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ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairing a special session of the Apex Committee of SIFC held to foster strategic partnerships with friendly countries.

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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Friday, appreciating the efforts of relevant ministries for identifying prospective areas of collaboration under the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), directed all stakeholders for

efforts to realise the envisioned long-term economic dividends.

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

The meeting was attended by Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir, ministers and high-level government officials, a PM Office press release said.

The apex committee reviewed the existing level of collaboration and unanimously approved various initiatives to be broached

with friendly countries and directed to fast-track implementation of various projects conceived under these initiatives.

The Chief of Army Staff assured the unwavering resolve of the Pakistan Army to support economic initiatives being undertaken by the Government of Pakistan.

Meanwhile Pakistan and Kuwait will sign seven Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) for investment worth \$10 billion in Pakistan through seven projects in multiple fields including environment, mining and food security.

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

Consequent to the efforts by the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), both countries would sign MoUs on multiple projects including the expansion of water reservoirs, mining facilities, conservation of mangrove forests in coastal areas, information technology and food security, a PM Office press release said.

Caretaker CM vows to achieve sustainable development goals in Balochistan

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

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

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

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

Friday. During the course of meeting, the ongoing and proposed projects of UNDP in Balochistan were discussed.

Referring the UNDP assisted projects, the Chief Minister maintained that the ongoing programmes for improvement in the governance are very important.

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

He said that the allocation of one third resources for Balochistan in national programme of UNDP Pakistan during current year is welcoming.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Government of Punjab has assured to resolve the issues of students of Balochistan studying in various public sector universities of Punjab.

The Punjab government assured to provide scholarships and other facilities to the students of Balochistan.

The assurance was made by the caretaker Provincial Minister Education Punjab, Mansoor Qadir to his counterpart of Balochistan, Dr. Qadir Bakhsh Baloch on Friday.

The caretaker Minister Education Balochistan talked about the issues being faced by students from the province studying in different universities of Punjab.

The issues were related to the scholarships and other facilities for the students of Balochistan in

Sargodha university, Agriculture university Faisalabad, Sahiwal university and Bahauddin Zikria university Multan.

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

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

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

In this regard, Dr. Qadir Bakhsh also had interactions with the higher authorities of Punjab and started endeavours on emergency basis.



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

Anti-polio vaccination campaign kicked off in three high risk districts of Balochistan

Independent Report
QUETTA: The seven-day anti-polio campaign was kicked off in three polio high risk districts of Balochistan on Friday.

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

The Coordinator of Emergency Operation Center (EOC), Syed Zahid Shah, other senior officials of Health Department, representatives of World Health Organization, UNICEF were also present.

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



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti chairing National Action Plan Coordination Committee Meeting.

Dr Amir Bilal appointed as special assistant to prime minister

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar on Friday has appointed Dr Amir Bilal as his special assistant.

Dr Bilal has been appointed as Special Assistant to PM on Medical Education and Patient Care.

With the latest appointment, the number of ministers in the caretaker cabinet has risen to 27.

The interim cabinet includes 18 federal ministers, 3 advisers and 6 special assistants.

Polio campaign again deferred in Chaman due to security fears
CHAMAN (INP): The authorities in Balochistan's border city of Chaman have once again deferred the launch of polio campaign for law and order reasons, reported on Friday.

Chaman Deputy Commissioner Raja Athar Abbas informed that the polio campaign was postponed in the city for seven days due to security fears.

Three weeks ago, District Administration had decided to postpone seven-day special anti-polio campaign in Chaman district due to the sit-in on the Pak-Afghan border highway. The Chaman DC had then said that the decision was made due to the sit-in, law and order situation and other problems in the area.

It may be mentioned here that for the past nine days, thousands of political workers, traders and tribesmen have been protesting against the government's decision to only allow travellers with a passport and visa to enter Afghanistan.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Asad Qaiser sent to jail in May 9 case

MARDAN (INP): A district and sessions court in Mardan on Friday sent the PTI leader to jail on a four-day judicial remand in a case pertaining to violent protests in the country on May 9.

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

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

Bilawal leaves for Dubai

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

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

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

Imam-e-Kaaba's visit matter of honour for people of Pakistan: COAS

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

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

During the meeting, matters of mutual interest were discussed, an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

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

Imam-e-Kaaba said, "Islam is a religion of peace & brotherhood and there is no space for misconstrued interpretations of Islam." The dignitaries condemned the ongoing atrocities in the Gaza conflict and the oppression of the Muslims in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), and expressed solidarity with the people of Palestine and Kashmir.

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

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Ministry of Information and UNDP agree on working with mutual cooperation

Caretaker Minister Jan Achakzai says Information Department to be put on modern lines keeping requirements of modern era in view; UNDP representative Dr Samuel assures cooperation for building capacity of concerned officers

Independent Report
QUETTA: The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Pakistan and Provincial Ministry of Information have agreed upon working together with mutual cooperation in the Balochistan province.

The consensus was between the Representative of UNDP in Pakistan, Dr Samuel Rizk and Caretaker Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai and Director General Public Relations, Muhammad Noor Khetran during a meeting here on Friday.

The UNDP country representative reached Directorate of Public Relations

where the Minister Information and DGPR welcomed him.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister Information said that an organized system would be developed to provide prompt awareness and information about the government's initiatives to the people.

He also said that the Information department would also be put on the modern lines in view of requirements of modern era.

The UNDP representative on the occasion said UNDP would take effective steps for building capacity of officers of the department.

Meanwhile, the UNDP visited the Information Cell in Directorate of Public Relations and appreciated its role.

The Minister Information briefed Dr. Samuel about overall functioning of the department besides the future course of action.

The UNDP representative expressed willingness on working together with the Ministry of Information.

The DGPR Noor Khetran thanked the UNDP representative on his visit to the Directorate. During the visit, the Minister Information and DGPR presented commemorative shield to Dr. Samuel Rizk.

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

Interior Minister chairs NAP Coordination Committee meeting at NECTA Headquarters

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interim Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti on Friday presided over the National Action Plan Coordination Committee meeting at NECTA headquarters in Islamabad to review the implementation of National Action Plan.

The meeting was attended by Home Secretary, National Coordinator NECTA, all IGS, Chief Secretaries and top officials of intelligence agencies.

Inspector General of Police of all provinces briefed the meeting on the implementation of the National Action Plan.

Expressing satisfaction over the progress of implementation of the National Action Plan, the minister said that terrorists will be eliminated from the country at all costs.

He said lasting peace should be established in the country by the complete elimination of terrorists and effective action will be taken against terrorists and extremist parties.

The minister ensured the participants of the meeting that full protection would be provided to investors and

traders who expressed their desire to invest in Pakistan. He said because of the sacrifices of police, army, and law enforcement officers, the country will have peace and prosperity however the sacrifices of the martyrs will not be wasted and unforgettable.

He said that strict action is being taken against smugglers which will be continued and the measures to prevent drug trafficking and sale will be made more effective. He said strict action will be taken against drug dealers to discourage drug use among youth.

The minister also said that strict legal action will be taken against those who spread hate speech and share hate content on social media and in this regard, the implementation of new laws will be made effective very soon.

Strict measures are being taken to stop the financial support of terrorists, said the minister adding that all financial institutions, banks and law enforcement agencies are playing their role in this regard and bringing Transparency in Financial Transactions. He said that donations to Prohibited Organizations and Persons Included in the Fourth Schedule are Totally Prohibited.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs meeting of the Cabinet.



QUETTA: A delegation led by former Federal Minister Mir Muhammad Hashim Notezai meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

Imad Wasim announces retirement from international cricket

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan all-rounder Imad Wasim announced on Friday that he would be retiring from international cricket.

"In recent days, I have been doing a lot of thinking about my international career and I have come to the conclusion that now is the right time for me to announce my retirement from international cricket," the 34-year-old said in a post on social media platform X (formerly Twitter).

Wasim thanked the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) for their support over the years, adding, "It has truly been an honour to represent Pakistan".

"Each of my 121 appearances across the one-day international (ODI) and T20 formats was a dream come true," he said.

"It's an exciting time for Pakistan cricket going forward with new coaches and incoming leadership," Wasim said, adding that he was looking forward to seeing the team excel.

"I now look forward to focusing on the next stage of my playing career away from the international

stage," he said.

The PCB responded to Wasim's post on X, thanking him for his "services to Pakistan cricket over the years".

"Wishing you all the best for your future endeavours," the PCB said.

"Imad Wasim has been a valuable asset to Pakistan cricket. His performances, especially in white-ball cricket, have been crucial to the team's success. While we respect his decision to retire, we will miss his presence on the field."

"On behalf of the PCB and its management committee, I extend our sincere thanks to Imad for his services to Pakistan cricket and wish him the very best in his future endeavours."

A separate press release issued by the board quoted PCB Interim Management Committee Chairman Zaka Ashraf as saying that Wasim had been a "valuable asset to Pakistan cricket".

"His performances, especially in white-ball cricket, have been crucial to the team's success. While we respect his decision to

retire, we will miss his presence on the field," Ashraf said.

"On behalf of the PCB and its management committee, I extend our sincere thanks to Imad for his services to Pakistan cricket and wish him the very best in his future endeavours," he added.

Wasim made his international debut in May 2015 against Zimbabwe and went on to represent Pakistan in 55 ODIs and 66 T20Is. He took 109 wickets and scored 1,472 runs in his international career.

Wasim's announcement comes amid an overhaul of Pakistan cricket in the aftermath of disastrous World Cup campaign. Last week, Babar Azam quit the national team's leadership in all three formats.

Subsequently, the PCB appointed opener Shan Masood as Test captain, gave pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi the T20 reins, and replaced team director Mickey Arthur with former captain Mohammad Hafeez while former fast bowler Wahab Riaz was appointed as the chief selector.

190 million pounds scam, Chairman PTI ordered to appear in court on Monday

ISLAMABAD (Online): Accountability Court has ordered Chairman PTI to appear in court in 190 million pounds scam on Monday.

Accountability Court has issued the written order to extend the physical remand of former Prime Minister (PM) and Chairman PTI in 190 million pound scam.

Judge Muhammad Bashir has issued written order comprising of 5-page. According to order, Deputy Prosecutor General NAB Sardar Muzaffar Abbasi has applied for physical remand for another 10 days.

NAB told that Ali Zafar Advocate appeared in NAB office on November 23 on request and provided the relevant record to NAB. He has also provided the record of March 24, 2021 Agreement.

According to order of the Court, NAB authorities said that National Treasure

has to conduct an investigation regarding the money transferred and further remand is required to complete the investigation and bring the case to final conclusion.

Lawyers opposed further remand and presented 2 letters. 1 letter dated November 6, 2019 is related to East Bank.

Lawyers said that Chairman PTI has no concern with transfer of money.

According to order of Accountability Court, Lawyers said that Chairman PTI has also no concern with 240 Kanals of land.

Chairman PTI has built 2 cancer hospitals and 3rd one is being built in Karachi.

NAB authorities said that remand is necessary to examine records provided by Ali Zafar.

Court grants physical remand for 4 days instead of 10. Chairman PTI should be presented in Court again on November 27.

Pro-Kashmir, pro-Palestine rallies held in AJK

MUZAFFARABAD (INP): Rallies were held in Muzaffarabad and Hattian Bala areas of Azad Jammu and Kashmir to express solidarity with the oppressed peoples of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir and Palestine. According to Kashmir Media Service, a rally was organised by the Jammu Kashmir Awami Party (JKAP) at Burhan Chowk in Muzaffarabad. A large number of people participated in the rally led by the JKAP Vice Chairman, Imtiaz Ahmed Butt. The participants were holding banners and placards reading slogans against India and Israel.

Addressing on the occasion, the speakers condemned the atrocities of India and Israel on the Kashmiris and Palestinians. They said that the Kashmiris and Palestinians were fighting against the two usurping forces, India and Israel, and their unprecedented sacrifices would definitely bring positive results.

