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ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi addressing the inaugural session of the Islamabad Conclave 2023 titled "Pakistan in a changing world", at the Institute of Strategic Studies.

"Balochistan entangled in long-standing tribal feuds":

Grand tribal Jirga invites "enraged" Balochs to join national mainstream to play effective role in dev. of country

Independent Report

QUETTA: The grand tribal Jirga has called for resolving all long-standing tribal disputes and invited the "enraged" Balochs to join the national mainstream.

The Jirga unanimously decided to expedite the efforts for establishing sustainable peace in the province. The Jirga was of the strong view that the solution can be found out to resolve the issues being faced, and invited the angry Baloch leaders to come on the dialogue table.

The tribal Jirga was held at the Chief Minister secretariat here on Wednesday.

Prominent among those present in the tribal Jirga were the caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Nawab Muhammad Khan

Shahwani, Sardar Umar Khan Gorgaij, caretaker Provincial Minister for Youth Affairs, Mir Jamal Khan Raisani, Minister for Home, Mir Zubair Jamali, former militant commander, Gulzar Imam Shambay besides other

Addressing the participants of Jirga, the caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Domki regretfully pointed out Balochistan is entangled in the long-standing tribal dis-

He said that the efforts can be expedited to end the tribal clashes through elders.
The Chief Minister

minced no words when he said that we are ready to hold talks with everyone.

However the relaxation Domki, tribal elder of the state may not be considered as it's weakness

He said that it would be our humble request to all elders to take personal interest in resolving the burning

issues of the tribal disputes. He invited the angry Balochs present abroad or on mountains through tribal Jirga to join the national mainstream

He said that the state has always played the role of great mother and kind father and would continue to do so in future. He asserted that no one would be allowed to sabotage peace of the

Addressing the Jirga, the tribal chieftain of Shahwani tribe, Nawab Muhammad Shahwani stressed that it is necessary to restore trust

among the government and tribal personalities for establishing sustainable peace in the province.



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki expressing his views at Grand Jirga regarding peace and reconciliation process in the province

Solangi unveils 24-hour PTV Multan Center, vows to ensure transparent polls

Says PTV Multan transmission thru satellite to open new avenues of opportunities for poets, artists

MULTAN (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi said on Wednesday that general elections would be held on February 8, 2024 and full preparations were underway to accomplish the task in a fair and transparent man-

Talking to media persons at the inaugural ceremony of the 24-hour regional transmission of Pakistan Television Multan, he said that the people would ultimately decide the next government of the country and formally give the mandate on elections

day through the ballot. He dispelled any doubt by some quarters about the holding of general elections.

He pointed out that Preamble of the Constitution had indicated that responsibility of an elected elected representatives would ultimately run the affairs of the country

Answering a question, he said the media was free and the judiciary was independent in the country.

Solangi said that multiple voices and slogans were the hallmark of democracy and no one should worry about the democratic norms. "Democracy does not harbour sheer silence just like a graveyard," he remarked. He said at the moment, the performance of the next parliament and government could not be

assessed in advance. "We will hand over affairs of the country to the next government in a better state than the point when the caretaker government took over the charge," he added. He categorically stated that fundamental decision-making was not the task of caretaker govern-

government and elected parliament. However, he said the

ment, and it was surely the

present caretaker regime would do whatever the possible within next two months for the betterment

of the country. To a question, he said that Ministry of Food Se curity was doing its job in an efficient manner, and steps were being taken for agriculture sector development under SIFC.

He said the Federal government would work with provinces for the development of this sector despite the fact that agriculture was the provincial

subject. He said that Pakistan Television has officially commenced the 24-hour regional broadcasting from

Multan Center. The minister said that the PTV Multan Center would broadcast eight current affairs programmes in a week. Moreover, it would also produce music, literature and children programmes from PTV

Multan



LAHORE: Muslim League (PML-N) President, Nawaz Sharif along with Shahbaz Sharif, Maryam Nawaz and others exchanges views with Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) President, Chaudhry Shujaat during meeting to discuss electoral alliance and seat adjustments on Gujrat seats, in Lahore.

