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DUBAI: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar addresses a ceremony on Living Indus Initiative at COP-28 Pakistan Pavilion.

Adapting Indus Basin key to adapt Pakistan to climate change: PM Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar

Kakar suggests that "we need a minimum indicative investment between US\$11 and US\$17 billion over the next 15 years to mobilize from the public sector, private sector, citizens, and communities."

DUBAI (APP): Caretaker needed immediate action to change Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said on Sunday that adapting Pakistan to climate change was vital to adapting the Indus Basin to

the impacts of climate the United Nations' 28th change as the majority of the population was linked to the river.

He said Pakistan's cli- the 8th most vulnerable mate challenge was prima-rily a water challenge that the impacts of climate

be addressed.

He said Living Indus Addressing an event was an umbrella initiative on 'Living Indus Initiative' aimed at restoring the ecoheld here at the Pakistan logical health of the Indus Pavilion at the venue of within the boundaries of Pakistan, which was most Conference of Parties vulnerable to climate (COP 28), the prime minchange

ister said Pakistan was He maintained that the government of Pakistan was clear on its priorities with the Living Indus. "This mobilize a moment that pre-

umbrella initiative emerged pared and restored a healthy Indus for today and from extensive consultation with stakeholders, resulting tomorrow. in a set of 25 living inter-"And we are here to ventions that emphasize

collaborate and give voice nature-based solutions and to our rivers. ecosystem-based adapta-The Indus River

needs a voice, and we are here to give that voice. The The prime minister said what was more imporindustry feeds us, and if we tant was that the Living do not take care of it, it will Indus initiative sought to not be there to take care of us," he remarked

Caretaker Govt mobilizing all available resources for welfare of persons with disabilities: Domki

Fare not to be charged to disabled persons on Green buses

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial government is mobilizing all available resources for welfare of the persons with disabilities in the province.

This was stated by the caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Domki while addressing a gathering arranged by the Islamic Relief organization and social welfare department here at the Balochistan Boy Scouts Association headquarter on Sunday.

Prominent among those present on the occasion were Advisor to caretaker Chief Minister, Ms Shania Khan, Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat, Director General social welfare, Tariq Javed Mengal were

our heart. The Chief Mindisabled persons as well as representatives of the civil ister stressed that we have society and high ups of difto work together for welfare and protection of the ferent departments were rights of persons with dis-abilities. We have to make present on the occasion. The Chief Minister on the occasion announced

them realize that they are to exempt the disabled persecond to none and are sons from fare in the Green equally talented. In addition bus service running in to this, we also have to cre-Quetta. He said that no fare ate easiness for them besides bringing positive would be charged from the persons with disabilities in change in the social behaviours, adding he stressed. However, he the Green buses.

He said that imple-mentation on the quota of jobs allocated for disabled noted with contentment that steps are being taken persons would be ensured to make them useful citibesides providing other zens of the society.

We would welcome the suggestions to be made in this regard, he assured.

Dr. Nadeem

meets UAE

Health Munister

He said that although the legislation is there for providing jobs to the persons with disabilities at the federal and provincial level.

Monitoring Desk CHILAS: Unidentified attackers opened fire on a passenger bus on Karakoram Highway in Gilgit-Baltistan's Chilas

Firing on passenger bus

leaves 9 dead, several

city, leaving at least nine dead and 20 injured. The firing led to a collision between the bus and a truck. Resultantly, the truck caught fire.

The bus was traveling from Ghizar district of Gilgit-Baltistan to Rawalpindi, the police added

Diamer DC Captain (retd) Arif Ahmad told reporters the injured and bodies were shifted to a nearby hospital. "An unfortunate incident occurred in which a cowardly act was done, targeting a bus that set off

from Gahkuch in Ghizer." DC Ahmad said the bus bearing registration number BLN-4647 was owned by a private company. He said the "cowards" indiscriminately fired attendance.

injured in Chilas on the bus. "There are a total of eight bodies, out of which five have been identified and the rest are under process," he added. Diamer police on Sun-

> day lodged a first information report (FIR) and arrested six suspects in connection with an attack on an Islamabad-bound bus in Gilgit-Baltistan's (GB) Chilas a day earlier.

The official said all entry and exit points of GB had been closed and security in the region was on high alert.

The police have launched search operations across Diamer and traffic on the Karakoram Highway would remain suspended today, Tahir added.

Separately, Chilas As-sistant Commissioner Sadaqat Ali said the funeral prayers of the deceased were offered with GB Chief Minister Haji Gulbar Khan and top army officials in



tion approaches."

ISLAMABAD: Group photo of Federal Minister Madad Ali Sindhi and Caretaker Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi along with others during the Sindhi Cultural Day event organized by Soormiyun at PNCA.

Governor for increasing quota of jobs for persons with disabilities by 10 percent in Govt departments

Malik Abdul Wali Kakar asks to shift offices related to services and dealings with the PWDs in government buildings on ground flour in order to facilitate them; announces to open doors of Governor House for PWDs

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor nized by a welfare organi- House for resolving the is-Balochistan, Malik Abdul zation serving for rights of sues of persons with dis-Wali Khan Kakar has called the PWDs, Breaking Barri- abilities for increasing the quota of jobs for the persons with disabilities (PWDs) in all federal and provincial government departments at least 10 percent so as to fully benefit from their special capabilities.

The event was orga- opened doors of Governor

that he personally knows

that the whole family of

disabled persons suffer due

to their presence, so it is

commendable the role

The Governor said

He particularly appre-

Mr. Kakar expressed

its strength, not weakness: Solangi

QUETTA: Senior Politician, Nawabzada Haji

Lashkari Raisani addresses during celebration

ceremony on the occasion of Sindhi Culture Day

organized by Jamote Students Council

Fazl firmly declares to take

stand against those resorted

to target Muslim Ummah

MULTAN (APP): Chief of Ummah. Underlining ideol-

ogy, belief, and attitude as

the political foundation, he

stressed the importance of

compassion towards the

impoverished and the col-

safeguarding their lives,

wealth, and honor.

Balochistan, held at Quetta press club.

Jamiat Ulema-e-Íslam (JUI)

Maulana Fazlur Rehman on

Sunday expressed JUI's

commitment to fostering

moderation in political dis-

course while maintaining

and promoting religious

workers at Jhok Wanis, on

occasion of Malik Sajjad

Wains, a local political fig-

ure in JUI, Fazalur

Rehman acknowledging the

critical role of public lead-

ers, emphasized his dedi-

cation to solving societal

issues and dismantling

prejudices in order to pave

the way for a harmonious

Rehman firmly declared to

take stand against those who

resorted to target Muslim

Fazlur

silience

Maulana

While addressing to

identity.

future.

Sindh's diversity

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi said on Sunday that Sindh has been a multi-lingual, multi-religious and multiethnic unit for centuries.

Delivering his speech at the Sindhi Cultural Day ceremony here, he said Sindh had united different religions and races from different regions of the world. "Sindh's diversity is

its strength, not its weakness," Murtaza Solangi remarked.

The Sindhi Cultural Day this year was linked their performance

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan with the celebration of had a special meeting with Sindhi women's event, the Minister for Health of Murtaza Solangi said. the United Arab Emirates, The minister said that Abdul Rahman bin humility and resilience Muhammad Al Awais, in were embedded in Sindh Dubai on the sidelines of culture like steel, which

the COP 28 UN Climate could be moulded but not change summit. broken. He said it was sig-During the meeting, Dr nificant that in the poetry Nadeem invited him to atof great Sindhi poet Shah tend Global Health Summit Abdul Latif Bhittai, seven in Islamabad. ragas were named after

He congratulated his women. From Bhittai to counterpart on the success Sheikh Ayaz, poets had ful conduct of COP 28. highlighted the role of

Dr. Nadeem Jan also Sindhi women, Murtaza briefed his counterpart on Solangi maintained. The the ongoing reform agenda way the brave women of in the health sector of Paki-Surmi organization showed stan.

