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Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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Judges calling Musharraf martial law legal should too be put to trial: SC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has remarked the judges who called Musharraf martial law legal should also be put to trial.

A 4-member bench of SC presided over by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa took up for hearing former president Pervez Musharraf appeal against his sentence Tuesday.

Hamid Khan presented written arguments against Lahore High Court (LHC) decision in the court.

The CJP expressed displeasure due to lack of preparation when Haroon ul Rashid counsel for Pakistan Bar Council (PBC) gave arguments.

Rashid A Rizvi counsel for Sindh High Court Bar (SHCB) made mention of Pervez Musharraf martial law in his arguments.

Justice Athar Minallah while stopping him remarked Rashid Rizvi Sahb you will go to past how long.

The CJP remarked I have respect for Justice Athar Minallah. But we should go to the past now.

Justice Athar Minallah remarked "go at every cost. Then this Musharraf abrogated the constitution on October 12. He dissolved assemblies. This court gave way to October 12 steps. The judges who termed Musharraf

Martial law legal should also be tried.

He further remarked why the action was taken on November 3 steps. The action will be taken in regard to attack on judges on November 3 then question of fair trial will rise. Was attacking the judges more grave matter than suspending the constitution and dissolving assemblies. We should speak the truth. If any decision has to be abolished then it should be abolished. Which gave way to martial law.

The CJP remarked what happened in the past I cannot abolish it. If we have to become nation then we have to correct future by seeing the past. Lawyers should come and tell why the pictures of the judges who abrogated the constitution are hung here. Why only judge should point out it while sitting here. Media too is responsible for it. They should also be held accountable. Tell us how many journalists were opponent and how were supporters of the martial law. We should learn lesson from the history. We should teach it to children as well. Justice Athar Minallah remarked history then is this whenever some one grows strong, no one speaks against him. When powerful grown weak then Asima Jillani decision comes.



KUWAIT: Kuwait's Minister for Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr Jassim Mohammed Abdullah Al-Ostaid receiving Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar upon arrival of a two-day official visit to meet the Kuwaiti leadership



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki inaugurates Hospital Management Information System at Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Medical Complex.

Pakistan fully committed to eradicate polio virus: PM Kakar

ABU DHABI (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday appreciated the Gates Foundation's support to the government's efforts to secure a polio-free Pakistan and reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to rid the country of the debilitating virus.

The caretaker prime minister received a telephone call from Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) this evening to discuss progress in the ongoing efforts to eradicate polio from Pakistan.

The prime minister is currently on an official visit to the United Arab Emirates, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

During the telephone call, the prime minister and Gates followed up on their

discussion in New York when they met on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly session in September.

In this regard, the caretaker prime minister briefed Gates on the polio vaccination drive currently in progress across Pakistan.

Prime Minister Kakar assured Gates that the Government of Pakistan was fully committed to delivering on the promise of a healthier, safer and financially inclusive Pakistan and counted on reliable partners such as the BMGF in this endeavour.

The issues of malnutrition and maternal health also came under discussion.

The prime minister expressed satisfaction at the excellent cooperation between the government and the BMGF.

No dialogue with India on cross border pollution issue at COP-28

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and India are grappling with unprecedented risk of exacerbated air pollution causing smog in the region. In contrast, no dialogue would be held between the two neighbouring countries on the sidelines of the world's most critical environmental moot COP-28 to be held in Dubai from November 30 to December 12.

A senior official of the Ministry of Climate Change told APP that the COP-28 was basically a negotiating forum where broader global and regional environmental issues, frameworks and protocols were discussed.

He added that there was no ban or restriction to hold bilateral meetings but rather regional level meetings were held among the countries of the same region.

He said there was a meeting of the regional countries on the sidelines of the COP meeting but no specific meeting with India was in the schedule on the matter.

The Ministry's official privy to the COP-28 arrangements and proceedings said there was recently a conference held in Malaysia on cross-boundary air pollution in South Asia where all member countries of the region participated and held interaction on the matter.

CJP stops from writing SC as superior judiciary

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa has stopped from writing Supreme Court (SC) as superior judiciary.

The CJP expressed his annoyance over calling superior judiciary during hearing of a bail case here Tuesday.

The CJP while issuing orders for not calling SC as superior judiciary got written the decision.

The CJP remarked the word judiciary has not been used for SC. As per constitution it should be said as SC only.

Earlier the CJP while imposing ban on using word Sahb for government officer the word had said Sahb does not reflect an independent nation. The CJP some months back had remarked the using word honorable with high court and SC is not correct

PM arrives in Kuwait on two-day official visit

KUWAIT (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday arrived here on a two-day official visit to meet the Kuwaiti leadership.

Upon his arrival at the airport, Kuwait's Minister for Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr Jassim Mohammed Abdullah Al-Ostaid received the prime minister, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

Pakistan Ambassador to Kuwait Malik Muhammad Farooq and other senior diplomatic officials were also present on the occasion.

During his visit, the Caretaker Prime Minister

will meet Crown Prince of Kuwait Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmed Al-Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

During the visit, a new era of economic and economic cooperation between the two countries will begin. A number of MoUs will be signed for mutual cooperation in various sectors including manpower, information technology, minerals and mining, food security, energy and defense, it was further added.

As a traditional Kuwaiti welcoming gesture, the caretaker prime minister was also presented "Kahwa" upon his arrival.

Complete operationalization of tertiary care hospitals essential: Provision of quality healthcare facilities being ensured, says caretaker Chief Minister

Mir Ali Mardan Domki inaugurates Hospital Management Information System in Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Medical Complex Saria

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that the provision of quality healthcare facilities is being ensured all over the province, however, it is necessary to fully operationalize the tertiary care hospitals.

He said that sufficient amount is allocated for provision of quality healthcare facilities every year, but there is a dire need to ensure correct use of these resources.

The Chief Minister was speaking on occasion

of the visit to Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Medical Complex (SKBZMC) Saria on Tuesday.

He went round of different sections of the SKBZMC and inspected them. He also inaugurated the Hospital Management Information System in the Sheikh Zayed Hospital.

He said that the data of patients coming in the Hospital would be saved with operationalization of the HMIS.

The patients would also have medical assistance in all sections through connectivity with central database system.

While on the other hand, the medical services would also be improved in the hospital after making the Post graduate Management Institute.

He stressed that the complete operationalization of the tertiary care hospital is necessary so that no one from the province may go to other parts of the country for getting medical treatment.

Earlier, briefing the Chief Minister, Secretary Health Abdullah Khan said that the process of reforms is continued in the health sector on directives of the Chief Minister.

Govt to support ECP for ensuring free, fair elections: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi Tuesday said under Article 218(3) of the Constitution, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) would fulfill its responsibility to conduct fair, transparent and impartial elections and the government would support it.

Talking to media persons here, he said that there were a total of 280 articles in the Constitution, not only the article of elections

in 90 days, it also had Article 254.

"Everyone in Pakistan has freedom to express opinion, complain and criticize," Solangi added.

The minister said the freedom that Pakistan People's Party and other parties had been enjoying, Pakistan Muslim League (N) also had same freedom.

He said that the caretaker PM had informed the public about his visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) last night through a video message.



QUETTA: A delegation led by Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan, Raza Amiri Moghaddam meeting with Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

Iranian ambassador calls on Abdul Wali Kakar: Governor calls for strengthening bilateral relations between Pakistan and Iran further

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stressed the need to strengthen the bilateral relations between Pakistan and Iran in different sectors further.

He said that it is need of the hour to strengthen the commerce, trade and educational relations between the brotherly countries Iran and Pakistan further.

He noted with contentment that there are close relations between governments of both the countries on one hand, and their people are also enjoying bonds of love and friendship.

The Governor was speaking to the Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan, Raza Amiri Moghaddam who called on him here at the Governor House on Tuesday.

During the course of meeting, the matters about bilateral relations between

the two countries and other ones were discussed.

The Governor maintained that the present government is paying special attention on increasing cooperation with Iran in energy and trade sectors.

He said that we can't ignore the traders of both countries for removing the issues of backwardness, poverty and unemployment.

He was of the strong view that we can overcome the existing problems of unemployment, backwardness and poverty easily by expanding the border trade and providing necessary facilities to our traders.

He also said that the trade and commerce activities can be boosted by improving border trade and strengthening border markets. Meanwhile, the Governor and Iranian ambassador were agreed upon maintaining constant coordination in different matters, exchange of visits and continuing dialogue.

President pays tribute to martyred troops

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr. Arif Alvi on Tuesday paid tribute to the soldiers who lost their lives in separate terrorist incidents that took place in North Waziristan and Pashni this month.

The president talked to the families of Sepoy Shahzeb, Sepoy Muhammad Sohail, and Lans Havaladar Basit Imran and paid tribute to the valour of the martyrs.

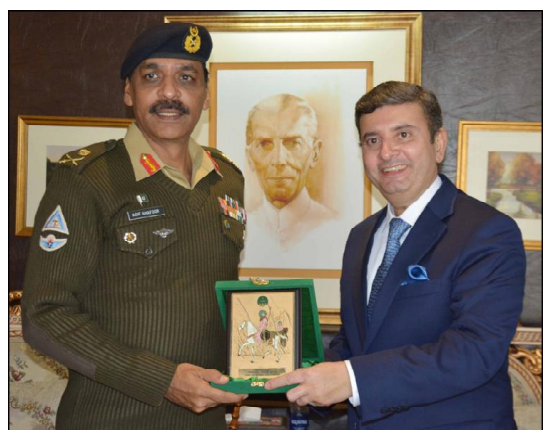
"The sacrifices of martyrs will not go in vain and terrorism will be eliminated from the soil of the country," he said.

The president extended condolences to the family of the martyred troops and prayed to Allah Almighty to grant an elevated place to their souls.

ECP adjourns hearing on IK's party role till Dec 5

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Tuesday adjourned the hearing concerning the removal of Imran Khan Niazi's name as the party chairman from the records till December 5.

The four-member ECP bench, headed by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), Sikandar Sultan Raja continued hearing Khalid Mehmood's case. The counsel representing Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) requested an extension until next week to submit the response as a copy of the petition had not been provided.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan giving away memorial shield to outgoing Corps Commander Balochistan Lt. General Asif Ghafoor.

Protest against killing continues: Fact finding Tribunal of Inquiry formed to probe Turbat killing incident

Independent Report

QUETTA: The fact finding Tribunal of Inquiry has been formed to probe into the incident of killing of a person Balach Mola Bakhsh in Turbat on Tuesday.

According to an official notification issued here, the Secretary Fisheries, Imran Gichki would head the Inquiry Tribunal.

Other members to be included in the Tribunal of Inquiry are: Deputy Inspector General of police Quetta, Deputy Commissioner Kech, and SSP

Gwadar. The Tribunal would submit its report to the government within two weeks after thoroughly probing the incident.

It may be mentioned here that Balach was allegedly murdered in an encounter by CTD on Thursday.

The heirs of deceased Balach and civil society are observing protest against his killing since then.

Wheel jam and shutter down strike was also observed against the killing in Turbat on Tuesday.



QUETTA: Peoples Party Senior Leaders, Khursheed Ahmed Shah along with Nawab Sanaullah Zehri, Changaiz Jamali and others addressing a press conference in Quetta.



QUETTA: Director General National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Balochistan, Zafar Iqbal Khan presenting shield to Balochistan Minister for Education Dr. Qadir Bakhsh Baloch at a seminar.

Syed Khursheed Shah & Nawab Zehri say: PPP's founding day to be historic event; jalsa to be made most successful

Independent Report

QUETTA: The senior leader of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Syed Khursheed Shah and former Chief Minister Balochistan, Nawab Sanaullah Zehri have stated that the founding day of the party on November 30 would be a historic event and the public meeting would be made most successful.

They were addressing a joint press conference at a local hotel on Tuesday. Syed Khursheed Shah said that the leadership of party has reached Quetta for observing Youme Tasees and participating in the public meeting to be held on the occasion.

He said that we are pleased to see the enthusiasm of people in Quetta. He said that Youme

Tasees is not only of the PPP, but it is of 240 million people of the country.

He said that PPP is the party of federation and the party strengthens it.

Nawab Sanaullah Zehri invited the general public to participate in the public meeting. He said that it would be the biggest event of the history of Balochistan. He said that PPP has served the province in past, and would also do so in future.

The provincial president of PPP Mir Changaiz Jamali and other leaders also addressed the presser.

Earlier, Syed Khursheed Shah along with other party leaders visited the Ayub Sports Complex and reviewed the preparations made for the public meeting to be held on November 30 there.

Special court decides for jail trial of PTI chairman in cipher case

ISLAMABAD (APP): The special court on Tuesday decided to hold jail trial of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman in the cipher case and instructed the administration of Adiala Jail for arrangements in this regard.

Special Court Judge Abul Hassan Muhammad Zulqarnain, who heard the case against the PTI chairman under the Official Secrets Act, observed that the next hearing of the case would take place in an open court at the jail where anyone from public or media could come to witness the proceedings.

At the outset of hearing, an official of the Adiala Jail administration submitted a report to the judge and adopted the stance that the PTI chairman could not be brought from the jail to the court due to security issues.

He said the former prime minister was facing serious threats and a letter had been written to the police for deployment of extra force. The report of Islamabad Police was also attached with the report.

The PTI chairman's lawyer, Salman Safdar Advocate, said that on November 23 the court had ordered to produce the PTI chairman and vice chairman before it, and it was the responsibility of the jail administration to comply with the instructions.

He also read out the order of Islamabad High Court (IHC), which said the jail trial was not a trial of open court. After issuance of the detailed order, the matter would be more clear, he added.

He said that the letter to the police was written by the jail superintendent. Whether he was the one to decide the threats to the PTI chairman, he asked and questioned why the PTI Vice Chairman Shah Mehmood Qureshi was not presented before the court.

On the occasion, Federal Investigation Agency's Prosecutor Zulfikar Naqvi raised the objection that the letter should not be read in the court as it was confidential.

Shah Mehmood Qureshi's lawyer Ali Bokhari Advocate said that

there were threats to the PTI chairman, but his client was also not produced. It was necessary to produce the accused before the court, he added.

The FIA prosecutor said that the jail administration had stated that there were threats to the life of accused as per the letter, and supporting documents of law enforcement agencies were also attached with it.