Pakistan needs dynamic approach to address threats to regional peace: President

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday said amid the challenging global scenario, Pakistan required a dynamic approach to address the threats to regional

Addressing the inaugural session of Islamabad Conclave 2023 themed Pakistan in a changing world' organized by Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), he said Pakistan must consciously rediscover its vision in the wake of super power rivalries and interference of neighbouring states.

The president, in this regard, emphasized close liaison among politicians and parliamentarians, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defence for effective deliberations and policy-mak-

Pakistan's strategic shift from geo-politics to geoeconomic and the regional situation in the wake of India's belligerence needed the policies in line with regional and systemic developments. President Alvi said the

President Alvi said

civilized world today had forgotten the principles of morality and was witnessing prevalence of wars waged by powerful against weaker segments. The situation in Gaza,

he said, was an alarming sign of the apathy of the world which could not stop the massacre of innocent people including women and children.

He regretted that even the gory imagery of Gaza killings could not shake the world's conscience, terming it a failure of the intellect of mankind.

IHC rejects Imran petition seeking withdrawal of his appeal plea against EC decision

ISLAMABAD (Online): Justice (CJ) IHC Aamer Islamabad High Court (IHC) has rejected PTI chairman Imran Khan petition seeking withdrawal of his appeal plea against Election Commission (EC) decision in Toshakhana ref-

The court announced reserved judgment on PTI chairman petition to withdraw his appeal plea against EC October 21, 2022 decision. The decision was announced by Chief High Court.

Farooq here Wednesday. The court rejected chairman PTI petition.

The court had reserved judgment on September 13 after hearing the arguments of the respondents It is pertinent to men-

tion here chairman PTI had challenged EC October 21. 2022 decision. Chairman PTI wants to withdraw the appeal from

IHC and run it in Lahore



MULTAN: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi unveiling plaque to inaugurate the PTV National Multan 24/7 transmission at PTV Centre.

SC seeks reply in appeal against census in Balochistan

lated to the CCI.

with the census.

any relevant person.

He argued that the ob-

Petitioner's lawyer

Addressing the lawyer

"Now the solution may

Kamran Murtaza said that

fundamental rights of the

citizens were connected

Justice Ahsan said that the

Chief Minister whom you

be that you should not vote

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court (SC) Wednesday sought reply from additional attorney general and advocate general Balochistan in an appeal against census in the prov-

A three-member bench of the top court presided by Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan heard the case.

At the outset of hearing, Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan noted that the petitioner had objected over the participation of acting chief minister in the meeting of council of common inter-

Additional Attorney future," he said.

Dr Shamshad awarded with 'Most **Influential Woman in Islamic Business and Finance 2023'**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs Dr Shamshad Akhtar was honoured with the prestigious Award of 'Most Influential Woman in Islamic Business and Finance 2023' at the 5th Annual WOMANi event held in Dubai, organized by Cambridge IFA.

Dr. Akthar's outstanding contributions to the field were recognized, especially her unwavering commitment and groundbreaking efforts in advancing Islamic finance and economics globally, the Ministry of Finance Wednesday posted

have any doubts about the general elections, scheduled to be held on February 8, "I have no doubt about it... The concerns are often tively better way. The prime minister associated with our politi-

cal system. We have a history of our own," he remarked in an interview with Independent Urdu, published on Wednesday. The prime minister ex-

pressed the hope that the elections would be held in free and fair manner. To a question, he said he did not consider the gen-

eral elections of the 70s as a benchmark either as many people had different opinions about those polls. "Of course, they were

very transparent. At that time, it was already decided

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said way they would go to, so I consider it a problem," he that the nation should not added.