The minister informed his counterpart about the Global Health Security Summit to be held in January 2024. The minister informed that initially the Global Health Security Summit was scheduled to be held in December 2023

Senior US officials to visit Pak to bolster bilateral talks ISLAMABAD (INP): Pa-

kistan will witness back-to-Baloch and Assistant Comback visits by senior US missioner Beebrag Lehri officials starting today, the raided the house of a proforeign office spokesperson claimed confirmed on Sunday. Amanullah Marjanzai. "Pakistan and the

United States continue to

visits also takes place. Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of

Noyes is scheduled to visit the country from Decem-

FO spokesperson said underscoring the historical that Special Representative sacrifices of Jamiat Ulemafor Afghanistan Thomas e-Islam elders as a testa-West will be visiting ment to the people's trust. Islamabad from December JUI always rejected sec-7 to 9 while Principal tarianism, Fazal added. He Deputy Assistant Secrepromised to serve people tary for Pakistan Elizabeth if voted to power. He also Horst will pay a visit from expressed resolve to pro-December 9 to 12.

pel the party forward, unit-These visits are a part ing communities, and fosof the ongoing negotiations tering a future marked by with the US on several isjustice, compassion, and resues, including the situation in Afghanistan.

DUBAI: Federal Minister of Health Dr. Nadeem Jan had a special meeting with the Minister of Health of the United Arab Emirates, Abdul Rahman bin Muhammad Al Awais, on the sidelines of COP 28 UN Climate change summit.

Two Levies officials killed in exchnage of fire with accused

CM grieved over martyrdom of two Levies cops in Duki

Force personnel were killed in an exchange of fire with a proclaimed offender and his ing of the law officials. accomplices in Kali Marjanzai

> rushed to the scene. The Levies Force has besieged the house of the

area of Loni in Duki district of Balochistan. According

> The PO is wanted by the police in an extortion

The Governor was addressing the ceremony arranged marking the International Day of persons with disabilities at a local hotel here on Sunday.

The caretaker Minister Information, Jan Achakzai, former Federal Minister and Senator (Retd) Mrs. Roshan Khursheed Bharucha, Chairperson of Balochistan Commission on Status of Women, Ms. Fauzia Shaheen, persons with different disabilities besides representatives of the civil society and other concerned government high ups.

PM strongly condemns firing incident in GB's **Chilas** area

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar strongly condemned the firing incident on a passenger bus in Gilgit-Baltistan's Chilas area on Sunday.

The prime minister expressed deep sorrow over the martyrdom of innocent citizens in the previous day's incident.

He prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed souls in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved families to bear this loss with cour-

age

The Governor Balochistan said that it is very important to address the issues being faced by the persons with disabilities.

played by their families and In this regard, the ofother related people. fices located in the government buildings dealing with ciated the parents and famtheir issues and services ily members who serve the should be shifted on the persons with disabilities ground flour to immediately out of the way. remove the complaints and facilities the disabled per-

solidarity with disabled sons, he pleaded. persons of the province, He said that it is also country and the world. emvery important to behave braced martyrdom while well with the special perfighting against the crimisons for formation of the nals bravely. civilized society.

He also appreciated Addressing the the Director General Lev-PWDs, the Governor said ies, Deputy Commissioner that he wants to bring the Kohlu and district adminissues under discussion toistration Sibi on successful operation against the day which they face in criminals with coordina-

practical life. He said that we have tion



OUETTA: Provincial President ANPAsghar Khan Achakzai addressing the condolence reference in memory of Aziz Mama organized by Awami National Party.

ECP's delimitation: NA reduced to 366 Gen Seats, six slashed

ISLAMABAD (APP): aligns with the provisions The Election Commission of the 25th Constitutional of Pakistan (ECP), in its Amendment, following the recent notification of the merger of the Federally final list of constituencies, Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) with KP, and is determined by population considerations.

Punjab will have 141 general seats in the NA, Sindh 61, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Balochistan 16, and three will be from Islamabad. Women will have 60 reserved seats, while minorities will have 10 seats.

Punjab would have 371 seats, of which 297 would be general seats. Sindh would have 168 After the process of seats, of which 130 would be general seats. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly will have 145 seats, merged districts have been reduced to six from the pre- of which 115 will be genvious 12. This adjustment eral seats

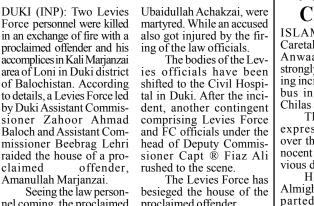
has revised the number of National Assembly (NA) general seats to 336, indicating a decrease of six seats from the previous count of 342. The constituency list released by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) signifies a decline in he general seats of the National Assembly (NA) from 272 to 266. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) representation in the National Assembly has been reduced from 51 seats to 45. delimitation, the National Assembly seats for the

GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulber Khan with other people attending the funeral prayer of martyrs of Hudur incident by terrorist attack on passenger bus.

hold consultations on a range of issues," foreign office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in a stateficials, Qasim Baloch and other serious crimes ment. "To advance these consultations, exchange of

lective responsibility of Population, Refugees, and Migration Julieta Valls

The chief outlined a policy of wisdom and fairber 4 to 6, she said. ness in dispute resolution,



proclaimed offender.

nel coming, the proclaimed offender and his accomplices opened fire on them. case of Rs100 million and As a result, two Levies of-

Page 02

Monday December 04, 2023

Muna Khan

Lately, I've been wonder-

instead, of how much my

life is worth in monetary

ample, spent a consider-

able sum raising and edu-

cating me and my sisters,

a roof over my head be-

cause journalism doesn't

other time about how some

iournalists are rich) I'm un-

comfortable having some-

one else define my worth,

because, as a woman, I

know I will be underval-

when salaries are decided.

looking for affirmations to

by her father and uncle in

Kohistan after her (doc-

tored) photo with a man

was shared on social me-

dia. I won't go into the de-

tails of the case because I

think we know how these

things go — or don't. I can

join the chorus of voices

glad that police action was

quick and the state has

shown up as the complain-

ant. Maybe we're inching

crimes for what they are:

murder. Maybe we'll one

day get to a place where

we can talk about revok-

ing blood money laws that

crimes to go unpunished.

me ascertain that dead

woman's worth. Or the

other women in Kohistan

honour-related

But this doesn't help

Jointly organized by

the

way

recognising

our

allow

towards

'honour'

post on Instagram.

OPINION

Daily **Independent**



Promises, promises

The ongoing COP28 summit in the UAE is a crucial event in the global climate discourse, with significant implications for countries like Pakistan. The summit has seen a complex mix of diplomatic manoeuvring, fervent appeals for climate justice, and sharply divergent views on the future role of fossil fuels. Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-uling what I'm worth. I don't Haq Kakar's address yesterday emphasised mean this just from a self-Pakistan's urgent need for "sufficient, additional, esteem perspective or a reand predictable grant-based climate finance" from ligious one. I'm thinking, developed nations. Urging the immediate execution of the \$100bn goal for climate finance, Mr Kakar said this should not exacerbate the debt burden of terms. My father, for exdeveloping states. He stressed the need for a robust framework for global adaptation goals, with clear targets, indicators, and progress monitoring. He called for at least half of climate finance to be and continues to provide allocated to adaptation, reflecting the growing urgency for balanced climate action. Mr Kakar also highlighted Pakistan's proactive climate initiatives, pay well. (I will write anand mentioned that at COP26 Pakistan committed to a 60pc reduction in projected emissions by 2030. He introduced the National Adaptation Plan and the Living Indus Initiative, showcasing Pakistan's commitment to integrating climate considerations into national development plans. The conference has been marked by major developments, notably ued; as often happens the establishment of the Loss and Damage Fund to aid poorer countries in coping with climate difor example. I am also not sasters. Despite the fund's initiation with \$700m, it falls short of the \$100bn sought by developing nations, highlighting the challenge in securing adequate financial support for those most affected by climate change.

