDA as well. It also advised the au-The team was inthorities concerned to comformed that an auto parkplete the process for issuing facility is being introing completion and transduced in the limits of CDA to resolve the chronic issue fer letters within 45 days and objections, if any, must of parking.

#### Thatta water supply reference: **AC summons** Zardari

The team directed the

CDA administration not to

depute an officer below the

rank of BS-19 to represent

Authority in the investiga-

tion process of the Wafaqi

Earlier, thee CDA Member (IT) briefed the

inspection team on the

CDA Management Infor-

mation System (MIS)

which is fully functional and provides online ser-

vices to customers. All mat-

ters pertaining to the sale and purchase of CDA land

have been digitalized, and

the same is being carried out

in the attached departments

ISLAMABAD (Online) Accountability Court (AC Islamabad has summoned15 accused including former president Asif Ali Zardari in Thatta wate: supply reference.

Former president Zardari, Ejaz Ahmad Khan, and others are accused of awarding contract of Thatta water supply scheme to Harish & Company in violation of rules and regula-

The court has summoned too accused including former secretary Ijaz Ahmad Khan, Ali Akbar Abro, Ijaz Memon, Ali Akbar, Khawaja Abdul Ghani Majid, Manahal Majid and Abdul Nadim

Bhutto. Judge AC has issued call up notices to all accused through which they have been ordered to appear in court in person on Decem-

#### 16 fresh Corona cases reported

ISLAMABAD (APP) Health officials on Wednesday said that 16 new coronavirus cases were re ported during the past week

Health (NIH), the case positivity ratio was 0.52 percent while no patient was in critical condition. No death was reported from the coronavirus while 3,100 Covid-19 tests were conducted. Meanwhile, the official of the Ministry for National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination said that the government had strengthened the role of Border and Health Services in Pakistan to deal

#### **High-powered** delegation of Türkiye calls on Madad ISLAMABAD (APP): A

high-powered delegation led by the Ambassador of Republic of Türkiye to Pakistan Mehmet Paçaci Wednesday called on the Caretaker Federal Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindhi. The minister welcomed the delegation and said that the two countries had cultural, linguistic and people to people love for each other, said a news release issued here. Madad Ali discussed exchange of expertise and knowledge regarding vocational and technical training and said that the two countries could benefit from the

and praised the long-standing brotherly relations be-

tween the two countries. The minister welcomed exchange of teachers and students to further mutual cooperation especially for skilled vocational training, adding that Quaid-e-Azam (QAU) and other universities would offer research fellowship to professors of Turkish universities to conduct research on topics of mutual interest. The ambassador said that People of Türkiye had deep affiliation with Pakistan and said that university to university cooperation and technical institution to technical tnstitution collaboration was the way forward.

### Lok Mela to serve as fund raising platform to support oppressed Palestinians: Jamal

Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage & Culture Jamal Shah announced on Wednesday that the upcoming Folk Heri-tage Festival, Lok Mela,

would not only showcase Pakistan's rich cultural diversity but also serve as a platform for collecting donations to support the oppressed Palestinian people who were facing the severe Israeli aggression.

During a press conference, Jamal Shah unveiled a comprehensive plan designed to kick start various exhibition of Pakistan's hericultural activities aimed at tage.

ISLAMABAD (APP): engaging the country's

youth.

He also emphasized the significance of preserving and promoting cultural heritage and attracting tourists. To achieve that, he said, the ministry was collaborating with the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to renovate heritage sites in Islamabad. He said the Lok Mela,

which was scheduled to take place from November 3 to 13 at the Lok Virsa Complex in Shakarparian, would be more than a mere



(CEO) of U.P.H. Biopharma, Lue FENG called on Caretaker federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan to discuss mutual cooperation and matters of mutual interest in the health sector.

During the meeting, the CEO briefed the minister on the preparation and supply of Sinovac vaccines during the COVID-19 pan-The minister ex-

pressed special gratitude for the supply of Sinovac vaccines during the global

pandemic. Dr. Nadeem Jan mentioned the initiative to build

Pharma Parks in Pakistan. He said, "We are interested in technology transfer from friendly countries to produce pharmaceuticals.

He said positive progress on technology transfer from friendly countries was ongoing.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ira-

nian Ambassador to Paki-

stan, Dr. Reza Amiri

Moghaddam and Caretaker

Federal Minister for Na-

tional Heritage & Culture

Jamal Shah Wednesday dis-

cussed ways to enhance

collaboration in field of art

and culture and mutually

agreed to arrange a Pak-Iran

Joint Cultural Week later

this month. Cultural Coun-

sellor of Islamic Republic

of Iran Ehsan Khazaei and

Adviser National Heritage

and Culture Division

Muhammad Kashif Irshad

were also present in the

meeting. The two sides also

discussed in detail diverse

areas of cooperation in the

field of art, culture, film and



Says billing problems of newspapers to be resolved on priority

ISLAMABAD (APP): Principal Information Officer (PIO) Dr Tariq Mehmood Khan on Wednesday vowed to resolve the issues faced by the regional newspapers on

He expressed the resolve regarding resolution of the issues of regional papers during a meeting with a delegation of Rawalpindi Islamabad Union of Journalists

The delegation led by RIUJ President Syed Qaisar Abbas Shah congratulated Dr Tariq Mehmood khan on assuming the charge of

included Malik Rasheed, papers.

Raheel Anwar Swati, Zarar Farid, Arif Malik, Imran Magsood and Muzaffar They briefed the PIO

about the issues faced by regional newspapers especially in obtaining health and accreditation cards. On the occasion, PIO

Dr Tariq Mehmood Khan assured the delegation that the issues of the regional newspapers would be resolved on priority and process of obtaining health cards would be made easy.

He said a comprehensive policy would be worked out to solve all the problems faced by the jour-The delegation also nalists and regional news-

### Pakistan lauds ILO's comprehensive action plan on labor protection

ISLAMABAD (APP): Fund (WWF) Zulfigar expressed Ahmad Pakistan's commendation for the International Labour Organization's (ILO) proactive approach in developing a comprehensive action plan on labour protection

for the period 2023-29. In a significant address at the 349th Session of the Governing Body of the ILO, representing the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, he emphasized the vital role played by labour protection and social security as interconnected facets of social welfare, echoing the plan's viewpoint on their mutually supportive relationship.

Commencing his state-Secretary Workers' Welfare ment by extending heartfelt congratulations to the newly appointed Chairperson of the ILO Governing Body, he conveyed Pakistan's confidence in the Chairperson's leadership abilities, anticipating significant advancements in the global cause of labour protection and social security. Zulfikar Ahmad highlighted Pakistan's commitment to ensuring the wellbeing and safety of its workforce, aligning with the national goals and objectives. Acknowledging the

evolving nature of employ-

ment patterns, he stressed

the importance of address-

ing the needs of workers engaged in non-traditional



ISLAMABAD: Traffic Police Warden is removing black paper from the window screen of a car at Sector G-7 in Federal Capital.

### DG stresses provinces for long-term action plan to expand scope 'child nutrition'

rector General Health Ministry of Health, Baseer Khan Achakzai Wednesday stressed provincial governments for formulating a long-term action plan to expand the scope of nutrition and rural people's access to safe drinking water as every year around 53,000 Pakistani children die of diarrhoea after drinking unsafe water.

Talking to a private news channel, DG Health expressed his serious concern over the unsafe drinking water in far-flung areas of the country and stressed that provinces should increase their investment to support child nutrition

He disclosed that the

ISLAMABAD (APP): Di- Ministry of Health with the collaboration of provincial governments would soon launch a campaign to improve maternal nutrition in rural areas by conducting awareness campaigns. He explained that in

2024, 25 awareness campaigns will be held in 67 selected districts that report poor maternal nutrition indicators. DG Health said that improving the knowledge and capacity of healthcare providers to address maternal nutrition issues and promote a collective responsibility approach is the need of the hour. The key objective of the campaign is to raise awareness about the importance of maternal nutrition and improve the capacities of health workers in public .

ISLAMABAD: EDG/PIO Dr. Tariq Mahmood Khan in a Group Photo with a delegation of Rawalpindi/Islamabad Union of Journalists (RIUJ) at PID Head-**Pakistan-Denmark** Pak. Iran to organize joint

As per data shared by the National Institute of

with any sub-variant of

### Envoy draws parallel of Indian demographic shifts in Kashmir to Israel: Envoy

Ambassador of Pakistan in Turkiye Dr Yousaf Junaid on Wednesday calling the Kashmir Black Day the most tragic day in the history of IIOJK, said India was resorting to the same playbook of demographic change similar to Israel, by settling non-Kashmiris in the occupied territory.

The ambassador, addressing a ceremony to mark Kashmir Black Day held at the embassy, highlighted the atrocities committed by Indian occupaforces against Kashmiris.

He said the Kashmiris were living in a situation where they were humans without human rights.

The ambassador highlighted that Palestine and Kashmir represented un-

ISLAMABAD (APP): ceasing situations of foreign occupation in the modern world, where brutal military occupations had not only denied the people their fundamental right of selfdetermination but also unleashed a reign of terror on innocent civilians. Chairperson Human Rights Investigation Commission of Turkish Parliament Derya Yanik, Member of Parliament Burhan Kayaturk, President SDE Guray Alpar and representatives of media, think

> In her speech, Chairperson Human Rights Investigation Commission of Turkish Parliament Derya Yanik stated that supporting Kashmir was the requirement of international law and conscience. Turkiye has always sup-

tanks and civil society at-

tended the event.

ported a peaceful resolution of Kashmir dispute as per the desire of the Kashmiri people and would continue

While expressing concerns over the worst human rights situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), she urged the international community to play its role in putting an end to human rights atrocities in IIOJK and implementation of UN resolutions to ensure peace and stability in the region.

Reiterating Turkish support for Kashmiri legitimate cause of self-determination, Member of Parliament Burhan Kayaturk stated that when United Nations resolutions were not implemented, it put not only international peace but also human rights at stake.

#### parliamentary friendship cultural week group meet NPA during this ground operations in the month

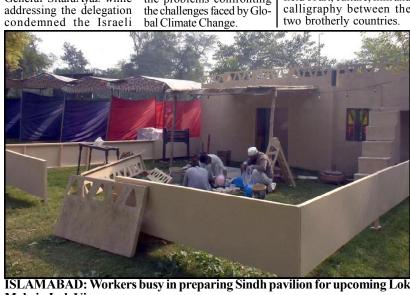
ISLAMABAD (Online): The Pak-Denmark Parliamentary Friendship Group led by Senator Nuzhat Sadiq today met with a delegation of NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NPA) from the Parliament of Denmark, at the International Parliamentarians Congress Secretariat (IPC) The visiting Delega-

tion was headed by MadsFuglege Member Danish Parliament. The Secretary General, International Parliamentarians Congress SitaraAyaz with its team briefed the delega-

structure, working and functions of the IPC. The convener committee Senator Nuzhat Sadiq and Secretary General SitaraAyaz while

Palestinian Gaza and stressed the role of Parliaments in resolution of conflicts and wars.

Senator Nuzhat Sadiq also commended the Danish Parliament of the help extended to Pakistan dur ing the devastating floods in 2022 and remarked that Pakistan greatly acknowledges their support during the difficult times. She said that Global Climate Change Calamity is a rising issue resulting in serious Natural Disasters around the globe. She further added that collaboration of Worldwide Parliaments in this regard is the need of the day. The delegation recognised the role of collective deliberations on the problems confronting



Mela in Lok Virsa.