Nation should have no doubt

about general elections on

February 8: PM Kakar

He said as the arrangements were in place, and he was hopeful that the caretaker government would be able to give results in a rela-

said that he endorsed the Election Commission's denial of any delay in the polls. 'They (Election Com-

mission) have to conduct (elections). We are with He said as per the Elec-

tion Commission, the election schedule will cover 56 days, based on which the schedule should be announced by December Asked about the no-

tions of elections being as-Imran Khan's popularity

ISLAMABAD (APP): before the elections which and his exclusion from the electoral process, the prime minister termed it a political analysis.

However, the elections would judge the popularity of any political leader, he commented.

To a question about the participation of Imran Khan or his party in the general elections, he that there was no restriction on

him as yet. "However, if something unusual comes up, I can't say anything about it As of today, they are in a position to contest elections and they will con-

About the disappearances and resurfacing of PTI leaders, the prime minister said such people went into hiding, fearing arrest for their involvement sociated with the decline in in attacks on state institu-



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting on Task Force of Polio Eradication.

PM orders emergency polio eradication plan

ISLAMABAD (APP) Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday directed formulation of an emergency polio eradication plan and launch of integrated programmes in high-risk

union councils. Chairing a meeting on Task Force on Polio Eradication, he emphasized monitoring of polio vaccination campaigns by using

modern technology. Expressing the recent report of police cases, the prime minister regretted that the crippling disease, which was eradicated from the globe, still existed in

Pakistan and Afghanistan. PM Kakar said regarding the use of Inactivated Polio Virus (IPV) vaccine, best international practices and research needed to be taken into consideration.

He directed resumption of the regular polio immunization campaign across the country.

Inclusion of Justice Ijaz in SJC as member challenged in SC

ISLAMABAD (Online): The inclusion of Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan as member General Aamer Rehman in Supreme Judicial Counsaid that the decisions of cil (SJC) in the matter of the top court were clear reproceedings against Justice Mazahar Ali Naqvi has been challenged in Supreme jection was not raised by Court (SC).

Mian Dad advocate has filed a constitutional petition in SC making federal government and secretary SJC respondents. Complete order sheet

of former CCPO Ghulam Muhammad Dogar case is elected did not object to the attached with the petition. The application regarding objections on Justice Ijaz Ul Ahsan in SJC is also atfor this person again in the tached with the constitutional petition. Mian Dad has said the reference of corruption and misconduct against Justice Mazahar Naqvi is pending hearing

He further said SJC has issued second show cause notice to Justice Mazahar Naqvi on his complaint. In showcause notice question has been asked from Justice Mazahar Naqvi about three audio leaks. The three audio leaks relate to bench fixing of cases and Muhammad Ghulam Dogar case.

Military College Sui manifestation of our for high-risk areas | national unity: Governor

Exhorts cadets of Military College to take wholehearted part in development and construction of country and brighten name of province

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that the Military College Sui is manifestation of our national solidarity, adding he exhorted the cadets to take wholehearted part in the development and construction of country and nation brightening name of the

The Governor was speaking to the cadets of Military College Sui during an annual ceremony at the Military College Sui on Wednesday.

The Commandant of Military College, Brigadier Waseem Qaiser, members of faculty, cadets and their parents were present at the

The Governor said that what we are seeing regarding ability of the students of Military College Sui and its overall performance is the dream that comes true for it was established some 12 years ago.

He said that the marvelous achievement of the cadets is guarantee of the bright future of Military

College Sui. He stressed that the time has come that we may use physical and mental potential of our younger generation in the best interest of the country and na-



Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar addressing participants of a ceremony at Military College Sui

Decision taken to fix for hearing presidential reference regarding murder of Zulfigar Ali Bhutto

ISLAMABAD (Online): Decision has been taken to fix presidential reference regarding mur-der of former Prime Minister (PM) Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto for hearing

Important progress has come to fore on hearing of presidential reference on the matter of murder of former 2012 PM Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto.

The reference for declaring the execution of Zulfigar Ali Bhutto a iudicial murder is likely to be fixed for hearing in next week.