COP28's discussions on fossil fuels have been particularly contentious. UN Secretary General António Guterres' call for a future without fossil fuels starkly contrasts with COP28 President Sultan Ahmed al-Jaber's advocacy for their continued use. This discord underscores the complexities and political intricacies of the climate crisis, particularly in oil-producing regions like the UAE. Moreover, geopolitical tensions, notably surrounding the situation in Gaza, played into the summit's climate-focused agenda. Given the scale of the devastation there, several world leaders were compelled to diverge from the norm of avoiding politics at UN climate summits, using their platforms to criticise Israel's actions in Gaza. This aspect adds another layer of complexity to the negotiations. The decisions and discussions at COP28 will undoubtedly shape the global response to climate change and the fate of vulnerable countries like Pakistan. The summit must result in actionable commitments, not just in financial terms but also in technological and capacity-building support, to ensure an equitable path forward in the global climate effort. The climate crisis transcends national borders and political agendas, demanding a unified, decisive response. As nations convene and deliberate, the world watches, hoping for outcomes that will chart a sustainable course for the planet's future. For Pakistan, a nation at the front-line, the stakes could not be higher.

'We're worth it'

honour killings in 2022, of which 103 occurred in KP.

worth change from being easily disposable to worth something? I do not want worth ascertained by patriarchal systems that view a woman purely as a babymaking factory to keep

their capitalist dreams apologising alive. No matter how many strides women make in various fields, society still sees her primary role as wife and mother. I think dramas and ad-

vertising worldwide are a good indicator of how gender roles are reinforced to portray women as wives conflict. Women cannot and mothers. It's playing out on TikTok too, with American women especially creating 'traditional wife' content, posting their wonderful lives caring for home, husband and chillice? dren. The trend #TradWife on TikTok had 281m views awarded the next governat the time of writing. Of course, conservatives have women allies to help push their retrogressive agendas. There's the likes

Quotes telling you to of Andrew Tate, who has live your authentic life do risen in popularity despite no good to the women bans on social media platforms; who amplifies views whose worth is attached to like women are a man's someone else's notions of honour. I'm thinking of the property. woman reportedly killed

Name a place where a woman says she is free of fear of assault. Misogyny and violence against women is endemic everywhere. Policies and legal systems are failing women everywhere too the inability of pros-

ecutors to get rape convictions is one small example of that. Violence increased to record levels around the world during lockdown. The UN referred to the situation as a "shadow pandemic" in its 2021 report about domestic violence in 13 countries

In Pakistan, the FIA cannot seem to act effectively on cybercrime. The less said about law-enforcement agencies' treatment of women the better. That we have to cheer of- Dawn

Commerce News

killed in 2011, when their ficials in Kohistan for actimages appeared in a ing swiftly shows the sorry video. The HRCP recorded state of affairs. There must at least 384 cases of be consequences. From punishment for murder without recourse to a 'get How can a woman's out of jail free' card, to some rebuke of political leaders — especially Imran Khan and Nawaz Shariffor their deeply problematic misogyny-laced comments. Their supporters

double down, instead of AizazAhmad Chaudhry The largest demographic in this country are The Chinese like to call Pa-

the young, nearly half of kistan an 'iron brother'. whom are women. While This is a glowing tribute to a neighbour that has stood internet penetration is with them through thick woefully low at 25 per cent, worldviews are changing and thin. Pakistanis also due to social media - and hold China in high esteem, creating intergenerational as a neighbour that has respected their core conexercise choice or fight cerns and interests. Even back without state support. Why can't, for example, misogyny be treated as a crime that is taken seriously by the po-

I ask the men being ment to treat women's of time. However, at times, we tend to go overboard crimes with the same zeal they do expanding their in describing this relationwealth base and DHA ship. For instance, referschemes. Perhaps they ring to the latter as a relacan take inspiration from a tionship 'made in heaven', World Bank report in or telling the Chinese that March 2023, on how we trust them 'blindly', is Bangladesh offers "invalua notch higher than the oftable" development experiused 'higher than the ence for other countries Himalayas, deeper than the and how it realised at independence that investing in people was as important as steel investing in infrastructure. "Bangladesh's poverty reduction strategy centred on women's empowerment." Fertility rates have

decreased, almost all children go to school, and women's labour force participation has increased dramatically. It has contributed to

Bangladesh's economic growth. This doesn't mean it doesn't have challenges, but both government and society have reaped the benefits of development good choices.

Can Messrs Sharif and Co agree to making similar choices? Women are worth it. -- Courtesy

ment sets in.

China and Pakistan

have always been close,

even though their cul-

tures, language, cuisine

Iron brothers

ferent. The reason is that both have scrupulously respected each other's sovereignty and never interfered in the other's internal affairs. Another factor that underpins their close friendship is the economic partnership that has flourished since 2015, when the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was launched. Pakistan was in a difficult situation then. The US-led 'war on terror' had taken a heavy toll. At a time when no country was willing to invest in Pakistan, the Chinese put billions of dollars into the country's energy sector, transport infrastructure, and Gwadar Port. Naturally, Pakistanis felt deeply obliged. Of

when Pakistan was closely popular interest were the power plants, that generaligned with the West, China enjoyed a special ated enough electricity to overcome loadshedding place in its foreign policy. No doubt, the two of over 16 hours a day, as countries' 'all-weather strawell as hundreds of tegic cooperative partnerkilometres of quality ship' has endured the test roads

CPEC investments were to be complemented by certain actions that Pakistan was to undertake, most notably the Special Economic Zones. Since we did not create these zones in time, Chinese industry moved out to other countries, and not to Pakistan.

In the second phase ocean, sweeter than honey, and stronger than of CPEC, which coincided with the change of government in Pakistan (2018-Relationships are 22), greater emphasis was sometimes described as to be placed on socioecothe distance from winter fires; if you go too close, nomic development, agriculture and IT. However, you burn; if you go too far, you freeze. Pakistanis can the political signalling of benefit from viewing relafunctionaries of the then tions with all its government dampened neighbours through the Chinese enthusiasm to inlens of pragmatism and vest further in Pakistan. national interest, rather The slowdown in CPEC also coincided with the inthan extreme emotion. tensifying US-China com-There is another downpetition. The US and side to emotional streaks. other Western countries When we indulge in emostarted criticising CPEC, tion-laden refrain, expectations go high, and when citing issues of transparthe results are not comency and debt trap. mensurate, disappoint-

The

business community.

For the past one vear. however. both countries seem to be making efforts to rejuvenate CPEC. Notably, they intend to jointly build a growth cor- Courtesy Dawn

and political ethos are dif- ridor, a livelihood corridor, an innovation corridor, a green corridor, and an open corridor — an ambitious agenda, which can be accomplished only if the next elected government puts its full weight behind these initiatives and ensures ease of doing business.

The next government should also double down on efforts to complete the development of Gwadar Port, which is uniquely placed to advance cross-regional connectivity. The port infrastructure, airport, free zone, and expressway are ready. To make the port optimally functional, we need a steady provision of electricity and freshwater as well as security for Chi-nese nationals working in Gwadar. The government must also ensure that the people of Gwadar are the first beneficiaries of the port.

is China now Pakistan's largest trading partner, but the balance of trade is heavily tilted in China's favour. The two free trade agreements signed by Pakistan and China have not worked well for us. It is encouraging to note that China intends to help Pakistan improve its export capacity through experience-sharing, special studies, expert exchanges and personnel training. The Special Investment Facilitation Council created recently can be another conduit to attract Chinese investments and businesses in Pakistan.