He said the IHC had also ordered to the trial court to conclude the trial within four weeks. The court could allow the entry of people keeping in view the capacity of the courtroom in jail.

The trial could be conducted in the jail after meeting all legal procedures, he added.

The prosecutor said the special court would have to decide whether to hold the trial in the jail or the Judicial Complex. The IHC did not declare the jail trial as illegal, he added.

After hearing arguments, the court declared to conduct trial of PTI chairman in the jail wherein everyone who wished to wit-

ness the proceedings would be allowed to enter.

The court, in its written order, said that the Superintendent of Adiala Jail had presented its report which was based on the information shared by the Police, Intelligence Bureau and Special Branch.

It said that as per the report there were severe security threats to the life of PTI chairman. The court could not take the report as light as the PTI activists had already invaded the Judicial Complex in the past. The hearing in the Judicial Complex was neither safe for the PTI chairman nor for any other.

Keeping in view the circumstances, the court ordered for the jail trial of the accused.



ABU DHABI: The Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar is being briefed with regard to the Martyrs' monument, Wahatal Al Karama.

PM pays tribute to UAE's national heroes at Wahat Al Karama monument

ABU DHABI (United Arab Emirates) (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday visited the martyrs memorial of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in Abu Dhabi and paid tribute to the national heroes.

The prime minister laid a wreath at 'Wahat Al Karama', the national and cultural monument, meaning the oasis of dignity, to commemorate the Emiratis who laid their lives in the line of duty.

Chairman of the Office of Development and Martyrs' Families Affairs, Sheikh Theyab bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan briefed PM Kakar about the monument as an icon to highlight the great sacrifices of national heroes.

The prime minister was presented with a static guard of honour on the occasion.

Later, PM Kakar went on a tour across the memorial and penned his expressions in the visitor book placed on the premises.

Online adds: The Prime Minister commenced his visit by offering feteiha at the mausoleum of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and recalled vision-

President Dr. Arif Alvi says Nature-based solutions, civic sense on water conservation, crucial to address Pakistan's water scarcity

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday, terming water scarcity a big challenge for climate-hit Pakistan, said taking urgent steps such as nature-based solutions and developing civic sense about water conservation, were the need of hour.

He regarded water-related disasters including shortages as the major sign of climate emergency and emphasized taking the issue as a major preoccupation by governments, corporate organizations, and citizens.

In his video-link address to the closing session of the 6th Karachi International Water Conference, he said there was a need to bring attitudinal changes among the public by educating them to consciously use water.

The conference held in Sindh's capital Karachi, attended the local and international experts on environment and food security that highlighted the serious water-related challenges facing the country in the wake of climate change.

PM pays tribute to UAE's national heroes at Wahat Al Karama monument

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Concrete measures required to promote archaic traditional game of province: Jabbar

QUETTA: Jabbar Baloch, Administrator Quetta Metropolitan Corporation, has said archery was not only the archaic traditional game of Balochistan but also an international game included the Olympic Games, hence, concrete measures were required to be taken to promote the archaic traditional game of the province.

These views were expressed by him while addressing a function held in connection with archery training camp in the lawn of Quetta Metropolitan Corporation under the auspices of Moulana Niaz Muhammad Durrani Archery Academy, Quetta here on Tuesday. He said that the arrangement of training camps were essential so as to promote archery game in

Quetta. Jabbar Baloch twice hit the market during the camp.

Giving briefing to Administrator Quetta Metropolitan Corporation, Jabbar Baloch about training camp, Faiz Kakar, national archery coach said that Balochistan Archery Association, a registered sports association with Balochistan Sports Board, was conducting archery training camps so as to promote archery game in Balochistan, particularly in Quetta city, adding that the arrangement of training camp at Quetta Metropolitan Corporation under the aegis of Moulana Niaz Muhammad Durrani Archery Academy was a step taken to promote archery game in Quetta and its adjoining areas. On the occasion, Anwar Lehri, Chief Sanitation Officer, Quetta Metropolitan Corporation, Muhammad Asad, Account Officer, QMC, Bilal Khan, Private Secretary to Administrator, Quetta Metropolitan Corporation, Muhammad Amin Badini, leader of Balochistan Civil Secretariat Officers Welfare Association, office bearer of Balochistan Archery Association, Muhammad Ismail Hazara and others were also present. Players acquired training of archery in the training camp.

When they are dominating," Ayub said.

"The momentum keeps shifting during the match, sometimes it's with the bowlers and other times it's with the batters and you have to adjust accordingly.

"Having a fearless approach doesn't mean that you always have to hit the ball hard. Some sessions have to be played with a run-rate of three, some with that of five.

"As far as expectations are concerned, I am looking forward to the opportunity of playing for Pakistan and win matches for the team."

Pakistan seemingly have a wealth of options within their top-order, with Ayub battling it out with regular openers Abdullah Shafique and Imam-ul-Haq to tackle the new ball and new skipper Shan Masood and former captain Babar Azam likely to round out a strong top four.

Ayub will get chances to impress though, with Pakistan scheduled to take on an Australian Prime Minister's XI in a four-day contest from December 6 ahead of the first Test in

Perth commencing on December 14.

And while Pakistan haven't won a Test match in Australia for almost 28 years, Ayub is looking forward to the challenge as his side attempts to remain unbeaten in the current World Test Championship cycle.

"I think it will be fun playing cricket there (in Australia)," Ayub said. "You've got to push yourself out of your comfort zone and when there are challenges, there is growth as well and that excites me as a player."

"Players decide for themselves if they want to look at conditions as easy or difficult. What's more important is the clarity of thought and being fearless with your approach."

Pakistan Test squad: Shan Masood ©, Aamer Jamal, Abdullah Shafique, Abrar Ahmed, Babar Azam, Faheem Ashraf, Hasan Ali, Imam-ul-Haq, Khuram Shahzad, Mir Hamza, Mohammad Rizwan, Mohammad Wasim Jr, Noman Ali, Saim Ayub, Agha Salman, Sarfaraz Ahmed, Saud Shakeel, Shaheen Afridi.



QUETTA: A delegation led by former Provincial Minister Mir Rehmat Saleh Baloch meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

Chairman WAPDA, project high up meet: Diamer Bhasha dam & Dasu Hydel power project to change destiny of Pakistan, says CM GB

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: The Chief Minister Gilgit Baltistan, Gulbar Khan has stated that two mega projects of Diamer Bhasha dam and Dasu Hydel Power project would prove to be important milestone in removing the scarcity of water and power in the country and thus would change its destiny forever with their completion.

He noted that the people of Diamer district of Gilgit Baltistan are also affected and are giving sacrifice too in the larger interest of the country. The joint efforts of WAPDA and government of Gilgit Baltistan are important for accelerating speed of work on these mega projects and resolving the issues of the people affected due to them.

He said that the dwellers of Diamer would have to migrate from the area at large scale leaving the lands of their ancestors. We have to value their sacrifice and as such resolve their issues on priority basis.

In view of this, it is unavoidable to ensure

timely execution of the commitments and pledges made with the affectees of mega project, stressed the Chief Minister Gilgit Baltistan while speaking to a delegation comprising the Chairman WAPDA, Lt. General (Retd) Sajjad Ghani and high ups of Diamer Bhasha Dam project, who called on him in the Gilgit Baltistan House Islamabad the other day.

Also present in the meeting were the members of cabinet of Gilgit Baltistan belonging to Diamer.

During the course of meeting, matters were discussed about the implementation on the projects of confidence building in the Project area, establishment of vocational institute for promotion of technical education, payment of the household and provision of jobs besides others.

The Chief Minister and members of cabinet of Gilgit Baltistan were briefed about the measures so far taken for development and construction of the project area.

It was decided in the meeting to proceed further

the early implementation on proceeding on water supply and sanitation scheme in Chalas area of Diamer.

In addition to this, the establishment of the vocational institute would also be ensured.

Moreover, other certain important matters were also discussed and decisions made during the meeting.

The meeting was informed that the Cadet College would be inaugurated in Chalas on March 1, 2024.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister GB directed to take prompt action on the payment of the leftover lands of Diamer Bhasha dam project.

On this, the Chairman WAPDA assured to make payment to the affectees agreeing with the Chief Minister.

Those who were present in the meeting were included the members of GB cabinet including Mushtaq Ahmed, Muhammad Anwar, Shah Baig and Rehmat Khaliq besides other concerned high ups.



ISLAMABAD: Secretary Pakistan Squash Federation Amir Nawaz addressing press conference regarding the International Men and Women Squash Series, at Serena hotel in Federal Capital.

PCB waives off fine on Azam Khan after backlash on social media

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Tuesday reviewed its decision and abolished 50% match fee fine imposed on batter Azam Khan for displaying the Palestinian flag on his bat during National T20 Cup match.

Azam was fined for breaching clothing and equipment regulations (displaying unapproved logo/political messaging), as he didn't remove the sticker despite the match umpire's warnings. However, two days after the incident, the PCB reviewed the penalty and officially waived it.

"Azam Khan's 50 per cent fine imposed by match officials has been reviewed and waived off by the Pa-

kistan Cricket Board," the PCB said in a brief press release.

"Azam Khan was found to have violated Article 2.4 of the PCB Code of Conduct for Players and Players Support Personnel for repeated failure to comply with the instruction or directive of an Umpire during a Match.

"Players and team officials are not permitted to wear, display or otherwise convey personal messages on their equipment unless approved in advance by both player or team official's cricket association and PCB Cricket Operations Department," the board's statement concluded.

CS visits Chilas Wapda Harpan Dass Model Colony

GILGIT (APP): Chief Secretary Gilgit-Baltistan Abrar Ahmed Mirza on Tuesday inaugurated the Skill Development Center at WAPDA Harpan Dass Model Colony.

Employment Skill Development Center has been established by Gilgit-Baltistan Rural Support Program (GBRSP) with the support of WAPDA, Diamer Bhasha Dam Project and District Administration Diamer.

Chief Engineer (Construction Management) Engr Fawad Saeed briefed the Chief Secretary regarding the Colony and Resettlement Plan. Officials of WAPDA, Gilgit-Baltistan Rural Support Program, District Administration were also present.

Chief Secretary visited the Skill Development Center and also inspected the equipment installed in the centre.

General Manager Gilgit-Baltistan Rural Support Program Ashfaq Ahmed said that technical education and training in various trades will be given to the unemployed youth in the Employment Skill Development Center.

He said regular classes will start from December 18.



QUETTA: Member HEC Dr. Iqbal Hussain and Director General HEC Dr. Zahoor Bazzi meeting with Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Walk Khan Kakar

Pakistan youngster eager to grasp Test chance in Australia

LAHORE (INP): Boom youngster Saim Ayub has promised to stay fearless should he earn a first Test cap for Pakistan during next month's tour of Australia.

Pakistan travel to Australia for a three-match series as part of the ongoing ICC World Test Championship and Ayub is in the running for selection after he was named in an 18-player squad earlier this month.

While Ayub is yet to earn a Test debut, the 21-year-old has already featured for Pakistan in eight T20I contests this year and has further impressed at domestic level with a large sum of runs for Karachi Whites in the recently concluded Quaid-e-Azam Trophy.

The next step for Ayub will be to translate that strong form in Pakistan to the international arena and the confident left-hander is adamant he won't change his aggressive approach should he earn selection in Australia.

"The approach should stay fearless but sometimes you have to play according to the conditions, you've got to give respect to the bowlers

when they are dominating," Ayub said.

"The momentum keeps shifting during the match, sometimes it's with the bowlers and other times it's with the batters and you have to adjust accordingly.

"Having a fearless approach doesn't mean that you always have to hit the ball hard. Some sessions have to be played with a run-rate of three, some with that of five.

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QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over a meeting Management Board of GDA Hospital Gwadar

Education vital for progress of country: Education Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Mr Madad Ali Sindhi has said that education plays a vital role in the progress of a country. Addressing a conference on the topic of "Revolutionizing higher education: reconciling required & acquired learning" held at International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI) here on Tuesday, the Education Minister said that the digital revolution has changed the learning methods, while hurdles of time and place for education are no longer an issue. He emphasized the

use of technology in teaching and learning. The Minister opined that education is the best way to make society strong, stable, and prosperous. Madad Ali Sindhi was of the view that education must be a top priority of our nation. This international conference is being organized by the Faculty of Education of IIUI in collaboration with IQRA University and International Centre of Excellence. Around 50 papers are being presented by national and international scholars in the conference. The participants of the conference debated on reimagining a traditional

degree path and integrating skill-based education in higher education, which may help in address the issue of how to change lives by addressing long-standing educational issues such as inequality, learning poverty, economic insecurity, and the exclusion of youth from the job market who are not in degree programmes. Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC), said that no country may progress unless it invests in education. He said that Youth have the potential to change the fate of a nation. He added that Paki-

stan has won maximum scholarships for Europe in previous year. "Things have changed, we have to buckle up and catch up with the rest of the world" said Dr. Mukhtar adding that technology and AI based learning are the prime choices to excel. He referred to the global pandemic saying that it exposed the conventional education, while he also apprised of the response of HEC. He called for equal opportunities for all three sectors of education mentioning primary, vocational and higher education.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Madad Ali Sindhi attended the opening ceremony of International Conference on Revolutionizing Higher Education: Reconciling required and Acquired Learning" by IIUI.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Health Minister Dr. Nadeem Jan administering polio drops during polio campaign.

UN urged to take notice of Kashmiri political detainees' plight in Indian jails

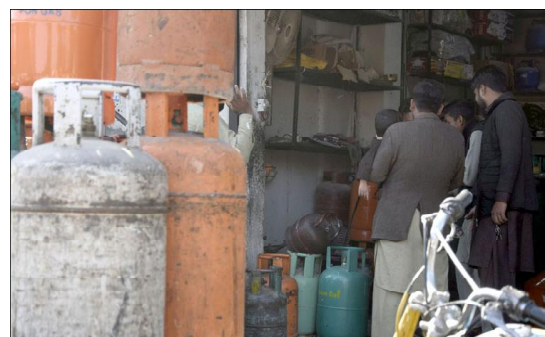
ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has expressed concern over the plight of illegally detained Hurriyat leaders and activists languishing in notorious jails of India and occupied Jammu and Kashmir for the past many years. According to Kashmir Media Service, the APHC spokesman in a statement issued in Srinagar denounced the unabated arrest spree launched by Indian forces in nook and corner of the occupied territory in the garb of cordon and search operations and said that more than four thousand leaders and activists

belonging to the Kashmir resistance movement had been put behind bars on baseless charges. Terming the arbitrary arrests as the worst example of political vendetta, the spokesman said that such repressive policies were aimed at changing the freedom narrative of Kashmir, which had remained a distant dream of Indian fascist regime since its illegal occupation of the territory in 1947. The spokesman hailed the steadfastness and valour of the illegally detained Hurriyat leaders and activists, including APHC Chairman, Masarat Aalam Butt, Shabbir Ahmed Shah.