The speakers included Imtiaz Ahmed Butt, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Shaukat Javed Mir, Majid Awan, Riaz Ahmad Awan, Mahfouz Inqilabi, Syed Abdul Samad, Iftikhar Abbasi, Bilal Farooqi and Sadiq Khan.

Meanwhile, a big rally was organized in Hattian Bala under the auspices of Pasban-e-Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir. A large number of people participated in it. The participants were carrying the flags of Pakistan, Kashmir and Palestine. They were also holding banners and placards with slogans in favor of the freedom of Kashmir and Palestine. They also shouted slogans against Indian state terrorism in occupied Kashmir and Israeli aggression in Gaza. Addressing the rally, the Pasban-e-Hurriyat Chairman, Uzair Ahmed Ghazali, and other speakers said that the resolution of the long-standing conflicts of Kashmir and Palestine is indispensable for establishing durable peace in the world.

PPP dispels reports of Bilawal-Zardari rift Bilawal will be PPP's candidate for PM slot: Raja Pervaiz Ashraf

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) senior leader Raja Pervaiz Ashraf said on Friday that former foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari will be the party's candidate for the prime minister slot.

In an interview with a private tv channel, Ashraf said: "Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari is a mature leader. Asif Ali Zardari wants to see Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari as the country's premier."

"Speaking about the level playing field, Ashraf said: "If Bilawal feels there is no level playing field, then the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) should do something."

He said, "The talks about Nawaz Sharif being the favourite seem to be part of the electoral campaign." "The ideal party should have a combination of both youth and seasoned politicians," Ashraf said.

Meanwhile the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) on Friday dispelled the speculations of discord within the party involving Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari following the former foreign minister's departure to Dubai.

Bilawal has been actively campaigning nationwide, positioning his party as the solution to Pakistan's

challenges. He has targeted the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) in his campaign and urged older politicians like Nawaz Sharif to step aside and allow the new generation to lead in the upcoming Feb 8 elections.

Former president Asif Zardari in an interview on Thursday described Bilawal as "inexperienced" and "not fully seasoned" in politics. He noted that Bilawal's call to sideline "old politicians" echoed sentiments of many from the younger generation.

He also acknowledged the time it takes for one to gain political acumen.



PESHAWAR: Brig. (Retd.) Muzaffar Ali Ranjha, Chairman, PMIC's is getting site visit briefing on PSDP project titled "Peshawar Northern Bypass" from the NHA officers and Contractor.

Equitable reforms to create opportunities for 18 mln idle youth to reduce debt-to-revenue ratio: Pasha

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Renowned Economist, Dr Hafiz A Pasha on Friday proposed equitable reforms for equitable growth to create opportunities for the 18 million idle youth in Pakistan to reduce the debt-to-revenue ratio.

He was addressing the Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies (CASS), Lahore, hosted seminar titled "Assessing Pakistan's Economic Plan: Challenges and Opportunities for a Sustainable Future", a news release said.

Dr Hafiz A Pasha, a renowned economist, discussed Pakistan's economic plan during his keynote address. He emphasised on progressive and aggressive resource mobilisation.

He suggested providing relief to poor population through direct taxation of specific sectors like property, agriculture, retail stores, etc.

Prof Dr Mumtaz Anwar Chaudhry, Dean of the Faculty of Business at Punjab University, pointed out that Pakistan lacks a long-term economic policy because policymaking is

more party-centric or individual-centric and less state-centric. Furthermore, he underlined the crucial need to include industrialists, researchers, and academics in policymaking.

Dr Abiha Zahra, an Assistant Professor at ITU and author of a book on public sector reform, highlighted crucial reforms needed for economic resilience in Pakistan.

Nadir Salar Qureshi, Engro Corporation's CIO suggested that privatisation is an effective way to manage State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) without burdening the government. He mentioned the success stories of other countries and apprised that Pakistan can also get similar results by privatising the power production, industrial, oil and gas sectors. He added that Privatising SSDC and SNGPL could bring in an estimated \$500 million in revenue for Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: German Ambassador to Pakistan Alfred Grannas addresses the audience during the German Unity Day 2023 celebrated by German Embassy in a local hotel.

Clean cooking solutions to millions in Pakistan launched

ISLAMABAD (APP): Global Carbon Investments (GCI) and Bboxx Friday launched a significant clean cooking initiative in Pakistan, leveraging smart LPG (liquid petroleum gas), technology to provide efficient and affordable solutions, marking one of the world's largest initiatives in this space.

Promoting clean cooking is crucial for enhancing health and reducing carbon emissions. This initiative strives to address the surging demand by offering cleaner, quicker, and more economical LPG cooking solutions tailored for low-income households.

This effort aims to introduce millions of LPG cooking solutions, representing a major stride in reshaping the nation's energy framework. The distributed LPG gas tanks incorporate an innovative Pay As You Cook technology, guaranteeing cost-effective access to efficient cooking methods.

The global demand for LPG is projected to soar eightfold in the next decade, fueled by the growing reliance on gas for cooking.

Sheikh Ahmed Dalmouk Al Maktoum stated, "The partnership between Global Carbon In-

vestments and Bboxx is a significant milestone in the global efforts to address energy poverty and enhance access to essential services. Together, we are pioneering scalable solutions that tackle both social and environmental challenges, setting a new standard for clean cooking initiatives worldwide."

Approximately 25 million households in Pakistan require clean cooking solutions, and about 114 million rely on harmful solid fuels for cooking, leading to health problems and environmental degradation. Charcoal and wood, commonly used, have 50% and 74% larger carbon footprints than LPG, emphasizing the environmental advantages of transitioning to more efficient cooking methods. Pakistan experiences seasonal gas shortages, worsened by the depletion of natural gas fields at a rate of about 9% annually.

Bboxx CEO Mansoor Hamayun stated, "This partnership with Global Carbon Investments is a game-changer for millions in Pakistan - enhancing health, reducing emissions - a win-win. Born in Pakistan, he said this is personal; technology and part-

nerships like this improve lives."

Bboxx's smart solutions, operational in 11 African countries, have benefited 3.6 million people, providing clean cooking solutions in Rwanda and DRC. Utilizing a network of 2,000 agents, Bboxx's data-driven platform processes around 56 million digital payments annually. Noteworthy partnerships include Mitsubishi, Shell Foundation, United Nations Foundation, and Trafifura.

Blue Carbon, a UAE-based subsidiary of Global Carbon Investments, aims to enhance the affordability of smart cooking valves by exploring links to carbon finance. The goal is to generate carbon credits under Article 6 compliant methodologies. Further exploration of this potential is expected as Article 6 negotiations gain clarity at COP28.

GCI, based in the UAE, is a climate finance investment vehicle under the Private Office of Sheikh Ahmed Dalmouk Al Maktoum. It announces a strategic partnership with Bboxx, a platform transforming lives through innovative products, particularly in Africa.

Zong 4G ensures employee safety with fire safety awareness month

ISLAMABAD (APP): Zong 4G, a leading telecommunication company, is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of its employees.

In observance of Fire Safety Awareness Month this November, Zong 4G has taken proactive measures to equip its workforce with essential knowledge and skills to respond effectively in the event of a fire emergency said a news release.

As part of the Fire Safety Awareness Month activities, Zong 4G conducted a successful fire drill on the 24th of November.

The drill was meticulously planned to simulate real-life scenarios and evaluate the effectiveness

of emergency response procedures. The objective was to improve response times and ensure that employees were well-prepared to handle any potential fire-related situations.

Zong 4G recognizes the importance of regular training and drills to reinforce safety protocols and foster a culture of preparedness among its employees. The company remains committed to providing a secure working environment and prioritizing the safety of its workforce.

The official spokesperson for Zong 4G, commented on the Fire Safety Awareness Month initiative, saying, "The safety

of our employees is of utmost importance to us. Fire Safety Awareness Month serves as a reminder of the need for constant vigilance and preparedness. Our successful fire drill is a testament to our commitment to ensuring a safe and secure working environment for all."

He said the company encourage other organizations to prioritize employee safety and join in the effort to raise awareness about fire safety. By investing in training and preparedness measures, companies can significantly reduce the risks associated with fire emergencies and contribute to the overall well-being of their workforce.



QUETTA: Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Quetta President, Muhammad Rahim Kakar addresses to media persons during press conference

TENDER NOTICE

Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, it is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The TBTP-Phase-1 Upscaling of Green Pakistan Program- Wildlife Component Balochistan invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2023 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates TSE-232411363043, Tender Fee Rs.1000/- and Bid Security 2%

S.No	Name of Works	E/Cost
1	Re-introduction of extinct species in wild on the basis of feasibility report	6,000,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority. Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 1 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 4,200,000 PKR Amount in1 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of **Bank Guarantee** of amount 2 PKR specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed **1,000 PKR Issuance of Tender Documents:** From the date of publication of NIT to 13 December, 2023 during office hours on working days **Last Date of bid submission:** The Tenders must be submitted latest by 13 December, 2023 till 10:30 AM. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 11:30 AM **Address:** Project Director Ten Billion Tsunami Project TBTP Wildlife Component Balochistan Woodcock Nursery Samungli Road Quetta Phone no: 0819204491 **Email:** P.D.TBTP.FB@GMAIL.COM

PD TBTP-Phase-1 Upscaling of Green Pakistan Program- Wildlife Component Balochistan

PRQ No.1052/23-11-2023
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Imam-e-Kaaba leads Friday prayer at Faisal Mosque

ISLAMABAD (APP): Imam-e-Kaaba, Dr. Saleh bin Abdullah Bin Humaid delivered a Friday sermon at Faisal Mosque and led the prayer where he called upon the Muslim countries to be united and prayed for the end of atrocities against Palestinian Muslims. The Friday prayer at Faisal Mosque was also attended by the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia, Nawaf Said Al-Malki, President of the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI), Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi, Vice presidents of IIUI, diplomats of various Muslim countries, prominent religious and political figures and thousands of faithful from twin cities. In his Friday sermon, the Imam-e-Kaaba emphasized respect for humanity and respect for opinion. He said a society that adopts the characteristics of respect for humanity and respect for opinion becomes stable and successful. The Imam-e-Kaaba emphasized the importance of promoting love, brotherhood and equality within the communities drawing on the metaphor of Muslims as a unified body. He also discussed the sanctity of human life and the promotion of peace. He said, Islam teachers respect for even one who has a difference of opinion. Emphasizing the need for unity of the Muslim Ummah at this time, he said that Muslim countries should be united and they should have such a unity in which there is no rift.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti in a group photo with Imam Khatib at Masjid Al-Haram and Advisor at Saudi Royal Courts of Saudi Arabia, Dr. Saleh bin Abdullah Humaid.

Interior Minister welcomes Imam Kaaba at his residence

ISLAMABAD (APP): Imam Kaaba Dr Saleh bin Abdullah bin Hameed Friday visited Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti on his special invitation at his residence.

Interior Minister organized breakfast in honour of Imam Kaaba.

Interior Minister warmly welcome to Imam Kaaba and said, "The Imam Kaaba's visit to his home is a blessing for him and his entire family."

He said, "The people of Pakistan love the land of Hijaz immensely and the servants have immense devotion to the Haram Sharif."

The minister said, "Pak-Saudi relations encompass shared faith, history and people-to-people ties and Pakistan highly values brotherly relations with Saudi Arabia."

CDA's design body approves various buildings plan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Capital Development Authority (CDA) in its meeting has examined six commercial plots and approved the map of Plot No. 2 of the Blue Area (F-6/F-7) building plan and map of the Competition Commission of Pakistan building in Sector G-10/4.

The meeting of the Design Vetting Committee of the Capital Development Authority was held at CDA Headquarters in which officers of the planning wing of the authority and other relevant departments also participated and various plans of commercial buildings in Islamabad were presented for approval.