If the 'iron brothers' wish to make this relationship stronger than steel, let us move away from rhetoric and focus our energies on implementation of the projects. We must not allow CPEC to be dragged into the US-China rivalry. A welcome development in this regard is that both countries have agreed to make CPEC projects open and inclusive, enabling third parties to benefit from CPEC investments. --

Dr. Umar Saif unveils Pakistan's IT potential

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a groundbreaking initiative, the Pakistan-Qatar IT Conference commenced at Sunday. the JW Marriott Marquis City Center in Doha, Qatar, maiden voyage of an IT drawing participation from prominent Pakistani IT the considerable firms and local Qatari unexplored opportunities businesses.

The inauguration ceremony was led by the Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and spearheaded by Dr Umar Telecommunication, Dr Saif, began with a Umar Saif. During his address at the conference, Pakistan Dr Umar Saif introduced the technological prowess of Pakistan to a diverse audience, comprising both business leaders and

government executives in data, according to a news stronger bilateral relations. Qatar, according to a news release received here on the Pakistani Embassy, the

This event marks the Pakistan Software Houses Association (PSHA), and active delegation from Pakistan to the Pakistan Business Council of Qatar, the event Qatar, aiming to tap into underscored collaborative efforts to in the region and bolster explore and harness the Pakistan's IT exports. vast untapped potential in The historic visit of

Qatar for the mutual benefit of both nations. the Pakistani delegation, As the conference unfolds, expectations are noteworthy event at the high for fruitful discussions embassy. and partnerships that will Attended by the Pakistani not only elevate Pakistan's diaspora in Qatar and IT industry but also representatives from 30 contribute to the growth leading IT companies in and development of the Pakistan, the gathering set Qatari technology sector.

> **PFC to** participate

in gulf expo

AHORE (Online): Chief Executive Officer Pakistan

Furniture Council (PFC)

Mian Kashif Ashfaq announced that PFC

delegation is set to

participate in 5-days Gulf

Expo Dubai starting from

19 February for expl new

market and promotion of

directors meeting here today

he said the primary purpose

of this visit is to explore and

enhance the possibilities of

expanding trade relations, fostering joint collaboration,

and identifying potential

investment avenues between

our two countries.He said

Chairing board of

bilateral trade.



ISLAMABAD: Diplomat women are busy is buying clothes in a stall during Annual Christmas Market organized by German Embassy at a local hotel in the Federal Capital.

UK offering assistance to improve health, education sectors in Pakistan: Mahesh

Mahesh Mishra stated that employment in the SME the United Kingdom was sector and facilitate access offering assistance to improve various sectors including health and education, in Pakistan.

hailed

of Multani mangoes and He said this while addressing a ceremony at Multan Chamber of Blue Pottery Institute, Commerce and Industry (MCCI). Mahesh Mishra significance.

Pakistan's commitment to economic UK was assisting Pakistan

China based company acquires renewable energy firm in Pak

ISLAMABAD (APP): China-based M/s. CNNP Rich Energy Co. Ltd. strategically invests in Pakistan's renewable energy sector through its wholly-owned subsidiary, M/s. CRE International Co., Limited. The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved the acquisition of Super Success Investments Limited (SSIL) Co., Ltd. CRE is the wholly

to British markets for Pakistani businessmen. Mishra commended the unique aroma and taste

sector He stated, "The Infra Zamin" (Guarantae) explored the renowned Zamin" (Guarantee) Program, a non-profit credit extension facility acknowledging its global

He maintained that designed to accelerate economic growth and enhance the regulatory environment.

China's public offering fund value tops 27 trln yuan

BEIJING (Xinhua/APP) Assets under the management of China's public offering funds totaled 27.38 trillion yuan (about 3.85 trillion U.S. dollars) by the end of October, data from the Asset Management Association of China showed.

By the end of October, a total of 11,268 public offering funds were issued here. being operated by 144 fund management companies, the association said

Governor assures all necessary facilities being provided to the business community

PESHAWAR (Online): took the form of a Khyber Haji procession as Governor's presence in King Gate triggered Ghulam Ali on Sunday **B**azar spontaneous celebrations. embarked on a sudden visit to Kohat's renowned King Local residents, children, and traders took eliciting expressions of joy from the pictures, showered petals local business community and adorned him with garlands

Witnessing Governor the strolled through King Gate Governor casually in the central bazar, mingling with the public in the market brought genuine happiness to the with people.

This spontaneous He took the opportunity to gain insights into the issues and interaction showcased strong public relations challenges faced by the between the Governor and the local community and The impromptu visit business fraternity.



FAISALABAD: Labourers are busy in packing of snacks (Paparr) in a local factory in the city.

ICCI urges Pakistani diaspora to play role in reviving economy

ISLAMABAD (APP): A Islamabad Chamber of delegation of Pakistan-US Commerce and Industry, Alumni Network (PUAN) welcomed the PUAN led by Salman Wahab, delegation and urged that the Pakistani diaspora in Alumni Engagement Coordinator of US Embassy the US should bring on Sunday visited the Islamabad Chamber of modern technology and invest in Pakistan to Commerce and Industry contribute to the economic (ICCI) and discussed revival of the country. possibilities for further improving bilateral trade and economic relations between

The

Ahsan

members of the Pakistani diaspora have achieved Pakistan and the USA. good expertise, best delegation business practices, and represented various sectors modern technology by including academia, doing business in the US engineering, entrepreneurs, and this is the time that and IT professionals, they should explore according to a press release Pakistan for joint ventures and investment to help the

He said that many

Zafar country achieve better Bakhtawari, President, the growth

RAWALPINDI: Vendors displayed warm jackets attraction for customers outside their shops at Raja Bazaar in the city.

Achieve bumper crop production **China to support** Pakistan in developing high-quality hybrid seeds

Political Commissar of Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps, said support to Pakistan in bestquality disease-resistant, high-yield hybrid seeds for cotton, canola, and wheat crops. This aims to achieve bumper crop production while also meeting the everincreasing needs of the textile industry to earn desperately needed foreign exchange.

During his visit to the head office of Guard Agricultural Research and

ISLAMABAD (INP): Liu Services, he said, "We have Jianming, Deputy Party better crop production Secretary and Deputy through modern mechanized agriculture farming," according to a news release. He said, "China will cooperate with that China will provide Pakistan for cotton hybrid seed, including sunflower, maize, sesame, and others.' He said, "China will also

share its successful experience "Water Saving with Technology." He highly appreciated the research activities of Guard Agriculture Research, and all nine members of the delegation evinced keen

interest and were invited to visit China for one-on-one and interaction with stakeholders. partnerships.

during the visit, the delegation aims to engage in meaningful discussions with key stakeholders, government officials, and business leaders in United Arab Emirates. He said we are

enthusiastic about the prospect of building lasting partnerships that will not only boost the furniture industry but also contribute to the overall economic development of both countries.

He said the PFC is fully committed to Ŵ∕s. promoting economic ties strengthening by M/s. CRE International

stability. to expand the tax net, Mishra highlighted aiming to alleviate pressure

owned subsidiary of CNNP Rich Energy Co. Limited, located in Hong Kong. M/ s. Super Success Investments Limited (SSIL) is based in Mauritius, according to a press release issued here on Sunday.SSIL owns a 100 percent shareholding in M/s. UEP Wind Power (Private) Limited is a private company operating and maintaining a 99 MW wind-powered electric generation facility

MULTAN (APP): Head of ongoing programs across Economy and Trade provinces, emphasizing (British High Commission) efforts to boost Furthermore, Mishra outlined collaborative measures to address challenges in health and education, stressing the importance of skill development in the SME Independent

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National News

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UNCHR rep, CM discuss repatriation of foreigners

United Nations High Commissioner Refugees (UNCHR) Ms. Philippa Condler met with Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi at the CM's Office here on Sunday.Matters pertaining to the evacuation of foreigners residing illegally came under discussion while matters with regard to support, coordination and cooperation to foreigner residing illegally

Independent Report LAHORE: The evacuate them were also should remain in the Secretary representative of the Naqvi underlined, "We every possible cooperation Officer of have formulated a clear for policy against foreigners residing illegally. The Punjab government is implementing the guidelines of the federal the government in this regard. So far, more than 15,000 foreigners residing illegally have been sent back. The whole process has been made transparent and it is our utmost strive that no

Implementation, Liaison Officer of UNHCR with the UNHCR," he said. Islamabad Farman Khilji, Commissioner Afghan The representative of UNHCR acknowledged Refugees in Punjab Rana that the steps being taken Muhammad Arshad, by the government to give Director Afghan Refugees a documentary shape with Muhammad Usman Ghani regard to the evacuation of and officials concerned foreigners residing illegally were also present. Meanwhile, Punjab along with regulating the Caretaker Chief Minister whole process is an

appreciable step.Provincial Mohsin Naqvi paid a Minister for Information surprise visit to Allama Amir Mir, Additional IG, Iqbal Town Police Station Special Secretary (Home), here on Sunday. Sindh Rangers

LAHORE: Punjab Governor Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman in a group photo with children of SOS village. Wife of Governor Punjab Aysha Baligh is also present.