Wasi Shah announces substantial progress in tourism development app

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Tourism and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Youth Affairs, Wasi Shah, announced substantial progress in the development of the tourism app, emphasizing its potential to significantly boost both domestic and foreign tourism, leading to a substantial increase in revenue here on Tuesday. Addressing a high-level meeting also attended by Additional Foreign Secretary Middle East, Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) and Economic Diplomacy Rizwan Saeed Sheikh, and DG Overseas Pakistanis Ahsan Wagan, the Minister of State highlighted the app's status

as Pakistan's largest tourist information platform, providing comprehensive details on archaeological sites and tourist destinations with a single click. The participants also revealed efforts to secure foreign funding for the state-of-the-art app. During the extended meeting, IT companies provided a detailed briefing on the app's features. Wasi Shah expressed confidence that the ongoing efforts, combined with digitalization, would revolutionize Pakistani tourism. He emphasized the app's potential to make information on Pakistan's tourism, history, and cultural heritage easily accessible to people worldwide.



ISLAMABAD: People are refilling LPG gas cylinder in a shop at sector G-11 in Federal Capital.

Parents urged to ensure vaccination of children

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan on Tuesday urged parents to ensure vaccination of their children during the ongoing polio immunization drive. Addressing the launching ceremony of the third nationwide polio vaccination campaign, Dr Nadeem Jan said that poliovirus has paralyzed five children this year. He added all these children deserved a healthy life and future. "We cannot allow a vaccine-preventable disease to continue to harm our children like this," he said. He said that protecting children's well-being

was a collective responsibility. He said, "Every country that has eliminated polio so far has done so with the support of communities, parents, religious leaders, and social organizations." "We need the same in Pakistan, for communities to join the government in its fight against polio." The event was held in Islamabad Model School, I-8/1, where school children presented a short tableau in cultural costumes of provinces. The minister officially launched the campaign by giving polio drops to children under five year of age.

Dr Nafees calls on Railways Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Executive Director, COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI), Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria here Tuesday called on Caretaker Minister for Railways, Communication and Maritime Affairs, Asif Ashraf Tarar. The matters related to mutual understanding came under discussion during the meeting, said a press release issued here.

Solangi says: Noor Jehan melodies to be aired on PTV on 23rd anniversary

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Tuesday said the national television would start airing melodies of Madam Noor Jehan from December 1 to pay tribute to the Melody Queen in the wake of her 23rd anniversary. The death anniversary of Pakistan's iconic music legend, Melody Queen Noor Jehan is observed on December 23 every year. "Starting Friday, December 1, PTV will air melodies of Madam Noor Jehan on her 23rd anniversary. We will dedicate one of her songs each day at 2300 hours (11 pm) till 23rd. There is more. Stay tuned," the minister wrote on X formerly Twitter.

Polio teams bask in support of Islamabad's top officials

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a testament to the unwavering commitment to eradicating polio, Islamabad's top officials, including Deputy Commissioner Irfan Nawaz Memon, descended upon the field to lend their support to the ongoing polio vaccination drive. Under their guidance, Assistant Commissioners and Magistrates meticulously monitored the teams' progress, ensuring that every child in their respective subdivisions received the life-saving drops. Their presence served as a beacon of hope, inspiring the polio workers who are tirelessly working to protect our communities from this debilitating disease. Assistant Commissioner Rural Zulkhruf Fida Malik and Assistant Commissioner Nellore, taking the lead in this crucial effort, ventured into the Inkar NA.

Ashrafi highlights economic progress in Pakistan through Arab, Islamic countries collaborations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister's Special Representative on Religious Harmony and Pakistani Diaspora in the Middle East and Islamic Countries, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi Tuesday highlighted the improving economic situation in Pakistan attributing progress to the collaborative efforts of Arab and Islamic nations, along with the positive impact of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

Speaking to national and Arab media, he expressed that encouraging

developments were emerging from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, and other amicable nations, following the substantial financial agreements with the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Ashrafi, who also serves as the chairman of the Pakistan Ulema Council, acknowledged that foreign investment in Pakistan was made feasible through the trust of friendly countries and the dedicated efforts of Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir.

He mentioned that, following Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar's di-

rectives, the caretaker government extensively collaborated in the affairs of SIFC, leading to significant advancements during its tenure in cooperation with amicable nations.

Furthermore, he highlighted the restoration of Pakistan's trust with Islamic countries, attributing this accomplishment to the endeavors of the Commander-in-Chief of the Nation.

Ashrafi emphasized that Pakistan could not afford to repeat past mistakes and animosities, stating, "Islamic brother countries desire a resilient Pakistan."

NDRA launches special helpline for disable persons

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a significant move to enhance accessibility and convenience for people with disabilities, the National Database and Registration Authority (NDRA) has introduced a dedicated helpline and a home-based identity card issuance service.

This initiative will make the process of obtaining a national identity card (NIC) seamless and hassle-free for individuals with disabilities, a public relations officer talking to APP on Tuesday said.

He said that the newly

launched Special Helpline 1777 will serve as a one-stop resource for persons with disabilities, providing comprehensive information and guidance on NDRA's services, including the home-based NIC issuance process. The dedicated staff will be available to assist callers with any queries or concerns they may have.

The home-based NIC issuance service will cater to individuals with disabilities who are unable to visit NDRA registration centers due to mobility or other physical limitations.

AC Shalimar to oversee anti-polio campaign teams working in subdivision

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a concerted effort to eradicate polio from Islamabad, Deputy Commissioner Irfan Nawaz Memon has deployed Assistant Commissioner Shalimar, Nahel Hafeez to oversee the anti-polio campaign teams working tirelessly in various areas of the Shalimar subdivision. Assistant Commissioner Shalimar, in line with Deputy Commissioner Memon's directives, convened an Evening Review Meeting (ERM) with District Monitors to meticulously assess the progress.



ISLAMABAD: Women busy in shopping at weekly bazar Peshawar Mor.

Speakers underscore media role in educating masses on global climate debate

ISLAMABAD (APP): The speakers at a roundtable discussion on the climate change and role of media on Tuesday underscored the media's role as crucial in educating the masses on the climate debate taking place at the global level.

The Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), organized a Round Table discussion on "Climate Change and the Role of Media", a news release said. The keynote speaker at the event was Chief Executive of the Civil Society Coalition for Climate Change (CSCCC), Aisha Khan, Foreign Office Spokesperson, Ambassador Muntaz Zahra Baloch and Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Asif Hyder Shah were among the prominent speakers. Director CSP, Dr. Neelum Nigar in her introductory remarks stated that the acknowledgment of

Pakistan's pivotal role in COP-27, particularly in the establishment of the Loss and Damage Fund, underscores the country's proactive stance on this global issue. In this context, the role of media was pivotal in the global discourse on climate change, acknowledging its influence in shaping public perceptions, policy priorities, and advocacy endeavors.

In his welcome address, DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood highlighted the escalating seriousness of climate change, noting that it was already acknowledged as an "existential threat" for humanity. He recalled that the UN Secretary-General had recently pointed to the shift from "global warming" to "global boiling," and had underscored the need for immediate, dramatic action to handle the climate crisis. In the wake of this global warming trajectory, Pakistan faced severe impacts which left no room for complacency. Ambassador Sohail

Mahmood asserted that addressing the menace of climate change required a comprehensive, whole-of-society approach, positioning it at the forefront of national priorities. He highlighted the importance and urgency accorded to this issue in the National Security Policy (2022-26), which called for mobilizing a cohesive national response and building a climate-resilient Pakistan.

The Director General also highlighted Pakistan's proactive role on the international stage, raising awareness about the global dimensions of the climate threat faced by the country. Emphasizing the pivotal role of the media, he acknowledged its unique capacity to educate the public on the causes, impacts, and potential solutions of climate change through accurate and evidence-based reporting. In her remarks, Aisha Khan emphasized the crucial need to comprehend the meaning of climate change to fully grasp its impact.

NADRA delegation visits Safe City Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: According to the details, on special directives of the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the SSP Safe City welcomed the Delegation of National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) officers, a public relations officer said.

He said that the delegation visits the command and control center, the data hub unit, modern technology-equipped cameras, and the Police operations center hall. They were fully

"Pucar-15" helpline. He emphasized that the delegation was also apprised of the functionality and benefits of the Safe City cameras in the city. The modern cameras of Safe City are playing a crucial role in ensuring the safety of the city and preventing crimes and safeguarding the lives and property of citizens. 42% of crimes are resolved through the Safe City Command and Control Center.

Face recognition cameras have been installed at the entry and exit points of



briefed about the procedures and benefits. Furthermore, the delegation was informed that Safe City Islamabad is playing a significant role in various departments through modern techniques, including the Police Operations Center, Emergency Control Center, Data Hub Unit, Dispatch Control Center, E-Challan System, and the

city which are playing an important role in identifying suspicious elements, he maintained.

Delegation acknowledged the modern technical system of the Islamabad Capital Police and its benefits. The delegation expressed special gratitude to CPO Safe city and Traffic and his team for this successful visit.

Chairman MWM says: UN, OIC fail to stop Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chairman Majlis Wahdat Muslimene (MWM) Pakistan Allama Raja Nasir Abbas Jafari has said that the United Nations (UN) and the OIC completely failed in ending the Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people.

United Nation has also lost its credibility like the League of Nations, the United Nations has continuously failed to implement its resolutions, the OIC and the Arab League are also equal participants in the Israeli atrocities on the Palestinian people.

Israel's illegal occupation of Palestinian land is a serious violation of the United Nations Charter. Seven thousand children and women martyred, but

the United Nations has not played any effective role in this massive massacre.

This time, Israel badly damaged in the battlefield, its empty hands against Hamas were swollen, to erase this fear, it kept raining tons of gunpowder on the civilians every day, but defeat was its destiny.

The Palestinian victims were in the grip of this mad wolf for four generations, but now they have received such a strong punch on the face that their bloodthirsty teeth and jaws have been broken. If it had not the US support, it would have ceased to exist, even now Israel will not be able to stand for long in front of the persistence and determination of the Palestinians.

Islamabad police chief directs for early renovation of community center

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan inspected the Police Community Center constructed in compliance with international standards at the Police Lines Headquarters Islamabad.

On the occasion, Capital Police Officer (Headquarters) and SSP Headquarters were also present. ICCPO Dr Akbar Nasir Khan issued directives to expedite the decoration and furnishing of the Police Community Center.

During his visit, he emphasized the welfare initiatives undertaken for officials and their families within the Islamabad Capital Police. He highlighted

that the construction of the Police Community Center aimed to benefit not only the police officers and officials but also their families in the future.

Elaborating on the welfare measures, he mentioned the initiation of various projects to ensure maximum relief for police personnel across all sectors. He stressed that these efforts would not only elevate the morale of the police force but also enhance the well-being of their families.

Further steps for the welfare of police personnel and their families are being actively pursued, aiming to provide additional facilities and address their concerns effectively, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Muhammad Tahir Bizinjo, Chairman Senate Committee on rules of procedure and privileges presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.

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Climate resilience

The IMF's advice to Pakistan to use its resources more effectively and efficiently to build a climate-resilient infrastructure and strengthen its ability to attract climate finance is timely. Pakistan is among the countries most vulnerable to the impact of climate change and the authorities are looking for international support to meet their climate finance targets.

Formulating sound public investment policies and aligning them with national climate adaptation and mitigation goals would be a step in the right direction. The Fund wants the next budget to be a "turning point" for planning mechanisms and investment portfolios based on climate adaptation. At the moment, Pakistan's capital stock and efficiency of public investment are low.

The IMF has underscored the need for improving transparency on climate-related actions in the budget documents by providing information on key aspects of the public investment programme.

It wants the Planning Commission, together with the finance ministry, to come up with a proposal that, after approval, can be included in the next budget, and is encouraging the government to publish its climate-related spending for the ongoing fiscal year.

Pakistan has experienced several climate disasters caused by global warming. The World Bank's Country Climate and Development Report has estimated that 6.5-9pc of GDP will likely be lost by 2050 to climate change, unless the challenge to lessen the impact of increased floods and heatwaves, which are reducing farm yields, destroying infrastructure and lowering labour productivity, is addressed.

Last year's devastating floods, which displaced millions of people in the country and wiped out crops and infrastructure worth over \$30bn, sharply demonstrate the need for greater investments in climate-resilient infrastructure.

With temperatures rising and unpredictable rainfall patterns increasing the risk of floods, cyclones, droughts and heatwaves, it is imperative our policymakers formulate sound development policies to mitigate the risk.

Transparent investments based on demonstrable needs in climate-resilient infrastructure are crucial to alleviating the impact of climate change and the increasing natural disasters the country is witnessing.

Unfortunately, in spite of significant understanding among policymakers about the threats presented by rapid global warming to economic and financial stability, it is disappointing to find that the country is least prepared to deal with the fallout of climate change.

Pakistan's people and its economy have suffered massively due to bureaucratic inertia, policy ad-hocism, and a reactionary response to climate disasters. Notwithstanding the official claims, no concerted effort has thus far been made to plan and align public investments with national climate mitigation and adaptation goals.

With Pakistan just one more natural disaster away from yet another human and economic catastrophe, it is critical to ensure climate resilience of the economy through sound climate-related public investment management.



By Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri

In these unprecedented times, the world seems to be hurtling into a dark abyss. A myriad of crises, spanning political, economic, financial, and climatic dimensions, looms over countries, casting a haze of uncertainty over their futures.