Moreover, the building plan and map of Sector B-17, Street No. 1, Plot No. 5 were approved in the Design Vetting Committee meeting.

Sami urges civil servants to adopt rapidly evolving global landscape

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed Friday emphasizing the importance of good governance urged the civil servants to quickly adopt the evolving landscape to address confronted challenges effectively.

Addressing the Certificate Award Ceremony of the 38th Mid-Career Management Course at the National Institute of Management (NIM) here, he shared his insights on governance and drew attention to the rapidly evolving global landscape.

He underscored the challenges and opportunities presented by globalization, technological advancements, and the shifting para-

digms of economic integration, urging civil servants to adapt and excel in this dynamic environment.

In his thought-provoking address, the minister commended the institute for its dedication to enhancing the skills of civil servants.

He lauded NIM management for organizing a programme that bridged critical gaps in the training landscape, emphasizing its relevance in elevating participants from BPS 18 to 19 and highlighting the importance of refreshing knowledge and upgrading skills at the later stages of one's career.

Sami Saeed emphasized the invaluable opportunity for peer interaction, stressing the importance of networking, exchanging

ideas, and fostering friendships across diverse professional backgrounds.

He particularly appreciated the growing gender balance within civil services, acknowledging the positive shift towards increased female representation.

Referencing the visionary words of Pakistan's Founder Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Minister Saeed highlighted enduring principles of good governance articulated in speeches delivered in 1948, emphasizing the relevance of these principles even in contemporary times.

He underscored the importance of integrity, transparency, and commitment to the state as foundational values for civil servants.

Education Ministry to promote reading culture in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training endeavors to promote Reading Culture in Pakistan, said Hameed Khan Niazi Deputy Secretary (Admin).

Talking to APP, Mr Niazi stated that the Federal Ministry for Education and Professional Training (FE&PT) is all set to hold a three-day National Level Conference on reading and literacy, titled "Today's Readers, Tomorrow's Learners," along with Book and Foundational Learning Festival.

These events are set to take place in Islamabad on the 25th, 26th, and 27th of November.

Caretaker Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Mr. Madad Ali Sindhi has aimed that the three days events would be full of learning and knowledge for the books lovers.

Secretary for Federal Education and Professional Training Mr. Waseem Ajmal Chaudhry expected that the events would not only foster a reading culture and enhancing foundational literacy skills but also provide an opportunity to engage with renowned educationists in enlightening discussions.

Mr. Niazi who also lead Directorate General Basic Education Community Schools (BECS) termed the events a unique opportunity where renowned educationists will lead insightful discussions on key challenges and advancements in the field of literacy and foundational learning.

He further expressed that leading education providers will deliver short 'Lightning Talks,' addressing innovative solutions to specific areas of foundational learning.



ISLAMABAD: Education Minister Madad Ali Sindhi attended the celebration of UNESCO prize for Girls' and Women's Education 2023 received by Pakistan Alliance for girls education.

Prison reforms process continuing as per SC directions: Qureshi

Federal Ombudsman reviews progress on prison reforms in Sindh

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Ombudsman, Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi, on Friday said prison reforms process was continuing according to the directions of the Supreme Court (SC).

Under this program, 14 Prisons of the Sindh Province had been provided with biometric system, said a press release.

Appreciating the online meeting of jail inmates with their relatives, the ombudsman said the facility would enable the relatives to meet the prisoners when not in a position to travel at time, through computers and mobile phones at home.

He informed that up till now fifteen implementation reports on jail reforms had been submitted to the apex court and the 16th report would be presented soon.

The ombudsman also

directed IG Prision Sindh that work on providing biometric system in all prisons in Sindh and construction work on Thatta jail would be expedited.

Referring to the medical facilities for the prisoners, he asked the Jail and Health Authorities to ensure provision of doctors in all prisons.

He said keeping in view the recommendations of the Reforms Committee, steps should be taken to connect biometric system with Nadra Police, Prosecution and other relevant agencies.

The ombudsman chairing a high level meeting along with the Additional Chief Secretary Home during his visit to Karachi which was attended by I.G. Secretary of Health, Senior officers of other relevant departments and Head of Wafaqi Mohtasib Regional Office Karachi.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Türkiye Prof. Dr. Mehmet Pacaci, addressing during the Signing Ceremony of Agreement Cooperation Protocol between Yunus Emre Institute & Ghazali Education Foundation at AIOU.

UNIDO drives economic transformation in Sindh with 'PAIDAR Grant Fund'

ISLAMABAD (APP): The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) convened a pre-bid conference under the Poverty Alleviation and Inclusive Development Across Rural Sindh (PAIDAR) programme, which is funded by the European Union (EU) in a dedicated effort to combat poverty and advance inclusive development.

provided a comprehensive walkthrough of the step-by-step process for submitting grant applications. A dynamic Q&A session followed, allowing participants to seek clarification and deepen their understanding. Executive Officer at PAIDAR, Nima Bahramalian shared valuable insights, setting the stage for the PAIDAR programme's commitment to sustainable poverty graduation and inclusive development. Director General for the Directorate of Urban Planning, Policy and Strategic Planning (URP&SP) and the Planning and Development Department at the Government of Sindh, Farooque Siddiqui also graced the conference with his presence. Addressing the participants, he said, "The Sindh government is focused on tackling poverty as a top priority and the EU-funded PAIDAR programme implemented by UNIDO addresses a key gap in economic development through grants to empower MSMEs (especially targeting youth and women-led enterprises).



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed awarded certificates to officers after completion of their 38th Mid Career Management Course.

PMIC stresses completion of PIMS HVAC project by December 15

ISLAMABAD (APP): A team of the Prime Minister's Inspection Commission (PMIC) on Friday inspected the delayed project of installation of heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) plant at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) and stressed for the completion of work by December 15, 2023.

The PMIC's visit took place in wake of the deep concerns expressed by the prime minister over the unwarranted delay in completion of the PSDP projects including "Replace and Upgradation of HVAC Plant Room Equipments and Allied Works at PIMS, Islamabad".

Following dissatisfaction on the reports from Ministry of Housing and Works and Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination, the matter had been referred to the PMIC for effective supervision.

The inspection team that visited the project, comprised PMIC members Zahir Shah and Dr. Mumtaz

Ahmed Kamal, Co-opted Member Safdar Ali, Director Muhammad Saleh Narejo and Assistant Director Ahmed Waseem.

The team inspected the ongoing work of the HVAC regarding installation of the centrally air conditioning system in the whole buildings of the hospital.

Chairman PMIC Brigadier (Retired) Muzaffar Ali Ranjha had assigned the task to the inquiry team headed by Zahir Shah for vigorously persuading the project and ensure its completion at the earliest.

The PIMS administration, the officers of Public Works Department and contractors were present during the inspection.

The team observed the progress made by the contractors and PWD in the light of directions issued in the team's visit last week. Directions were given during the visit for speedy and effective completion of the project with deadlines which has been significantly delayed.



ISLAMABAD: DG FWO Maj-General Abdul Sami in a meeting with Chief minister GB Haji Gul Bar Khan provisional Minister Interior Shams Lone also present.

German embassy in Islamabad celebrates German Unity Day

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Islamabad joyously observed German Unity Day today in a garden reception. This auspicious occasion commemorates the formal reunification of East and West Germany on 3rd October 1990, culminating in the end of 41 years of separation and uniting Germans into one cohesive nation.

In his address, His Excellency Alfred Grannas, the German Ambassador, underscored the historical significance of German reunification, highlighting the remarkable achievements and progress made since that pivotal moment.

The event, graciously hosted by the German Embassy, welcomed distinguished guests from Pakistan and the international community. Among the participants were representatives from German businesses, foundations, and organizations operating in Pakistan. Esteemed attendees included dignitaries and high officials from diplomatic, military, political,

economic, and humanitarian sectors, reflecting the strong ties between Germany and Pakistan.

The celebration showcased stalls from various German organizations, including economic development partners GIZ, KfW, BGR as well as academic exchange service DAAD, Annemarie-Schimmel-Haus, and political foundations. These stalls provided a glimpse into Germany's multifaceted engagement in Pakistan, illustrating the diverse contributions of German entities across various sectors.

A notable feature of the reception was the exhibition of two Buddy Bear Sculptures, intricately painted by the internationally renowned artist Ahmer Farooq. These sculptures creatively captured the exquisite designs and fusion of both cultures, adding a touch of artistry and symbolism to the festivities.

The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany extends its heartfelt gratitude to all participants for their presence and contributions.

PMD indicates chances of rain in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecast cold and cloudy weather for most parts of the country with chances of rain-wind/thunderstorm in West and Southwest Balochistan.

Smog/ fog is likely in few plain areas of Punjab during morning hours.

Cold and cloudy weather is expected in Islamabad, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Balochistan, Sindh, Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan during the period. Smog/ fog is likely in Sialkot, Lahore, Gujranwala, Narawal, Sargodha, Okara, Faisalabad, Toba Tek Singh, Jhang, Khanewal, Multan, Bahawalpur, Dera Ghazi Khan and surrounding during the morning.

Rain-wind/thunderstorm is expected in Nokkundi, Chaghi, Dalbandin, Kalat, Khuzdar, Noshki, Washuk, Kharan, Panjgur, Kech, Turbat, Pasni, Makran, Lasbela, Gwadar and Jiwani.

During the last 24 hours, dry weather prevailed over most parts of the country, while partly cloudy in upper parts.



Caretaker Federal Minister for Human Rights Mr Khalil George addressing the audience during the launching ceremony of 'transit advertising campaign' in Islamabad

First lady seeks support to raise awareness on breast cancer, mental health, rights of disabled persons

ISLAMABAD (APP): Begum Samina Alvi, wife of the president of Pakistan on Friday emphasized the need for collective efforts in raising awareness about breast cancer, mental health and well-being, as well as advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities to enable them becoming productive part of the society.

"These topics should be openly discussed throughout the year, whether it is breast cancer, rights of differently abled person or mental health," she said while speaking at an awareness seminar on

breast cancer organized by the Rotary Club here.

"In this regard, we will need the support of not only the government but also the society as a whole," she said adding that there was need to work for increasing the existing facilities in Pakistan.

The first lady said that a five-minute self-examination every month could help detect breast cancer at an early stage, thus saving thousands of the lives of women in the country.

She said that 44,000 deaths due to breast cancer

in Pakistan was an alarming situation that needed raising constant awareness about early diagnosis of the disease.

Samina Alvi mentioned that the world overall had a 98 percent recovery rate from breast cancer, however, pointed out that in Pakistan, insufficient mammographic facilities led to a high mortality rate due to the detection of malignancy at a late stage.

She said that women of all ages including teenage girls of 12-14 years were being diagnosed with breast cancer.

Court issues written order regarding extension of PTI chairman's remand

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Accountability Court (AC) of Islamabad on Friday issued a written order regarding four days extension in the physical remand of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman in the Al-Qadir Trust case.

AC-I Judge Muhammad Bashir, in the five-page order, said Deputy Prosecutor General NAB Sardar Muzafar Abbasi requested for further 10-day physical re-

mand of the accused. The National Accountability Bureau told the court that Ali Zafar had appeared before NAB on November 23, following the summon and shared the relevant record.

The judge further said that the prosecution had stated that it had to investigate regarding the shifting of amount to the national kitty and there was need of further custody of the accused to conclude the probe.

Faryal hails PPP leaders for successful 'Worker convention'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Central President of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Women's Wing Faryal Talpur hailed the party leadership and workers of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chapter for conducting successful workers convention in the province. During the meeting with leadership of KP, she said that sentiments and enthusiasm of the masses for Bilawal Bhutto during his visit was remarkable.

Campaign for registration of house servants, tenants data in full swing

ISLAMABAD (APP): According to details, following the special orders of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer

this campaign various teams of Islamabad Capital Police are going to the streets and door-to-door to ensure the registration of tenants and

Kahu Police Station jurisdiction.