# Daily Joice of Masse Independent

Thursday November 02, 2023

### Cricket drama

Much has happened off the field in the last few days and much is expected in the coming days, but at least on the pitch, Pakistan showed no ill effects in the match against Bangladesh yesterday.

After four successive World secure even two meals a Cup defeats, the cobwebs were day, who cannot fathom the luxury of a single cup finally dusted off — even as pressure mounted on other fronts, including in the form of to subsist on half a roti insome distasteful manoeuvres by the Pakistan Cricket Board. | Vor nan a cup of the ampliace of the comforting warmth

A convincing seven-wicket of a full cup. victory over Bangladesh in while the ruling class, seemingly impervi-Kolkata has kept alive ous to the suffering of their Pakistan's faint hopes of reaching the semi-finals. And villas abroad, traverse the yet, while the team turned a corner, it would be unrealistic not to expect it to be af- ries beyond imagination. fected by the events back

Pakistan cricket has been cial management, particunothing short of a circus, with nance minister and later information disinformation spreading like

wildfire, thanks to a plethora of live transmissions. Given the team's earlier losses in the who have already dedicontest, criticism had been fierce.

The PCB decided to act issuing a statement to clarify that it had merely supported the weight of pensions has captain Babar Azam and chief selector Inzamam-ul-Haq, enabling them to pick the team solution lies in the formulation of a policy that of their choice. It was the sort would, in essence, strip of statement which exposed pensioners of their hardthe Zaka Ashraf-led cricket board as averse to taking any responsibility.

Public sentiment seems to certing is that these statematter a great deal to Mr ments emanate from none Ashraf, who is nearing the end of his term as interim management committee chief. Whether or not he remains PCB chief, depends on the result of the election his com- The issue of gender in-

mittee has to hold.

A good run for Pakistan at such discrimination prethe World Cup would have tipped the scales in his favour. vailed in every sphere of life everywhere, the International Labour Instead, the team's perfor- Organisation framed the mances have given rise to Convention (C 100), claims of a rift between the claims of a rift between the chairman and captain, with tions on gender equality: former skipper Rashid Latif alleging that Mr Ashraf was not tion) Convention (C 111), 1958; Workers with taking Babar's calls.

An attempt to refute that Family Responsibilities Convention (C 156), went horribly wrong, with Mr 1981, and Maternity Proforwarding Ashraf screenshot of a conversation between Babar and PCB chief women's empowerment operating officer Salman Naseer, which was leaked on a private news channel. It raised right, but a necessary questions about consent.

These incidents are made particularly cringe-worthy by the fact that the entire drama played out in front of the cricketing world during the sport's most high-profile event. They raise serious questions By 1983, it had been eight about the PCB leadership.

An issue over central con- Indochina Much to the tracts, which saw players unconsternation of some in the military-industrialpaid for five months due to dis- political hierarchy, the agreements, was resolved only drome—the psychologia few days ago. The PCB also cal repercussions of a suacted on reports from certain perpower being defeated by a small Asian country quarters claiming favouritism in team selection, with an alleged bat troops to distant link uncovered between lands. Inzamam and an agency representing most of the players. On of Israel's invasion of Lebanon was technically the eve of the Bangladesh match, Inzamam resigned from alongside France and his position but vowed to return remember or halt the if cleared of wrongdoing in an Sabra-Shatila massacre investigation initiated by the a suicide bomber drove a PCB. There is a time for every- truck into US military thing, but this was certainly not barracks near Beirut airthe time for domestic theatre in the worst single-day toll the midst of the World Cup.

## Shifting the burden of incompetency

By Qamar Bashir

Press Secretary to the President(Rtd); Former Press Minister at Embassy of Pakistan to France; Former MD, SRBC

Whenever our nation grapples with economic and financial challenges exacerbated by the incompetence, inefficiency, and incapacity of our ruling class, the most vulnerable among us bear the heaviest burden. The individuals who already struggle to of tea, and who lack the means to send their children to school, are advised stead of a full one, to savor half a cup of tea in place

While the ruling fellow countrymen, continues to live in opulent skies in private jets, and occupy custom-designed offices adorned with luxu-

In recent times, the very individuals responsible for our nation's finanlarly the former PDM fiand the incumbent caretaker finance minister have issued statements to transfer the burden of their inefficiency, incapacity, and incompetence onto retirees, cated over four decades of their lives in service to the government and the pub-

audacious proposition asserts that become intolerable for the government and suggested that the only viable earned entitlements – the pensions they diligently accrued during their years of dedicated service.

What is truly disconother than the self-pro-

Mr. Ishaq Dar, a man whose wealth has grown to such astonishing proportions that he himself may not possess an accurate account of it. If even a fraction of the wealth amassed by individuals like him could be repatriated to our country, it could potentially transform our economic and financial landscape, paving the not their personal way for a brighter and more prosperous future.

This callous narrative reveals a shocking lack of compassion and an outrageously irrational approach. It implies that the government's solution is to either slash pensions, impose a time limit on disbursements, freeze adjustments for inflation, or even strip surviving spouses of their rightful pension benefits after a pensioner's

In this grim scenario,

it seems that if these measures fail to miraculously fix the government's financial outlook, the next steps could entail extreme and unthinkable actions. The government might instruct the defense forces to auction their weapons, insist on our soldiers to stop wearing their uniforms. close down our diplomatic missions abroad, halt government operations, extinguish traffic lights to save electricity, cease fuel purchases for vehicles to cut fuel costs, shut down power and gas production, and ground planes.

In the eyes of our ruling class, the answer to our financial and economic hardship is to strip away the very means of survival from the salaried, working, and middle-class citizens, and now even the pen-

Pensioners, in their post-retirement years, often find themselves in the twilight of life. Many have already experienced the erosion of their physical and mental faculties. Despite these personal chalgrapple with daunting burdeavor to fulfill their com- ating our own brands, we curs after completing assistance, disability sup- earned and deserve.

claimed economic wizard, mitments, such as educat- can tap into new markets ing their children, supporting their daughters' marriages, and securing a peaceful place to reside.

Additionally, they must navigate the financial maze, endeavoring to meet essential needs while coping with the weight of utility bills that have grown burdensome. Yet, what keeps them up at night are struggles, but the distressing and insensitive remarks of government ministers, amplified by the media. These comments label them as a strain on the national economy and drain on

In their wildest dreams, these retirees might never have anticipated that, after dedicating four decades of their prime years in service to the government, they would be met with anything other than gratitude. Instead. they now face the heartwrenching reality of being labeled as burdens on the system, with proposals that threaten to strip them of their only means to make

government's treasury.

ends meet. It's become abundantly clear that the path to financial and economic improvement does not hinge on the cruel act of depriving citizens of their right to a dignified life. Instead, it lies in a concerted effort to enhance our systems and invest in vital areas. We should channel resources into education and research and development, promoting innovation and nurturing creativity

We need to create an environment where people can fully unlock their potential. The solution lies in expanding our exports, enticing foreign investment. fostering entrepreneurial ventures, establishing industrial hubs, enhancing the efficiency and productivity of our businesses, and elevating the quality and demand for our products and services, improvlenges, they continue to ing the quality and quantity of our products and dens. They strive to keep services. By adding value the home fires burning, en- to our offerings and cre-

and boost our competitive edge. Facilitating easy access to loans for startups will nurture fresh business niches, invigorating our entrepreneurial

Indeed, the path to financial and economic prosperity also involves a shift in our national focus. Instead of positioning ourselves solely as a security state, we should adopt a stance that seeks peace and cooperation with every nation worldwide. By doing so, we can redirect resources towards building a modern agricultural sector, establishing thriving industrial zones, and enhancing the security and safety of travel to attract global tour-

Additionally, the creation of a pension fund and investment in saving schemes can not only generate reasonable profits but also serve the nation's broader financial Furthermore, emulat-

ing successful models like France, where pension reforms raised the retirement age and adjusted qualification criteria, can help manage pension costs effectively. Gradual increases in retirement age, changes in contribution rates for employees and employers, and the implementation of partial pensions or delayed benefits for those choosing to work beyond the standard retirement age can all contribute to a sustainable pension system.

Encouraging government employees to participate in voluntary retirement savings plans and streamlining the consolidation of multiple pension plans into a more efficient system will further reduce administrative burdens and enhance fund management

These insensitive statements disregard the specific provisions of the Civil Services Act of 1973. According to Section 13 of this act, a civil servant's

thus qualifying for pension and other retirement benefits. Furthermore, Section 19 outlines the entitlements upon retirement, including the right to receive a prescribed

pension or gratuity. In the unfortunate event of a civil servant's passing, whether before or after retirement, their family is entitled to receive a pension, gratuity, or both. These legal provisions are in place to safeguard the welfare and financial security of dedicated their careers to public service. Any attempt to deviate from these established rights would not only be legally questionable but also

ethically unjust.

only their retired employees but the entire population, providing unemployment allowances for those temporarily out of work. For instance, in France, every unemployed individual is entitled to receive a consistent amount, such as Euro 900, until they secure gainful employment. Countries like England and France have well-structured pension systems encompassing several key benefits, including the main pension benefit, calculated based on an employee's salary and years of service. Supplementary pensions are provided by employers, varying according to job titles and years of service. Reversion pensions support surviving spouses, usually amounting to 50% of the deceased spouse's pension. In cases of disability, invalidity pensions are provided to government employees unable to work. Additionally, governments offer a range of

twenty years of service, port, free bus passes, and special considerations for those with disabilities, in-

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cluding free passports. Pensioners, many of whom are at an advanced age, have shouldered responsibilities and contributed their skills and dedication to the nation. They are owed respect, dignity, and honor, not derogatory labels like "burden" or "parasites." The pensions they receive are not handouts but were part of a solemn job agreement signed even before their civil servants who have entry into government

When government employees embark on their careers, they willingly accept substantially lower salaries compared to their private sector Caring governments counterparts, fully aware prioritize the welfare of not that these reduced wages are offset by the promise of pension and retirement benefits in the future. It's a mutually agreed-upon arrangement that provides financial security in exchange for their commitment and dedication.

If the government is intent on shifting the burden of its own shortcomings to retired civil servants, it should commence this effort with fresh entrants. The onus is on the government to be transparent, fully disclosing the terms and conditions of employment. It should offer every candidate the opportunity to sign a job contract with a comprehensive understanding of the contract's provisions, including pension and retirement benefits.