Across 55 nations, including Pakistan, the pressing issue of economic challenges and particularly debt sustainability forces governments to grapple with the agonizing choice between servicing debts and delivering essential services such as quality education, a clean environment and affordable energy. This struggle is exacerbated by the rising cost of living and the diminishing value of national currencies.

As the global landscape teeters on the edge, peace itself faces a serious threat. Two nuclear states – Israel and Russia – are engaged in protracted warfare across

their national borders. Racist, religious and regressive tensions and conflicts are on the rise everywhere, often turning violent in such unexpected places as Canada, France, and New Zealand.

It is difficult not to include climate change in the present set of blights afflicting countries and communities in different parts of the world. While climate change is heating up the globe, it is cooling down economic activities and darkening and disrupting lives and livelihoods at a massive scale. In fact, it is threatening the very existence of several large cities and many tiny island nations.

Democracy is under pressure in every nook and cranny of the world. It can be argued that citizens across the globe, frustrated with the limited choice of political leadership they have, are witnessing the re-rise of populist strongmen who thrive within their own countries mainly by demonizing those outside them.

The events around the sacking and then reinstatement of Sam Altman as the CEO of OpenAI highlight the divide between the dooms and boomers of artificial intelligence. The fear of the unknown of unbridled generative technology re-

mains a major challenge.

All these challenges are unfolding within a particularly complex contest. On the one hand, the era of superpower domination is coming to an end and along with it we are witnessing a decline in the capability of these superpowers to have and maintain monopoly over global peace and conflict. On the other hand, several middle powers are emerging at the expense of older superpowers, sometimes expanding their area of influence rather aggressively.

Secondly, and equally importantly, technological innovation and its concurrent and inexorable rise in the power of tech companies is severely undermining – and even eroding – the ability of individual states to control, censor, and manipulate information to their sole advantage.

If you are not already feeling depressed enough, let me make things even murkier by mentioning that the space for the third sector – independent evidence generators, collectors, and disseminators (comprising critical research and independent media) – is shrinking rapidly.

But, of course, the way forward to change what's wrong with the world around us is not merely to

malign others and mourn our own plight.

We need to find light at the end of the tunnel; it is about keeping hope in times of despair. But where will this light originate from? Where will this hope spring from?

The short answer is – from us, from people mulling, collectively and individually, over the possibility of a tomorrow that is brighter, more prosperous, more peaceful and more inclusive than today.

Here I must add that our hankering after such a future is not just a matter of sitting, talking and walking away, of merely dreaming during the day and hoping wishfully during the night. It, in fact, is premised on new realities that are unfolding around us by the day – or perhaps by the moment – one blogpost, one tweet, one TikTok post at a time.

Let me summarize these new realities for you one by one:

More than 70 countries, housing more than half of the world's population, will conduct elections in 2024; these include India, the world's largest democracy, and the United States, the world's richest democracy. Within South Asia, elections will also take place in Pakistan and Bangladesh. When more than 50 per cent of the

world's population will exercise its right to choose, our hope and confidence is that it will be for the better, not the worse.

The public outrage over violence in Gaza – particularly in the countries of the Global North, which have traditionally stood behind Israel silently and unconditionally – indicates that states cannot get away with their conventional stances on cross-boundary invasions and disputed territories as easily as they could until now.

As the world leaders meet in a major fossil fuel exporting country, the UAE, for COP28, the push for renewable and clean energy will dominate the discussion. Renewable and clean energy is not limited to solar and wind only. The emerging sources of renewable energy – mining of green metals, lithium, copper, and nickel, will redraw the energy map. We hope this shift will empower the previously powerless while also ensuring equitable, affordable, reliable, and sustainable access to clean energy sources across all countries and communities.

BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa), a global alliance of middle powers, is expanding as six more countries are joining it. China, in particu-

lar, has established itself as a major economic player in many parts of the globe through its Belt and Road Initiative which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year.

The rise of these middle powers will certainly lead to demands for the restructuring of both the West-dominated global economic and financial architecture and the superpower-centred political system of the world – as manifested in the structure of the United Nations.

The internet and artificial intelligence are changing almost every traditional mechanism, including in education, healthcare, and the workplace – even in courts and policing. They are similarly transforming relations between employees and employers and between producers, consumers, and everyone in between them. They are also making the production, dissemination, and consumption of information more democratic and pluralistic than before.

The dark tunnel may be long. It is indeed scary to be passing through it – as we are all doing now – but there is optimism that the light at the end will be as bright and reassuring as the darkness is overwhelming. —Courtesy The News

Lessons in complicity

By M. Sarwar Khan

The recent extraordinary Joint OIC-Arab Summit meeting was a predictably inconsequential theatre – more statements and resolutions, denouncing the double standards in implementing international law, condemning the displacement, repeating the demand for a ceasefire etc. but without committing to anything meaningful to compel Israel and its allies to change course. Most telling was what it failed to say, betraying what journalist Antony Loewenstein described as the "wilful impotence" of the Arab elites.

The summit allowed the wider Muslim community, the ummah, to witness our double standards on Palestine, the real issues and views held by our national leaders, which country was aligned with whom – Israel or Palestine – and to what extent.

The actual drama took place at the 22-member League of Arab States Summit meeting that identified

key leverage points, the four "important clauses" (The New Arab, Nov 11, 2023) that split the Arab League into two groups effectively. These clauses covered prohibiting the use of US and other military bases in Arab countries to supply Israel with weapons and ammunition; freezing Arab diplomatic, economic, military and security relations with Israel; threats to leverage oil and economic capabilities to apply pressure to halt the ongoing aggression and preventing Israeli aviation from accessing Arab airspace.

For the ordinary person, these are eminently reasonable proposals. But only half of the Arab member countries were willing to take a decisive stand against Israel and support them while the others ended up defeating the "important clauses" and replacing the proposed "concrete measures" with "vague non-committal clauses" (The New Arab, Nov 11, 2023) that can only serve the ongoing genocide. It is tantamount to complicity.

Following the rejection of the Arab League resolution, the matter was then referred to the 57-member OIC Summit that turned out to be an even greater tragedy. It rejected the Iranian president's 10-point proposal that provided a more comprehensive response to Israeli aggression and included declaring the Israeli army a terrorist organization.

After a long list of condemnations, affirmations and desires, the 31-clause resolution did not affirm the legitimacy of the resistance, failed to mention that the two-state solution had been completely undermined, and was absent of anything substantive or new to move the agenda forward. Moreover, whilst calling on others to act, the OIC simply omitted the Arab League's punitive "important clauses" without any willingness on its part to do anything that might compel a change.

Zahid Hussain's article in Dawn, 'Shameful capitulation', indignantly described the resolution as "another shameful act of betrayal of the hapless Palestinian population who are facing genocide. Their inaction virtually makes these countries abettors in the mass killings".

The OIC resolution charge that "inaction is considered complicity" could equally well be made against the Muslim and Arab leadership. Zahid Hussain's indignation is not mere conscientious protest. Under international law, aiding and abetting and complicity in genocide are crimes. Supplying and/or failing to prevent vital resources and support, directly or indirectly, fueling Israel's genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, means states are, arguably, contributing materially to supporting and/or sustaining such grotesque criminality. Knowledge or recklessness of the probable consequences of such support, whether by omission or commission,

may be sufficient for necessary intent for proving such crimes.

Sending humanitarian aid to Gaza knowing that it is hardly reaching the Palestinians as they are killed mercilessly, and at the same, reassuring Israel that relations will not be affected by its current genocidal spat is barefaced hypocrisy. While ambassadors have been recalled, very few, if any, Muslim or Arab countries have terminated or suspended its diplomatic, economic, military or security relations with Israel.

After the horrific killing of over 15,000 civilians, two-thirds of those women and children, over 3,000 detained in the West Bank and massive destruction of essential infrastructure including hospitals, some Arab and Muslim leaders have been moved to announce some modest steps. Djibouti, Bangladesh and Comoros have approached the International Criminal Court (ICC) calling for an investi-

gation. Oman has closed its airspace to Israel flights and Dubai has suspended Emirates flights to Israel. Jordan has rejected a water and energy deal with Israel. Maldives is moving to close entry to Israeli citizens.

Despite the rhetoric and resolutions, with a few exceptions, the reality is that support for the Palestinians is subject to self-serving interests and trade rather than Palestinian rights, a pursuit of profit rather than principle. For the ordinary Muslim and Arab mind, it is less about realpolitik and profits and more about innocent people being slaughtered to grab and occupy Palestinian land and ending a clear and manifest injustice, both in humanitarian and international law terms. There is moral clarity that this injustice is unconscionable and must be confronted. Equally, it is unconscionable that leaders are chasing self-interest over protecting lives and dignity. —Courtesy The News

The little prince



By Arifa Noor

Finally, there is a twist in the tale and we have some new political stuff to discuss. And for this, one has to thank Asif Ali Zardari (AAZ), whose candidness will allow us to spend a few days away from the usual conjecture over the PTI's fate and PML-N's honeymooning and what it will bring for different members of the Sharif family.

In a surprise interview to Hamid Mir on Geo, which stretched on for two hours, the former president spoke about all things politics, which ranged from the coming election to economic miracles that sugar and agriculture policies can bring.

But as I know very little about the latter, all I could focus on was the political stuff, especially his remarks about his heir and co-chairman, Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari (BBZ). The 30-something, who has been heading this party for 15 years and has travelled the world as foreign minister, needs more training said the father.

The party can try and spin it as much as it wants, but this is a snub, BBZ will not find easy to recover from.

Indeed, in those remarks lay the basic dilemma of both Maryam Nawaz and BBZ, struggling to grow in the shadow of their respective parents. And it appears the growth simply means being sunflower-like and to keep turning their gaze in the direction of their fathers.

So Maryam blows hot when her father is in trouble and is silent when he is basking in the glory of a fourth victory. That poli-

tics and public opinion do not allow for periods of fiery leadership followed by dutiful shadowing, is lost on all political parties.

BBZ has been through similar phases of "now you see him now you don't", so much so that it has been hard for people to view him as an independent player, even when he gave up his part-timing for full-time politicking. And this image refuses to change because the party continues to treat him like a poster boy rather than the man in charge.

And I say this not because of his father's assertion during the interview that he (AAZ) was the one who would decide the party tickets including the one given to Bilawal but also the manner in which the vote of no confidence played out in 2022.

Bilawal led a long march to Islamabad from Sindh, which was to culminate in the overthrow of Imran Khan. However, once he reached Islamabad, the big three (Shehbaz Sharif, AAZ and Maulana Fazlur Rehman) held a press conference and announced filing the no-confidence motion. And once that was done, few were interested in the speech BBZ gave as his rally reached the capital.

The attention and focus had shifted; if BBZ was really the man around whom the party revolved, this would not have happened. The more public and direct snub by the father in the Geo interview is simply more of the same, in a way. And as South Asia happens to be a place where the children rarely ever break away from their parents, chances are BBZ will not defy this tradition (the Mughals proved an exception).

But there is a second aspect to the notion that the father and son are not always on the same page. Indeed, it is not a new phenomenon. Back in 2013, it was reported that BBZ had stormed off to Dubai because he didn't see eye to

eye with his father and his aunt, Feryal Talpur on ticket distribution.

This time around, it appears AAZ's comments about his son needing more training were partially due to the latter being aggressive and vocal about the facilitation being provided to the PML-N and Nawaz Sharif. While the jury is still out on whether this is a serious rift or simply a good cop bad cop routine (which Hamid Mir brought up), this has to be seen in the larger political context.

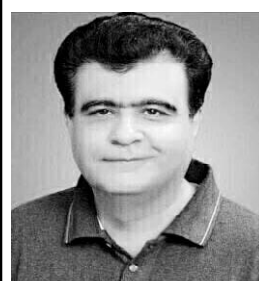
The PPP has two distinct views within: while most of those from Sindh are satisfied with the party's focus on palace intrigues, those who were part of the party in Punjab – and the few who continue to still be around – felt it needed to be more aggressive, especially in confronting the PML-N, the dominant power in the province.

However, this never became party policy and as a result, the entire anti-PML-N space was captured by the PTI, as Imran Khan proved indefatigable in taking them on. Be it voters or politicians who are not in the PML-N camp, they flocked to the former sportsman and his party.

This lack of aggression is a major reason the PPP stopped being a contender in the province. However, the voices within the party which wanted BBZ to play a role closer to Khan's were never completely silenced; especially as the party also saw the utility of using this opposition to PML-N whenever needed.

What we witnessed in recent days was perhaps a mix of both the subdued voices within the party plus the cynicism the party has become known for. And for reasons only he is aware of, AAZ decided it was a good moment to send a message to the right quarters by pooh-poohing his own party's stand, embarrassing his son in the process. —Courtesy Dawn

Making sand castles



By Dr. Niaz Murtaza

Why have some elements had an odd addiction to making shaky political sand castles that soon collapse? Free polls rejuvenate the political process. Incumbents defend their track record; opponents propose new policy directions and voters decide after hearing both sides. The winners, possessing a credible fresh mandate, tackle state challenges with gusto. Unluckily, polls, being usually rigged, rarely provide such impetus in Pakistan.

Out of 15 national referenda and polls held to date, the 2013 one was largely credible as per both the European Union election report and a Supreme Court verdict. Nine were seen to be rigged to the extent of the final outcome being changed, while three were partially rigged to reduce (1998 and 2008) or up (1977) the winner's margin. Arguably, only one was rigged by civilians (1977). We seem destined to have two rigged polls in a row; the extent of the alleged rigging may exceed that in 2018.

Our political landscape is surreal today. None of the parties have presented credible manifestoes to tackle our serious and multifaceted challenges which threaten an economic meltdown. The sole focus is on roping in electables and smaller parties without regard to ideological affinity. The PML-N, the outgoing ruling party, has a head start in this regard. But this is odd given its poor perfor-

mance in power and the steady stream of opinion polls in which it lags behind. So, one would expect few to align with it given its political liabilities. But defying the natural pull of political gravity, political actors are rushing towards it. Will this political sand castle be more sturdy than those made before by the same hands and minds?