The purpose of this campaign is to avoid any untoward incident by main-



(ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police "Knock the Door" campaign for the registration of employees and tenants in full swing, a public relations officer said.

He said that, during

domestic workers as well as to inquire about the problems faced by the citizens. In this regard, the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Islamabad has registered a data of 267 house servants and tenants of 580 houses from Bara

taining law and order in the federal capital adding that the registration of tenants and domestic workers could not only keep a close watch on miscreants but also prevent the elements involved in any kind of suspicious activity.

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**Final electoral rolls:
significant step
towards Feb 8 polls**

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

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

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

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

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

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

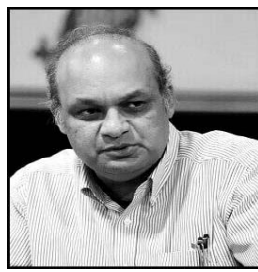
Similarly, necessary arrangements for printing ballot papers and purchasing election material have been completed.

This clearly means that the Election Commission is ready to hold the elections in the country.

The ECP meeting expressed satisfaction over election arrangements made so far and ordered that a complete mechanism be put in place for the timely delivery of electoral rolls to returning officers. The Election Commission also called for detailed plans regarding law enforcement agency deployment and the role of provincial governments in maintaining peace and order during the elections. While on the other hand, the government seems committed to conducting free, fair, and transparent elections and would provide all possible facilities to the ECP for conducting polls. The caretaker Minister Information Murtaza Solangi has clearly stated that equal opportunities are being provided to all political parties. There will be no discrimination against anyone, stressing the need for a consensus among all political parties to improve the political environment.

Needless to mention is that the caretaker PM Anwaarul Haq Kakar has already made it clear that "every political party registered with the ECP is entitled to file nomination papers for its candidate" ensuring the caretaker government's mandate to ensure a level playing field for all political parties.

Therefore, there should be no doubt about it that every political party and politician entitled for contesting the election would have equal opportunities and much-talked about "level playing field" ahead and during the elections.



By Faisal Bari

The 2023 census puts our population at 241.499 million and our growth rate at 2.55 per cent. This means we are adding some 6m people to the population every year.

For comparison, Finland, Norway and Denmark each have a population of less than the number of people we add to our population every year. The population growth rate had reportedly gone down to 1.9pc in the previous decade but has bounced back.

This, when most comparator countries, especially those in South Asia and others around us, have been quite successful in bringing down their growth and fertility rates substantially. Our failure is all the more stark and remarkable when we look at the figures for India (0.7pc), China

(0.1pc) and Bangladesh (1.1pc).

Forty per cent of our children are malnourished. Our neonatal, infant, child and maternal mortality rates remain one of the world's highest. We are one of only two countries, the other being Afghanistan, that has not been able to eliminate polio. In this day and age, we still lose many children to diarrhoea. We are not even able to provide safe drinking water to all our people.

Hepatitis and tuberculosis are uncontrolled and many health officials feel we are on the verge of an AIDS epidemic. One in four adults in Pakistan might be diabetic. Our health outcomes are a disaster, but more disastrous is the fact that we do not realise where we are, and irrespective of whether we realise it or not, we are not, as a polity, doing anything about it.

Twenty-three million, possibly more, of our five-to-16-year-olds are not in schools. We now have the world's largest number of out-of-school children. We have not reached universal enrolment even at the primary level and dropout

rates are high during the years of schooling.

Girls, children from rural areas, children from religions other than the dominant faith or minor castes, children from poorer families, all have a harder time accessing quality education in Pakistan.

The millions in schools, barring a minority who are enrolled in high-fee private or public schools, are getting an education of inferior quality. Our educational outcomes are a disaster, but again, more disastrous is the fact that we do not realise where we are, and irrespective of whether we realise it or not, we are not, as a polity, doing anything about it.

Pakistan is the world's third or fourth most polluted country. Living in Pakistan, almost in any big city, means losing four to five years of life expectancy. Lahore tops the most-polluted city ranking the most often. But most of Punjab and many parts of Sindh have high environmental pollution levels too. This is also showing up in the increased incidence of disease.

All of this is not the result of neglect by one gov-

ernment or one party. It is the result of decades of deliberate policies which are an outcome of political economy settlements in Pakistan. Jaun Eliya captures this beautifully:

(I am very strange, indeed so strange that I have destroyed myself but have no regrets.) The state's role in population management, health, education, or environment are not considered important in Pakistan. The rich, elites, and politically and/or socially more connected groups have found ways of accessing these services through other means. For a majority, it is through the private sector.

Access to safe drinking water, quality education and health services are available to those who can pay for it. We have private schools that charge up to Rs70,000 per child per month. Even mainstream high-fee schools would be around Rs30,000 per child per month.

High-cost hospitals charge around Rs20,000 per room per night. If you number among those who can afford these costs, you might not be too pushed about the provision of quality health and education ser-

VICES for those who cannot afford them.

In other cases, significant groups of people have created their own separate and dedicated streams for the provision of these services. The army, navy and air force have their own school systems, universities and healthcare provision facilities. These are usually of decent quality and better than the services provided to the public at large through government schools, hospitals and/or public universities. Right now, we are in the middle of economic and political crises as well. Some have called this moment a 'polycrisis'. It is true that we are facing many issues at the same time. The economy is doing poorly. Our political system is in a crisis as well. The crisis of governance is deep, institutional degradation is real, and trust deficit — between all — is also deep. But some crises are more long-term, deeper and more persistent.

An economic turnaround could potentially happen in a number of years. But political economy issues need far deeper reforms and a longer

period as well.

Even if political economy reforms are in place and policies start addressing the dismal situation regarding the population, health, education and the environment, it will be a decade or more before we will start seeing any impact.

But as Jaun Eliya indicates, the tragedy is that we do not even realise what we have done to ourselves. We might have stabilisation with this or the next IMF deal, and elections might settle some things on the surface, but the deeper issues will remain. They need far greater political, economic, social and institutional reforms and there is not even any conversation regarding them. The state of the nation's educational, health, population and environmental services and outcomes tell us as much. I do not know if people have seen the painting *The Scream* by Edward Munch. If you have not, you can search for it online. This is how we should be reflected in terms of where we are today. Will we realise what we have done to ourselves and try to change course?—Courtesy Dawn

Facing the abyss

Learning nothing from history

By Abdul Sattar

Recent political developments suggest that the revolutionaries of the Pakistani political system who claim to have challenged the mighty elements of state in the past have completely surrendered to those that have been deciding about the crucial matters of our national life since the emergence of the Islamic republic.

These developments made it very clear that politicians are no longer in a mood to confront those who have been encroaching upon civilian domains. It seems that they have finally accepted the hegemony of the status-quo forces and have made the decision to not disturb it.

Those who take such assertions with a pinch of salt should carefully analyze the recent interaction of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif with those who love to become part of any government that is willing to compromise on principles and ready to accommodate them in the power structure. Nawaz's hobnobbing with the Balochistan Awami Party's members clearly indicates that ethics holds no impor-

tance in the current political system of Pakistan. All claims of civilian supremacy and rule of law seem to have been forgotten. It seems that the czar of N-League is likely to go to any extent to make it to the power corridors of Islamabad again.

It is an open secret that the party from Pakistan's most deprived province was created by the non-democratic forces who ironically used it to destabilize the government of Nawaz's party in the past. Despite all that, Nawaz chose to hold an olive branch to these traditional politicians. Such interaction has greatly disappointed those who believed that the N-League had left the politics of electables behind.

And it is not just those in Balochistan who are finding solace in the shelter of the N-League but political opportunists from southern Punjab and other parts of the province are said to also be planning to throw their support behind Nawaz. The N-League seems to be thinking that with the help of these electables, it might be in a position to secure a two-thirds majority in parlia-

ment. The party might be dreaming of enacting some drastic legislation with the help of these unpredictable elements. But what it tends to forget is the last time it managed to get an overwhelming majority. The party did secure a heavy mandate in 1997 which evaporated within no time when electables sensed a change in the direction of the wind. It is ironic that, despite knowing how fragile this support is, the party is still banking on them.

It is not only the matter of forming political alliances where the party seems to have learnt nothing. Some feel that the PML-N is making gross mistakes in other spheres as well. For instance, it has always been lambasted for promoting dynastic politics and nepotism. Yes, Sharif family members have offered tremendous sacrifices for democracy in the past. They had to go through a tough time defending civilian space from the encroachment of non-democratic forces. It is also true that Nawaz was the first leader from Punjab who created awareness on a massive scale about the

power imbalance in the country's political system.

But one should also not forget that it was not only the Sharifs who suffered but others from the party also faced a brutal crackdown during the dictatorial regime of Gen Pervez Musharraf. Khawaja Saad Rafiq, Khawaja Asif, Perwaiz Rasheed, late Mushahidullah Khan, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Javed Hashmi, Nehal Hashmi, and a number of other party workers also faced one of the worst crackdowns in the history of the country. Given all this, it was expected that the party would prefer workers in important positions instead of handing these slots to relatives and members of the Sharif extended family. But unfortunately, it seems the party did not learn anything on this front as well.

Whether the party is in power or in opposition, it is the Sharif family members who have always been allotted the top slots. In the past a junior Hamza Sharif was preferred over veteran leaders of the party when it came to choosing the opposition leader in the

Punjab Assembly. Similarly, during Imran Khan's time Shehbaz Sharif was given the title of opposition leader in the lower house of parliament. The position of Punjab chief minister and the prime minister were also awarded to the son and the father respectively. But whenever the party faced tough times, it was the ordinary worker or party leaders outside the Sharif family who were told to sacrifice. The removal of Pervez Rashid over the issue of Dawn Leaks could be cited as one of the examples where a non-Sharif had to face the brunt of a decision made by the Sharif family.

It was not only the past but there are indications even now that the family members would be preferred. Shehbaz is set to be chief minister of Punjab while the older Sharif would be capturing the power corridors of Islamabad. Ishaq Dar, Hamza Shehbaz, Abid Sher Ali, Captain Safdar and other members of Sharif family would be doled out government positions again in Punjab and Islamabad. This is likely to provide

Nawaz's detractors a tool to malign the entire political class of the country. It will go some way in vindicating Imran Khan who has always come hard on the Sharifs for promoting nepotism.

Although the party has made it clear that it does not intend to amend the 18th Amendment, there are still apprehensions that a pliant PML-N might make some changes in the landmark legislation to appease those who are planning to install it in Islamabad and Punjab. Such a move would be a blunder and might greatly damage the federation of the country. But before committing another gross mistake, the party should reflect upon the laws it passed during previous stints in power. During the decade of the 1990s, the party tried to turn the prime minister into an Amir-ul-Momineen. It also carried out some of the most retrogressive pieces of legislation during the same time while, between 2013 and 2018, it introduced one of the most draconian laws that has been stifling critical voices since its enactment.—Courtesy The News

Collective crimes



By Nikhat Sattar

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

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

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

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

As these words are being written, one is very conscious of the fact that the Palestinian cause is neither in favour of Muslims nor against Jews or Christians.

It is a tragedy wrought upon the people of a land through the connivance of the West and some Arab states. Their land was usurped and constantly encroached upon by Jews sent from Europe until they were restricted to a narrow strip and blocked from support from others. It just so happens that the majority of Palestinians are Muslims who have not merely been forsaken, but deliberately left to fend off Israeli settlers and the terrible Israeli military that has learnt much from their avowed enemy, Hitler.

The Muslim world, in general, is besotted with navel gazing and their rulers are busy amassing wealth and in displays of pomp. It is no wonder then, that of the 57 Muslim countries that have formed a toothless organisation, only one had the gumption to expel the Israeli ambassador in protest against the bestiality of the Israeli military. Bolivia, a non-Muslim country, has also cut ties, as has South Africa and a few others. As these words are written, Israel has bombarded heavily populated refugee camps while Palestinians are trying to find bodies in the rubble that Gaza has become. Thousands of Palestinians have lost their lives in this mass-scale slaughter while the wheels of the world continue to churn out the usual rhetoric. This holocaust is presided over by none other than the US.