This approach should be consistent and applied uniformly to all state employees, including the judiciary, parliaments, and armed forces. No exceptions. We can be certain that without the assurance social welfare programs of pension and retirement benefits, no sane individual would willingly choose government service. It is high time we acknowledge the invaluable contributions of our civil servants services, vision care, den- and afford them the respect retirement from service oc- tal treatment, travel cost and security they have

# Gender inequality

#### Parvez Rahim

equality is not peculiar to Pakistan. Realising that by three more conventhe Discrimination (Em-

a 183), 2000. Recently, the UN issued a gender equality and report, which observes: "Ĝender equality is not only a fundamental human foundation for a peaceful, prosperous, and sustain- household responsibili- gotiate the labour union's able world. There has been ties keep them busy too. charter of demands peri-

tection Convention (C

progress over the last decades but the world is not on track to achieve gender equality by 2030. Women and girls represent half of the world's population and therefore also half of its potential. But gender inequality persists everywhere and stagnates progress.

obligatory upon the member states to "ensure the the UK, came for an inapplication to all workers of the principle of equal remuneration for men and women workers for work of equal value". Seventytwo years have lapsed male colleagues. Howsince the release of this ever, the management did convention, yet, according to the UN, women she would be the only fe-"still earn 23 per cent less male working at the plant. than men globally. On average, women spend about three times as many hours in unpaid domestic and care work as men". Women work for eight of industrial relations hours a day but the manager, who has to ne-

C 111 has also been odically. During discus-ratified by Pakistan. Each sions union officials, in sure that pregnant or anti-women, and has been member must ensure 'equality of opportunity and treatment in respect of employment and occupation, with a view to eliminating any discrimination in respect thereof"

In the late 1970s, I was working at an MNC at Daharki. A woman, C 100 makes it who had graduated in chemical engineering from terview for the position of operations manager. She was capable and ambitious and had no inhibitions about working with

There are certain jobs, especially in industrial establishments, viewed as gender-specific, for instance, the job household responsibili- gotiate the labour union's

the heat of the moment may utter words considered inappropriate in the presence of women. According to my own experience, though, the presence of women in negotiation teams had a sobering effect on union offi-

cials, who would refrain

from using foul language.

C 156 "applies to men and women workers with responsibilities in relation to their dependent children Such responsibilities restrict their possibilities of preparing for, entering, participating in, or advancing in economic activity". Their employers should be considerate and allow them the time required to towards their families without reducing their pay. Besides, family duties should not be a valid reason for terminating

C 183 prescribes

employment.

breastfeeding women are not obliged to perform work, which has been determined by the competent authority to be prejudicial to the health of the mother or the child". Gender inequality is rampant in our society. People's general attitude

towards women remains

a topic of critique in ar-

and allowances, such as

Jobseeker's Allowance,

Employment and Support

Allowance, Winter Fuel

Payment, free healthcare

Credit.

Pension

observations published recently in this newspaper are summed up here. Discrimination includes the fact that there may be about 3.5 million eligible women

tered on the electoral stares and harassment they face when they step

zones. Pakistan not just features as one of the world's most dangerous

outside their safety

unable to enforce international conventions regarding the issue. Commenting on the

Nobel Peace Prize awarded to the jailed Iranian human rights activist Narges Mohammadi the UN secretary general said the award was "a tribute to all those women who are fighting for their rights at the risk of their ticles and editorials. Some freedom, their health and even their lives"

Harassment women at the workplace is one of the major issues affecting women's taking up a job, retention, promillion eligible women voters who are not regis-went. The UN aspires to achieve gender equality and women's empower-Women don't ment by 2030. This apsee to their obligations want to contend with the pears to be a gigantic task and an ambitious target. but it will still be a great achievement if most of the developing countries are able to remove key gender inequalities by the dead-

line. -- Courtesy Dawn

### Island in the sun

#### Mahir Ali

years since US troops had finally departed from

The Beirut deployment of 1982 in the wake a peacekeeping mission, later that year.) But when for US forces since the

The Beirut attack was blamed on Hezbollah. Two days later, the US was prepared to demonstrate it remained the big boss. So, 40 years ago last week, the Reagan administration achieved a longdesired objective by invading a Caribbean island that measures no more than 350 square miles, with a population of 98,000.

Grenada had been on America's radar since the March 1979 New Jewel Movement (NJM) revothrown the repressive government of Sir Eric Gairy, who straddled the island's 1974 hop from a British colony to an independent neocolonial outpost on the southern fringes of the Caribbean, close to Venezuela but fairly distant from the

The NJM was inspired by the civil rights movement in the US and liberation struggles in Af-

first day of the 1968 Tet rica as much as by the Cuban revolution, but its revolution was more or less peaceful. Its dozens of poorly armed cadres took the army by surprise while Gairy was out of the country — possibly having left behind instructions that the NJM, by then the main opposition party, be eliminated.

It wasn't the fact of power changing hands that bothered the US as much as what came next. The People's Revolutionary Government (PRG), as the new regime styled itself, lost little time in lution, which had over- making amends for the centuries of colonial exploitation and years of postcolonial continuity. In the four-and-a-half years it was in power, unemployment fell from 49pc to 14pc. A mass literacy programme took just a year to reduce national illiteracy to 2pc. Secondary education became free, and university education almost free. Healthcare improved, as

Equal rights and pay for women were introduced, alongside paid maternity leave. Women's, youth and workers' organisations were set up; these were consultative rather than decision-making bodies, but the boast of participatory democracy wasn't an empty one. The ruling NJM, however, remained restricted to 100 or so members, and there were growing tensions between

among Grenadians but also established an international presence disproportionate to the size of The direction of his administration meant that his overtures to Washington went unrewarded, and the usual sources of international credit dried up. Grenada's closeness to Havana and friendly

ties with Moscow led the

its central committee and

the PRG. The prime min-

ister, Maurice Bishop,

was not only popular

ing built with Cuban help would serve as a Soviet base. But it was gameplanning an invasion for a different reason: Grenada's successes, however modest, offered an inspiring alternative to the typical neo-imperialist model. That's why Nicaragua was simulta- Pot group' neously destabilised and the Allende experiment in Chile had been aborted a decade earlier.

Fidel Castro remained the biggest thorn in Uncle Sam's side, but invading Cuba would not have been a Grenadastyle slam dunk.

It wasn't the US invasion, though, that killed off the NJM experiment, but ructions within the party on seemingly ridiculous grounds that pitted the pragmatic Bishop against the majority of his central committee comrades. After he arrest, a popular uprising US to claim, with no evi- on Oct 19, 1983, managed dence, that an airport be- to liberate him, but just

hours later, he and some of his colleagues were lined up against a wall and machine-gunned to death. His NJM rivals accused him of being insufficiently Leninist. They, in turn, were referred to by Castro as "hyenas" and "the Pol

Suffice it to say that by the time the US marines and their token Jamaican and Barbadian cohorts landed at the incomplete airport the Americans had objected to, they were effectively vultures feeding off the corpse of what the locals idealised as a 'revo'

The same airport today bears Bishop's name, and this year Grenada for the first time marked his anniversary as National Heroes Day.

It's all very well to memorialise that remarkable revo, but the main lesson must be about was placed under house what even the tiniest nation can achieve under appropriate guidance. --Courtesy Dawn

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### **Brutal killing of innocent** Palestinian citizens is actually genocide of humanity: Baligh

**Independent Report** LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman attended of "Tabeer" Project at LUMS University National Incubation Center Lahore as Chief Guest.

Speaking on this occasion, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that the brutal

actually a genocide of Governor Punjab Incubation centers in humanity. He said that the martyrdom of Palestinians by the bombing at the propose of Tabeer Project towards empowering the contribution of the propose of civilian settlements and hospitals in Gaza strip is painful. Governor Punjab said that the international community must come brutality and tranny and play a role in stopping the massacre of innocent citizens, women and small economic prosperity in the

is to hone the entrepreneurial skills of students. He said that the incubation center in the university is an excellent initiative, adding that it will

boost the on going efforts

to foster innovation,

entrepreneurship, and

youth by providing them with the necessary resources, guidance and opportunities to turn their entrepreneurship dreams in to reality. Tabeer will enhance these efforts through collaborative engagements with university faculty, the NICL team.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali inaugurating Department of Secratun-Nabi (SAWW) Studies in Peshawar University. Vice Chancellor Dr. Idrees and Ulema are also



Syed Murad Ali Shah along with others addresses to media persons during press conference held at PPP Bilawal House Media Cell in Karachi.

### AJK PM emphasizes equal importance of ministries

Punjab still in grip of

dengue; 214 new

cases reported

LAHORE (APP): Punjab is still in the grip of dengue fever, with 214 new cases continuing, with Lahore

Multan

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Minister pointed out that Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has stated that all departments and ministers are of equal

a public delegation in the federal metropolis on Wednesday, the Prime Minister emphasized that there is no difference in the weightage and status of all ministries and portfolios. He underlined that the assured most crucial factor is the hard work and dedication of those in leadership positions, as per a press

He further mentioned

reported on Wednesday.

According to the latest data from the Health

department, a total of

9,512 confirmed dengue

cases were reported across

36 districts in Punjab this

Leading the unfortunate tally is Lahore,

reporting a staggering

4,032 cases, followed

closely by Rawalpindi with

2,287, Multan with 968,

idleness can lead to anxiety and chaos in society.

has given special instructions to the Minister for IT to utilize During a meeting with all available resources to attract educated youth towards IT and skill development. He also stressed the need to prioritize agriculture and

The Prime Minister that government will allocate all available resources to public welfare projects. He mentioned that the government is planning to launch a significant welfare that it is high time for the project worth 5 billion youth to focus on IT rupees for widows, instead of wasting their orphans, disabled time on unproductive individuals, and divorced activities. The Prime women.

The situation is still

continuing, with Lahore

reporting an additional 124

new dengue cases, Rawalpindi with 25,

Gujranwala with 24,

Faisalabad with 04 while

Narowal reported 04 cases

in the last 24 hours.

Sahiwal reported 03 case of

dengue virus whereas

Sheikhupura, Chakwal and

Sialkot each recorded 02

new cases of dengue in the

same time frame. Kasur,

with 16,

### foreign citizens SUKKUR (APP): Deputy Commissioner Sukkur, Fayyaz Hussain Mahesar He indicated that he

on Wednesday presided over a meeting of the committee established for the return of illegal foreign

DC chairs

meeting for

return of illegal

citizens in the district.

Speaking at the meeting, the DC said that on the directives of federal and Sindh governments, data collection of illegal foreign residents shall be expedited by the department concerned for the return of illegal residents to their countries

so that the instructions

issued by high authorities

could be implemented in

DC Mahesar said that after the identification of illegal residents, their identification cards shall also be cancelled and the expired card shall not be

He instructed committee members that the list of illegal foreign residents in the district shall be complied with after verification and after approval from provincial authorities, they could be reprinted their

#### respective countries. DC chairs meeting on **Smog Control** in Jhang

JHANG (APP):Deputy Commissioner Abdullah Khurram Niazi chaired a meeting here on Wednesday to review steps for controlling smog in the district. The meeting attended representatives of the Agriculture, Health, and Environment Protection departments, as well as concerned stakeholders.

During the meeting, officers of the Environment Protection department briefed the Deputy Commissioner on the concrete steps that are being taken to control s m o g . D e p u t y Commissioner Niazi emphasized the need for strict implementation of smog control measures and tolerance for violations

He also instructed the concerned departments to establish a new mechanism as soon as possible to ensure low emissions of pollutants. "We cannot leave it at that. We need to go further, be more audacious, and more determined to prevent air pollution," he said. "Zero tolerance for the burning of crop remains is a major step in this regard.