It is instructive to look at the different types of political sand castles or hybrid regimes erected over the decades to give the illusion of civilian rule while ruling from behind and the reasons why they fell. Ayub's entire era is usually seen as military rule. But unlike the other three army rulers, he resigned as army chief after deposing Iskandar Mirza and by January 1960 got elected as president via a rigged referendum to set-up our first hybrid regime. After achieving unsustainable and unequal growth, he fell due to age-related health issues, political unrest against his autocratic rule even in the urban areas that benefited most from the unequal growth, economic stagnancy, the impatience of generals with his long rule, and loss of American support.

Unlike Ayub, Zia ruled for eight years directly in uniform before introducing our second hybrid regime prototype: a party-less assembly from rigged polls with a president in uniform. While Zia's death formally ended this experiment, it was failing even earlier due to tensions between the puppet civilian rulers and the puppet pullers, resulting in reduced US support, heightened insecurity and apparent impatience in the ranks with his long rule and political unrest, all of which had led Zia to fire his hand-picked prime ministers. But Zia's successors within the state quickly in-

vented a third hybrid model without a president in uniform which employed the threat of presidential dismissal of assemblies to keep the civilians in check. Musharraf recycled Zia's second hybrid model after three years of direct rule but with rigged, party-based polls. His system too collapsed for mostly the same reasons as Zia's.

This was followed by two regimes in 2008 and 2013 that won polls without the establishment's help. Yet, a fourth semi-hybrid system was soon devised to keep civilian regimes under control and unstable by engineering crises and dharnas and using the judiciary to dismiss prime ministers. In 2018, many note the third model of poll manipulation was reintroduced, which too fell due to an economic crisis, political unrest and tensions in civilian ranks. Though the space for the first two models has shrunk, one can't say as much about the two newer models.

Are attempts being made to manipulate the electoral scene again, with the PTI facing a bigger crackdown than the PML-N in 2018? Even a cursory analysis shows that any rigged regime led by the PML-N will face the same pressure points and may soon fall. These pressures include age-related health issues of both Sharif brothers, economic turmoil, security threats, and the inevitable tensions between the twin cities, given the elder Sharif's desire for civilian sway. A divided mandate may make the system more unstable. Thus, the political stability we desperately need seems elusive in the foreseeable future.

The writer is a political economist with a PhD degree from the University of California, Berkeley.

Governor urges students not to become tool of such people who spread hatred

Independent Report
LAHORE: A delegation of students and teachers from Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Azad Jammu & Kashmir (Caravan of Goodwill and National Unity) under the auspices of the Idara-i-Nazria-i-Pakistan called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House Lahore, here today. During the meeting, Senior Vice-Chairman of Idara Nazria Pakistan, Mian Farooq Altaf, Member

Board of Governors, Mian Salman Farooq, Secretary Idara-i-Nazria-i-Pakistan, Naheed Imran Gill, Secretary Idara-i-Nazria-i-Pakistan, Muhammad Saifullah Chaudhry, Mr. Usman Ahmed and President of Nazria-i-Pakistan Forum Peshawar, Malik Liaquat Ali Tabsem, were also present. Talking on this occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that Pakistan is an ideological state that came into existence under

the two-nation theory. He said that all minorities living in Pakistan are equal citizens of Pakistan and have equal rights. He said that we have to promote love and discourage hatred. He urged the students not to become a tool of such people who spread hatred. Governor Punjab said that there are many positive things in Pakistan. He said that it is a matter of great pride that Pakistani nation is the most philanthropic nation in the world. He said that

there are institutions like Akhuwat and Edhi Foundation, adding that Pakistan is better than many countries of the world. Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that people and delegations from different walks of life keep visiting the Governor's House, but the delegation under goodwill and national unity caravan is unique in the sense that it is comprised of four provinces.



LAHORE: A delegation of students and teachers from various provinces (Caravan of Goodwill and National Unity) under the auspices of the Idara-i-Nazria-i-Pakistan in a group photo with Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam inaugurates central library in Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University Shringal Dir Bala.

CM envisions economic triumph as historic agreements with UAE unveil new era of partnership

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi affirms that the historic agreements between Pakistan and the UAE are poised to bolster the economy, elevating mutual relations to unprecedented heights. In his message from the United Arab Emirates, Naqvi anticipated positive effects soon as the implementation of these agreements takes effect, signaling the commencement of a new era of economic cooperation.

delegation experienced a warm reception in the UAE, with a special welcome extended to them. Chief Minister Naqvi deemed the meeting with the President of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, as highly valuable. He applauded the commendable efforts of the Prime Minister of Pakistan and acknowledged the praiseworthy role played by the Army Chief in facilitating these significant agreements. Highlighting the transformative impact of the investment agreements on mutual relations, Chief

Minister Naqvi emphasized that the UAE's investment will diversify into key sectors such as energy, port operations, wastewater treatment, food security, banking, and financial services. This substantial investment is anticipated to pave the way for economic stability in Pakistan, heralding a new era of economic partnership between the two nations. Chief Minister Naqvi underscored the enduring historical and brotherly relations between Pakistan and the UAE, asserting that these ties have withstood the test of time.

According to a handout issued here on Tuesday, the Pakistani

Minister advocates prudent resource use, focus on higher education, cost efficiency

PESHAWAR (APP): During a recent session of the Peshawar Public School and College Board of Governors, Provincial Minister for Elementary, Secondary and Higher Education, Dr Muhammad Qasim Jan, emphasized the necessity of improving educational institutions' performance within limited resources.

pay recruitments after the retirement of employees in model schools and colleges. Tough decisions were deemed essential to address budgetary challenges. At the meeting, the Board of Governors decided to revise the fee structure for Peshawar Public School and College's students. The new monthly fees were established at Rs 3,820 for nursery to fifth grade, Rs 4,250 for sixth to tenth grade, and Rs 7,150 for eleventh and twelfth grade. Additionally, a 25% ad-hoc relief for Grades 1 to 16 and a 20% ad-hoc relief for Grade 17 and above employees.

He highlighted the importance of a strategic plan to reduce unnecessary expenses and endorsed an austerity policy. The minister stressed the need to prioritize higher education for youth and suggested the implementation of contract-based and fixed-

Youth play role in eradicating violence to promote peace: DG Qasim

PESHAWAR (APP): Deputy Director General of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Centre of Excellence on Countering Violent Extremism, Dr Muhammad Qasim on Tuesday said that our youth must play an active role in eradicating violence and extremism to promote peace and tolerance through education.

He was addressing a seminar at the Centre of Excellence on Countering Violent Extremism in Peshawar. Besides, senior faculty members, students of different departments, Deputy Director General CVE Dr. Irfan and Principal Research Officers CVE attended the seminar. Dr. Irfan said that today our country and the region are facing the challenges of extremism and violence which has threatened the peace and stability of the society. "Education and educated youth can play a vital role in ending extremism and violence", he added. He said that the establishment of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Centre of Excellence on Countering Violent Extremism.



KARACHI: Participants are holding awareness walk on the eve of world Diabetes Day organized by telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) in Karachi.

Sindh CM orders clearing of Badin Bus Stop encroachments

HYDERABAD (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar on Tuesday visited the Badin bus stop in Hyderabad. He was accompanied by the minister for local government Mubeen Jumani on this occasion. According to the spokesperson of the chief minister of Sindh, he directed the Commissioner Hyderabad to immediately remove encroachments from the bus stop.

should be submitted within 10 days. He directed the secretary of transport to start the removal of encroachments and initiate efforts to construct a new and improved standard bus stand. He emphasized the need for the removal of all encroachments and the initiation of the project from now. He also emphasized ensuring the fitness of vehicles and shutting down vehicles emitting black smoke. CM Sindh stated, "I will visit again within two months to see how the bus stand has been constructed, while provincial minister Mubeen Jumani will continue to oversee the progress of this bus stand project."

During this visit, he was briefed that the Badin bus stop was the property of the HMC, spanning across ten acres of land. The chief minister stated that encroachments at the Badin bus stop should be removed immediately, and a report

UNICEF offers aid package to 105 schools in flood affected areas

RAJANPUR (APP): In a laudable endeavour to uplift education in the aftermath of floods, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) has delivered a transformative aid package to 105 schools across the district. The assistance includes an array of essentials such as books, solar panels, and various other articles vital for bolstering school infrastructure.

by enrolling their children in schools operating under the Literacy Department. Highlighting recent initiatives, UNICEF's distribution of school bags, books, notebooks, solar panels, fans, batteries, and sports equipment would surely facilitate the kids. This comprehensive support aims not only to restore normalcy in the learning environment but also to create a conducive atmosphere for educational growth, he added. Providing a snapshot of the educational landscape in Rajanpur, Siddique revealed that 825 schools are currently operating under the auspices of the Literacy Department. This educational lifeline caters to the aspirations of 23,680 students.

District Literacy Officer Muhammad Abu Bakar Siddique, talking to APP expressed the ongoing commitment to advancing education and enhancing literacy levels in Rajanpur. Siddique fervently urged parents to actively participate in this initiative



PESHAWAR: Director General of Khana Farhang Iran Dr. Hussain Chaqmi addressing during an exhibition and conference held at Khana Farhang Iran in connection with International day of violence against women and highlighted plights of women and children in Gaza.

Meeting deliberates on proposed allocation for prioritized projects

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Newly Merged Districts Affairs, Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Dr Aamer Abdullah, chaired the review meeting of proposals for fund allocation of Higher Education, Relief and Rehabilitation, Social Welfare, Industries, Energy, Health, Minerals Development, Housing, Tourism, Information, Law and Justice and Multi-Sectoral Development sectors projects, in the newly merged districts under Accelerated Implementation Programme (AIP), here on Tuesday. The meeting deliberated on the proposed allocation for the priority projects for the next four months under the said special development package.

Justice (Rtd) Irshad Qaiser, Advisor to the Caretaker Chief Minister for Minerals Development, Planning and Development and Energy and Power, Dr. Sarfaraz Ali Shah, Special Secretary, Home and Tribal Affairs Muhammad Zahir, DG SDU Planning and Development Department Adil Saeed Safi and other planning and relevant officers of all concerned departments participated. On this occasion, a detailed presentation was given to the provincial minister regarding the proposed allocated fund for the non-developmental and developmental expenses in the mentioned sectors and the importance of the priority projects in this regard. The caretaker minister said that there should be at least one center in each tehsil, of the centers, established for the welfare of women under the social welfare department through a gender mainstreaming project for merged districts.

CM KP decides to involve NAB in project cycle

PESHAWAR (APP): As an important step to make the officials working in development projects more confident as well as to ensure the completion of projects in a timely and transparent manner, Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice @ Syed Arshad Hussain Shah has decided to involve NAB representatives in project cycle including conception, planning and execution of development projects. He directed the quarters concerned to send a formal letter to the higher authority of NAB in this regard. He was presiding over the 15th meeting of the

Board of Directors of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Urban Mobility Authority (KPUMA) held here at Chief Minister's House on Tuesday. Caretaker Provincial Minister for ST&IT Dr Najeeb Ullah, administrative secretaries of concerned departments, DIG Traffic Police, MD KPUMA, CEO Trans Peshawar and other board members attended the meeting. Touching upon the need and importance of the decision regarding the involvement of NAB representatives in the project cycle, the chief minister said that the whole exercise will not

only ensure transparency in the development works but also give confidence to the working officers, resultantly, they will not feel any hesitation and fear regarding implementation of the projects. The chief minister directed that all matters related to development projects should be kept fair and transparent in all respects from the very beginning so that implementation of projects is not delayed due to fear of accountability in the future. "This process will help to ensure the completion of development projects within the stipulated timelines".

CEO Bannu Cantonment Board Bilal 'commits suicide'

BANNU (APP): Police Officers here on Tuesday claimed that Chief Executive Officer of Bannu Cantonment Board, Bilal Pasha has allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself. Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Cantonment Azmat Khan told the media that Bilal Pasha had been suffering from mental stress for several days which led to his suicide. The police officer claimed that they found Pasha's body covered in blood inside his residence where he shot himself dead.



KARACHI: Caretaker Provincial Home Minister Brigadier (Rtd) Harris Nawaz is meeting with Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House.

MCL clears 280 encroachments, seized 11 trucks

LAHORE (APP): The Metropolitan Corporation Lahore (MCL) carried out an anti-encroachment operation and demolished illegal structures in the provincial capital. MCL spokesperson told the media here on Tuesday that an anti-encroachment squad removed 280 encroachments during the last 24 hours from various locations of the city. 70 encroachments were removed from Data Ganj Bakhs zone, 10 from Ravi zone, eight from Gulburg zone, nine from Aziz Bhatti zone, 18 from Shalimar zone, 21 in Nishtar zone,

Health dept to sign MoU with NADRA for registration of organ donors: Minister

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Health Minister Prof Dr Javed Akram presided over the 27th meeting of Punjab Human Organ Transplantation Authority (PHOTA) at Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education (SH&ME) Secretariat here on Tuesday. Additional Secretary Finance Shahid Farooq, Punjab Healthcare Commission CEO Dr Saqib Aziz, PHOTA DG Prof Dr Shehzad Anwar, PKLI Dean Prof Dr Faisal Saood Dar and officers of others departments attended the meeting. Dr Fahad Abbas, brother of the late Rifat, who saved three human lives by donating her organs, also participated. During the meeting, tributes were paid to the late Rifat for saving three human lives and prayers

were also offered for her high ranks in Jannah. The PHOTA DG presented agenda items to the chairman for approval. The meeting approved the special grant reserved for crackdown against accused involved in the illegal transplantation of human organs. The meeting also approved standard operating procedures (SOPs) regarding human organ donation. Addressing the meeting, the caretaker minister said the health department would sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) for registration of human organ donors, adding that every human who wants to donate organs would be registered with the NADRA.



HYDERABAD: Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh Justice (R) Maqbool Baqir giving orders to local administration during his visit at Badin bus stand.

ANF seizes 34 kg drugs in three operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in its ongoing crackdown against drug trafficking managed to recover 34 kg of drugs and arrested three accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman. He said 3.6 kg hashish was recovered from a resident, arrested near Murree Expressway, Islamabad. In another operation, 28.8 kg hashish was recovered from a vehicle intercepted near Balali check post, Quetta while an accused was also arrested during the operation.