The other event, which has caused much concern, is the coerced affidavit that was signed by a young teacher who had to swear that Darwin's theory of evolution, that he was teaching, was false and that he believed women are inferior to men. As he signed this ludicrous declaration (otherwise he would have had to suffer dire consequences along with his loved ones), he was flanked by many self-declared custodians of faith. They are

merely another incarnation of the men who have over the centuries denied, denounced and hounded men of science and those who would have dared to attempt to question common beliefs.

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

Many renowned Islamic scholars have suggested that the theory does not deny in any way statements in the Quran that explain how the first human being came into existence. What is most reprehensible is that a religion that is critical of how the clergy in earlier faiths concentrated power in the hands of a few, has been misused to threaten and force a person to deny his opinions. The Islamic way of dealing with statements that some believe are religiously wrong would be to have calm, scholarly and compassionate discussions.

Let us keep Darwin's contentious theory aside. Which Quranic injunction did these 'men of religion' refer to when they had the young man vouch for male superiority? The one about having two male witnesses to a financial deal or the one to bring another woman to court in case the first one forgets? Both can be argued on the basis of the need of the time and the socioeconomic conditions in the seventh century. No wonder, then, that the Muslim world has been unable to produce women and men of knowledge, wisdom and understanding in significant numbers, who are able to express differences of opinions and beliefs without confronting hatred and bigotry. The clerics in KP are a mere microcosm of the obscurantism that assails the Muslim world. It has become impotent and self-serving, and its rulers seek power, rather than justice and compassion.—Courtesy Dawn

Public opinion

By Khalid Bhatti

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

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

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

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

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

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

For the first time, they are watching the destruction caused by the Israeli aggression. They are watching the bodies of children being slaughtered by Israel's airstrikes and the desperate parents running from pillar to post, carrying their injured children. Hospitals, schools, churches, mosques and homes are being destroyed in Gaza, and innocent people are being killed. The besieged civilian population is facing food shortages, and many people are starving.

The situation has radicalized sections of the youth and the working class. Many young people and workers are saying that they will not support the Democratic Party of US President Joe Biden in the next presidential elections in 2024; it is important to mention that young voters played a key role in the victory of President Biden in 2020. But now they are turning their backs on the Democrats.

The same political trend is also emerging among young people in Britain. The leadership of the Labour Party is blindly following the Tory government's policy on the Israel war on Gaza. Many young people have been disillusioned by the Labour Party leadership and might opt for the Green Party in the next elections.

The pro-Palestine protests around the world are the biggest anti-war demonstrations since the 2003 Iraq war. While millions are calling for an immediate ceasefire in Palestine, governments in the US, Britain and Germany are supporting Israel which continues to commit atrocities in Gaza and the West Bank. Western governments are still playing the role of apologists for Israel.

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

There is a reason for this anger and growing opposition. People around the world are watching on their TV screens or on their mobile phones through social media that Israel is committing war crimes. Israel has destroyed thousands of homes in Gaza and made 1.6 million people homeless. For more than a month, Israel has continued with its relentless bombardment. Its ground forces with tanks are also moving inside Gaza, leaving no space safe for people.

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

Naqvi for maintaining hope to ensure future generation's prosperity

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has expressed unwavering optimism about the future of Pakistan, dismissing pessimism and affirming the nation's upward trajectory. Addressing the participants of the Air War College Institute course at Al Hamra Hall here on Friday, he emphasized the importance of maintaining hope for the prosperity of future generations. He urged collective efforts, stating that if individuals foster hope, it would resonate positively with their children, shaping a brighter future for Pakistan.

Reflecting on the past 10 months of the caretaker setup in Punjab, Mohsin Naqvi highlighted a resolute decision to tackle the circular debt of wheat, which had surpassed 600 billion rupees. The success, he emphasized,

was a result of effective teamwork and passion, turning even challenging tasks into achievable goals.

The CM reported substantial achievements in agriculture, including an increased area under cotton cultivation, resulting in saving three billion dollars in foreign exchange. Rice cultivation witnessed a remarkable 100 percent growth, contributing a total of 2 billion dollars. Commending prudent decisions, he announced significant savings in Safe City projects in Gujranwala, Faisalabad, and Rawalpindi. Despite an initial budget of 100 billion rupees, these projects are being executed at a cost of 12.5 billion rupees.

Updating on healthcare initiatives, he mentioned the ongoing rapid upgradation of 100 hospitals in Punjab, a testament to the commitment to public well-

being. Acknowledging the transitional period, he assured that the incoming government would continue the ongoing initiatives.

Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi praised the Air Chief's focus on education and technology, acknowledging unprecedented contributions to these sectors. He encouraged a spirit of hope, stating, "We have to go back home with hope, not despair."

Updating on law and order, Naqvi highlighted the Punjab Police's substantial control over 95 percent of the area in Kacha over the last 10 months, successfully clearing 60 thousand acres from robbers. Addressing environmental concerns, he detailed measures to combat smog, including a government-level ban on petrol motorcycles, replaced by a focus on electric bikes.



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

Governor awarded honorary degree of PhD to the Ambassador of UAE

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

Independent Report
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Baleegh ur Rahman today awarded an honorary degree of PhD to the Ambassador of UAE, Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al Zaabi at the special convocation of the Institute of Art and Culture at Governor House Lahore today.

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

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

The Punjab Governor, Muhammad Baleegh ur Rahman while addressing the ceremony said that he felt honoured

to award the honorary degree of doctorate to the Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates, Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Al Zaabi. The Governor of Punjab appreciated the role of the UAE Ambassador in strengthening the cultural and trade relations between Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates and people-to-people contacts between the two countries.

He said that there should be exchange programmes involving degrees or short visits of students between educational institutions of Pakistan and UAE.

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

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

The CM said that no civic agency was working in the interest of the city and its people and under the garb of jurisdiction they keep passing on the buck when asked about their performance. "The roads are dilapidated, walkways are under encroachment, water is theft, transport is not properly regulated, people have no water to drink."



MUZAFFERABAD: Activists of Civil Society holds awareness rally regarding the "Violence on Women" under the super vision of the World Health Organization, in the Capital of the Ajk.

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

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Industries, Commerce, Technical Education and Newly Merged Districts Affairs, Dr. Aamer Abdullah, called on Imam-e-Kaaba Sheikh Dr. Saleh bin Abdullah bin Humaid in Islamabad, who is on a four-day visit to Pakistan and discussed matters of mutual interest with him said a press release issued here on Friday.

On this occasion, the Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan, His Excellency, Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmed Al-Malki was also present.

During the meeting, the caretaker minister welcomed Imam-e-Kaaba on his arrival to Pakistan on behalf of the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa especially the tribal areas,

and said that the people here have more respectful feelings for Imam Kaaba due to special association with Holy Harmain Shareefain.

He termed Imam Kaaba's visit to Pakistan as a blessing and thanked him for his arrival and requested him to offer a special prayer for the unity of Muslim Ummah and the removal of divisions among them. On this occasion, Imam-e-Kaaba expressed that the main cause of problems and difficulties being faced by the Muslim Ummah, in the world today, is the effects of differences among ourselves, although we are believers of one Allah and our beloved Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) also taught us to follow unity among ourselves which we need to obey.

Reign of smog: Lahore ranks first in air pollution again

LAHORE (APP): On Friday, Lahore once again has been ranked first in terms of air pollution in the world.

The Meteorological Department sources told APP that an average Air Quality Index (AQI) on Friday was recorded at 356 in the provincial capital.

DHA Phase-VIII was recorded at 457, Lahore American School 356, Cantt Polo Ground 488, Aitchison College 389, Quaid-e-Azam Highway 545, and Johar Town was reported at 308.

The city is getting colder as the temperature drops due to dense smog.

The Met office said that minimum temperature of 14 and maximum temperature of 26 degrees Celsius was recorded on

Friday, while there is no chance of rain during the next 24 hours.

It is worth mentioning here that during the last one month at least 12,000 people fell sick due to toxic smog and reached emergencies of various hospitals here.

The smog has become a real threat to citizens in the provincial metropolis, though after recent rain, the intensity of smog has lessened.

However, the situation is still harsh as Lahore is again facing the issue of smog lately.

Prof Ashraf Zia of Jinnah Hospital told APP that complaints of dry cough, sore throat, itchy eyes and difficulty in breathing are still being reported due to smog.

FSL conducts training for IO, CSS about modern investigation techniques

PESHAWAR (APP): The Directorate of Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) on Friday conducted a one-day training for Investigation Officers (IO) and Crime Scene Staff (CSS) about modern investigation techniques in Mardan.

The experts from FSL shared knowledge on various aspects of the investigation system with participants including fingerprint analysis, blood-related evidence, weapons, vehicles, and forensic procedures for cases involving minors and sexual assault.

The workshop was

attended by Superintendent Police (SP) Saddar Circle Mardan Khalid Khan, Circle Investigation DSPs and district-wide investigation staff. A question-and-answer session focusing discussions on the forensic science of drugs was also held in the training.

SP Investigation Muhammad Sulaiman Khan expressed hope that enhanced skills and knowledge gained by officers would contribute to more effective case resolution. He extended gratitude to the Director of FSL for facilitating the workshop.



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

Minister stresses awareness about family planning in rural areas

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Population Welfare Dr. Jamal Nasir emphasized the necessity of raising awareness about family planning among the rural population and ensuring easy access to necessary facilities.

He addressed the closing session of the 24th annual conference organized by the Population Association of Pakistan as the chief guest on Friday. Dr. Nasir stressed the importance of gaining support from religious scholars to dispel misconceptions about population planning, highlighting a consensus among them regarding the need for appropriate intervals between children to enhance the health of both mother and child.

Expressing concern about Pakistan's rapidly growing population, the minister cited the alarming implications on poverty, unemployment, and social issues resulting from the imbalance of population

and resources. He pointed out the challenges posed by climate change and population growth, noting the adverse effects on agriculture, forests, biodiversity, and food cultivation in the country. Dr. Nasir warned that failure to control population growth would lead to severe impacts on food production, water scarcity, and overall environmental sustainability.

Highlighting the need for collective efforts from all societal stakeholders, the minister emphasized the importance of implementing effective population management policies and programs. He lamented the historical neglect of population welfare and environmental sectors, asserting that these areas cannot be overlooked when planning future development projects.

Dr. Nasir stressed the significance of financial resources, effective planning, and a clear roadmap.



LAHORE: Azad Kashmir PID Public Relations DG Raja Shahid Hussain is meeting the President of Press Club Azam Chaudhry at Lahore Press Club.

PHC bench orders authorities to stop garbage dumping at Salhad

ABBOTTABAD (APP): The Peshawar High Court (PHC) Abbottabad Bench Friday issued a groundbreaking order to halt the dumping of garbage and waste in the Salhad Solid Dumping Ground by the Abbottabad Cantonment Board (ACB) and Water and Sanitation Services Company Abbottabad (WSSCA).

The order came after a petition was filed by the renowned lawyer Haji Sabir Tanoli, Advocate Supreme Court, shedding light on the environmental concerns related to the solid dumping ground.

Cantonment Board to personally appear before the PHC Abbottabad bench on December 12, emphasizing the urgency of the matter.

Moreover, citizens have submitted a petition against WSSCA, ACB, and Tehsil Municipal Administration (TMA) Abbottabad, urging the removal of the roadside garbage dump and the establishment of an alternative waste disposal site. During the recent hearing, the Peshawar High Court Abbottabad Bench, led by Justice Kamran Hayat and Justice Muhammad Aijaz Khan, confronted the Chief Executive of WSSCA,

Sindh Governor meets KPK Governor

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori met Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Governor Haji Ghulam Ali along with a delegation of industrialists at Sindh House in Islamabad.