A larger bench of Supreme Court (SC) under the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJ0) Qazi larger bench.

presidential reference. It is pertinent to mention here former president Asif Ali Zardari had filed presidential reference in SC in 2011. 6 hearing of the

reference have taken

Faez Isa will hear the

place so far. First hearing was held on January 02,

First five hearings of presidential reference were conducted by 11-member larger bench of SC under former Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry. The last hearing of the case was conducted by

Daily Joice of Masse, Independent

ADB's vital support for Pakistan's development

In a latest important development, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved three projects worth \$658.8 million to help Pakistan achieve its goal of more inclusive and sustainable growth and development. According to a statement the other day, the Manila-based lender said the projects will focus on improving domestic resource mobilisation, rehabilitating schools damaged by the devastating August 2022 floods and enhancing agricultural productivity to improve food security.

'This significant new wave of financing will help Pakistan recover from the impacts of last year's cost-ofliving crisis and super-floods and return to the path of long-term development that is sustainable and inclusive," said ADB Director General for Central and West Asia Yevgeniy Zhukov. "This multifaceted approach is part of ADB's strategic engagement in Pakistan and cohesively deploys our programme lending and project investments to enhance support for Pakistan's efforts to improve its economic situation and enhance the quality of life for its people." The Improved Resource Mobilisation and Utilisation Reform Programme will support the government to realise its ambition of achieving economic growth that is sustainable, broad-based, and inclusive.

The \$300 million policy-based loan will support the initiative's first sub-programme, which focuses on laying the foundation for reforms to policies, laws, and institutional capacity that will improve domestic resource mobilisation and utilization. The programme is helping to transform tax administration, public expenditure management, and other institutional structures to strengthen resource mobilisation including non-debt resources such as private investment and savings. The ongoing Sindh Secondary Education Improvement Project will receive additional financing — a \$275 million emergency assistance loan that is part of ADB's \$1.5 billion pledge of support for Pakistan's recovery from the devastating 2022 floods. The additional financing will help reconstruct up to 1,600 flood-damaged schools using disaster- and climate-resilient and gender-responsive designs. This will boost resilience and inclusivity in the education system in Pakistan, helping recovery of learning and earning losses especially for girls in the most disadvantaged and vulnerable districts of Sindh. An \$800,000 technical assistance grant will be provided to help plan and monitor the status of reconstruction in all flood-damaged schools and provide implementation support, including for introducing inclusive design features. A concessional loan of \$80 million for the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Security Support Project, which is also part of ADB's \$1.5 billion pledge of support for Pakistan's recovery from the 2022 floods, will help address climate vulnerabilities, enhance food security, and boost the livelihoods of rural farm households in the most flood-damaged districts in the province. The project will provide essential agriculture inputs and training to smallholder farmers, including women, and improve household nutrition and women's empowerment. It will also enhance digital access and availability, especially with regard to market opportunities and climate information. The bank will administer a \$3 million grant for the project from the Japan Fund for Prosperous and Resilient Asia and the Pacific that will finance activities for women farmers related to seed cleaning and the safer handling of agrochemicals.

It is America's war now



Zahid Hussain

The UN has warned that 'an even more hellish scenario is about to unfold" in Gaza. Israel has now launched its heaviest bombardment yet on the Strip killing hundreds more people after the collapse of a weeklong pause that saw the exchange of some Israeli and Palestinian prisoners. Israeli ground operations now extend to the entire Strip and are being conducted with a ferocity not wit-

Tens of thousands of people have been displaced in the latest Israeli offensive, making it extremely difficult for any kind of humanitarian aid to reach them. All communication services have been cut off as the genocide of a hapless people escalated its bombardcontinues unabated. It is all happening with active ritory. The WSJ report US support. It is evident said these bomb carry that the Israeli war effort is being backed by the Biden administration.

nessed before.

bombs have reportedly been used in some of the deadliest Israeli strikes on Gaza that have killed thousands of children and destroyed most of the occupied Strip. That makes the Biden administration equally responsible for in Gaza, causing masthe ongoing massacre in the occupied territory.