Minister says: Govt making efforts to promote culture, tourism of KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Minister for Information and Tourism, Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakel here Tuesday stated that the government was making incessant efforts to promote culture, tourism and project the natural beauty of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority (KPCTA) for students of merged districts, providing opportunities to showcase their work. The event was inaugurated by Caretaker Minister for Tourism.

year. He addressed a painting exhibition, culture showcase, and art display organized by the Department of Art and Design at the University of Peshawar in collaboration with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority (KPCTA) for students of merged districts, providing opportunities to showcase their work. The event was inaugurated by Caretaker Minister for Tourism.

Pakistan to reaffirm commitment, WB's to support people of Pakistan

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: The World Bank's Regional Vice President for South Asia, Martin Raiser, is in Pakistan to reaffirm the Bank's commitment to support the people of Pakistan. He launched a series of Policy Notes that outline critical policy shifts required for a productive, sustainable, resilient, and healthy Pakistan.

The policy notes—focusing on child stunting, fiscal sustainability, private sector growth, energy, learning poverty,

agriculture, and climate change—are the culmination of several months of outreach and engagements conducted across the country under the “Reforms for a Brighter Future – Time to Decide” banner.

They are intended to help inform the public policy dialogue in the context of the upcoming elections.

“Pakistan's economy is stuck in a low-growth trap with poor human development outcomes and increasing poverty. Economic conditions leave

Pakistan highly vulnerable to climate shocks, with insufficient public resources to finance development and climate adaptation,” said Martin Raiser.

“It is now time for Pakistan to decide whether to maintain the patterns of the past or take difficult but crucial steps towards a brighter future.”

The policy notes argue that Pakistan needs to address its acute human capital crisis—including the high prevalence of stunting and learning poverty—by adopting a

coordinated and coherent cross-sectoral approach to basic services involving both provincial and federal governments.

He suggested Pakistan improve the quality of public spending and take serious measures to expand the revenue base, ensuring that the better off pay their share.

The country to Pursue business regulatory and trade reforms and reduce the presence of the state in the economy to increase productivity, competitiveness, and exports, he said.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Privatisation Fawad Hasan Fawad chairing a meeting regarding signing of Financial Services Agreement for Divestment of PIACL.



Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication, Dr. Umar Saif in a meeting with the World Bank delegation in Islamabad.

High Commissioner says: Pak share in \$100 billion import market of South Africa quite negligible

FAISALABAD (APP): Pakistan's share in the \$100 billion import market of South Africa is quite negligible and the private sector of Pakistan must aggressively penetrate it under “Look Africa” policy, said Mr. Mthuzeli Madikiza, High Commissioner of South Africa. Addressing the business community in Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI), he said that being

an import economy, it offers Pakistan a wide range of products to this market. He said that South Africa is a mineral rich country and Pakistani investors could also avail from this opportunity. He said that Pakistan could export mangoes in lieu of avocado under a barter system but direct contacts between the business communities of two countries are prerequisite.

Responding to a question about law-and-

order situation, he said that security issues are similar all over the world. He said that South Africa is more suitable for import and export with other landlocked African countries as it has a well-equipped sea port.

About tourism, he said that the scenic valleys of northern areas of Pakistan are more beautiful than Switzerland but Pakistan should make these areas easily accessible for the tourists.

NEPRA holds hearing into KE's distribution, supply licence application

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Tuesday conducted public hearing into K-Electric (KE's) application for grant of distribution and supply licence for next 20 years which has already expired in July 2023.

The hearing was presided over by Chairman NEPRA Waseem Mukhtar while member Balochistan Mather Niaz Rana, member Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Engineer Maqsood Anwar, member Punjab Ms Amina Ahmed and member Sindh Rafique Ahmad Shaikh were also present.

Briefing the authority, Chief Financial Officer of KE, Muhammad Amir said that the company's distribution and supply

licence had expired in July and they had applied for its extension. Six-month extension in licence had been granted by the authority, he added.

He said that since privatization of KE in 2005, the company showed remarked performance in generation, distribution, reduction in transmission and distribution losses.

Some 1,957 megawatt (MW) has been added to the generation system besides reducing T & D losses from 34.2 per cent to 15.3 per cent. The KE had made investment of Rs 474 billion after privatization, he added.

Sharing the future investment plan, he said the KE would invest Rs 544 billion in generation.

Business confidence on increase: OICCI survey

ISLAMABAD (APP): In its latest Business Confidence Index Survey (BCI) – Wave 24, the Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI) unveiled a promising upswing in Pakistan's business confidence. The survey, spanning from October to November 2023, showcases a substantial seven percent improvement compared to the preceding wave in March-April 2023, said a news release. The survey paints a nuanced picture of business sentiments, with the overall business confidence in Pakistan standing at negative 18 percent, marking a positive shift from the negative 25 percent recorded earlier.

The largest increase was recorded in the manufacturing sector at negative 10 percent followed by the services sector. President OICCI Amir Paracha attributed the improvement in business confidence to “relatively stable macroeconomic indicators, favourable changes in the political and economic landscape which were also supported by some stability in FX rates and a record performance at Pakistan Stock Exchange. Key parameters contributing to the positive trend include Capital Investment and the outlook for Pakistan's business situation in the next six months.”



QUETTA: A delegation of Zamindar Action Committee meeting with Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan.

ADB approves \$180 mln for water supply improvement, solid waste management

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$180 million loan to improve water supply and solid waste management services in Rawalpindi and Bahawalpur cities of Punjab province.

Expected to benefit as many as 1.5 million people, the Developing Resilient Environments and Advancing Municipal Services in Punjab Project will curtail excessive groundwater extraction and urban environment degradation by expanding and modernizing urban water supply in Rawalpindi and solid waste

management systems in Bahawalpur, according to ADB press statement received here on Tuesday. “This project will help make municipal services in these two cities more sustainable, resilient, and less carbon-intensive,” said ADB Director General for Central and West Asia Yevgeniy Zhukov.

“By helping to deliver reliable water supply and improving waste management, we expect to significantly improve the lives of people in Rawalpindi and Bahawalpur,” Zhukov added. In Rawalpindi, the project will help build new

surface water intakes and a water treatment plant with a capacity of 54 million liters a day. It will lay transmission and distribution pipes to serve 82,000 households with metered connections.

The financing will also upgrade water pumps and transmission mains to augment surface water supply and establish three pilot district metering areas to enhance operational efficiency. In Bahawalpur, solid waste collection will be improved through the procurement of waste collection equipment and a new fleet to expand service coverage.



KARACHI: Pakistani stockbrokers monitor the share prices during a trading session at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) as The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed a historic surge in intraday trade as the benchmark index.

Minister says: Punjab govt all set to launch E-bikes to prevent city smog intensity

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Provincial Transport and Livestock Minister Ibrahim Hasan Murad on Tuesday said that the government was all set to launch electric bikes to prevent smog intensity.

He said that the E-bikes would be cost-effective and government employees would also be provided electric bikes on lease. Talking to a PTV news channel, he said that in an aim to reduce the usage of expensive fuel and protect the environment of the cities government has been introducing E-bike and safe city camera projects in which smoke-emitting vehicles

will be detected by the cameras and immediate alerts were relayed to the

field forces. The Electric Vehicles Policy is the need of the hour to promote a safe environment, local production of e-vehicles, providing incentives, with the ultimate goal of capturing a substantial share of the market, he added. E-bikes being zero-emission vehicles would use lithium-ion batteries which will emerge as a cost-effective and eco-friendly alternative to traditional transportation, he mentioned.

The minister stressed that the media should play its role by creating awareness campaigns on private TV channels and radio for the conservation of energy and for wearing face masks during smog weather.



HUB: Vendor sells Malta to earn his livelihood for support his family, at a roadside in Hub.

Saudi trade balance achieves over SAR43b surplus in September

RIYADH (APP): Saudi Arabia's trade balance achieved a surplus of SAR43.735 billion in September 2023, according to Saudi Arabia's recent preliminary international trade data, making it the third largest monthly surplus of the year; it had reached its highest level in April and its second highest in February.

Saudi Arabia's international trade reached SAR163.911 billion in September, with commodity exports accounting for SAR103.823 billion and commodity imports for SAR60.088 billion.

The group of Asian countries, excluding Arab and Islamic countries, topped the countries that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia exports to, receiving 55.03% of the total Saudi commodity exports, at a value of SAR57.129 billion. The group of EU countries came second, receiving 11.2% of the total Saudi commodity exports, at a value of SAR11.582 billion, while the group of Gulf Cooperation Council countries came third, accounting for 11.1% of the total Saudi commodity exports whose value stood at SAR11.536 billion.

Gold rates up by Rs 800

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs. 800 and was sold at Rs 218,400 on Tuesday compared to its sale at Rs 217,600 on the last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs 686 to Rs 187,243 from Rs186,557 whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went up to Rs 171,640 from Rs 171,010, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten-gram silver remained unchanged at Rs.2,620 and Rs.2,246.21 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market increased by \$3 to \$2,033 from \$2,030, the Association reported.

IPO-Pakistan, US for improving IP policies, laws in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (Online): In a bid to promote intellectual property rights in the country, IPO-Pakistan and US Intellectual Property Counselor for South Asia reaffirm the commitment to carry forward the agenda of improving IP policies, laws and regulations in Pakistan.

This was discussed during a high level visit of the US delegation to IPO-Pakistan Headquarters Islamabad, headed by Mr. John Cabecca, US IP Counselor for South Asia and consisted of Ms. Dong Eun, Zach Bailey and Hamza Khan. While the Pakistani side was led by Mr. Farukh Amil, Chair IPO. Ms. Shazia Adnan, Director General and senior management of IPO-

Pakistan were also present in the meeting.

Chair IPO-Pakistan briefed the delegation about the measurements taken by IPO-Pakistan for the promotion of IPRs.

He mentioned that IPO-Pakistan believes that Patents, Trademarks and Copyrights had an important role in economic growth and development and in this regard it has already taken a number of initiatives to improve the IPR regime in the country.

Regarding the establishment of IP tribunals in the country, the Chair IPO informed the US delegation that two new IP tribunals have been established in Quetta and Rawalpindi and approval of two more has been granted.

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Shahzad Malik hails govt polices to boost exports

LAHORE (APP): A combination of sound policies, improved regulatory framework and enabling business environment will help to unlock the private sector's immense potential in order to boost the nation's exports to \$100 billion in next two years.

Talking to journalists here on Tuesday, Pakistan Hitech Hybrid Seed Association (PHHSA) Chairman Shahzad Ali Malik (SI) said that Pakistan's private sector has witnessed unprecedented growth and

shown remarkable resilience in the face of difficult business environment.

Malik, the founder of Rice Exporters Association Pakistan and former President of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry, has recently been nominated as a member of the Export Advisory Committee announced by Federal Commerce Minister Dr Ghor Ejaz. “I am confident that the initiatives taken recently by the caretaker government and the Commerce Ministry.



KARACHI: Consul General of China in Karachi Yang Yundong, Consul General of the United Arab Emirates in Karachi Bakheet Ateeq AlRemeithi and Governor of Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori perform the inauguration by cutting ribbon at PropTech Convention & BuildAsia Expo at the Karachi Expo Center.

PSX crosses another milestone, reaches to 60,730 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) crossed another milestone on Tuesday and reached to 60,730.26 points by gaining 918.92 more points, a positive change of 1.54 per cent, PSX reported. A total of 779,671,060 shares valuing Rs 26.138 billion were traded during the day as compared to 657,580,760 shares valuing Rs 20.272 billion the last day.

Some 392 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 177 of them recorded gains and 200 sustained losses.

ICCI organizes ceremony to commemorate 67th

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) on Tuesday organized a ceremony to commemorate 67th anniversary of Pakistan Movement Leader Maulana Zafar Ali Khan.

Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Syed Jamal Shah and former Federal Minister Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry were the chief guests.

Islamabad Bar Council Vice Chairman Raja Aleem Khan Abbasi, National Press Club Secretary Finance, Nayar Ali and others addressed the ceremony and paid tributes to Maulana Zafar

Ali Khan for his outstanding services for the Pakistan Movement, said a press release issued here. Speaking on the occasion, Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Syed Jamal Shah said that the life of Maulana Zafar Ali Khan was a torchbearer for all of us as he always raised the voice of the oppressed before the oppressors.

He said that brave and truthful personalities like Maulana Zafar Ali Khan were a great asset of our national heritage and there was a need to educate the young generation about their valuable services for the country.

Shahid Rasheed says: New property taxes to turn industrial estate into industrial graveyard

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt criticizing the decision of Municipal Corporation to increase water and sensation charges and property tax, termed it unlawful.

The decision to increase water charges, sanitation and property tax by 200% is illegal and immoral; therefore, he said that residents and the business community of Islamabad reject it.

He warned that if the tax is increased, the citizens and traders will strongly

resist it, for which the administration and concerned departments will be responsible.

While addressing an emergency meeting of the residents of F-6 sector and businessmen, Shahid Rashid Butt said that water was not available and people have to buy it.

Truce between Israel and Hamas extended for two days

GAZASTRIP, Palestinian Territories (AFP/APP): A truce between Israel and Hamas will be extended by two days, mediator Qatar said hours before the pause was due to end Tuesday, as more hostages were freed from Gaza in exchange for the release of dozens of Palestinian prisoners.

"The Palestinian and Israeli sides have reached an agreement to extend the humanitarian pause in Gaza for two additional days under the same conditions," Qatar's foreign ministry said in a statement on X, formerly Twitter.

Militant group Hamas also confirmed the extension, though there was no official word from Israel.

The extension came as 11 more hostages were freed from Gaza, along with the release of another 33 Palestinian prisoners—the last exchange under the existing deal.

The extension of the truce was welcomed internationally, with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres calling it "a glimpse of hope and humanity in the middle of the darkness of war".

The truce has paused fighting that began when Hamas militants poured over the border into Israel, killing 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and kidnapping dozens, according to Israeli officials.

Israel's retaliatory ground and air operation in Gaza has killed almost 15,000 people, mostly civilians, ac-

ording to the territory's Hamas government.

Late Monday, 11 hostages arrived in Israel, the country's military said.

"Our forces will accompany them until they are reunited with their families," it said in a statement, adding that the military "salutes and embraces the released hostages upon their return home".

Most of the group are dual nationals, with Argentinians, Germans and French among those released, and all 11 were from the Nir Oz kibbutz, the community said.

The releases brought "a sigh of relief to our community, however we remain deeply concerned about our loved ones that are still held hostage," kibbutz official Osnat Peri said.