According to a Governor House communique on Friday, the delegation included former President of the Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry Anjum Nisar and others.

The Governors, in the meeting, discussed close cooperation between the two provinces, economic challenges facing the country, problems of industrialists, and other issues of mutual interest.

CTD apprehends suspect with weapons

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

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

During the operation, an individual named Hamidullah, son of Safar Khan, residing in South Waziristan, Khyber Agency, was arrested, and a pistol with ammunition was recovered from the individual. The focus areas of operation were Tando Adam Naka Chowk and Lohi Mori Road, which involved a substantial contingent from the Counter Terrorism Force and CTD jawans.

The suspect was taken to the CTD police station, where a case was registered against him.

In the course of the investigation,

ANF crackdown, 1 ton 364 kg of drugs recovered, 8 arrested

LAHORE (Online): Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) continues crackdown against drug trafficking, 1 ton of 364 kg of drugs was recovered in 9 operations and 8 suspects were arrested.

According to the ANF spokesman, 1 kg 593 grams of ice was recovered from the trolley bag of the passenger at Bacha Khan International Airport Peshawar, the accused was leaving for Qatar through flight number QR 601.

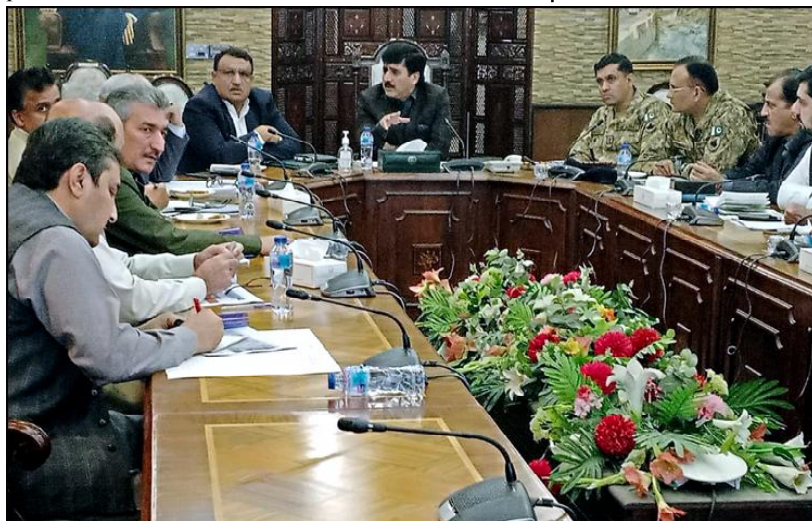
792 grams of heroin was recovered from a parcel booked for Great

Britain at the courier office in Lahore. 36 kg of opium and 28 kg of 800 grams of hashish were recovered from the vehicle near Motorway Toll Plaza Islamabad, 2 suspects were arrested during the operation. 2 suspects were arrested after recovering 18 kg of opium and 12 kg of hashish from a truck near Sangjani Toll Plaza Islamabad. One accused was arrested after recovering 4 kg of 800 grams of hashish and 1 kg of ice from the vehicle near Shershah Toll Plaza Multan.

35 crore estimate of artificial rain in Lahore: Aamir

LAHORE (Online): In connection with measures to prevent smog, an estimate of Rs 35 crore has been made for artificial rain in Lahore. According to sources in the Ministry of Finance, the summary sent by the Finance Secretary will be subject to the permission of the caretaker Chief Minister of Punjab.

Caretaker Information Minister Punjab Aamir Mir said that cloud seeding is the fastest technology for artificial rain. Aamir Mir said that talks have been held with China and soon Chinese experts.



PESHAWAR: Brig. (Retd.) Muzaffar Ali Ranjha, Chairman, PMIC is chairing the meeting at Chief Secretary Office, Peshawar on PSDP project titled "Peshawar Northern Bypass".

Breaking poverty cycle Dr. Amjad inspires brotherhood, skill development for poor

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib has said that BISP is providing financial support to all needy people regardless of color, religion, caste and politics.

While addressing a gathering of BISP employees at the Jamia Masjid Eidgah in Chakwal, Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib emphasized that financial assistance to the less privileged is a

fundamental responsibility of the state, said a news release.

Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib stressed the need to connect children from economically challenged families to technical skill areas. Recognizing education and skill development as crucial tools for breaking the cycle of poverty, he urged the employees to explore innovative ways to empower youth from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Groom killed during wedding ceremony

SARGODHA (APP): A groom was killed while another man was injured over a marriage dispute in the jurisdiction of Bhagtanwala police station here on Friday. According to a press release issued by the DPO office, a wedding ceremony was going on in the area of Bhagtanwala where accused Imran, Irfan and Arshad, residents of Madina Colony, opened firing at the groom Adnan, 32, and his relative Riaz Shaheen. Resultantly, Adnan died on the spot while Riaz Shaheen was injured while the accused fled. On information, police along with a Rescue 1122 team rushed to the spot.



Chairperson Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib in a group photo with BISP employees during his visit to Jamia Mashid Eidgah in Chakwal.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): The local business leaders and traders on Friday called for the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) to take bilateral trade between Pakistan and Kazakhstan up to the level of \$1 billion.

After the FTA, there is huge potential to take bilateral trade to \$1 billion on both sides, in which the role of the business community is vital, President Federation Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Irfan Iqbal Sheikh told APP here.

He said that the joint trade potential of Pakistan and Kazakhstan was very important in regional trade as Kazakhstan was the largest economy in Central Asian Republics. Irfan said that Pakistan and Kazakhstan were geographically significant in the region. Both countries want to work on

regional economic integration using their geo-strategic position, he said. He said that at the end of 2022, mutual trade between Pakistan and Kazakhstan was \$195 million, which was much less than its potential.

President FPCCI expressed the hope that the business communities of Pakistan and Kazakhstan will play a significant role in increasing bilateral trade in the near future.

He said that recently direct flights have been started between the two major cities of Lahore and Almaty, which will benefit the business communities of both sides.

Meanwhile, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtavari said that Pakistan and Kazakhstan are major two countries in the region whose bilateral

trade volume is much less than its potential.

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

Ahsan Bakhtavari said that the growth of trade between Pakistan and Kazakhstan depends on the businessmen of both countries, whose relations are very important.

He said that we have strong ties with the communities of Kazakhstan which need to be further enhanced in the future. Meanwhile, President, Faisal Chamber of Commerce, Dr. Khuram Tariq said that recently

Kazakhstani businessmen and various Kazakh brands have visited Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and important negotiations were held on both sides.



RIYADH: SAPM, Jawad Sohrab Malik signs Letter of Intent (LOI) with H.E. Ali Jabber Almahhan, CEO FNRCO Group.

Pak, Sweden hold bilateral political consultations on trade, investment

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

Additional Foreign Secretary (Europe), Ambassador Shaqat Ali Khan, led the Pakistan delegation, while the Sweden side was co-lead by Director General and Head of Global Department Dag Juhlin-Dannfelt and Acting Head of Department for Asia and the Pacific Oscar Schlyte of the Swedish

Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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

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

The Additional Foreign Secretary congratulated Sweden on successfully completing the term of EU Presidency this year and expressed Pakistan's desire to further

enhance cooperation in renewable energy, sustainable technologies, waste management, information communication technology, and rehabilitation and development.

He welcomed more Swedish companies to take advantage of the business-friendly environment in Pakistan, the Foreign Office said in a statement issued here.

The Swedish side reaffirmed its commitment to forge a broad-based bilateral relationship anchored in strong economic and political cooperation.

Iranian Ambassador visits FPCCI Trade development thru border markets proposed by FPCCI

Independent Report KARACHI: Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has apprised that, in a high-profile visit to FPCCI Head Office, H. E. Mr. Reza Amiri Moghadam, Ambassador of Iran in Pakistan, has proposed to set up border markets with Pakistan to enhance trade between the two countries.

Mr. Shaukat Omerson, VP FPCCI, highlighted that there are a number of products and services that Pakistan can export to Iran in large numbers; and, rice, fruits, vegetables, value-added

most impediment in increasing Pakistani exports to Iran – and, an effective and functional currency swap mechanism can help resolve the issue.

Mr. Shaukat Omerson, VP FPCCI, highlighted that there are a number of products and services that Pakistan can export to Iran in large numbers; and, rice, fruits, vegetables, value-added



enhancing trade with Iran can help resolve Pakistan's chronic trade deficit issues as Iran is our next door neighbor and exporting to Iran will be price-competitive due to negligible shipping & logistics costs due to land-based route. Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh reiterated his stance that the lack of banking channels between the two countries is the top

textiles, sports goods, surgical instruments, pharmaceuticals and IT services of Pakistan have great potential in Iran.

Mr. Shaukat Omerson also stressed that bilateral trade of \$2.4 billion, as per latest statistics, is way below the potential for the combined population of well over 300 million for the two countries.

Colonization of industrial estates top priority of govt: SM Tanveer

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

He said this while presiding over the meeting of Punjab Small Industries Corporation's Board here on Friday. The board discussed PSIC Employees Welfare Scheme, medical policy, PSIC Hajj Policy and approved other administrative and financial matters.

The board approved the sale of plots in Small Industrial Estates of Jehlum and Taxila, and the

PSIC Voluntary Fund Rules 2023. The board also approved the revised PC-I and the renovation work of the Business Facilitation Center of the PSIC house.

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

Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce SM Tanveer while addressing the meeting directed that all the matters and affairs of PSIC should be conducted according to the rules.

ECO announces Youth Award in art, culture, sports fields for member countries

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) has announced the ECO Youth Award in the fields of research projects including arts - preferably regional - culture and sports fields for the member states.

The youths from the 10-member states will be eligible for the award including Iran, Pakistan, Turkiye, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, according to a message received from the Pakistan Embassy in Tehran, where the ECO headquarters is also

located. A total ten awards, one from each member state will be announced every year with a cash award of USD1,000 amongst the youth of 18-30 years of age, selected from the nominations made by each member state. The need for the expansion of relations among the peoples in the ECO region, along with the significant role of youth as a major driving force for the ECO countries' development, has increased the importance of planning to maximize their optimal participation in the activities implemented by the ECO Cultural Institute (ECOCI).



LAHORE: A large number of people selecting and purchasing second hand warm clothes and different winter stuff from the vendors at Landa Bazaar.

PSW integrates with global E-Phyto hub for faster agricultural trade

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Single Window (PSW) in collaboration with Department of Plant Protection (DPP) of Pakistan has commenced sharing of electronic phytosanitary (e-Phyto) certificate exchanged between countries through e-Phyto Hub of International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

The PSW has successfully integrated the IPPC e-Phyto Hub for the electronic exchange of phytosanitary certificates, according to a press release issued here Friday.

The integration of the PSW into the IPPC e-

Phyto Hub is part of PSW's vision and commitment to modernizing trade processes and embracing digital solutions for a more efficient and interconnected global trade environment.

This is a pivotal tool that provides a paperless, global, digital exchange for electronic phytosanitary certificates governed by the IPPC, a multilateral treaty supervised by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization.

In the first 4 days of operations, PSW transmitted more than 600 certificates to 36 countries around the world.



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

Mian Zahid says: Pak population growth higher than total population of many developed nations

KARACHI (INP): Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain has said on that the number of children born in Pakistan per year was more than the total population of many developed countries.

Talking to businessmen on Friday, he said that the country's economy and resources cannot bear the burden of an increase in population of six million people per year.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the population growth rate in Pakistan was the highest in the world. In contrast, the growth rate was lower than that of African countries, which shows the deterioration of the situation.

Pakistan's population growth rate was 2.55%, India's 0.7%, China's 0.1% and Bangladesh's 1.1%, he added. The business leader said that due to the weak economy and growing

population, forty percent of children in the country lack adequate nutrition; the maternal and child mortality rate was the highest in the world.