PESHAWAR (Online): established by the

Over the past week, multiple jirgas have convened in Kurram district, facilitated by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government and law enforcement agencies, with participation from regional government leaders, officials, and law enforcement personnel. These collaborative efforts have led to an evident

The government is actively engaged in restoring normalcy to the region by reopening previously closed roads within the next one to two days, ensuring the delivery of essential supplies such as food and medicine.

awareness drive for smog, fog MULTAN (APP): National Highways and Police

Motorway Police (NH&MP) M4 has launched an awareness campaign about smog/fog. According to details, a seminar was also held in collaboration with a

launches

private company to create in Beat No. 22.
DSP Zargham Atta,
Officer awareness about smog/fog Muhammad Kamran, Inspector Gul Hameed Khan, Inspector Gulzar Hussain, civil society members, drivers and

lawyers were in attendance. Inspector Gulzar Ahmed gave lecture to participants on smog/fog awareness and informed them about the measures taken by the motorway police to make the lives of passengers traveling on

### Naqvi chairs marathon meeting to take stock of smog situation

**Independent Report** LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Nagvi presided over a marathon meeting stretching for many hours at CM office with regard to take stock of the smog situation. The government and specialists mulled over various steps

eradication of smog. The environment specialists relating to smog apprised during the meeting that it will make no difference by granting leave in schools and closing down a transport.

to be taken for the

CM chaired a meeting in which smog emergency has been enforced across Punjab and wearing a mask has been declared mandatory for male and

**ABAD** delegation meets DG HDA

HYDERABAD (APP): A delegation of Association of Builders and Developers (ABAD) called upon the Director General of Hyderabad Development Authority (HDA) Żahid Hussain Shar at the HDA Secretariat here

Wednesday. The delegation, led by ABAD Hyderabad Region Vice Chairman Zulfiqar Farooqi, discussed the issues about the housing schemes and commercial projects in the district. The delegation emphasizes the need to expedite the development of the Gulistan-e-Sarmast Government of Sindh. interconnected using fast, and Kohsar Extension housing projects. They asked the DG to arrange funds to complete the longdelayed Sarmast project

female students in all Lahore division, Local

government and private schools for one month. CM while addressing the participants in the meeting said that mask wearing has been declared compulsory for the health of male and female students. We also appeal to the general public to use mask while going out of their houses. CM directed the

Provincial Ministers to visit government and private schools from tomorrow. Mohsin Naqvi stated that a stern action will be taken against those during construction of houses fail to sprinkle water on dust, sand and debris. CM issued

Government department and Lahore Waste Management Company in this regard. CM ordered withdrawal of challans against farmers during smog. Mohsin Naqvi issued directions to the Additional Chief Secretary (Home) in this regard and urged the farmers not to burn crops stubbles and dispose them of in an appropriate manner. Stern action should continue to be taken against smog emitting vehicles and factories without any

discrimination. CM directed that whichever step is humanly possible should be taken for the reduction and directions to Commissioner elimination of smog.



ABBOTTABAD: An eye-catching view of a snow covered area during the first heavy snowfall of winter season, which more decreases the temperature below in minus degree Celsius, at Ayubia Koza Gali road in Abbottabad on.

### KP Caretaker Minister boosts industrial growth in Mohmand District

**Independent Report** PESHAWAR: Dr. Aamir Abdullah, the Caretaker Minister for Industries, Commerce, Technical Education, and Newly Merged Districts Affairs in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, embarked on a one-day visit to the Merged District of Mohmand. During his visit, he inaugurated the operations of two newly established industrial units and laid the foundation

stone for another. The industrial zone in this district, developed under the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KPEZDMC), witnessed the formal inauguration of two oil units that became

operational within a remarkably short period one Additionally, foundation stone was laid for a new flour unit.

These projects have attracted a total investment of 1.2 billion rupees and are expected to create employment opportunities for 1,100 individuals, particularly benefiting the local population. Accompanying the

caretaker minister were Javed Iqbal Khattak, the Chief Executive Officer of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Development Management Company, the company's zone manager, industrialists, and local community leaders.



Justice (Retd) Maqbool Bagar being briefed by District Municipal officials during his inspection visit of Shah Faisal Colony area in Karachi.

### KMC ready to work with World Bank on city's uplift projects: Mayor

KARACHI (APP): Mayor present on the occasion. Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab Wednesday said the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation was ready to work with the World Bank on the city's development projects, the World Bank's investment and other matters will be approved legal protection by the City Council.

To solve the problem of lack of clean water, installation of RO plants is needed in Karachi, by installing a RO plant in every ward of the city, water shortage can be controlled to a large extent.

He said this during a neeting with a three-World Bank in his office. Najmi Alam was also at the lower level.

Head of the delegation Practice Manager World Bank Urban and Land for South Asia Abedalrazq Khalil received information regarding the development projects of Karachi on this occasion and expressed

interest in investment by

the World Bank in these

projects.

Mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab briefed the World Bank delegation about the structure of the local government system and the management of civic affairs in Karachi.

He said that the city is divided into 46 towns member delegation of the and thousand wards, each Council represents his area in Parliamentary Leader the KMC council and



**HYDERABAD: Teachers and students of Nation** Public School are holding protest demonstration against Israeli cruel and inhumane acts and express unity with the innocent people of Palestine, held in Hyderabad.

### **KP** police committed to end terrorism from country: IGP

Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Akhtar Hayat Khan here Wednesday said that the police committed to end terrorism from country.

to sabotage the peace would thwarted, he said.

"The restoration of peace and security is the top priority of the police. The police will utilize all available means and capabilities to safeguard the lives and property of the public," he added.

He expressed these views while addressing a high-level police conference security situation.

PESHAWAR (APP): at the Range Office in DI Inspector General (IG) of Khan.He said, "Anti-social Police Khyber elements that aim to spread terrorism and create through instability insurgency in the country are trying to undermine it, and it is our collective Every possible effort responsibility to defeat these attempts.""We will give a terror-free country to the coming generations. To counter elements in society who are enemies of peace, we must awaken public awareness and defeat terrorism". Regional Police Officer (RPO) of Dera Naseer Mahmood Satti and other relevant officials briefed the IGP in detail regarding the

#### PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber He said the factors Governor that have created rift in Ghulam Ali on Wednesday society can be overcome by following the principles preached by the Holy Prophet (PBUH). visited the University of Peshawar and inaugurated

**Governor inaugurates** 

Dept of Seerat-un-Nabi

(SAW) Studies

Department of Seerat-un-Nabi (SAW) Studies. Former Provincial Ministers, Syed Zahir Ali Shah and Moulana Amanullah Haqqani, Sheikh-ul-Hadees,

Moulana Muhammad Idrees, Sheikh-ul-Hadees, Moulana Mufti Ghaulamur-Rehman, Mufti Shahabud-Din Poplazai, Dean Islamic Studies, Dr. Muhammad Salim, faculty members and students were also present on the

Speaking as the chief guest, the Governor said Seerat-un-Nabi (SAW) is

announced free admission the best way of life for all for students and said that of us and we should follow the life of the holy Prophet made fully functional after (PBUH) to achieve success appointing staff and in the world and life faculty members.

### **NESPAK** to design first **Smart Education City**

LAHORE (APP): The based on advanced Smart Engineering Services Pakistan) has been awarded a prestigious consultancy services project for the feasibility study and design of Pakistan's first Smart Education City in District through the Command and Malir, Karachi by the Control Centre. All Board of Investment, systems would Director Zargham Eshaq he added. The MD Khan told media here on mentioned that key Wednesday that this

and Safe City concepts. The primary objective of the project was to establish governance processes that leverage technology and digital systems to manage citywide resources in real-time Managing reliable, and secure GPON systems integrated into

He said the social evils

can be controlled by

following Seerat-un-Nabi

(SAW) and we can change

the mindset of the young

generation by informing

them about the golden

principles of Seerat-un-

Nabi (ŜAW). The Governor

said that the problems can

be solved by living a life

according to Seerat-un-

Nabi. He also advised the

young generation to follow

the principles of Seerat-un-

Dr. Muhammad Salim also

Dean Íslamic Studies,

Nab (SAŴ).



with participants of a inaugural ceremony of "Tabeer" project at LUMS University National Incubation Center. NH&MP

### **Kurram witnesses positive** transformation through Govt and LEs initiatives

improvement in the local

situation. In a significant

development, a special land commission has been

government to address land disputes in Kurram district, and its work is nearing completion. Despite the disruptive intentions of certain elements, the situation in Kurram is anticipated to continue its positive trajectory. Tragically,

ongoing clash between clans has resulted in the loss of 25 lives. However, both parties have agreed to gradually vacate bunkers, signifying a step towards resolution. The everyday lives of the local populace have been adversely affected by these acts of lawlessness, but the government is steadfast in its commitment to restore normalcy and improve the well-being of the common



LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi presiding over a meeting at CM office with regard to take stock of the smog situation.

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# OMMERCE EWS

Page 06

# Rwanda delegation explores bilateral cooperation opportunities in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): collaboration. Notable manufacturing capabilities. Parliamentary delegation from Rwanda, led by Dr. Kalinda François Xavier, President of the Senate of Rwanda has bilateral explored cooperation opportunities in various sectors during their visit to Pakistan.

The delegation is currently on a four-day visit to Pakistan at the invitation of Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani. The delegation held significant meetings aimed at strengthening bilateral relations, with a focus on Information Technology (IT) and economic collaboration, said a press release.

During the visit, the delegation met with key areas

meetings with the Minister and Telecommunication, Dr. Umar Saif, a visit to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ICCI), and discussions

Parliamentarians Congress (IPC), Sitara Ayaz. In the meeting with the Minister for IT and Telecommunication, Dr. Kalinda emphasized the importance of Pakistan establishing a presence in Rwanda and exploring investment opportunities, particularly in the IT

with the Secretary General

of the International

Minister Dr. Umar Saif highlighted Pakistan's Pakistani officials and robust IT market, with organizations to discuss millions of cellular users

engagements included He also mentioned plans to export cell phones to African countries, fostering growth in the

The Ambassador of

Rwanda stressed the necessity of creating a comprehensive framework for cooperation, including cross-ministerial collaboration. Dr. Kalinda implied the signing of MoUs in the fields of Defense and Health with Pakistan, with negotiations underway for agreements in other sectors and desired to sign MoUs with Pakistan also in the IT Sector. The delegation's visit to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industries was marked by discussions on enhancing bilateral trade



CEO of E-Commerce Enablers Saqib Azhar and Sardarzada Usama Khan Tareen meeting with Federal Interior Minister Sarfaraz Bugti.

satisfaction. He said that

payments facility for Mutual Funds would

provide much-needed

convenience to mutual fund

investors and would be

instrumental in increasing

will work as the pivot for

smoothly, successfully

processing over 1 million

countries in the world and

has experienced the most

devastating impacts of

climate change in the form

of catastrophic floods last

year that affected 33

million people with a loss

of approx. PKR 3.3

main ingredients for

achieving long-term value

inclusivity. To address this

area, not only has the

SECP mandated female

companies' boards, but we

are also actively striving

work environments by

encouraging companies to

diversity policies. I am glad

to note that major strides

have been made, and

currently, more than 87%

of listed companies have at

least one female director

gender

representation

implement

on board.'

Akif talked about towards creating conducive

Akif said, "One of the

stakeholders is

the investors' base.