Images released by the Israeli military showed French-Israeli child Eitan Yahalomi reunited with his mother, who gripped him tightly to her.

Shortly after the arrival of the hostages was confirmed, Israel's prison authority said 33 Palestinian inmates had been released.

In east Jerusalem, prisoner Muhammad Abu Al-Humus called his release "an indescribable joy" and kissed his mother's hand as he entered his home, while crowds in the West Bank town of Beitunia waved green Hamas flags to greet those arriving on a coach.



ABU DHABI: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar visiting the Sheikh Zayd Grand Mosque



ASTANA: Chinese Vice Prime Minister Ding Xuexiang meeting with Kazakhstan President Kasym-Jomart Tokayev

UN Chief calls Antarctica 'sleeping giant... being awoken by climate chaos'

UNITED NATIONS (APP): UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has issued yet another impassioned call for ambitious climate action after a trip to Antarctica, the frozen continent, amid preparations for the U.N. Climate Change Conference in Dubai later this week.

"I have just returned from Antarctica—the sleeping giant. A giant being awoken by climate chaos. Together, Antarctica and Greenland are melting well over three times faster than they were in the early 1990s," he told reporters at UN Headquarters in New York.

The UN chief said he saw for himself over the weekend the "profoundly shocking" speed at which ice is melting in Antarctica—at the South Pole ice is now 1.5 million square kilometres below average for this time of year; that's equal to the combined surface area of Portugal, Spain, France and Germany combined.

"What happens in Antarctica doesn't stay in Antarctica," Guterres said.

Magnitude 6.5 quake strikes north of Papua New Guinea

Sydney (AFP/APP): A shallow, 6.5-magnitude earthquake struck off the northern coast of Papua New Guinea on Tuesday, the US Geological Survey said, but no tsunami warning was issued.

The quake hit about 20 kilometres (12 miles) off the coast, a short distance from the town of Wewak, capital of the Pacific island state's East Sepik Province.

The epicentre was detected at an estimated depth of 12 kilometres (seven miles) at 8:46 am local time (2146 GMT Monday), the USGS said.

There is "no tsunami threat," the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre said in a separate bulletin.

Earthquakes are common in Papua New Guinea, which sits on top of the seismic "Ring of Fire"—an arc of intense tectonic activity that stretches through Southeast Asia and across the Pacific basin.

Although they seldom cause widespread damage in the sparsely populated jungle highlands, they can trigger destructive landslides. At least seven people were killed in April this year when a 7.0-magnitude quake hit a jungle-clad area in the country's interior.

About 180 homes were destroyed in the heavily rainforested Karawari area, near the quake's epicentre.

In September last year, 10 people were killed when a 7.6-magnitude earthquake levelled hundreds of homes, split roads and caused power outages across the rugged north of the country.



RAMALLAH: Palestinians celebrating after released from Israeli jail

Somali education champion wins UN refugee prize

GENEVA (AFP/APP): A former Somali refugee intent on bringing books and education to his compatriots languishing in sprawling camps in Kenya was on Tuesday named the winner of the UN refugee agency's prestigious Nansen Award.

Abdullahi Mire, 36, was hailed for championing the right to education by putting 100,000 books in the hands of children in Kenya's crowded Dadaab refugee camps.

"A book can change someone's future," Mire told AFP in an interview.

"I want every child who is displaced to get the opportunity of education."

Announcing the prize, United Nations refugee chief Filippo Grandi described Mire in a statement as "living proof that transformative ideas can spring from within displaced communities".

Mire was born in Somalia, but amid unrest there his family fled to Kenya.

CRPF officer commits suicide in Jharkhand

RANCHI (INP): An Indian Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) officer committed suicide in Jharkhand state of India.

The CRPF officer identified as Havildar Sanjay Kumar (38) shot himself dead with his service weapon on the 218 battalion headquarters premises in Gumla district of the state.

Gumla SP Harvinder Singh said that the deceased was a native of Mandi district in Himachal Pradesh.

Kumar had a long conversation with his wife over phone in the morning. He died by suicide. "A medical board would conduct the autopsy in the presence of a magistrate," SP Singh said.

Meanwhile, attackers set on fire 14 vehicles, machines engaged in construction work in Dantewada area of Chhattisgarh state in India.

Iran's Raisi in Turkey to forge joint response to Gaza war

ANKARA (AFP/APP): Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi makes his first official visit to Turkey on Tuesday, hoping to paper over past differences and forge a forceful joint response to Israel's actions in Gaza.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has emerged as one of the Muslim world's most vocal critics of Israel's onslaught on Gaza in response to Hamas October 7 attack.

He has branded Israel a "terrorist state" and called Hamas "a liberation group".

Erdogan has also suggested trying Israeli politicians and military commanders in the International Criminal Court in the Hague.

But past meetings between Muslim and Arab leaders—including talks this month in Riyadh—have failed to find common

ground over what immediate economic and political steps to take.

Analysts believe that Raisi will pressure Turkey to move past the rhetoric and cut its blossoming trade and energy relations with Israel.

"Iran expects Turkey to end its direct and indirect trade with Israel," Istanbul's Centre for Iranian Studies director Hakki Uygur told AFP.

"Turkey, on the other hand, has taken an attitude that cares about separating political and commercial issues."

According to Gaza's Hamas-led government, nearly 15,000 people—mostly civilians and including thousands of children—have died since Israel began to retaliate for Hamas's unprecedented cross-border attacks in which Israel says 1,200 people died.

APHC expresses concern over detainees' plight in jails

SRINAGAR (INP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has expressed concern over the plight of illegally detained Hurriyat leaders and activists, languishing in notorious jails of India and occupied Jammu and Kashmir for the past many years.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the APHC spokesman in a statement issued in Srinagar denounced the unabated arrest spree launched by Indian forces in nook and corner of the occupied territory in the garb of cordon and search operations and said that more than four thousand leaders and activists belonging to the Kashmir resistance movement had been put behind bars on baseless charges.

Terming the arbitrary arrests as the worst example of political vendetta, the spokesman said that such repressive policies were aimed at changing the free-

dom narrative of Kashmir, which had remained a distant dream of Indian fascist regime since its illegal occupation of the territory in 1947.

The spokesman hailed the steadfastness and valour of the illegally detained Hurriyat leaders and activists, including APHC Chairman, Masarat Aalam Butt, Shabbir Ahmed Shah, Muhammad Yasin Malik, Dr Hameed Fayaz, Aasiya Andrabi, Nayeem Ahamad Khan, Ayaz Akbar, Peer Saifullah, Raja Merajuddin Kalwal, Shahid-ul-Islam, Farooq Ahamad Dar, Shahid Yousuf, Shakeel Yousaf, Mushtaq-ul-Islam and Naheeda Nasreen. They have been imprisoned in jails in India and IIOJK on frivolous charges. The APHC spokesman urged the United Nations to take cognizance of the plight of Kashmiri political prisoners lodged in death cells without medical care and basic amenities.

Philippine govt, communist rebels agree to hold peace talks

MANILA (INP): The government of Philippine and the communist rebels of the country have agreed to restart peace negotiations after a halt of six-year, with the aim of ending decades of armed strife, the two sides and facilitator Norway said on Tuesday.

Raged for over 50 years, the bloody conflict between authorities and the New People's Army (NPA), the military wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), has resulted in killing of more than 40,000 people.

Last week, high-ranking delegations from both sides agreed to a "common vision for peace" that sought to address key obstacles, which was revealed by Norway's foreign ministry on Tuesday.

The rebels will end their armed struggle and transform into a political movement if negotiations succeed, according to Norway, which has facilitated the South East Asian island nation's peace process for around 20 years.

"The parties agree to a principled and peaceful resolution of the armed conflict," they said in their joint statement, adding that the peace talks will address "deep rooted socioeconomic and political grievances".

Removing the communist party and affiliated groups from a government list of designated terror organizations was included in the talks, government Peace

Process Adviser Carlito Galvez told a press conference in Manila.

No immediate ceasefire was announced, however, and operations against the rebels would continue, Philippine military chief General Romeo Brawner said.

But Brawner also said an eventual peace deal would allow the armed forces to focus on external and territorial defence rather than domestic conflict.

"If this conflict will finally end, your Armed Forces of the Philippines will be able to shift our focus to external or territorial defence. Our resources, efforts will be poured into defending our territory," he said.

Formal talks were last conducted in 2017 but were acrimoniously terminated by then-President Rodrigo Duterte, whose bid to revive negotiations also failed.

He left office in mid-2022 and was replaced by Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

Norwegian facilitators maintained contact with the parties, leading to confidential talks and a secret Nov 23 signing ceremony at the Oslo City Hall attended by exiled rebel leaders and several Philippine government ministers, among others.

The announcement comes less than a week after Marcos Jr. issued an order granting amnesty to several rebel groups, including former members of the communist movement.

N.Korea defends satellite launch at UN as Kim takes images of White House

UNITED NATIONS, United States (AFP/APP): North Korea's ambassador made a rare appearance at the UN Security Council on Monday to defend his country's launch of a spy satellite, as leader Kim Jong Un studied images including of the White House and Pentagon.

Western powers, Japan and South Korea have said North Korea violated Security Council resolutions by launching the satellite last week.

The totalitarian state has said that its new eye in the sky has already provided images of major US and South Korean military sites, as well as photos of the Italian capital Rome.

On Monday it took "in detail" images of the White House and the Pentagon in Washington, according to state-run KCNA news agency, which said Kim was reviewing the photos.

He also counted some aircraft carriers at a military base and a shipyard in the neighbouring state of Virginia, the report said.

At the Security Council, North Korea's ambassador to the United Nations, Kim Song, complained that other countries faced no restrictions

on satellites.

"No other nation in the world is in the security environment as critical as the DPRK," said Kim, using the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

"One belligerent party, the United States, is threatening us with a nuclear weapon," he said.

"It is a legitimate right for the DPRK as another belligerent party to develop, test, manufacture and possess weapons systems equivalent to those that the United States possesses or is developing."

He mocked US charges that satellite technology also helped North Korea hone its missile capacity, questioning whether the United States put satellites into orbit "with a catapult."

The US ambassador, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, rejected North Korea's assertion it was acting in self-defence and said that joint US-South Korean exercises were "routine" and "defensive in nature."

"We intentionally reduce risk and pursue transparency by announcing the exercises in advance including the dates and the activities, unlike the

DPRK," she said, adding that the drills did not violate Security Council resolutions.

South Korea's spy agency said that Russia, eager for assistance in Ukraine, helped North Korea on the satellite following a summit between Kim and President Vladimir Putin.

The United States said last month that North Korea has delivered more than 1,000 containers of military equipment and munitions to Russia.

Russia and China, North Korea's main allies, have put forward a resolution, opposed by the United States, to ease sanctions on Pyongyang as part of an effort to encourage dialogue.

Chinese envoy Geng Shuang accused the United States of "further aggravating tension and confrontation" through its military alliance with South Korea.

"If the DPRK constantly feels threatened, and its legitimate security concerns remain unresolved, the peninsula will not be able to get out of the security dilemma and only be caught in a vicious cycle of tit-for-tat aggressive moves," he said.

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Record COP28 carbon footprint under scrutiny

PARIS (AFP/APP): After having the world's tallest tower and the biggest shopping mall, Dubai, the city of records, is gearing up to host the largest COP ever—a feat that in itself comes with an unprecedented carbon footprint.

"Ensuring COP28 UAE is a sustainable and carbon neutral event will be pivotal to its success," states the COP28 official website—without further explanation of how such carbon "neutrality" is achieved. But to dwell on COP's greenhouse gas emissions is "pure distraction," said Laurent Morel, engineer and partner at Carbone 4, a French firm specialising in energy and climate consultancy.

"What will be interesting to see is how the governance of this COP will manage its own contradictions," he said, specifically "whether or not oil companies and oil-producing countries commit to production cuts." At every COP, critics point to the number of flights taken by negotiators and NGOs and denounce private jets shuttling high profile attendees.

In the UN's official document on "How to COP" it acknowledges the media and NGO scrutiny regarding the "apparent irony of the emissions generated by thousands of participants flying in from all around the globe to discuss how to reduce worldwide GHG emissions".

A dozen dead in storm across Russia, Ukraine and Moldova

MOSCOW (AFP/APP): Hurricane force winds, snowfall and flooding that swept parts of southern Russia, Ukraine and Moldova left at least 13 people dead Monday and almost two million without power, authorities said.

Dubbed the 'storm of the century' by Russian media, the violent weather has lashed the southern regions of Dagestan, Krasnodar and Rostov, as well as the occupied Ukrainian territories of Donetsk, Lugansk, Kherson, Zaporizhzhia and Crimea since Sunday.

President Vladimir Putin has been following reports of the "meteorological disasters" and ordered the government to take measures to help the affected regions, Kremlin spokesman Dmitri Peskov said.

Russia's energy ministry said about 1.9 million people were affected by power cuts.

Four people were reported to have died in Russia and Crimea due to the storms, with another four reported dead in Moldova.

In Ukraine, the severe weather left at least five people dead and almost 1,500 towns and villages in the dark after storms dumped up to 25 centimetres (10 inches) of snow in some places.

"Unfortunately, as of now, there are some deaths. The highest number (of casualties) is in the Odesa re-

gion—five people," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said.

Huge waves crashed over beachside areas of Russia's Black Sea coast, video from social media showed, as wind speeds reached over 140 kilometres (about 90 miles) per hour in some places.

Two bodies were found in Russia's southern Krasnodar region, while state media said a sailor was killed in the Kerch Strait between Crimea and Russia.

One man on the Russian-annexed Crimean peninsula's southern coast was also killed, according to Oleg Kryuchkov, an adviser to the region's Russian-installed governor Sergei Aksyonov.

"The man went out to look at the waves and, unfortunately, tragically died," he said.

In Moldova, the bodies of two people were found in a car buried in a snowdrift in the south-eastern area of Coscalia, Moldovan media reported.

A 48-year old man was found dead in the eastern village of Cruglic and the storm claimed the life of another man in Grigoriopol in the separatist region of Transnistria.