He said that apart from Afghanistan, only Pakistan has the honor that polio disease has not been eradicated here.

Much of the population lacks clean drinking water, jaundice and tuberculosis were common, and one in four adults has diabetes.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that nearly two and a half million children in Pakistan were deprived of schooling, and a few percent of those who have access to schools were forced to seek substandard education.

Pakistan was also at the top in terms of environmental pollution, and its cities were often ranked among the most polluted cities in the world.

In these circumstances, the influential groups of the society have devised their systems for managing health, education, security, housing, water employment etc.

Happy seeder machines help prevent smog

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

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

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

Paddy farmers who used to burn crop remains were being made aware of the benefits of seeder machines.

The spokesman said that in the winter season, in case of no rain amid lower temperature, the dust particles remain suspended in the atmosphere and the smoke emitted from crop burning also join the mix and triggers the smog phenomenon.

He advised farmers to mix the paddy crop remains in the soil by using a Rotovator machine after harvesting the crop by hand. However, in the case of harvest by machine,

Progress on jobs for Pakistanis in Saudi Arabia

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

Saudi Arabia has agreed to set up a network of training centers in Pakistan for 23 professional skills, under which the number of advanced technical skill centers in Pakistan will be increased from 26 to 123.

New training centers will be opened in the small and big cities of the four

provinces in collaboration with NEOTECH, by increasing the number of training centers, 6 lakh skilled workers will be able to complete training in their country every year.

The Saudi work visa will be subject to the training course and the test will be conditioned with the standard of Saudi testing company "Takamol". "Takamol" team will also visit Pakistan in December to establish a training center. Tests will be conducted under Pakistan Labor's Skills Verification Program and digital platforms.

Nawaz to address SCCI today

LAHORE (APP): PML-N leader Mian Nawaz Sharif will visit Sialkot tomorrow for a one-day visit, party officials sources told APP.

Nawaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz have returned from Murree and reached Jati Umra here Friday.

Nawaz Sharif will leave tomorrow for a one-day visit to Sialkot. The PML-N supreme will visit the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) tomorrow at 11 am and address the office bearers. He will also meet party leaders at Khawaja Asif's residence in the afternoon. Sources said that Nawaz Sharif will discuss upcoming elections.



RAWALPINDI: A large numbers of people are busy in buying woolen clothes in weekly Friday bazaar along a road at Ganjmandi area of the city.

Minister for starting awareness drive about Halal edible items

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Minister for Livestock Ibrahim Hassan Murad on Friday directed the relevant authorities to start an awareness campaign regarding Halal edible items.

He presided over a meeting of Punjab Halal Development Agency (PHDA) here. Punjab Food Authority Director General Raja Jahangir had been given additional charge of PHDA registrar.

Ibrahim Hassan Murad also directed to ensure stoppage of import

of non Halal edible products. He emphasized on creating awareness among people of Punjab regarding Halal products and about items which were unhealthy to consume.

PHDA should constitute a Sharia Board comprising 'Muftis', he said and added that certification of Halal products should be started across the province.

The minister said that seven days should be given for certification of Halal products.

Rupee shed 11 paise against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Friday witnessed 11 paise devaluation against US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 285.37 against the previous day's closing at Rs 285.26.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs 284.1 and Rs 286.9 respectively. The price of the Euro increased by 09 paise to close at Rs 311.31 against the last day's closing of Rs 311.22, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Five ships scheduled to load/offload Containers, Rice, Coal, Gas oil and Palm oil, berthed at Container Terminal, Multipurpose Terminal, Bulk Terminal, Oil Terminal and Liquid Terminal respectively during last 24 hours.

Meanwhile five more ships, scheduled to load/offload Containers, Rice, Chemicals, LPG and LNG also arrived at outer anchorage of the port during the same period.

A total of eleven ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them, two ships.

Drop in iron products prices welcomed

LAHORE (APP): The construction industry and traders on Friday expressed gratitude for the governments' measures for reducing prices of iron products.

According to the details, prices of iron products in the markets of the city decreased by Rs5,000 to Rs10,00 per ton. Besides, branded rod, selling at Rs2,60,000 per ton, has decreased by Rs.10,000. The business community and consumers associated with the construction industry rejoiced at the cheaper price of iron. Pakistan Iron

& Steel Merchants Association sources told APP that the drop in Iron prices is a great incentive for the construction sector, saying projects worth billions of rupees had started in the country, which would generate economic activities worth billions and create hundreds of thousands of new employment opportunities.

Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) President Kashif Anwar, rejoicing at the drop in iron prices, said that the construction industry in Pakistan.



LAHORE: A view of the closed shops and markets during the smart lock down by the Government of Punjab, in Provincial Capital.

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

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

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

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

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

Meanwhile, 150 Palestinians prisoners are expected to be released.

For Gaza's two million-plus residents, the deal spells a reprieve from weeks of sustained Israeli bombardment.

The territory's Hamas government says the war has so far killed about 15,000 people and displaced countless more.

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

"I hope me and my children die here so we don't have to mourn each other."

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

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



Dutch parties' lead candidates meet for the first time after elections, in which far-right politician Geert Wilders booked major gains, to begin coalition talks in The Hague, Netherlands

After Corona, new epidemic hits China's many citizens, facing breathing difficulty

BEIJING (Online): In China, another deadly virus similar to Corona has caused a number of citizens to fall ill, suffering from breathing difficulties and symptoms similar to Corona.

According to a foreign news agency, the disease with symptoms like corona and influenza is spreading rapidly in China, on which the government issued a red alert and



asked for data from schools and hospitals.

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

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

Final push to free Indian tunnel workers

News Desk

NEW DELHI: Just a few metres of rock and earth separate Indian rescue teams from 41 workers who have been trapped inside a collapsed road tunnel for nearly two weeks, officials said on Friday, adding that they were optimistic of success within hours.

After a series of rapid advances, hopes that the men's freedom was imminent were dashed late on Wednesday when the drilling machine powering through tonnes of rock and concrete ran into metal rods, but those have now been cleared.

Rescue teams have stretchers fitted with wheels

14 metres to freedom:

ready to pull the exhausted men through 57 metres of steel pipe once it has been driven through the final section of rubble blocking their escape. "We have to [drill] 14 metres further inside the tunnel," Bhaskar Khulbe, a senior government official overseeing rescue efforts, told reporters on Friday.

"If everything goes well, we hope to reach them by today evening," he said, adding that the "trapped workers are in good frame of mind".

But a government statement has also noted that any timeline is "subject to change due to technical glitches, the challenging Himalayan terrain, and unfore-

seen emergencies".

Ambulances are on standby and a field hospital has been prepared to receive the men, who have been trapped since a portion of the under-construction tunnel in the Himalayan state of Uttarakhand caved in 13 days ago. The area outside the tunnel has been a flurry of activity, with worried relatives gathering and rescue teams stopping to pray at a Hindu shrine erected at the entrance. National Disaster Response Force chief Atul Karwal said his teams have been rehearsing how — once the steel pipe breaks through — they will bring the men out as quickly and safely as possible.

Violence erupts in Dublin after school knife attack

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

Police in riot gear stood guard on the streets in the Irish capital as crowds taunted them with chants and set off fireworks.

Near O'Connell Bridge, over the River Liffey, flames rose from a torched car and bus, while crowds broke into stores and looted goods on one of the city's main shopping streets.

The unrest—the worst in Dublin in years—came after a five-year-old girl sustained serious injuries in a suspected stabbing in Parnell Square East, north central Dublin.

Two other children and two adults—a woman and the suspected perpetrator of the attack—were taken

to hospital after the incident shortly after 1:30 pm (1330 GMT).

Police chief Drew Harris blamed the unrest on a "complete lunatic faction driven by far-right ideology".

He warned against "misinformation" as rumours spread on social media about the suspected attacker's nationality.

One protester told AFP that "Irish people are being attacked by these scum".

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

Israeli forces detain Al-Shifa hospital chief in Gaza

GAZA (INP): The head of Gaza City's Al-Shifa hospital, the largest in the Palestinian territory, was arrested Thursday by Israeli forces who said it was over the facility's alleged use by Hamas.

Hospital director Mohammad Abu Salmiya has been frequently quoted by international media about the conditions inside Al-Shifa, a major focus of an Israeli ground offensive following attacks by Palestinian militant group Hamas on October 7.

The Israeli army, which raided the hospital last week, has alleged that Hamas fighters used a tunnel complex beneath the facility in Gaza City to stage attacks.

Hamas and hospital officials have repeatedly denied the claims.

Biden thanks Mexico for arrest of accused fentanyl trafficker

Washington (AFP/APP): President Joe Biden thanked Mexican authorities on Thursday for the arrest of an accused trafficker of weapons and fentanyl, the synthetic drug behind a wave of US deaths.

Nestor Isidro Perez Salas, alias "El Nini," was captured Wednesday afternoon in Mexico's northwest Sinaloa state.

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

Europe's Ariane 6 rocket successfully completes hot-fire test

PARIS (AFP/APP): The European Space Agency's Ariane 6 rocket successfully completed a dress rehearsal on Thursday, testing its engine in preparation for a maiden voyage scheduled for 2024.

The final results of the ignition test, which involved firing up the Vulcain 2.1 engine and running it for more than seven minutes, will not be released until November 30, pending a full analysis.

But manufacturer ArianeGroup already called the rehearsal "successfully completed".

The hot-fire test at Europe's Spaceport in French Guiana "simulated a complete launch sequence and thus validated the entire flight phase of Ariane 6's core stage," it said in a statement after Thursday's rehearsal.

ArianeGroup CEO Martin Sion praised the team for the "real industrial feat", but added that "a few additional tests", notably fault tolerance, were still

needed before the rocket was ready for launch.

The rocket's work-horse predecessor, the Ariane 5, blasted off for the last time in July after 27 years of launches.

With the smaller Vega C grounded following a launch failure in December and Russia withdrawing space cooperation in response to Ukraine sanctions, the ESA has been left without an independent way to space until it can get the Ariane 6 ready.

The launcher market, meanwhile, has been increasingly dominated by billionaire Elon Musk's US firm SpaceX.

"This test is a key milestone that comes after years of design, planning, preparation, construction and hard work by some of Europe's very best space engineers," said Josef Aschbacher, director general of the ESA.

"We are back on track to re-establish Europe's autonomous access to space."

Afghanistan permanently shuts down its embassy in India

News Desk

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

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

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

"To the Afghan citizens in India, the embassy extends its sincere gratitude for their understanding and support throughout our mission's tenure," it added.

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

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

"We assure the Afghan community that the mission operated with transparency, accountability, and a commitment to fair treatment based on the goodwill and interests of Afghanistan considering historic ties and bilateral relations with India," it added. "Unfortunately, efforts have been made to tarnish our image and hinder diplomatic efforts in order to justify the presence and work of Taliban-appointed and affiliated diplomats. In the face of these challenges, our committed team worked diligently in the most difficult circumstances, prioritizing the interests of the 40 million Afghans in every pos-

sible sphere from securing humanitarian aid and online education scholarships to facilitating ease in trade and advocating for the formation of a broad-based government," the Afghan embassy stated further in its statement.

It added that the Afghan embassy "exerted diplomatic pressure in its power on those who defy the will of the Afghan people by failing to form an inclusive government and denying millions of girls the right to attend school".

As of now, there are no diplomats from the Afghan Republic in India. Those who served in the national capital have safely reached third countries, the embassy informed through its release, adding that the only individuals present in India are diplomats affiliated with the Taliban, visibly attending their regular online meetings.

"The diplomats of the Afghan Republic have handed over the mission solely to the Indian government. It now rests upon the Indian government to decide the fate of the mission, whether to maintain its closure or consider alternatives, including the possibility of handing it over to Taliban diplomats.