### SBP & CDC launched **RAAST** payments facility for mutual funds

ISLAMABAD (APP): improve Central Depository convenience Company (CDC) has satisfaction. H collaborated with the State the launch of the RAAST Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to allow investors to purchase mutual funds units using SBP's RAAST Payment

Gateway. CDC has developed a framework where it acts as an "Aggregator" and issues a Raast Payment ID, enabling investors to digitally transfer funds, using Raast, to the digitization of the respective Asset country's payment Management Company (AMC) for the purchase of its launch in 2021, RAAST

news release. The facility was launched in an event at transactions daily. CDC House with Saleem Ullah, Deputy Governor

SBP as the Chief Guest. While officiating the 267 million transactions event, Deputy Governor SBP, Saleem Ullah expressed his heartfelt appreciation for CDC's unwavering efforts and initiatives for digitalization and customer facilitation.

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The Chairman Security and

Exchange Commission of

Pakistan (SECP), Akif

Saeed has said the SECP

has been actively striving

to inculcate a regulatory

environment that considers

the environmental impact,

encourages corporate social

responsibilities and

stimulates good governance

the 2<sup>nd</sup> Pakistan Climate

Conference organized by

the Overseas Investors

Chamber of Commerce and

recent developments in the

ESG framework in

Pakistan and SECP's vision

framework, said a press

release issued here on

Pakistan is one of the 10

most climate-vulnerable

He pointed out that

governance

Industry (OICCI).

Wednesday.

He was speaking at

practices.

**SECP** to establish online

dashboard 'ESG Sustain'

He emphasized that which will revolutionize the core objective of all digitalization efforts is to landscape in the country.

NPO to organize webinar on tax & regulatory compliance

ISLAMABAD (APP) The National Productivity Organization (NPO) will conduct a webinar on 'tax and regulatory compliance on November 09 (Thursday).

Tax regulations means tax and other laws statute, ordinance, rule, order or other application of the laws applicable in a given Highlighting the importance of RAAST, the DG SBP said that RAAST country as well as any international treaty whereas tax compliance is the framework designed by the regulators to ensure the transparent governance in the individual or business decision to comply with country, according to an NPO document shared here Wednesday

The objective of the To date over 33 million unique RAAST IDs training aimed to help understand the basic have been created and over taxation laws applicable, worth Rs.5.4 trillion paid how to handle compliance, and settled through business to increase their credibility and to avail the He added that the RAAST Payment-to-Merchant (P2M) feature benefits associated. The webinar has been designed for senior management, middle management, has been recently launched, entrepreneurs, startups and SMEs.

#### Rupee sheds Rs 1.17 against **Dollar**

ISLAMABAD (APP) Pakistani Rupee on Wednesday witnessed Rs1.17 devaluation against US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs282.64 against the previous day's closing o Rs281.47.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market

stood at R\$281 and R\$283.5 respectively. The price of the Euro decreased by 77 paisa to close at Rs298.07 against the last day's closing of Rs298.84, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen lost one paisa to closed at Rs 1.86; whereas an increase of Rs1.11 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound. which traded at Rs343.00 as compared to the last closing of Rs341.89.



MULTAN: Members of All Pakistan NTDC Engineers Association are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, held at Multan press

### ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif in a meeting with Parliamentary Any kind of seeds not allowed to import; rules & regulation is our priority: Dr Kausar

ISLAMABAD (APP): vision to solve livestock for National Food Security priority basis. & Research Dr Kausar

Wednesday said that any kind of seeds will not be permitted to be imported, rules and regulation is our priority and according to our law, no seed can be imported.

He said that the Ministry of National Food Security and Research will provide all the possible support to the industry, said a press release issued here. The Minister said technical and commercial research reports should be submitted in a week

Chamber of Commerce &

Industry (LCCI) has

commended the Federal

Board of Revenue (FBR)

for surpassing revenue

target for the fourth

achieving a collection of Rs

2.75 trillion from July to

October 2023. Talking to

media here Wednesday, the

Anwar said the FBR has

and October than it had

planned.Kashif Anwar also

welcomed the decision of

not to increase interest

rates, but he emphasized

the need for reduced

month,

consecutive

Caretaker Federal Ministér and poultry problems on a He expressed these

views while presiding over the meeting of the All Pakistan Solvent Extractors Association regarding reducing the price of chickens and importing soybeans. Secretary, Minister of National Food Security &

Research Captain ® Muhammad Mahmood and Chairman PARC Dr Ghulam Muhammad Ali were also present. Dr Kausar Abdullah

Malik said that complete work should be done on soybeans before importing them, it is necessary to regarding Soybean check which seeds have (Glycine max), it is our more economic benefits in **Lahore Chamber lauds** 

should be in single digit to

facilitate industrial growth

as the lower interest rates

multifaceted impact on

economy like cost of

borrowing, investment

incentives, Consumer

Spending, exchange rates,

lower interest rates and

reducing debt servicing

in exchange rates to curb

petroleum product prices

reflect economic recovery.

President LCCI expressed

his appreciation for the

reduction in edible oil

Furthermore

typically

FBR's revenue success

LAHORE (APP): Lahore that ideally, the interest rate

LCCI President Kashif burden. He calls for parity

collected Rs 68 billion illegal money transfer

more in taxes between July methods, saying stable

interest rates, suggesting prices by Rs 60 per liter.

He said that it is better to grow something for the sake of domestic and national interest on the land

where nothing can grow. Secretary Ministry of National Food Security & Research Captain (retd) Muhammad Mahmood advised to form a committee comprising of Pakistan Chairman Agriculture Research Center, the Director General of the Department of Plant Protection and the Director General Federal Seeds Certification and Registration Department and submit a research report within a week on the SOPs and protocols of

#### **Shell signs** agreement to sell majority shareholding

soybean import and export in the world.

ISLAMABAD (APP) Shell Petroleum Company Limited, a subsidiary of Shell plc (Shell), has agreed to sell its 77.42% majority interest in Shell Pakistan Limited (SPL) to Wafi Energy LLC.

The sale is part of Shell's strategy to highgrade its mobility network and was first announced on Capital Markets Day in June 2023, said a news

The sale is expected to be completed by Q4 2024, subject to regulatory approvals. completion, the Shell brand will remain in Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik chairing a meeting of All Pakistan Solvent Extractors Association at Ministry of NFS&R.

### KP-EZDMC, **British Council discuss** skills partnership

PESHAWAR (APP): A innovation by introducing virtual session on the an Industry Advisory development of the Taskforce Group (IATG) International Skills to establish a sectoral Partnership was held approach in the Food and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Hattar Economic Zone as Zone Development & Management Company (KPEZDMC) and the British Council team, according to a press release issued here on Wednesday.

This partnership aims and Mughal Foods from to foster growth and Hattar Economic Zone.

a pilot project. The meeting brought together not only key stakeholders but also private industrialists i.e. Mashmoom Private Ltd,

#### Gold price decreases by Rs 1,200

ISLAMABAD (APP) The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs1,200 to Rs.211,800 on Wednesday as compared to its sale at Rs 213,000 on last trading day.

The price of 10 grams Beverages sector in the of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs1,029 to Rs182,613 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs166,452, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

### **United Business Group will** win the FPCCI election with a huge majority: Bakhtawari

welcomed the joining of

Ourban Ali, the group

leader of All Chamber of

Commerce Gilgit Baltistan,

to the UBG. Ali said that

there are nine chambers

bodies in Gilgit Baltistan

out of which 8 are joining

ISLAMABAD (APP): that The United Business community of the country (UBG) has expressed confidence in the current economic winning the upcoming FPCCI election with a huge

The group's secretary general, Zafar Bakhtawari on Wednesday said that the UBG has fielded the best candidates to convey the voice of the business community to the houses of power and decisionmaking forces. He also said

the UBG today, and that he has business full confidence in the UBG's candidates. is equally responsible for The situation, and that the UBG has the best solutions to improve the economy. Bakhtawari also

presidential candidate, Atif İkram Shaikh, said that he is confident in winning the election and that he will play a role in solving the problems of the business community in the context of the current economic situation. He also said that the UBG will win the FPCCI election with a huge majority

### **SM Tanveer chairs** 15th PPPA session

**Independent Report** SM Tanveer chaired the 15th session of the Executive Committee of Punjab Public Private Partnership Authority (PPPA) here Wednesday. The primary agenda

consisted encompassing 15 key points. During the meeting, the committee approved the initiation of three pivotal projects i.e. establishment of five underground parking facilities in the vicinity of waste recycling project. In addition to the approved.

project greenlight, the LAHORE: Caretaker committee took a Provincial Minister for significant stride by Industries and Commerce authorizing the allocation of funds through the Project Development Fund (PDF), marking a pivotal step in advancing these initiatives. strategic moves were made

as the committee sanctioned the initiation of comprehensive review a commercial bank account and approved procurement of new vehicles, seamlessly with the Authority's overarching goals.

Administrative and financial matters, crucial to the walled city area, the PPPA, were also Thokar Niaz Baig to Mohlanwal Canal Road during the meeting. The the PPPA, were also sewerage initiative and the minutes of the 13th and 14th sessions were



Chamber of Commerce & Industry Iftikhar Ahmed Sheikh meeting with Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori.

### **CPI inflation recorded** at 26.9 in October

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation increased to 26.9 percent during the month of October 2023 as compared to the same month of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Wednesday.

The inflation had increased to 31.4 per cent last month (September) whereas it was recorded at 26.6 percent during October, 2022, according to the PBS On a month-on-

month basis, the inflation increased to 1.1 percent in October 2023 as compared to an increase of 2.0 percent in the previous month and an increase of 4.7 percent in October

nflation increased to

25.5% on a year-on-year (YoY) basis in October 2023 as compared to an increase of 29.7% in the previous month and 24.6% in October last year. On a month-onmonth (MoM) basis, it increased to 1.1% in October 2023 as compared to an increase of 1.7% in the previous month and an increase of 4.5% in October 2022.

On the other hand, the rural CPI increased to 28.9% on a year-on-year basis in October 2023 as compared to an increase of 33.9% in the previous month and 29.5% in October 2022.

On a month-onmonth basis, it increased to 1.1% in October 2023 as compared to an increase of 2.5% in the previous month The urban CPI and an increase of 5.0% in October 2022.



MULTAN: Farmer women plucking cotton in the field at Central Cotton Research Institute.

### **OICCI urges collaborative** efforts to address climate crisis in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): responsible for less than

Amir Paracha President of the Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI) on Wednesday urged collaborative efforts to address the climate crisis in Pakistan."Climate change is a global issue but in Pakistan's case it is evident that climate change is happening now and not a phenomenon that only our future generations will experience," said Amir Paracha at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Pakistan

This is the second consecutive year that the OICCI has organized the Climate Conference with the aim of better climate action in the country. Despite

Climate Conference.

1% of the world's planetwarming gases, Pakistan is the eighth most vulnerable nation to the climate crisis. Caretaker Finance Minister Shamshad Akhtar,

while addressing the conference, said that to address climate-related challenges, Pakistan would require an investment of approximately 340 billion dollars, which is 10pc of cumulative GDP."One of the biggest challenges we have internationally is the issue of trade-off between climate finance and developmental finance," she said. She said that getting money for Pakistan's climate crisis undercuts other being development finance.

Germany's Scholz says his

country, EU to help boost

West Africa security

**Monitoring Desk** 

ACCRA: German Chancel-

lor Olaf Scholz on Tuesday

said his country and the

European Union as a whole

were committed to boost-

ing security in West Africa.

and could provide training

and equipment to support

operations against a jihadist insurgency spreading through the region.