According to a reoort published in the Wall Street Journal recently, Israeli forces used powerful bombs supplied by the US in the attack on a refugee camp that killed more than 100 people.

American weapons have forces in Gaza. The Biden such barbarism in recent Courtesy Dawn

administration has mas- times. sively intensified the supply of the most modern and lethal kind of weaponry to Israel for the war

Among the casualties, more than 6,000 children have been killed so far. As the UN chief said turned into "a graveyard for children".

And the carnage is being carried out with the bombs and other weapons supplied to the Zionist regime by the US. Washington has reportedly provided thousands of large bombs and artillery shells for Israel's war on Gaza

The WSJ report said a surge of US arms to Israel since the start of the war has included 15,000 bombs and 57,000 155mm artillery shells. The US administration has remained silent on the level of weapons support to Israel.

What is most alarming is the fact that the US recently supplied "bunker-buster" bombs, along with an array of other munitions to Israel, which has ment of the besieged terwarheads weighing more than 900 kilograms and that have previously been American-made used by the US in its wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and

> But while the US used those bombs mainly in open places, Israel, according to some media reports, is using them in densely populated areas sive destruction of property and human life. Some of these bombs have reportedly been used by the Israeli forces in areas close to hospitals, rendering the

latter non-functional. Unicef says that the situation has be-It was not the only come so bad that hospi-Gaza "cannot continue". been used by Israeli The world has not seen

Despite growing international pressure, the Biden administration is not willing to call for a on the besieged enclave. ceasefire. US officials claim they have repeatedly asked the Israeli leadership to try to limit civilian casualties, even the occupied territory has as Zionist forces lay siege to Gaza's main hospitals.

Israel has already extended its military operations to the West Bank. Hundreds of Palestinians have been killed in Israeli military actions in the territory It's all happening with encouragement from Washington.

American officials claim the war could provide a long-term solution to the Palestinian issue. But the situation is completely the opposite. The genocide and mass destruction causing the displacement of millions of people has made things worse. It has become more difficult to resolve the major cause of the conflict that rooted in the colonisation of Pales-

What is more shameful is the report that the Biden administration is seeking the support of Egypt and Jordan for the homeless Gaza population to be settled in their countries.

Such suggestions are quite contradictory to what US Vice President dent Kamala Harris said in a statement that "under no circumstances will the United States permit the forced relocation of Palestinians from Gaza or the West Bank"

It is now apparent that Washington is fully behind the Israeli war on Gaza. In fact, it is now America's war that has serious implications for global peace. The war has politically divided such incident where tal staff in southern the US, with the majority of Americans wanting the war to end.

Deadly diplomacy



Mahir Ali

No one who lived anywhere in the world through the 1970s could ignore Henry Kissinger as he bestrode the world like a colossus, not so much as the peacemaker he pretended to be than as consolidator of the American

We were meant to marvel at Super K, the real-world incarnation of Superman as he shuttled through war zones and beyond, sprinkling his enormous wisdom along

Kissinger, who died a week ago at the overripe age of 100, has been cast as a diplomatic superstar who pursued US interests to the end of the world. That is not an inaccurate assumption, provided one recognises that the interests were exclusively those of the imperium that the US sought to usher in after World War II: they served the aims of the political and economic elites who were determined to make the world

safe for capitalism. "We the people" mentioned at the outset of the Declaration of Independence had nothing to do with it. It logically follows that people anywhere simply did not matter. The encomiums and panegyrics that have flowed in much of the Western media in the past week — alongside some unrelenting critiques do not suggest that Kissinger ever lost any sleep over the human devastation his policies wrought from Latin America to Asia, the Middle East and Africa.