MWM Chairman says: We reject two-state solution, state-only **Palestine**

KOHAT (Online): In March took the form of a rally support of the oppressed people of Gaza and Palestine and against the aggression of the usurper Israel, Majlis Muslimeen Wahdat (MWM) organized grand 'Azadi e Palestine March" in Kohat. March was led by the head of Majlis Wahdat Muslimeen Pakistan Allama Raja Nasir Abbas Jafari, the and Elders of Kohat.

on Tal Parachinar highway MWM leader Syed Nasir Abbas Shirazi, Provincial President MWM KP Allama Jahanzeb Jafari Majlis Ulema Maktab Ahl Bait Khyber Pakhtunkhwa along with Provincial President Allama Ahmad Rouhani along with Ulemas

hosts Peace **Bicycle Rally** KARAČHI (APP): Sindh Rangers on Sunday hosted a peace bicycle rally to persuade the masses to partici pate in peaceful healthy activities for further promotion of sports and tourism in the port city. Over 50 male and female

cyclists from different walks also present. of life participated in the bicycle rally, said a spokesperson. The rally started from Indus Chowrangi and passed through Qayyumabad, Avesha Masjid, Člock Tower to be praised for taking Bilawal Chowrangi. good care of the children.

He said that along with educating the children, 16th Aalmi Urdu Conference urges UN, global powers

Punjab governor meets children of SOS Village character building is very Independent Report LAHORE:

important. Punjab He asked the children Governor Muhammad to inculcate high moral Balighur Rehman met with

values in themselves and children of SOS Children's achieve excellence in Village here at the Governor's House on life. The governor added that a good character Sunday. Ayesha Baligh, enables one to achieve wife of the governor, was success in life and hereafter. The governor said Appreciating the administration of SOS that children are our future Children's Village, he said and the management and said that institutions like entire team of SOS SOS Children's Village Children Village deserves were doing a good job by

providing good care,

education, and training to

children without parents.

CM KP condemns tragic bus shooting in Chilas, offers condolences, assures coop. the Chief Minister strongly condemned the

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Chief Minister KPK Justice ® Syed Arshad Hussain Shah has expressed profound grief over the tragic incident of an unknown armed attack on a passenger bus in the Hudur area of Chilas at Karakoram Highway (KKH), resulting in the loss of precious human lives.In an official statement from his office,

Kataoka, acknowledged as

Hosted by Salim

the "Father of Urdu in Ja-

Mughal, the session cel-ebrated Professor

Kataoka's dedication to

promoting the Urdu lan-

guage and literature in Ja-

A captivating session titled "Meeting with Bushra Ansari" featured

the legendary artist shar-

ing her journey and con-

cerns about changing fan

pan.

pan.

behaviour.

Taking swift action, the Chief Minister contacted the Additional Chief Secretary incident and extended heartfelt sympathies to the Interior, directing him to grieving families. CM Arshad Hussain Shah closely monitor the security situation in the border areas offered sincere condolences of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and prayers for the and the Quetta-Karachi forgiveness and patience of highway. Emphasizing the the families affected by importance of maintaining this devastating event. He law and order, Chief Minister Shah instructed also conveyed best wishes for the swift recovery of local police to remain those injured in the attack. vigilant.

Sindhi Culture Day celebrated with traditional zest across sindh

By Tanyeer Ahmed Soomro MIRPUR MATHELO: On

on Sindhi songs and expressed love for Sindhi culture, while rallies were the occasion of Sindhi Cul- taken out by political and social leaders, Jai Sindh, Jai ture Day, like other cities

occasion.

Arain Zeeshan Arain, Hakim Abro, Hafiz Naeem Kolachi Hadi Bakhsh Jalbani Muhammad Arif Tanwari Jai Sindh National Front leader Faqir Ramzan Kalwar.

ers. A notable session love for Sindh and the cul-

to thwart Israeli aggression to secure Palestine KARACHI (APP): The lighted the life and art of 16th Aalmi Ùrdu Ćonferrevered actors, poets, and ence on Sunday concluded literary figures including here at the Arts Council of Shakeel, Amjad Islam Amjad, Zia Mohyeddin,

International News

The Conference fea-Shoaib Hashmi, and Qavi tured a diverse range of ses-Khan. The session resonated with the audience,

shedding light on the rich contributions of the luminaries The "Badalta Hua

Samaj" session addressed societal changes, featuring insightful perspectives from Noor-ul-Huda Shah, Ghazi Salahuddin, Nasir Memon, and Haris Khalil. Nasir Memon emphasized positive transformations in Pakistani society, chaltitled "Yaad Raftagan" high- lenging negative percep-

tions propagated by social The media. Moreover, in "Japan main Urdu," the audience

showcased diversity with a session titled "Pashto Language and Literature Giants," moderated by Gulfam Khan. Prominent had the privilege of engaging with Professor Hiroji

conference

figures in Pashto literature, including Abaseen Yousafzai, Irfanullah, and Qaiser Afridi, were recognized for their significant contributions.



KARACHI: Renowned Writer Mustansar Hussain Tarar addressing during a closing ceremony of 16th Aalmi Urdu Conference at Arts Council.



of Sindh, Sindhi Culture Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm in Mirpur Mathelo, the district headquarters of Ghotki district.

Dressed and danced

Sindhi culture slogans echoed the city, on this occa-sion, DHQ Press Club Mirpur Mathelo. A dignified ceremony

was held in front of DHQ ture of Sindh.

Press Club, children from different schools, famous folk artists, political social leaders and journalists expressed their love for the great culture of Sindh with Pakistan Karachi. Sindhi cultural songs on this

Ali Nawaz Jalbani sions, discussions, and in-Azam Gabol, Taj Tanwari, sightful dialogues. Latif Laghari, Allah Wasayo The last day com-Wasir, Ghulam Hussain menced with a session Soomro, Mumtaz Hussain titled "Masters of Urdu

Criticism," chaired by the distinguished scholar and critic Tahseen Firaqi. Engaging discussions unfolded about prominent figures such as Shamsur , including a large number of Rahman Faruqi, Gopi political social organizations Chand Narang, and othand nationalist leaders participated and expressed their

700 Palestinians killed in Gaza in last 24 hours: govt

Monitoring Desk

GAZA: The director general of the Government Media Office in Gaza has told the foreign media that more than 700 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza during the last 24 hours.

He added that over 1.5 million people have also been displaced in the Gaza Strip. Israel intensifies strikes on Gaza amid international calls for ceasefire Israel launched hundreds of strikes on Saturday evening and Sunday on what it referred to as "Hamas infrastructure targets", reports FRANCE 24's Luke Shrago from Tel Aviv.