Speaking in Ghana on the last leg of his third trip to sub-Saharan Africa,

Scholz said a recent string

of coups in West African

nations had stalled coopera-

tion between countries and

could play into the hands

pling with an insurgency that took root in Mali in

2012 and has since spread

West Africa is grap-

of militants.

# Independent

### Thursday November 02, 2023 International News

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thousands and displacing

to al Qaeda and Islamic

State have also encroached

south towards the Gulf of

Guinea, staging attacks in the north of coastal coun-

tries such as Benin, Ghana

Mali, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Niger and Gabon

since 2020 have only added

instability. Scholz stressed

the importance of restoring

'democratic order" and said

Ghana was a "beacon of

hope" for the region and a

close partner for Germany.

many was ready to support

cross-border cooperation

and that an upcoming EU

mission to the Gulf of

He noted that Ger-

Military takeovers in

Militants with links

over six million.

### **Desperate Israel erases 50** lives in Jabalia camp strike

hund-reds of martyrs and

wounded. People were still

"transporting the remains

The Jabalia camp is

of children, women and elderly", he added.

Gaza's largest refugee

camp. According to the United Nations agency for Palestinian Refugees, the

densely populated camp is

situated in the north of the

besieged enclave and cov-

ers an area of 1.4 square

km. There are approximately 116,000 registered

refugees in the camp.

The camp also housed three UN-run

schools, which had subse-

quently been converted

refugee camp.

**Monitoring Desk** 

GAZA STRIP: Palestinian fighters offered stiff resista-nce to invading forces, but the relentless Israeli bombing of the besieged enclave claimed at least 50 lives in the Jabalia refugee camp, on Tuesday.

This takes the total number of those killed in Israel's brutal bombing campaign to 8,525, including 3,542 children, according to the latest count by the health ministry.

The director of Gaza's Indonesian Hospital told Al Jazeera that more than 50 Palestinians were killed and 150 wounded in Israeli air strikes on a densely populated area of the Jabalia refugee camp in northern Gaza. AFP video footage

from the scene showed at least 47 bodies recovered from the rubble after the strike hit several houses in the densely crowded

Dozens of onlookers could be seen standing on the edges of two vast craters as people searched for

into shelters for hundreds Ragheb Aqal, a Jabalia of displaced families. resident, described the

On Tuesday, Tel Aviv said it struck 300 targets strikes as "an earthquake" which shook the entire during its fourth night of land operations in north-'I went and saw the ern Gaza.

destruction... homes bur-Warplanes kept up a ied under the rubble and relentless barrage of strikes body parts and martyrs and on Gaza, while Israel also wounded in huge numbers," the 41-year-old told claimed that its forces were engaging Hamas fighters inside their vast tunnel "There's no exaggerating when they talk about network beneath Gaza.

'Over the last day. IDF struck approximately 300 targets, including antitank missile and rocket launch posts below shafts. as well as military compounds inside underground tunnels belonging to Hamas," an Israeli military statement said.

Footage from the Israeli military showed tanks and armoured bulldozers churning up bomb-scarred dirt tracks and troops going from building to building. In addition, AFP im-

ages showed plumes of smoke rising above Gaza and Israeli helicopters raining down rockets on the northern Gaza Strip.

it killed rebels

that murdered

honeymooning

tourists

**Monitoring Desk** 

KAMPALA: Uganda's

military said on Wednesday

it had killed a number of

fighters from an Islamic

State-linked group who

shot dead a honeymooning

couple and their guide in a

Democratic Forces (ADF) rebel group ambushed David

and Celia Barlow and their

Ugandan guide Eric Ayai in

Queen Elizabeth National Park

near the border with Demo-

cratic Republic of Congo on

Oct. 17. Celia Barlow was

South African and her new

husband was British. "ADF

terrorists whom we have been

Gunmen from the Allied

national park last month.



Palestinian fighters offered stiff resistance to invading forces, but the relentless Israeli bombing of the besieged enclave claimed at least 50 lives in

### Seoul believes North Korea sent Russia over a million artillery shells

**Monitoring Desk** SEOUL: South Korea's top spy agency believes North Korea sent more than a million artillery shells to Russia since August to help fuel Russian President Vladimir Putin's war on Ukraine, according to a lawmaker who attended a closed-door briefing Wednesday with intelli-gence officials.

North Korea and Russia have been actively boosting the visibility of their partnership in the face of separate, deepening confrontations with the United States. Their diplomacy highlighted by a summit be-

Kim Jong Un and Putin in September — has triggered concerns about an arms arrangement in which North Korea supplies Russia with badly needed munitions in exchange for advanced Russian technologies that would strengthen Kim's nucleararmed military. Both Pyongyang and Moscow have denied U.S.

transferring arms supplies to Russia. According to lawmaker

Yoo Sang-bum, the South Korean National Intelligence Service believes the North shipped more than a million tween North Korean leader artillery shells to Russia

transport means since early August to help boost Russia's warfighting capabilities in Ukraine. Those shells would roughly amount to two months' worth of supplies for the Russians, Yoo said. The agency believes North Korea has been operating its munitions factories at full capacity to meet and South Korean claims Russian munition demands that the North has been and has also been mobilizing residents to increase production, Yoo said. There are also signs that North Korea dispatched weapons experts to Russia in October to counsel Russian officials on how to use the exported North Korean weapons.

### 2 killed in Russian attacks in eastern Ukraine that also damage Kherson city center

**Monitoring Desk** KYIV: A Russian attack on Kherson in eastern Ukraine on Wednesday killed one person and caused serious damage in the city's center, the region's governor said, and a Russian drone strike killed another civilian in the frequently targeted city of

The attack on Kherson, which Russian forces seized early in the war but then abandoned a year ago, also wounded two people. Despite the withdrawal, Russian attacks from the other side of the Dnieper River persist.

'Again an apocalyptic scene," regional Gov. intensity of strikes.

Oleksandr Prokudin said on the Telegram messaging app. "Broken glass, torn window frames, ruined homes. People with trembling voices telling about what they have been through.

In Nikopol, which is on the opposite bank of the Dniper from the Russian-held Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, four people were wounded in the drone strike along with the woman who was killed, according to regional Gov. Serhii Lysak. Oleksii Kuleba, deputy head of Ukraine's presidential of-fice, said "the occupiers are increasing the number and

#### Blinken to visit South Korea; North Korea, Russia on agenda Monitoring Desk

SEOUL: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken will visit South Korea on Nov 8 and 9 to discuss North Korea and alliance issues with Foreign Minister Park Jin, South Korea's foreign ministry said on Wednesday.

Park and Blinken will also discuss economic security, cooperation on industrial technology and regional issues of mutual interest, the ministry said. The visit marks the first by a US secretary of state in two and a half years. It comes amid heightened security cooperation between the allies and growing concerns about North Korea's military cooperation with Russia.

#### anti-Islamophobia strategy but faces skepticism from Muslim Americans **Monitoring Desk** WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden's adminis-

across the Sahel region Guinea could provide trainsouth of the Sahara, killing ing and equipment.

White House will develop an

tration is preparing to announce that if will develop a national strategy to combat Islamophobia, according to people briefed on the matter, as it faces skepticism from many in the Muslim American community for its staunch support of Israel's military assault

on Hamas in Gaza. The White House announcement had originally been expected to come last week when Biden held a meeting with Muslim leaders, but was delayed, three people said. Two of them said the delay was due in part to concerns from the Muslim American community that the administration lacked credibility on the issue given its robust support for Israel's military, whose strikes against Hamas militants have also killed thousands of civilians in Gaza. The people spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were

The launch of the anti-Islamophobia strategy has been anticipated for months, after the administration in May released a national strategy to combat antisemitism that also made passing reference to countering hatred against Muslims. The formal strategy is expected to take many months to formalize, following a similar process as the plan to counter antisemitism involving vari-

ous government agencies. Incidences of anti-Jewish and anti-Muslim hate have skyrocketed in the U.S. and abroad since the surprise Oct. 7 attack by Hamas militants on Israel that killed over 1,400 and saw hundreds taken hostage, and Israel's response in Gaza, where it has pledged to use force to "destroy" Hamas. One of the most prominent attacks was the killing of 6-yearold Wadea Al-Fayoume and the wounding of his mother in an attack prosecutors alnot authorized to publicly lege was driven by discuss the White House Islamophobia.

### Mexico's Sheinbaum holds 18 point lead in presidency race - poll

**Monitoring Desk** 

MEXICO CITY: Former Mexico City Mayor and ruling party candidate Claudia Sheinbaum holds an 18 percentage point lead over her nearest rival in the race to win Mexico's next presidential election on June 2, an opinion poll showed.

A survey of 1,620 Mexicans between Oct 19 and Oct 28 by newspaper El Financiero showed Sheinbaum, who represents the leftist National Regeneration Movement (MORENA), polling 46% support, with her rival Xochitl Galvez at 28%.

Sheinbaum has the firm backing of popular President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, who cannot seek reelection. Under Mexican law, presidents may only serve a single sixyear term.

Galvez, an unconventional Senator and businesswoman, fronts a three-way opposition alliance ranging from the center-left to the center-right, including two former ruling parties.

A third presidential hopeful, Nuevo Leon state Governor Samuel Garcia of the center-left Citizens' Movement (MC) party, was polling 8 percent support. The remaining 18 percent of respondents did not express a preference. Sheinbaum, a trained

scientist, has pledged to consolidate the legacy of Lopez Obrador. He has built his popularity around increased welfare spending, and worked to give the state greater control of key sectors of the economy, nota-Galvez backs a more

business-friendly approach and wants to encourage greater private sector investment. If either woman is elected, they would make history as the first female leader of Latin America's no 2 economy. The two candidates' personal backgrounds have generated plenty of interest in Mexico and abroad. Galvez grew up in a family with indigenous roots, while Sheinbaum's grandparents were Jewish immigrants from eastern Europe.

### **Biggest Chinese Antarctic** fleet sets off to build research station

**Monitoring Desk** 

BEIJING: Two Chinese icebreaker research vessels and a cargo ship set sail on Wednesday for the Antarctic with more than 460 personnel on board to help complete construction of China's fifth station on the world's southernmost con-

China's biggest flotilla of research vessels deployed to the Antarctic will focus on building the station on the rocky, windswept Inexpressible Island near the Ross Sea, a deep Southern Ocean bay named after a 19th century British explorer.

Work on the first Chinese station in the Pacific sector began in 2018. It will be used to conduct research on the region's environment, state television reported. China has four research stations in the Antarctic built from 1985 to 2014. A U.S.-based think tank estimated the fifth could be finished next year.

The facility is expected to include an observatory with a satellite ground station, and should help China "fill in a major gap" in its ability to access the continent, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) said in a report this year. The station is also

well situated to collect sig-

nals intelligence over Australia and New Zealand and telemetry data on rockets launched from Australia's new Arnhem Space Centre, it said. China rejects suggestions that its stations would be used for espionage. The two icebreakers, Xuelong 1 and Xuelong 2, the name means "Snow Dragon" in Chinese, set sail from Shanghai with mostly personnel and logistics supplies on board. The cargo ship "Tianhui", or "Divine Blessings", taking construction material for the station, set off from the eastern Zhangjiagang.