It was more or less

policy establishment, regardless of who won the moves.' 1968 election. Richard Nixon probably would not have been his first choice as a boss, but once Nixon emerged as the Republican nominee, Kissinger curried favour by helping to prevent a Vietnam peace agreement that might have benefited the Democratic alternative.

The US war in Indochina dragged on for another five years. As Nixon's national security adviser, Kissinger was death toll in not just Vietnam but also Cambodia and Laos.

was conveniently placed to take away the foreign policy initiative from Nixon's first secretary of state, William Rogers who, inter alia, was willing to collaborate with the USSR in ushering in a Middle East peace agreement that would have disappointed the Palestinians, but might have reduced the bloodshed.

Willingly serving a profoundly antisemitic president. Kissinger himself was not particularly wedded to the interests of Israel beyond seeing it as an invaluable asset that could help the US win over Arab states that leaned towards the Soviet Union, especially

Within its limitations, his shuttle diplomacy succeeded on that front, but its appalling consequences continue to be demonstrated half a century later as the US aids and abets an unfolding genocide in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Genocide was never much of a moral dilemma for Kissinger. He was Vietnam and extend it to for every airstrike —

taken for granted that "It's an order," Kissinger Kissinger would be ensconced in the US foreign 1970. "Anything that flies, on anything that

This strategy paved the way for the Khmer Rouge regime that killed an estimated two million Cambodians — and enjoyed US backing after it was displaced by a Vietnamese humanitarian intervention.

Kissinger's crimes of commission also include the fate of a democratic socialist interlude in Chile, where Nixonger as Isaiah Berlin largely responsible for the dubbed the duo — decided Salvador Allende was intolerable even before was inaugurated.

With an office in the White House, Kissinger need to stand by and watch a country go communist due to the irresponsibility of its people," Kissinger commented in 1970. And the US did not stand by. Allende was overthrown and assassinated three years later, and Augusto Pinochet, as well as Argentina's Jorge Videla among other military tyrants, revelled in Kissinger's imprimatur as they went on a killing

> Kissinger did nothing to tame Nixon's racist and misogynist aversion to Indians and particularly Indira Gandhi. Yahya Khan, who diligently served as Nixonger's emissary to China, was amply rewarded when he inaugurated a civil war in 1971.

Despite the countless skeletons in his cupboard, Kissinger remained a source of advice to successive US administrations — and to many other governments via his firm, Kissinger and Associates, whose client list he wasn't prepared to reveal even when tapped happy to pursue it in as the head of the 9/11 Commission. Perhaps be-Laos and Cambodia. In cause he was unwilling to the latter instance, he acknowledge the consewas directly responsible quences of his decisions. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Dr. Alvi for marketplace to promote Pakistani startups through linkages

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi here Wednesday called for establishing a marketplace startups a platform for gradually promoting indigenously developed products through linkages with the investors as well

as the global markets. The president, addressing the Angels could better explain their Investors Summit & products to the people as Startup Showcase, said the startups needed to effectively market their products and enhance their outreach for benefit of the local population as well as the innovators.

the intellectual properties.

ideas of the startups who also gave presentations on gradually getting recognition in the market.

The president suggested the summit organizers to record detailed video messages of the startups so that they well as the potential investors.

He told the gathering that in the initially, the developed countries had also been benefiting from the foreign ideas by The president modifying them in appreciated the 11 accordance with their local shortlisted startups for the needs. Emphasizing the use way they were developing of technology and artificial intelligence in the health

He lauded the sector, President Alvi said messaging and awareness 'tremendous' innovative the telemedicine was the drives. only solution to Pakistan's health care problems as it to provide Pakistani their products which are would save the poor from paying the transport and other hassles besides reducing burden on the

> He also called for utilizing the AI and other technologies to address the issue of mental health as around 24% of the population suffered any form of stress. Around 60-80% of college students were also under mental stress which sometimes led to violence or suicides.