Israeli forces said they have hit tunnels, command posts and warehouses holding ammunition as they widen their offensive into southern Gaza. Hamas authorities, as a result, have started to up-

date their death tolls. Gaza and the lack of basic necessities in the Palestin-These latest strikes

come as worldwide pressure ian territory. Francis, who is suffercontinues to mount, with international negotiators ing from a lung inflammatrying to reintroduce a tion, had his words read by pause in the fighting. A rean aide during his Sunday newed pause is looking un-Angelus message, which he likely, reports Shrago, as delivered indoors from his Hamas and Israel are blam-Vatican residence rather ing each other for the colthan by a window overlapse of their seven-day looking St. Peter's Square. ceasefire, with both saying the other didn't fulfill the

Meanwhile Israeli settlers attacked two Palestinterms of the truce. Pope deian villages in the occupied plores end of Israeli-Ĥamas West Bank late on Saturday killing one man and torch ing a car, Palestinian au truce, calls for new ceasefire thorities said.

Russia says it

hit air defence

HQ in

Ukraine's Dnipro

Monitoring Desk

MOSCOW: Russian forces

hit a fortified commander

day said it was "painful" The Palestinian amto see that the truce bebulance service said a 38tween Israel and Hamas had been broken and called on year-old man in the town of Qarawat Bani Hassan, all parties involved to reach a new ceasefire agreement in the northern West Bank was shot in the chest and died as residents con-

He also said he was thinking about the people fronted settlers and Israeli still being held hostage in soldiers.

Pope Francis on Sun-

as soon as possible.



Mourners carry the body of 38-year-old Palestinian, Ahmad Assi, who was killed in an Israeli settler raid, during his funeral near Salfit in the Israelioccupied West Bank.

WHO says Gaza's health system must be protected as disease spreads

Monitoring Desk GENEVA: The World Health Organization (WHO) on Wednesday called for Gaza's vulnerable health infrastructure to be safeguarded as the war-torn enclave faces an increased risk of epidemics and challenges in detecting infec-

tious diseases. A fragile truce agreement between Israel and Hamas last week has allowed WHO and aid organizations to increase their

expanded.

Speaking at a press the alarm about the spread

said

Pope deplores end of Israel-Hamas truce, voices hope for new ceasefire

Monitoring Desk VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis on Sunday said it was "painful" to see that the truce between Israel and Hamas had been broken. and voiced hope that all parties involved can reach a new ceasefire "as soon as which 1,200 Israelis were

A seven-day pause in the fighting between Israeli forces and Hamas militants, which had allowed the exchange of Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners, collapsed on Friday. On

conference in Geneva, of infectious disease in Gaza, where the internal World Health Organization displacement of the popu-Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus lation has caused oversaid only 15 of Gaza's 36 crowding in shelters and hospitals were still funcother temporary living fationing and were comcilities pletely overwhelmed.

The agency has noted "Of the 25 hospitals a staggering increase in cases north of the Wadi Gaza of diarrhoea, especially (river) before the conflict among infants and children, and detected "very serious began, only three are functioning at the most basic signals around acute jaunlevel, but they lack fuel, dice syndrome" in the enclave.

> crowding, the risks are increasing for epidemics of respiratory tract infections, acute watery diarrhoea, hepatitis, scabies, lice and other diseases."

India agrees to withdraw soldiers from Maldives -President Muizzu **Monitoring Desk**

NEW DELHI: India's government has agreed to withdraw its soldiers from the Maldives, the Indian Ocean archipelago's President Mohamed Muizzu said on Sunday. Muizzu won the presidential election in September, having campaigned to alter the Maldives's "India first" policy and prom-ising removal of a small Indian military presence of some 75 personnel. "In the discussions we had, the Indian government has agreed to remove Indian soldiers,'

Ukraine says blackout at N-plant risked 'accident' **Monitoring Desk**

diesel generators," Ukraine's nuclear energy YIV: Ukraine said on Saturday that two power lines operator said in a stateconnecting its electricity ment It said the plant was

grid to the Zaporizhzhia on "the verge of a nuclear nuclear plant were cut overnight, putting the plant at and radiation accident' before Ukrainian specialrisk of an "accident".

The plant has been at ists were able to promptly the centre of fighting since it restore off-site power. was captured by Russian The plant's Russian-inforces last year, and both stalled operator confirmed

it resorted to diesel generators overnight, but said that it had operated within safe limits and that no safety violations were reported.



Lanao Del Sur Governor Mamintal Adiong Jr. visits the injured at a hospital following an explosion during a Catholic Mass in a gymnasium at Mindanao State University, in Marawi, Philippines.

Lula in Berlin for first Brazil-Germany talks in eight years

Monitoring Desk

BERLIN: Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva is set to land in Berlin on Sunday for the first Brazilian-German government consultations in eight years taking office in late 2021 to as Latin America and Europe's largest economies seek to revive ties.

bal South. Germany also considers Brazil a key part-Lula has jetted across the globe since returning to office in January, trying to restore Brazil's standing on the global stage after years of diplomatic isolation under his far-right predecessor Jair Bolsonaro, to mixed results. He is expected to have dinner on Sunday with

ner in its bid to diversify its trade, in part to reduce its reliance on China, and plug a gap in skilled labour. Both countries are pushing for a quick trade deal between the European Union

fore the consultations on

Monday. Scholz was the

first foreign leader to visit

Lula in Brazil, just weeks

lor has been on a quest since

improve ties with the Glo-

The German Chancel-

after his inauguration.

and Mercosur, South America's major trading bloc over which Brazil currently fellow leftist, German presides. Chancellor Olaf Scholz, be-



Members of the International Federation of Medical Students Associations hold placards during a protest demanding an end to fossil fuels at COP28 World Climate Summit, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Think of what happened to Hong Kong when you vote, Taiwan president says

Monitoring Desk TAIPEI: Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen appealed to voters on Sunday to think of what had happened to Chi-nese-controlled Hong Kong when they cast their ballots next month, saying peace must be backed up with a commitment to boost defences.

Taiwan prepares for presidential and parliamentary elections on Jan 13 as China, which claims the Progressive Party (DPP).

democratically governed island as its own territory, ramps up military pressure to assert its claims, including two major war games around the island in the past year and a half. China and Taiwan's main opposition party, the Kuomintang (KMT), have cast the election as a choice between war and peace. China detests Taiwan's ruling Democratic

tional-tactical and army aviation, unmanned aerial vehicles, missile forces and artillery. Reuters was not ports from either side. Earlier on Sunday, Ukraine's air force said Russia launched 12 drones and a cruise missile at

Ukraine overnight, with air defence systems destroying 10 drones before they reached their targets. Russia's defence min

and

istry also said it its daily dispatch that it hit fuel depossible' pots in the areas of Myrhorod, Poltava region

and the city of Khmelnytskyi, an ammunition arsenal in the Mykolaiv region as well as manpower and equipment in 107 various districts

Sunday, Israel stepped up its bombing campaign. More than 15,400 Palestinians have been killed as of Sunday, according to Palestinian officials, in the conflict that broke out after a Hamas attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7 in

killed and more than 200 taken hostage. "It is painful that the truce has been broken. This means death, destruction and misery," Francis said . his words read out by an aide because of the pope's

water and food," Tedros "With severe over-'The remaining health system capacity must be protected, supported and WHO has sounded

sides have accused each other of compromising its safety. "Due to the complete blackout, the nuclear power plant switched to powering its own needs from 20

post of Ukraine's "East" air deliveries of essential supdefence and alerting centre plies but these have been in the central city of far from enough to meet the Dnipro, the Russian deneeds of Gaza's 2.3 million fence ministry said on Sunpeople day. It said that it inflicted combined strikes by opera-

immediately able to corroborate the battlefield re-

Daily **Independent**, Hub

PM commends UAE's \$30bln climate fund as historic

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar while lauding the United Arab Emirates announcement of a \$30 billion fund to channel investments to mitigate climate change, has said that the climate fund initiative by the UAE is promising and will be translated into tangible projects, especially in the Global South. However, at the same time, the prime minister noted that the challenge was global, and the contribution has to be global as well. "It is not just the UAE who should cater to climate mitigation," he opined during an interview with Aletihad, a

UAE newspaper. The caretaker prime minister also highlighted the importance of modern knowledge-based economies and the transformation towards low carbon, add- as saying.

ing that Pakistan considered the climate change a "national security challenge" and a shared global issue.