Ko Wen-je, Taiwan People's Party (TPP) chairman and presidential candidate, Terry Gou, Foxconn founder and presidential candidate, former Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou, Hou Yu-ih presidential candidate of the main opposition party Kuomintang (KMT) and Eric Chu, Kuomintang's Chairman attend a press conference in Taipei, Taiwan

S. Africa's Pistorius in fresh parole bid decade after murder

JOHANNESBURG (AFP/APP): South African Paralympic champion Oscar Pistorius could be granted early release from prison on Friday, a decade after he killed his girlfriend in a crime that gripped the world.

Pistorius, 37, is to appear before a parole board at a correctional centre outside Pretoria where he is currently detained.

After a hearing, the board is to review the athlete's profile and decide whether he "is suitable or not for social reintegration", the department of Correctional Services said. It will be Pistorius' second shot at parole in less than eight months.

He lost a first bid in March, when the board found he had not completed the minimum detention period required to be let out.

The Constitutional Court last month ruled that was a mistake, paving the way for a new hearing.

Pistorius killed Reeva Steenkamp, a model, in the early hours of Valentine's Day 2013, firing four times through the bathroom door of his ultra-secure Pretoria house. Known worldwide as "Blade Runner" for his carbon-fibre prosthetics, he was found guilty of murder and given a 13-year jail sentence in 2017 after a lengthy trial and several appeals. He had pleaded not guilty and denied killing Steenkamp in a rage, saying he mistook her for a burglar.

Top producer Ivory Coast fears for cocoa output after rains

HERMANKONO, Ivory Coast (AFP/APP): "Thirty years I've been in cocoa—and this is the worst season yet," said Siaka Sylla as he contemplated an almost empty warehouse at his cooperative in Ivory Coast, the world's top producer of the bean.

Following exceptionally heavy rain, this year's overall harvest of cocoa, used to manufacture chocolate, is set to be very low. The crop is harvested twice annually—October to March for the main crop and a May to August mid-crop.

On a hot November morning, a squad of trucks arrived from the plantations to drop off a few dozen bags of beans at the Scappen cooperative in the village of Hermankono, near the central southern town of Divo, some 200 kilometres (125 miles) from the economic capital Abidjan.

"It's rained too much this year. Usually at this time, trucks are queuing up to unload. Here, we have barely 200 bags whereas we could stock 10 times as many," complained Sylla, chairman of the cooperative grouping some 1,500 planters. He expects harvest volume to drop some three to four times on last year's.

A look in the fields nearby suggests that fear is well-founded. And Analysts confirm as much.

"Traders are worried about another short pro-

duction year and these feelings have been enhanced by El Niño that could threaten West Africa crops with hot and dry weather later this year," said Jack Scoville of Price Futures Group.

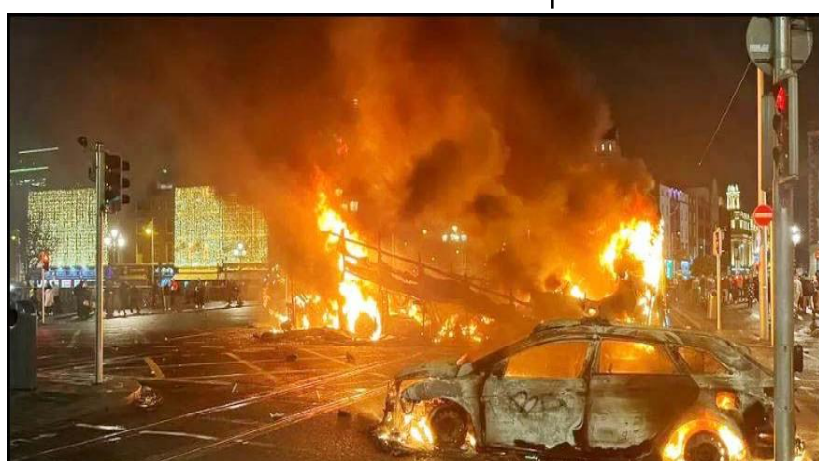
The analyst warned of "tight supplies" amid "more reports of reduced arrivals in Ivory Coast and Ghana," the number two global producer.

By a dirt track which only motorbikes could thread their way along, Bamoussa Coulibaly collected a few rare yellow-red pods from the many cocoa trees.

July was a particularly rainy month in Ivory Coast's south, just as the cocoa plants were flowering. As a result, "the flowers fell," the farm worker said as he explained his meagre harvest.

Of those cocoa pods which resisted, some rotted anyway in the excessive humidity. Some areas have seen rainfall this year between 20 and even 40 percent above the 1991-2020 norm, according to data from national meteorological service Sodexam. To blossom fully, cocoa needs a subtle alternation between sunshine and rain.

A few kilometres from Hermankono, in the bush near N'Douci, Monique Koffi Amenan waded through a marshy field resulting from weeks of rainfall which caused the neighbouring river to burst its banks.



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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Friday said with its good governance and reformative approach, the interim government would leave a legacy on the domestic front.

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

The prime minister spoke about his vision about the prospects for a better Pakistan, terming "skilled human capital as the answer to several challenges".

He said Pakistan, being an important regional member of the Economic Cooperation Organization, boasted a strategic location at the confluence of central and south Asia besides its

rich natural resources. The 240 million population with a huge youth bulge under the age of 25 adds value to human capital, he added. He, however, pointed out that it was utmost crucial to provide skill sets to youth through targeted training programmes and warned that non-utilization of their energy could lead to detrimental consequences. Kakar said one of the priorities of the caretaker government was to focus on a programme, which would train one million nurses in one decade.

Also, the government was exploring partnerships with international conglomerates including Siemens, Germany for the development of skills in different areas.

The prime minister said the government was fast-tracking the privatization of State Owned Enterprises and related entities, with Pakistan International Airlines on priority in the list. In this

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

The members of delegation informed the Governor about the ongoing projects and other initiatives of the UNDP in Balochistan.

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

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

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

steps for mobilizing all available resources to ensure good governance in the province.

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

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

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

WPRC providing early response to victims of violence: Mushal Mullik

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

She was addressing the launch of 16-day Awareness Campaign "Activism Against Gender-Based Violence" including a Transit Advertising Campaign, organized by the Ministry of Human Rights. The advertising campaign will kick start by November 25 in collaboration with the Ministry of Railways and with the support of UN Women Pakistan.

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



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

PSQCA declares 20 brands of bottled water unsafe: Senate told

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ministry for Parliamentary Affairs, Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Friday informed the Senate that Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) declared 20 brands of bottled water unsafe due to certain issues during its quarterly report for a period of April-June 2023.

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

He said the remaining brands were fake and action was also taken against all such groups which were producing substandard and unsafe things. However, he said as per PSQCA law, only a Rs 50,000 fine and one-year jail punishment could be awarded to such culprits through courts. Rs 50,000 fine and one-year imprisonment was very insufficient as such people were putting the lives of common people in danger, he said.

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

The minister said PSQCA was mandated to formulate Standards and monitor the quality of products falling under the Compulsory Certification Mark Scheme.

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



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over a meeting regarding anti polio drive in the province.

MP scales devised in 1998 to bring professional from private to public sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Finance and Revenue Shamsah Akhtar on Friday apprised the Senate that Management Position (MP) Scales were devised in 1998 to bring highly professional persons from private sector to Public sector. Replying to a calling attention notice raised by Mian Raza Rabbani regarding the revision of Management Position (MP) Salary package with effect from 1st October, 2023, she said the package was also revised in 2007, 2012 and 2017. The package was also duly approved by past leadership, she said. She said in July 2022, basic pay of civil servants was also enhanced around 48 per cent.

The process of package enhancement was started in July 2022 to take on board the Cabinet and the Establishment Division, she said.

The minister said that the prime minister approved it after limiting it to 45 per cent of basic salary.

She said there were some technical areas in energy, economy and Finance etc which needed specialized persons and specialized skills. Earlier, moving the calling attention notice in the house, Raza Rabbani said that persons appointed in MP scales had already getting hefty perks and privileges than the elected representatives- senator and member national assembly. Now, the salary package of MP scales had further been enhanced manifold, he added.

He said the basic salary of a senator was mere Rs 150,000 per month while MP scale employee was getting minimum over Rs 350,000 per month basic salary.



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



QUETTA: A delegation of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) under leadership of its representative in Pakistan, Dr. Samuel Rizk meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Higher Education Development (HEDP) project team of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) Friday met with Secretary Higher Education Department, Balochistan, Zafar Buledi to discuss the way forward in building the professional capacity of teachers and student assessment for implementing the revised Undergraduate Education Policy (UEP) 2020.

The officials explored opportunities for collaboration in uplifting the standard of higher education in affiliated colleges in Balochistan, ensuring their on-ground support to the HEDP team in reaching out

to the far-flung areas of the province to equip teachers with new methodologies and technologies, said a press release issued here.

All affiliated colleges, constituting the tertiary education system of Pakistan, are under the administrative control of provinces, and the project is rolling out its activities in close collaboration with all provincial departments nationwide.

Consultant HEC, Dr. Syed Afaq Husain introduced the salient features of the revised UEP by emphasizing that the successful implementation of the policy depended on the preparedness of teachers, who constituted the foundation of an education system. It is imperative that the faculty of higher education institutes can use new teaching methodologies and technologies to manage this paradigm shift from earlier 2-year degrees to new associate degree and bachelor's degree programmes. Principals were also briefed on the new Learning Skills Assessment Test (LSAT) developed with the support of HEDP, which will be conducted throughout the country for a large sample of undergraduate students.

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

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



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

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

ISLAMABAD (INP): Spokesperson of Foreign Office Mumtaz Zahra Baloch reiterated Pakistan's demand for immediate ceasefire in Gaza and the main responsibility for this is on the Security Council.

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

"It is the duty of pro-

Israeli countries to put pressure on Israel for a cease-fire," Foreign Office spokesman said.

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

"A strong stand was taken in OIC and Arab League meetings for an immediate ceasefire," she said.

BTTN delegation visits academic & research institutions in Lahore

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

BTTN's delegation visited the Center for Public Policy and Governance at Forman Christian College University (FCCU), Lahore where they were received by eminent Professor Dr Saeed Shafiq and his team. BTTN also paid a visit to the Kimaird College for Women University, Lahore. The delegation was received by the Dean Social Sciences Dr Masha Khan.

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

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

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

Pak Army, FC install three hydropower turbines in Buner

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

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

Among the installations, a 150-kilowatt hydroelectric turbine now lights up 500 homes in Elum Kalay and Karapa Kalay.

IHC disposes of Imran's plea for early decision on his case

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



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

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

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Secretary Health Department, Arif Khan, provincial coordinator MNCH, Dr. Gul Sabin, Chief Planning Officer, Abdul Rasool Zehri, Provincial Lead UNFPA, Dr. Sarmad Saeed Khan, UNFPA's Dr. Anum and Anita and Staff Officer Shaukat Baloch.

The Provincial Coordinator MNCH Programme, Dr. Gul Sabin briefed the meeting about ongoing works under MNCH in the health centers of districts.

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



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

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

QUETTA (APP): Provincial Manager of Provincial AIDS control program, Dr. Khalid-ur-Rehman Qamrani on Friday said that the number of AIDS patients is increasing in Balochistan which is a cause for concern. He said that it is very important to control the epidemic of AIDS in Balochistan, in this regard, the provincial AIDS control program has started 15 days campaign this year to create awareness against it among the public.

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

The meeting was attended by Amanullah Kakar Socio Pak, Watan Yar Khilji Asaas PK, Mushtaq Mengal Leader, FPAP and others on behalf of Provincial AIDS Control Network. On behalf of PACP, Deputy Manager Dr. Dawood Khan Achakzai Muhammad Khan Zehri Ashfaq Khan Yasinzai and Abdul Rauf Kiiazai participated in the meeting.

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

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

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