Govt to provide free SIMs, female abayas to hujjaj: Aneeq

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed Tuesday said that the government would provide free of cost mobile SIMs with roaming internet packages, female abayas having a Pakistani flag on the backside and 13 Kg suitcases to pilgrims performing hajj this year.

Talking to a private news channel, minister said that it was a historic step that caretaker government has declared a significant reduction of one lac in government Hajj expenses, adding, further 50,000 will also be reduced in coming few days after which hujjaj will get back their money in their accounts.

He said a new mobile application has been designed to assist pilgrims, which will provide navigation support and enable constant communication between pilgrims and relevant officials.

Initially available in English and Urdu, the application will later incorporate various regional languages, he said, adding, app will also provide digital

training programs to every pilgrim.

Minister also disclosed a project that ministry of Hajj with the collaboration of ministry of education have planned to convert city mosques into schools to enrolled out of school children where Imam of mosques will play a leading role.

Minister said that mosques will play their role as a community centers in every city areas, adding, Imams will resolve community issues as well after offering prayers.

He said that ministry of hajj is taking all four provinces on board and enhancing the connectivity of mosques.

While describing another project, minister for religious affairs said that his ministry with the collaboration of health ministry has another project in which medical clinics will also be part of mosques.

Lady health workers and other essential staff of doctors will also be provided in all masjid where they will facilitate to citizens visiting inside the mosque of areas, he added.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi chairing a meeting on mental health issues in Pakistan, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

President calls for national policy to address mental health issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday emphasized the need for formulation of a national policy to address the mental health issues as 24% population of the country was suffering from various mental health problems.

He stressed upon an institutional framework and public-private partnership to provide mental health services to the people.

The president expressed these views while chairing a follow-up meeting at the Aiwan-e-Sadr on

mental health in Pakistan, the President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

A detailed presentation by the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination on the National Mental Health App "Humraaz" highlighted that more than 240,000 calls had been received since its launch in April 2023.

The meeting was attended by Caretaker Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Dr Nadeem Jan and representatives of

the National Commission for Human Rights, the World Health Organization, and senior government officials.

Representatives of the provincial health departments, Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan Psychiatric Society, Taskeen Health Initiative, Pakistan Psychological Association, Pakistani American Psychiatric Association of North America, British Pakistani Psychiatrists Association, and other organizations working on mental health attended the meeting via video

link.

The president appreciated the launching of "Humraaz" that was providing mental health assistance and counselling services to the people in need.

He called for improving the effectiveness of the Humraaz app, besides strengthening the mental health support system in the country.

He highlighted that mental health was a major concern for Pakistan which required coordinated efforts by both the public and private sectors to utilize their expertise.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Walk Khan Kakar giving away awards to best performers during first Balochistan women summit organized by the Provincial Information Department in collaboration with the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund.

Siraj ul Haq says: Zardari's proposed national govt lacks constitutional legitimacy

SUKKUR (INP): Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), Sirajul Haq has asserted that the proposed national government advocated by Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Zardari lacks constitutional legitimacy, saying the proposal is designed to perpetuate the dominance of the same feudal and imported technocrats who have held power for decades, thereby preserving the existing status quo.

Speaking at an election convention held at Mehran Cultural Centre on Tuesday, he warned against the victory of former ruling parties in the upcoming elections, asserting that it would signify the defeat of

Pakistan. Sirajul Haq criticized the PML-N's assertion that its leadership would save the country, questioning the track record of those who previously held power. He argued that the purported former national government of the PDM and the PPP had detrimentally impacted the economy, resulting in inflation and unemployment. He queried the prospective positive changes these parties could bring after returning to power.

The JI chief alleged that the primary motive of established political parties was to amass wealth and exploit national resources. According to him, their wealth and properties multiplied with each tenure in power.



TURKIYE: Opposition Leader in Senate, Senator Dr Shahzad Waseem addressing on Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) Executive Council meeting.

Director UNESCO says Pakistan needs to set up university for management of water resources

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan should learn from China's experience and work together to set up a university covering water resources engineering, environmental science and engineering for water management resources in the country, the Director of UNESCO Regional Office for East Asia, Prof Shahbaz Khan said. "Pakistani and Chinese governments could work together on the model of Hohai University in Nanjing, one of the higher education institutions dealing with rivers and oceans in China, to establish such a university in Pakistan to promote river culture," he said in an interview with APP on the sidelines of the Yangtze Culture Forum recently held in Nanjing, China.

He said that in Pakistan, archaeological sites like Mohenjodaro, Harappa

and Taxila were linked with rivers and are believed to be older than many other cultures including the Yangtze culture. As the river culture in Pakistan has been facing challenges, there is an urgent need to impose a ban on fishing to protect blind Dolphins along the lower reaches of the Indus River, he added. He said that cities like Lahore, Multan and Hyderabad are located along the rivers in Punjab and Sindh provinces respectively and Pakistan could learn from China for industrial development by setting up small and medium enterprises which depend on water.

Prof Shahbaz, who has been working in China for the last 20 years, said that there was less water available along the Yangtze River, especially in areas close to Wuhan, a central city in China.

Five of family killed in DIK over domestic dispute

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (INP): At least five members of a family were gunned down over a domestic dispute in Dera Ismail Khan, police said on Tuesday.

According to details, a man hailing from Rehmani Khel area of Dera Ismail Khan shot dead his wife for unknown reasons.

The brothers of the deceased woman to take revenge of killing of sister, opened fire on the man's father, mother and sister who died on the spot.

Pak development, service of people cornerstone of PTIP policy

PESHAWAR (APP): Chairman of Pakistan Tahrik e Insaaf (Parliamentarians), Pervez Khattak here on Tuesday said that service of people, peace and development of the country was the cornerstone of his party policy. He said that reforms in all sectors including police, health and education were introduced during his government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He was addressing a press conference on the occasion of joining former Town Nazim and PPP leader Muhammad Sharif into PTIP along with supporters.

First Balochistan Women Summit 2023 held in Quetta: Women of Balochistan 2nd to none in capabilities: Governor

Dire need to provide better opportunities & necessary facilities, emphasizes Kakar

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Walk Khan Kakar has stated that women of the province are second to none in their capabilities and talent, what's needed is to provide them the better opportunities and necessary facilities to them so that they may excel in their respective fields.

He said that the women are guarantor of the bright future of nation, and it can't progress by confining them in the four walls of their homes and keeping them indolent.

The Governor was addressing the first Balochistan women summit organized by the Provincial Information Department in collaboration with the Pa-

kistan Poverty Alleviation Fund here at the Governor House on Tuesday.

The women summit was aimed at strengthening womenfolk by recognizing their invaluable services and role in different sectors.

The caretaker Provincial Minister Information, Jan Achakzai, Minister Home, Zubair Jamali, Minister women development and social welfare, Ms. Shania Khan, Vice Chancellor of University of Balochistan, Professor Dr. Shafiqur Rehman, acting VC Sardar Bahadur Khan Women University, Dr. Zainab, head of PPAF, Nadir Gul Baraich, former speaker, Ms. Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani, Chairman Balochistan Rural Support Programme,

Malik Anwar Kasi, besides other personalities from different walks of life, representatives of civil society and other concerned high ups. The Governor appreciated the women summit organized to recognize their services and ensure respectable status for them in the society. The Governor said that we need to accept women as equal human being without falling prey to unnecessary discussion as this is needed to resolve other issues gradually.

He said that women can't get their due rights and authority without getting economic independence.

He said that the women can be given ability to cope with all the issues by economically empowering them.



A high level delegation led by Liu Jianming Deputy Party Secretary, Deputy Political Commissar of Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps met with the Caretaker Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, Mr. Madad Ali Sindhi, Islamabad.

Adviser to CM Umair Balochistan visits Boys High School in Dalbandin

CHAGAI (APP): Adviser to Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan on Minerals Sardarzada Umair Muhammad Hassani visited Boys High School Qasim Khan in Dalbandin on Tuesday.

Talking to teachers gathering Adviser expressed his views and said that our motive is that "every child must go to school, love education and hate drugs" Under this mission we should promote education so that our society remains bright.

He further said that only quality education can change the destiny of nations. Teachers are national builders, they must guide students to the right path and prepare them for any new challenges in life, he added. On the occasion, the principal of Boys High School Qasim Khan Hameed Ullah briefed to minister on the school facing problems on which minister assured him as soon as fixed those problems.

Parents urged to vaccinate children against polio

CHAGAI (APP): Assistant Commissioner (AC) Taftan Waqar Ahmed on Tuesday urged the parents to play their role in the success of the anti-polio campaign by vaccinating their children up to the age of five years against the crippling disease. According to the AC office, at the inauguration of the anti-polio campaign, Assistant Commissioner Taftan Waqar Ahmed said that the eradication of the polio virus could only be achieved thru vaccination.

Speakers urge to enhance budget transparency, accountability

QUETTA (APP): Speakers at a seminar organized by the Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI) with the support of the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) urged the government to enhance budget transparency and accountability in the country.

The seminar, focusing on the importance of transparent and participatory budgeting, was held here on Tuesday with the primary objective of discussing challenges related to inclusivity and gender sensitivity within the budgetary framework. Project Manager CPDI, Moonus Kayinat shared the essential steps to ensure participatory budgeting which is the essential component of democratic governance.

As Pakistan navigates its fiscal challenges, the importance of transparency in its budgetary processes becomes even more crucial. Article 19-A guaranteed citizens access to information that ultimately leads to transparency, and budget documents should be pro-actively disclosed by the government departments, she further

added. Sana Durrani, chairperson of Ending Violence Against Women (EVAWG-alliance), urged inclusive and gender-sensitive budgeting. She highlighted that the Balochistan Domestic Violence Act 2014 remains unimplemented due to resource shortages. Durrani noted the absence of the Balochistan Information Commission and pending initiatives due to resource allocation issues.

Former MPA Qadir Nael underscored the importance of departments seeking necessary budgets through strategic planning and in alignment with requirements, as opposed to relying on individual schemes. Additionally, he encourages empowered local governments to proactively address issues at the local level.

Shahid Abbas Jatoti, Information Commissioner of Sindh Information Commission, underscored the role of citizen participation in enhancing budget transparency. He emphasizes the empowering effect of Right to Information (RTI) laws for citizens to hold public officials accountable.



QUETTA: A delegation led by central leader of Pakistan Peoples Party Syed Khursheed Shah meeting with Inspector General of Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh.

Maryam assures youth, minorities of offering chance in next elections

LAHORE (INP): Senior Vice President Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Maryam Nawaz on Tuesday assured the youth and minorities for offering a chance for bringing them to forefront of politics in next election.

She remarked this while heading a session participated by members and officials of Muslim Students Federation (MSF) and minority wing.

Regarding general elections to be held on February 08, 2024, Maryam Nawaz expressed satisfaction over the performances of the MSF and minority wing.

During the meeting, it

was decided to accelerate the election activities across the country and also to mobilize the youth in the four provinces including the federation, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

She said, "PML-N will increase the role of youth and minorities in politics while mentioning that the youth are the capital of the country and their development will lead to the progress of the country."

Maryam also claimed that under the leadership of the PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif, the country would take a positive turn towards the prosperity.

GoB to organize youth festival from Nov 30

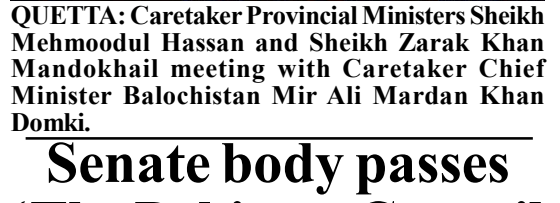
QUETTA (APP): Balochistan government to organize the First Youth Festival from November 30 under the auspices of the Sports and Culture Department in order to engage the youth in different sports and other healthy activities to enable them to play role in the development of the country.

In a statement issued here on Tuesday, Balochistan Minister for Culture and Sports Nawabzada Jamal Khan Raisani said the three-day youth festival will be the first of its kind in which a large number of youth will participate across the province.

He said: "We are working to appoint a large number of staff in the province to teach and guide the sportsmen." Raisani said the meetings will be held between experts and youth of Balochistan to discuss important issues and various career guidance sessions will also be held.

He said the purpose of the Youth Festival is to improve the skills of the youth of Balochistan and to engage the young folk in positive activities.

He said the initiatives would encourage the youth to indulge in healthy activities, besides polishing their talent. He added our effort is to bring opportunities for the youth in a short time and provide full support to the youth of Balochistan to exhibit their abilities to the world.



Senate body passes 'The Pakistan Council for S&T Technology (Amend) Bill, 2023'

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate's Standing Committee on Science and Technology on Tuesday unanimously passed "The Pakistan Council for Science and Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2023".

The committee, which met with Senator Sardar Muhammad Shafiq Tareen in the chair at the Parliament House, was told by the mover Senator Shahadat Awan that the bill was aimed at maintaining parliamentary oversight over the Council by making it mandatory for the body to submit its annual report to the

Parliament. While discussing the implementation status of recommendations, the Secretary of Ministry of Science & Technology (MoST) Aji Raza Bhutta stated that the ministry had complied with the committee's recommendations, and had submitted its report in that regard.

He also briefed the committee on the pending promotions in all departments, especially Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA), and the reasons for delay.



QUETTA: Investigation Officer Federal Ombudsman Ahmed Waqas Kashi giving away lecturer to students of SBK Women's University during a public awareness seminar.

Zehri says: PPP will make a full power show on occasion of foundation day

HUB: Senior leader of Pakistan People's Party and President of Hub District and Spokesman for Balochistan Asif Ali Zardari Mir Ali Hassan Zehri presided over the meeting of the party was held at the People's Secretariat Hub. Important suggestions for active participation in the preparations for the foundation day were considered and the final program was drawn up.

In the meeting, it was decided to establish reception camps across the district and to make the grand rally in Quetta on the occasion of the foundation day on November 30 a success and the workers and people. For full participation in public meeting,

travel from Hub to Quetta and management plan was decided to deal with any emergency situation. Mir Ali Hassan Zehri addressed the workers on this occasion and said that District Hub of Pakistan People's Party it is a strong fortress and in the general meeting proposed in Quetta on November 30, the people of Hub district will participate fully.

He said that it is an ideological and public party. Whenever the People's Party came to power, it always took practical measures for the welfare of the poor people. During the era of PPP, the people of Pakistan prospered and the country continued to progress.