He said the climate change was a common challenge to all of them, whether it was a small nation or a large nation. Elaborating his viewpoint, the caretaker prime minister further said that one could not rely on the assumption that drought would only affect a particular country, or a hurricane would target a specific nation, or the melting of a glacier would only occur in certain regions.

'Yes, there will be more vulnerable countries, but that vulnerability does not protect others. Climate change is changing its face, shape, and form, affecting more or less the entire globe," the media outlet quoted the prime minister

pillar of development.

DUBAI: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar meets the Pakistani students who won the award in one of the categories of Zayed



LAHORE (APP): Special conference was arranged Representative to the Prime Minister on Religious Harmony and the Pakistani Diaspora in Middle East and Islamic Countries Hafiz Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi has stressed the need for collective efforts from all stakeholders to promote interfaith harmony in the country, as it is the key He was addressing the

Interfaith Harmony Council conference, hosted by International Interfaith Harmony Council here at a local hotel on Sunday. The

gion and beliefs of others. The Pakistan's Conwith an aimed to bringing together a diverse array of stitution guaranteed the religious scholars and leadrights of every citizen livers from various faiths, all ing in the country, he remarked and mentioned that united under the common goal of promoting harmony minority communities and thwarting divisive agenshould come together for das. Ashrafi, who is also the development of the counchairman of Pakistan Ulema try. He said that every religion teaches peace and love Council, said the most important thing for interfaith and discourages hatred, harmony was mutual readding that the government and security forces had alspect between religious denominations and the accepways stood shoulder to tance of others, adding that shoulder with the minority nobody should abandon communities. Ashrafi said their religion and beliefs, nor that Pakistan always de-should they attack the reli- sires peaceful and produc-

tive relations with all neighboring countries, adding that peace is the only message of Pakistan as it is curtail for any country's development. He said that state-ofthe-art facilities were being provided to religious tourists as per direction of Caretaker Prime Minister and Army Chief. He said Pakistan always whole-heartedly welcomed all religious tourists coming from across the world. Kartarpur Corridor was made operational as a gesture of peace and the Sikh pilgrims were invited to vis-

its their holy places. **PM** greets people on observance of Sindhi

Cultural Day ISLAMABAD (APP) Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Sunday congratulated the people of Sindh province on observance of Sindhi Cultural Day and said that the Sindhi culture was one of the fascinating colours of different civilizations and cultures of Pakistan. In a message shared by PM Office Media Wing in a press release, the prime minister said the Sindhi Cultural Day was being celebrated to mark the centuries-old beautiful culture and customs.

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Greets Sindhi people on Sindh Culture Day: CM stresses need to celebrate important days of all nationalities at national level

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stressed the need to celebrate important days of all nationalities at national level in order to promote peaceful environment. In a message issued on the Sindh Culture Day observed on Sunday, the Chief Minister congratulated the Sindhi brethren and sisters living all over the world on their Čulture Day. He said we need to

said culture spreads the colour of happiness in life of the people. He said that the culture of Pakistan is a combination and bouquet of different cultures and the Sindhi culture is prominent among them. He also said that the Sindhi culture is the culture of peace, love, beautiful tradition and solidarity. He said that it is our top responsibility to keep alive of all cultures of Pakistan and motivate the younger generation to get education and consciouscelebrate the important ness

days of all nationalities so He said that culture, civilization, love and human that they could play their role in development and respect is the name of conprosperity of the country. necting with the mother-The Chief Minister land.

Bugti flays firing incident on passenger bus in Chilas

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti on Sunday strongly condemned the firing incident on a passenger bus in Gilgit-Baltistan's Chilas area on late Saturday evening.

Deeply saddened by the loss of precious lives due to firing by terrorists, the Minister expressed sorrow and grief over the martyrdom of the passengers due to firing by the terrorists and expressed heartfelt sympathy with the bereaved families of the mar-

Targeting civilians is a cowardly act, the minister said in his message adding that Anti-national elements are trying to sabotage the peace of Gilgit-Baltistan however such cowardly acts boost the morale of our valiant forces to fight the terrorism with more vigor

and bravery. The minister further said that the enemies of the country want to destroy the peace of a peaceful area like Gilgit-Baltistan but they will be failed.

He said that the sacrifices of the Pakistani nation in the war against terrorism will not go in vain



OUETTA: President of Local Councils Officers Association, Hafiz Munir Ahmad Kurd along with others addresses to media persons during press conference held at Ouetta press club.

Levies rendered great sacrifices in war against terror: Jan Achakzai & Zubair Jamali pay homage to martyr Levies personnel

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai and Minister for Home, Mir Zubair Jamali have expressed condolence and deep grief and sorrow over the martyrdom of two Levies force cops in Duki.

Sustainability Awards 2023.

In their separate condolence and condemnation statements issued issued here on Sunday, they paid homage to the Levies force personnel martyred in exchange of fire with armed criminals. Jan Achakzai said that we are proud of sacri-

fices of the martyrs. He said terrorism.

that our brave Levels nation is proud of the serjawans embraced martyrdom during the operation vices of the security forces against criminals. and is standing by them. He expressed condo-

The caretaker Chief lence with the bereaved Minister said that we are families of the martyrs and proud of the bravery of our prayed for them. brave jawans of levies force He also prayed that may Allah Almighty rest who embraced martyrdom

in the line of duty. the departed souls into Its He said that we would eternal peace and give not let the bereaved famienough strength and palies of martyrs alone.

ANP ready

tor general election:

Aimal Wali

PESHAWAR (APP): Pro-

Addressing a big pub-

tience to the bereaved fami-He also directed to the lies to bear the tragic loss, concerned authorities to complete the process of Similarly, Mir Zubair Jamali said that Levies payment of the compensaforce has rendered great saction and other incentives to rifices in the war against the bereaved families under Shuhada package imm.

Pakistan defeats India, bags vice-chairmanship of **UNESCO** executive board He said that the whole

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan has been elected as Vice Chair of the UNESCO executive board defeating its historical opponent India by 20 votes for the term 2023 to 2025. Pakistan was elected as Vice Chair of the UNESCO Executive Board for the term 2023-2025 from the Asia Pacific Group. The elections were held at the 218th Session of the UNESCO Executive Board held in Paris. In the elections, Pakistan secured 38 votes whereas

India got 18. The re-election of Pakistan for the UNESCO Executive Board will very beneficial for the country.

The re-election is proof of Pakistan's longstanding support and constructive role in the United Nations.

ing the organization's policies and programs. The vicechairmanship of the Executive Board of UNESCO will provide Pakistan an excellent opportunity to enhance its diplomatic relations and cooperation with other member countries. Pakistan will play an important role in global advocacy and cooperation on issues of education, cul ture, science and communication.

Speakers for holistic, 1377399

The Executive Board plays an important role in shap-

Ajrak Topi Culture Ďay at Karachi Press Club.

woven into tapestry of Sindhi culture: Zardari

Peace, love, hospitality

in connection of the International Day of Persons

Missing facilities exposing

citizens to health hazards

with Disabilities, held at Quetta press club.

KARACHI (INP): Former president Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday felicitated all Sindhis on the occasion of Sindhi Culture Day.

In his felicitation message, the PPP leader said that nations are identified by their cultures, and the culture of Sindh has a history of peace, love, bravery and hospitality.

Zardari recalled that the PPP founding leader, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, had established a ministry to preserve the cultures of all communities residing in Pakistan.