### ASTANA: French President Emmanuel Macron meeting with Kazakh Presi 4 former Hong Kong student Uganda army says

leaders jailed over their praise of a knife attack on a police officer **Monitoring Desk** HONG KONG: Four sentences, Judge Adriana former student leaders from Noelle Tse Ching said the the University of Hong

Kong were sentenced to two years in prison on Monday for inciting people to wound others through their praise of a man who tence would send "the stabbed a police officer before killing himself in 2021. she said. Kinson Cheung, Charles Kwok, Chris Todorovski and Anthony Yung are being held responsible for their roles in pass-

union council. The motion expressed "deep sadness" and appreciated the "sacrifice" of the man who took his own life. The resolution came against the backdrop of widespread public anger against the police, who were condemned as being

heavy-handed in quelling

the 2019 pro-democracy

**Monitoring Desk** 

nation's top military and

diplomatic leaders urged an

increasingly divided Con-

gress on Tuesday to send

immediate aid to Israel and

Ukraine, arguing at a Sen-

ate hearing that broad sup-

port for the assistance

would signal U.S. strength

The testimony from

to adversaries worldwide.

Defense Secretary Lloyd

Austin and Secretary of

State Antony Blinken to

the Senate Appropriations

Committee came as the

administration's massive

\$105 billion emergency aid

request for conflicts in the

two countries encountered

tisan support in the

Democratic-led Senate for

aid to both Ukraine and

Israel, the request faces

deep problems in the Re-

publican-led House. New

Speaker Mike Johnson

has proposed focusing on

While there is bipar-

aid to both Israel and Ukraine

ing a motion in the students

Handing down the words they used were likely to incite hatred against the police. The charge the four were facing was a serious offense and a lenient senwrong message" to society,

Leung Kin-fai stabbed a police officer with a knife before turning the weapon on himself on July 1, 2021, the anniversary of the former British colony's handover to Chinese rule in 1997. Leung was described by the city's authorities as a "lone wolf" domestic terrorist who was politically

Israel alone, and slashing

money for the Internal

Revenue Service to pay

divisions deepen, Blinken

and Austin warned that the

consequences of failing to

help Ukraine in its war

with Russia and Israel as

it strikes back against

Hamas would be dire. In-

action, they said, would

threaten the security of the

U.S. and the rest of the

moment where many are

again making the bet that

the United States is too di-

vided or distracted at

home to stay the course," Blinken said. "That is

what is at stake." Austin

said that if the United

States fails to lead, "the

cost and the threats to the

United States will only

grow. We must not give our

friends, our rivals, or our

foes any reason to doubt

America's resolve.

'We now stand at a

world

As the congressional

#### radicalized. tracking down since the attack on tourists were finally got and The passing of the a number of them were killed motion drew criticism from the university and Hong last night on Lake Edward." Kong's security bureau prompting Kwok and his Police shoot at peers to apologize and reunarmed. tract the resolution.

#### veiled woman US military and diplomatic leaders in Paris urge a divided Congress to send

PARIS: French police on Tuesday shot and seriously

The incident came with the country on its maximum alert for potential attacks but with the police also under scrutiny over recent fatal shootings

Witnesses said the 38feared for their safety".

After passengers on a suburban train travelling from the eastern suburbs to Paris alerted police, agents managed to "isolate" the woman at the Bibliotheque François Mitterrand station on the capital's south bank which was evacuated, the source said. They ordered her to sit on the ground and stop moving, Paris police chief Laurent Nunez told reporters

# Araihazar, some 40km from Dhaka.

**Monitoring Desk** 

wounded an unarmed woman at a train station in Paris during morning rush

of suspects.

year-old woman, who was wearing a hijab, recited 'Allahu akbar" and said 'you will all die", a police source said, adding that 'police fired because they



BELFAST: People walk past a pro-Palestinian mural on the Republican

### Charles stops short of apologising for UK's 'acts of violence' in Kenya

**Monitoring Desk** NAIROBI: Britain's King Charles said on Tuesday he felt the "greatest sorrow and deepest regret" for atrocities suffered by Kenyans during their struggle for independence

from colonial rule. But in a speech at the start of a four-day state visit to Kenya, he stopped short of making a full apology called for by survivors of that period and local rights groups who are pressing for reparations from the Britisĥ government.

the past are a cause of the remains in British hands.

greatest sorrow and the deepest regret," Charles said during a state banquet.

There were abhorrent and unjustifiable acts of violence committed against Kenyans as they waged... a painful struggle for independence and sovereignty and for that, there can be no excuse." Many citizens of former British colonies, including leaders of Kenya's Nandi people, want Charles to directly apologise and endorse reparations for colonial-era abuses, including torture, killings and expropria-'The wrongdoings of tion of land, much of which

### Two Bangladeshi activists killed in anti-govt protests

**Monitoring Desk** 

Two Bangla-deshi opposition activists were killed on Tuesday after police clashed with hundreds of anti-government protesters blocking roads and railways after their top leaders were charged with murder.

broke out in multiple cities and towns as members of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and Jamaat-i-Islami, the country's largest Islamist party, de-manded Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina step down from power ahead of elections due by the end of January.

The BNP said it launched its transport bloc-kade after police broke up a rally on Saturday. when more than 100,000 supporters of the two major opposition parties delaunching a three-day strike manded Hasina allow a free and fair vote under a neutral government.

The violence has Police said violence sparked international concern, with seven countries including the United States, Australia, Britain, Canada and Japan urging both sides to "exercise restraint eschew violence and work together' for a free and fair vote.

Al Amin, deputy police chief in the town of Kuliarchar, north of the capital Dhaka.

### France probes graffiti of anti-Semitic

buildings around the city and its suburbs. Prime go unpunished.

Tuesday. Similar tags appeared over the weekend in suburbs of the city including Vanves.

#### In UK, tourists discover darker side of Oxford and

OXFORD: British universities Oxford and Cambridge are constantly ranked among the best in the world and celebrated for their academic excellence. But their murkier history is being brought to life for tourists, as the country increasingly grapples with its colonial

"This is not the standard walking tour," warned guide and student Claire McCann, before leading her group onto the cobbled streets of Oxford, which attract some seven million

# Motorists watch as Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) activists set fire on a road as they attempt to block a highway during clashes with the police in

#### symbols in Paris **Monitoring Desk** PARIS: French prosecutors opened an investigation on Tuesday into dozens of Stars of David daubed on

Minister Elisabeth Borne condemned "the despicable acts", saying they will not Fresh stars were painted overnight on the facades of several buildings in a southern district of Paris, a journalist saw on

# Cambridge **Monitoring Desk**

visitors every year.

### Balochistan to be tourism hub after inauguration of **CPEC** airport project

ISLAMABAD (APP): airport, the Balochistan southwest Balochistan province has the potential to become a hub of domestic and international tourism after the inauguration of the New Gwadar International Airport, a donation by the Chinese government under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a Pakistani official said. "In recent years, Balochistan has experienced a notable surge in domestic tourism and with the commencement of the reasons," Rana added. Talking about the seairport operations, geographical distances are expected to diminish, paving the way for an influx of tourists into Gwadar and its surrounding regions," Managing Director of Pakistan

interview with Xinhua. To facilitate tourism, the PTDC will establish a tourist information center at the airport to provide them with comprehensive information about hotels, tourist sites, and all other basic information, the officer said.

Corporation (PTDC) Aftab

ur Rehman Rana said in an

He added that in order to tap the potential of the

Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki.

**Independent Report** 

QUETTA: The caretaker

Chief Minister Balochistan,

Mir Ali Mardan Khan

Domki has directed the

concerned authorities to

make the government teach-

ers bound to perform du-

otherwise stern action

those remain absent from

Coastal Development Authority has made a master plan, and marked the areas along the coast on which tourist sites will be developed. Balochistan boasts a stunning coastal stretch, and there are ongoing efforts to develop eco-tourism resorts, beach parks, floating jetties, and relaxation spots along this coastline to cater to both domestic and international tourists, including those visiting Gwadar for business

curity of the tourists, he said that in the initial stage, group tourism will be permitted, primarily driven by security considerations. 'Tourists will be re-

quired to share their travel Tourism Development plans with a dedicated tourism police force, which will be established to enhance safety and support tourism activities. During this phase, tourists will receive security provisions as they travel in organized groups, Rana said. Subsequently, in the second phase, individual tourists will have the opportunity to explore the area independently when tourism becomes more common.



ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador-designate of Jordan, Dr Maen A.M. Khreasat, Ambassador-designate of Holy See, Archbishop Germano Penemote Apostolic Nuncio, Ambassador-designate of Czech Republic, Mr Ladislav Steinhubel, the High Commissioner-designate of Brunei Darussalam, Colonel (r) Pengiran Haji Kamal Bashah bin Pengiran Haji Ahmad, and the Ambassador-designate of Qatar to Pakistan, Ali Mubarak A.E. Al-Khater, presenting their diplomatic credentials to President Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

### President denounces use of brutal force against innocent Palestinians

World must act urgently to stop Israel's war crimes in Gaza: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday denounced use of brutal force against innocent Palestinians, and called for the lifting of the siege and opening of a humanitarian corridor for Palestinians. He said that Pakistan was seriously concerned at the incessant Israeli aggression against civilians, which had killed thousands of people including women, children, and the elderly.

He stressed that the international community

should condemn the continued Israeli aggression in Gaza. The president stated that Pakistan stood for a total withdrawal of Israel from all occupied Arab territories, including Jerusa-lem, as well as the establishment of an independent homeland for Palestinians with Al-Ouds Sharif as its He gave these remarks

during a presentation of diplomatic credentials ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr. Those who presented bassador-designate of Qatar to Pakistan, Ali Mubarak emony held at Aiwan-e-

credentials to the president include Ambassador-designate of Jordan, Dr Maen A.M. Khreasat, Ambassador-designate of Holy See, Archbishop Germano Penemote Apostolic Nuncio, Ambassador-designate of Czech Republic, Ladislav Steinhubel, the High Commissioner-designate of Brunei Darussalam, Colonel ® Pengiran Haji Kamal Bashah bin Pengiran Haji Ahmad, and the Am-

Meanwhile Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday

strongly condemned the rising Israeli hostilities and aggression against civilians in Gaza Yesterday's air raid

on Jabalia camp, where hundreds of lives were lost, including women and children, was a stark reminder of ongoing Israeli brutalities and war crimes in Gaza,' he posted on social media

### IG Police for enhancing capacity of police to curb terrorist activities in Balochistan

tor General (IG) Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Shaikh said on Wednesday that steps were being taken to provide latest training to police and other law enforcement agencies (LAEs) to enhance their capacity to curb terrorist activities and maintain durable peace in the province.

He expressed these views while addressing the passing out parade of the 98th batch of police officers at the Police Training College (PTC), Quetta. The batch consisted of 839 officers, including 11 assistant directors, 38 sergeants, 790 corporals, and 33 lady of-

IG Shaikh said that the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) was an agency that was capable of according to international collecting intelligence, inves-standards using a new strat-

tigating terrorist incidents, and punishing criminals. He said that Balochistan was the largest province of Pakistan in terms of area and was important in the world in view of its geographical location and importance, and that maintaining peace and order in the area was no less than a challenge. He added that establishing sustainable peace in the province was the top priority

of the current government. IG Shaikh said that the Balochistan Police had played a valuable role in maintaining law and order despite the lack of resources by making many changes and adopting new strategies. He said that the Balochistan Police had decided to recruit separate corporal staff in the CTD

those who met the PML-N

senior leader were included

Sardar Abdul Rehman

Khetran, Mir Mujeebur

Ghafoor Lehri, Mir Abdul

Karim Nosherwani, Mir

Dostain Domki, Sardar

Masood Luni, Tariq Mesuri

Bugti, Sehr Gul Khilji

Muhammad Khan Lehri,

charge of the PIO and

appreciated his efforts

to resolve the problems

faced by newspapers and

Rehman

Muhammad

Mir Abdul

egy to prevent terrorist activities. He also said that the police uniform was a symbol of trust and that officers should never let its sanctity be violated. He urged them to restore their trust in the hearts of the people by their behavior. IG Shaikh said that

the responsibilities of the police had increased compared to the past and that young people needed to be motivated and inspired. He said that the police would continue to fulfill the duty of bringing terrorists to jus-

He said that people's cooperation was necessary to control terrorism in Balochistan and that people's complaints would have to be redressed and crimes would have to be punished in a timely man-

#### Pak embassy joins Tehran charity bazaar for Palestinian aid

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Embassy in Tehran on Wednesday participated in a three-day charity bazaar organized by the Diplomatic Ladies Association of Iranian foreign ministry to generate funds for the suffering people of Pales-

The opening ceremony was attended by the spouses of the heads of the different organizations and diplomatic missions accredited to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The spouse of Iran's foreign minister visited the Pakistani stall and praised Pakistani handicrafts and cuisine as she also tasted the traditional food.

The Pakistani Lok music was also played at the interval which was enjoyed by the audience.

#### **Indian troops** martyred 17 **Kashmiris** in October

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indian troops in their contin-ued acts of state terrorism martyred 17 Kashmiris including a woman and a child during the last month of October in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kash-Khan on assuming the

According to the data issued by the Research Section of Kashmir Media Service, today, of those martyred, 11 were killed in fake encounters and custody by Indian troops and police in different districts of the territory. The killing by the Indian forces' personnel in the month rendered 2 women widowed and 10 children orphaned.

### **Bugti says:** Govt to launch crackdown against fake CNIC holders

SLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmad Bugti on Wednesday said that the caretaker government would launch a crackdown against the holders of fake Computerized National Identity Cards.

Serious action would be taken against those persons who had attained the CNICs and passports through illegal ways, he said while talking to a private television channel.

He said the law enforcement agencies were taking action against nonregistered and illegal foreigners living in Pakistan since long.

"We will welcome foreigners in Pakistan with valid documents," he added. To a question about incidents of terrorism in Pa-

kistan, he said many illegal Afghan people had been found involved in the terrorist acts and street crimes. We can achieve maximum success in curbing terrorism after sending all such nonregistered and illegal foreigners to their countries,' he added.

Bugti said Pakistan was a nuclear power state, and anti-state elements were trying to destabilise through conspiracies.

As regards detention centers, he said all the required facilities were being provided to Afghan families at the detention centers.

About the time frame of shifting non-registered people to their home country, he said nearly three to four months would be needed to send them back to Afghanistan.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker of Balochistan Assembly Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali calls on the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

### Lawyers defenders of democracy, human rights, **Constitution: Solangi**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Ministér for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi said on Wednesday that lawyers were defenders of democracy, human rights and the Constitution.

This he said in a congratulatory message to newly elected office bearers of the Supreme Court

Bar Association (SCBA). The minister congratulated the newly elected SCBA President Shahzad Shaukat, Secretary Ali

Imran Syed and other newly

elected office bearers. The minister lauded

the historic role of lawyers in promoting the rule of law, the supremacy of the Constitution and democratic traditions. Murtaza Solangi opined that lawyers act as the bridge between the bar and the bench and it was not possible to establish a developed society without justice. The minister expressed the hope that newly elected office bearers of SCBA will continue to play their key role for the supremacy of the Constitution

#### Treatment & transplant of liver patients: MoU to be signed between GoB & Gambat Institute soon: CM Domki

**Independent Report** QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Domki has announced that the memorandum of understanding (MoU) would be signed between the Government of Balochistan and Gambat Institute of Medical Sciences (GIMS) soon for treatment and transplant of poor patients suffering from liver diseases.

Under the MoU, the patients belonging to Balochistan would be provided medical treatment and transplant facilities on the expense of provincial

government. He also announced that the marked reforms would be brought about in the health sector after making the Balochistan Healthcare Commission functional.

The Chief Minister was speaking to the former Parliamentary Secretary for Health, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi who called on him

here on Wednesday.

Mir Ali Mardan

Domki said that we are determined to provide healthcare facilities to the people in remote areas of the province. He said that the ongoing approved projects of the collective nature would be completed within stipulated time.



**QUETTA: Voice for Baloch Missing Persons** leaders, Mama Qadeer Baloch, Nasrullah Baloch and Hurain Baloch addresses to media persons during press conference, held in Quetta.

### GoB to host all Pakistan VCs' summit at UoB

Independent Report

Balochistan government is hosting all Pakistan Vice Chancellors' Summit in Quetta. According to an official hand out issued here on Wednesday, this prestigious event will take place at Balochistan University, serving as the perfect venue for this gathering of esteemed individuals.

Through the Pak-US University partnership Prorgramme (2020,2023), the US mission in Pakistan funded UOB's Management Science department.

The summit aims to share a vision for youth engagement and discuss the future trajectory of higher education in Pakistan.

Additionally, it will elaborate on how Pakistan can enhance cooperation the field of education and improve the plight of higher education. Information Minister,

Jan Achakzai, will be the

with the United States in

keynote speaker at this It is worth noting that this summit marks a significant milestone as it is the first time such an event is

being held in Quetta at the

University of Balochistan. This demonstrates the government's commitment to promoting specialized education and technological learning in Balochistan, positioning it as a hub for aca-

demic excellence. The All Pakistan VC Summit promises to be an enlightening and productive gathering, bringing together kev stakeholders to shape the future of higher education in Pakistan

teachers bound on their respective duty places He inspected the fa-The Additional Chief cilities made available at the Secretary Planning and Declass rooms and labs for the velopment, Secretary Edustudents. The Chief Miniscation, Commissioner ter on the occasion praised standard of the Sandeman School and described it an The Principal of exemplary school. He di-Sandeman High School, Dr. rected to the concerned au-

were also present. ties on their duty places, Naseer Shah briefed the thorities to develop other should be taken against Chief Minister about the

Quetta and other high ups

QUETTA: A delegation led by Caretaker Sports Minister Nawabzada Min

Jamal Khan Raisani meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan

**Praises standard of Sandeman HIgh School:** 

CT CM directs to make govt.

Quetta on Wednesday.

The Chief Minister The Chief Minister was on visit to the Governvisited the classrooms as ment Sandeman Provincial well as computer and scigovernment educational institutions on pattern of the Sandeman school. He also directed to the Secretary Education to visit the schools operating in rural

#### areas of the province. **Bulking camp set up** Senate adopts in Chaman for Afghan refugees

By Sardar Khondai cal doctors and people related to the health department are actively engaged



Chaman border area and on November 1, thousands of people left Pakistan via Chaman to Afghanistan.

A medical camp has also been set up on request. In case of emergency, patients will be treated in this

On the other hand, Deputy Commissioner Chaman Captain Retired Raja Athar Abbas has issued instructions to all adminis-

#### trations to be vigilant to maintain law and order and medical camp. In this meding one will be allowed to cal camp, Chaman's medidisturb the peace. **C&W's official inspects**

**Link Road** QUETTA (APP)-On directive of Balochistan High Court (BHC), Xen Department of Communication and Works (C&W) Hub has started implementation on priority basis and visited Eastern Bypass to inspect development work of Ĥub Bypass Link Road on Wednesday

Xen Č&W Hub along with field officers visited Hub East Bypass Project site and Sakran Road which work was final stage.

Xen Communications and Works (C&W) Department Hub Jamal Bugti said in a media briefing that under the light of Balochistan High Court's orders, in public interest, the construction work of Eastern Bypass Bridge has been completed on war footing.

He said that the eastern bypass bridge linking the RCD highway would be

works on Hub Bypass

next High Court hearing. He said that due to the lack of progress in the construction work of the Hub river bridge, the people are facing difficulties and the earth work of Sakran road is also going on according to the orders of the Balochistan High Court.

opened for traffic before the

He said that after the release of funds by the Finance Department, the construction work of the black topping of Sakran Road would be started. He said that the engineers of the department were working diligently to ensure the timely completion of the construction work of the link road adjacent to the eastern bypass bridge. Xen C&W is supporting management for the success of the project and to solve the technical issues, he said adding that about the Hub Bypass project.

resolution seeking end to Israeli hostilities in Gaza

ISLAMABAD (APP) Senate of Pakistan at its emergency session on the Gaza genocide on Wednesday strongly condemned the Israeli crimes against humanity and State terrorism being perpetrated against the innocent children, women, and men of Palestine living in the occupied strip of Gaza, the World's biggest open

The resolution moved by the leader of the House in the Senate Mohammad Ishaq Dar said, "Since the Holocaust of the 2nd World War, no State has committed such mass killings, carnage and war crimes with such an unprecedented bar barity and brutality."

#### General elections to be held in January: Asif

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senior leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N), Khwaja Muhammad Asif, announced on

Wednesday that the general elections are scheduled to take place in January next year. Speaking to a private television channel, Asif emphasized the crucial role of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in ensuring transparent elections.

Asif expressed the PML-N's full preparedness to participate in the upcoming general elections and expressed optimism about forming the next government with a majority of votes. Touching upon the pressing issue of illegal Afghan immigrants, Asif pointed out that Pakistan is grappling with terrorism stemming from militants operating from Afghan territory. He stressed the need to repatriate all illegal and non-registered Afghan individuals to their home coun-

#### Health Minister Dr. Nadeem Jan. Political, tribal personalities from Balochistan meet Sardar Ayaz Sadiq

ISLAMABAD: The Chief Executive Officer of

U.P.H. Biopharma, Lue FENG called on Federal

**Independent Report** QUETTA: Several political and tribal personalities from Balochistan met the senior leader and former Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq here on Wednes-

During the course of meeting, the provincial president of PML-N, Sheikh Jaffar Mandokhail, Nawab Jangez Marri, Jamal Shah Kakar and other lead-

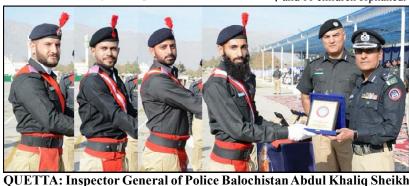
Toor Khan Utmankhail, Dr ers of the party were also Rubaba Buledi, besides **Concerted efforts being made** for fair distributions of ads among newspapers: PIO

ISLAMABAD (APP): led by Syed Mujtaba Principal Information Of-Rizwan congratulated ficer (PIO) Dr Tariq Dr Tariq Mehmood Mehmood Khan on Wednesday said concerted efforts were being made to ensure fair distribution of advertisements among the

The PIO, in a meeting with the delegation of Capital Union of Journalists (CUJ), said action would be taken against the fake news-

The CUJ delegation

journalists. The delegation informed the PIO about the non-professional individuals who had joined as the publishers leading to some issues in the newspa-



giving away shields to police officers on their best performance during 98th Corporal Course at Police Training College.