He said that the Lok Virsa Museum in Islamabad narrates the history of the cultures of the communities residing in the country

QUETTA (APP): Insuffi-

cient facilities of standard

Intensive Care Units

(ICUs) and Polymerase

Chain Reaction (PRC) labo-

ratories as well as ineffec-

tive scientific approach to

deal with epidemics ex-

posed thousands of

Balochistan residents to

hazardous spread of epi-

demics. Application of sci-

entific approaches like In-

fection Prevention and

Control (IPC) and Antimi-

crobial Resistance (AMR)

was also yet to be fully in

place as witnessed in recent

emergence of Crimean-

Congo Haemorrhagic Fever

cluding doctors, nurses and

paramedics was also seen

falling short of meeting in-

ternational standards of

treatment for CCHF as its

recent spread claimed four

lives and many had to be

shifted to Karachi hospitals.

Healthcare staff in-

virus (CCHF).

Extending congratulavincial President of Awami tions to the people of Sindh National Party (ANP) and the entire country on Aimal Wali Khan here Sun-Sindhi Culture Day, PPP day said that free, fair and Women Wing Central Presitransparent election would dent Faryal Talpur said that help strengthen democracy the culture of the Indus Valon the country and his ley is a mirror of a 5,000party was ready for Februyear-old and great civilisation. She said that ary 8, 2024 election. Sindhi topi, Ajrak, art and lic gathering here, the ANP leader said that his party the Sindhi language are dis-tinct identities. Talpur stated that Pakistan is immensely rich in unparalleled

after winning the election would remove the 10 years long sense of deprivation of cultural heritage, and "it is people of Khyber the responsibility of all of Pakthunkhwa as according to him PTI had failed to us to play our role in preserving and promoting this great heritage". address masses issues. He claimed that PTI

The media should also play a leadership role had disappointed the people in its nearly 10 in promoting all cultures of Pakistan, she added years unpopular rule and his party would start de-

velopment projects for so-LAHORE (INP): Jamaat-ecioeconomic emancipation of electorates on uniformed basis. Aimal Wali said ANF would field candidates in all constituencies and would achieve landslide victory. Aimal Wali said that his next general elections is not party would continue acceptable - an obvious refstruggle for rights of people **QUETTA: Members of Supreme Welfare Society** and supremacy of democsupremo and the former and disable persons participate in awareness walk, racy. He urged party work-

PTI chairman. ers to start mobilization of The JI leader, during a masses for election and inmasses for election and in-formed them about the Mansoora, stressed the are hopeful that the elecparty manfestio.

in the country, saying that it went beyond merely Islami chief Sirajul Haq on Sunday said that the 'selecchanging faces. tion' of the prime minister He expressed his conbased on being either a bluecern over the escalating ineyed person or a super

KARACHI: Folk singer performing Sindhi song during celebration of Sindhi

Sirajul Haq deems

PM 'selection' between blue-eyed,

super blue-eyed persons unacceptable

justice and despair in the blue-eyed person in the country, highlighting the distress of the common man as the entire nation remains entangled in a quagmire. erence to the PML-N will continue their efforts from December 10 to February 8 for the elections. We

past decade has been a nightmare for the people, The country's youth witnessing a sequence of

governments, including the PTI, a coalition government for 16 months, and now a need for a systemic change tions will be held in the caretaker setup.

NAB Balochistan inspires student talent with divisional competitions

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Accountabiling to cultivate awareness ity Bureau (NAB) Balochistan in collaboration ruption. with the Education Depart-

ment, on Sunday conducted divisional-level competitions, featuring declamastitutions were present.

Dr. Saeed Ahmed

Khan from Mercy Corps Balochistan served as the chief guest, alongside the the program, the chief

and vigilance against corunique ways. Throughout

colleges, and schools, aim- from other educational in-The students conveyed their perspectives on the detrimental effects of corruption in their own and

guest, Director NAB

inclusive strategy to address PWDs challenges

speakers at a seminar in connection with the Person With Disabilities (PWDs) global day called for a holistic and inclusive strategy to address the challenges faced by the marginalized communities of the society that demand urgent attention to become an active member of the society.

On the occasion, Secretary Social Welfare Syed Sikandar Shah, Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafqaat, Senior Area Program Manager of Islamic Relief Afzal Haider Khan, President Quetta Online Zia Khan, DG Social Welfare Tariq Mengal, Dr. Humayun Amiri, Dr. Saeed Ullah representative of Mercy Corps, Dr. Sarmad, Dr. Ayub Akbari, Nasir Iqbal, Dr. Tahir Rashid from BRSP, Ahmed Jalal, Riyaz Baloch, other organizations.

QUETTA (APP): The Zarghuna Wado were present. Balochistan Caretaker Chief Minister Ali Mardan Khan Domki and Adviser to CM for Social Welfare Shania Khan were also participated in the ceremony. Secretary Social Welfare Syed Sikandar Shah called to play a joint role to utilize the talent of persons with disabilities and make them useful citizens in order to put the country on the path of development and prosperity. He said 'we have to provide them with education and training, rehabilitation services and access to information and com-

munication technology to meet the demands of the present age." The Secretary while addressing a ceremony organized in the collaboration of Islamic Relief, Quetta Online, Social Welfare Department, UNICEF, Mercy Corps and



QUETTA: Balochistan Archery Association leader, Asif Lango addresses to participants during seminar organized by Balochistan Archery Association, held at Quetta press club.

PTI's intra-party election against principles of democracy: Khattak

man, Pervez Khattak here

Sunday said that the intra-

party election of PTI was

against the principles of

merely paperwork.

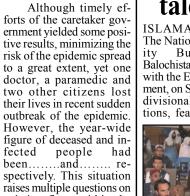
PESHAWAR (APP): Paki- revealed a lack of democstan Tahreek-e-Insaf Parlia-mentarians (PTIP) Chairracy in the party.

He claimed that the former chairman of PTI did not tolerate anyone and his irrational decisions caused the dissolution of Punjab and KP assemblies.

democracy and the right to vote. Expressing his con-Following the end of the PTI Government in the cerns over the intra-party election of Pakistan centre, Pervez Khattak Tahreek-e-Insaf, Pervez claimed that the former PTI Khattak termed the PTI's chairman thought he would intra-party election as a not let the country run and political gimmick and wanted to spread political chaos in the country, and

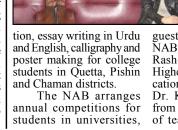
falking to media per-KP and Punjab assemblies sons here, Pervez Khattak were prematurely dissaid the PTI election has solved.

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raises multiple questions on existing flaws within the health system urging the need for better adherence to global guidelines designed for best healthcare and curbing the spread of antimicrobial

resistance (AMR) and pathogens. "Soon after the CCHF outbreak in Quetta, the health department shifted the infected patients including doctors, nurses and health workers to Karachi to control the situation



guests of honor Director NAB Balochistan Haroon Rasheed and Director of Higher and Technical Education Colleges Professor Dr. Kaleemullah. Apart from them, a large number of teachers and students combating corruption.

Haroon Rasheed and other guests shared their sentiments opposing corruption. In their speeches, they underscored the vital role of educational institutions in

Sunday. According to the details, three siblings were crushed by an over-speed-ing truck in Nawabshah, Sindh. The tragic accident took place at Sarhari link road in Nawabshah. The details showed that all four

country. The country will

have to face severe hard-

ships if the democracy is

derailed," he said. The JI chief berated

former rulers for prioritising stashing of their bank bal-

ances over public welfare.

Three siblings

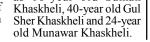
among five

dead in road

According to Siraj, the

brothers were going to their work when they were crushed by an over-speed-ing truck. Three brothers were killed on the spot while one sustained injuries. The deceased and the

injured were shifted to the Sakrand hospital. The de-ceased were later identified as 18-year old Saman Khaskheli, 40-year old Gul



accidents NAWABSHAH (INP): As many as five people were killed in two accidents in parts of the country on