He also stressed the need for addressing the taboos associated with the diseases like breast cancer, which he said was being overcome through frequent

Chairperson Aspire Pakistan Hassan Syed apprised the audience of the journey of bringing the startups under the network, the establishment of the National Ideas Bank, Pak Angels and Startup

Pakistan platforms. He said around 8,000 trainings had taken place under the National Ideas Bank and 11 shortlisted startup had to go through screening process which examined their ideas and scope of their products.

Founder of Pak Angels Anwar Khan, in his remarks, said the innovation was a must for a prosperous Pakistan as it could boost the country's exports.



Angels Investors Summit & Startup Showcase held at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.

ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Federal Minister for Privatization Mr Fawad Hasan Fawad chairing a meeting of Privatization Commission with the Financial Advisor and management of First Women Bank Limited.

MOITT announces initiatives to empower freelancers

ISLAMABAD (APP): According to official The Ministry of of MOITT under the Information Technology comprehensive plan, "Each and Telecommunication freelancer is set to receive (MOITT) has announced a groundbreaking initiative, offering interest-free loans to freelancers to empower independent professionals anticipated move by enabling them to establish e-working centers, addressing the critical challenge of inadequate workplaces.

financial assistance of Rs 100,000 to establish their own e-working center. This revolutionize the freelance landscape in the country, significantly enhancing the

economic contributions of

freelancers.

Shipping activity at **Port Oasim**

KARACHI (APP): Five ships, MSC Jemima, MSC Greenwich, Chicago, Meratus Jayawijaya and Ardmore Cherokee Carrying Containers and Palm oil, berthed at Container Terminaland Liquid Terminal respectively on

Tuesday. Meanwhile two more ships, FMT Efes and Eget Bulker carrying Coko and Chemicals also arrived at outer anchorage of the port during last 24 hours.

Afghanistan increase by 2.65% in 4 months ISLAMABAD (APP): at US \$180.686 million Pakistan's export of goods and services to Afghanistan (2023-24) against exports

Pakistan's exports to

witnessed an increase of of US \$176.019 million 2.65 per cent during the during July- October first four months of the (2022-23), SBP data current fiscal year (2023- revealed. 24) as compared to the last year, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported.

On a year-to-year basis, exports of the exports to Afghanistan corresponding period of also surged by 6.57 per cent also surged by 6.57 per cent from \$48.862 million in October 2022, against the The overall exports to exports of \$52.077 million in Afghanistan were recorded October 2023.

PAJCCI expresses concern over closure of Pak-Afghan border for trade at Torkhem

Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI) has expressed concern over closure of Pak-Afghan border at border has been taken Torkhem for trade for the last almost 24 hours.

In a press statement here Wednesday, Coordinator PAJCCI, Zia ul Haq Sarhadi said the border crossing at Torkham has been closed for goods

PESHAWAR (APP): Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of 4:00 p.m of Tuesday.

Regarding reason behind closure, Zia shared that the decision of closing after erection of a signboard at zero point inscribed with wording of 'Goodbye Pakistan'. He also informed that pedestrian crossing is open, but trucks are not allowed to cross border from both the sides.

CG Indonesia visits SCCI

SUKKUR (APP): Consul General of Indonesia Dr June Kuncoro on Wednesday visited the Sukkur Čhamber of Commerce and Industries (SCCI) Sukkur.

While exchanging the views during meeting, the Indonesian CG said that We have to deeply understand the patterns and structure of challenges hindering trade between the two countries.

He congratulated the newly-elected president of SCCÍ Sukkur and hopes to see his contribution towards enhanced Indonesia-Pakistan cooperation.

He said that as the Indonesian government was always keen to support business people, hence, the Indonesian Consulate and its embassy in Islamabad remain extensively engaged beyond the call of duty in identifying opportunities and fully facilitating businessmen of both countries. To enhance Indonesia-Pakistan trade ties, he advised the business community of Karachi to participate in trade fairs, meet Indonesian business people.

Efforts to promote technological innovation for crops growth

crop's continued growth. metric tons in 2022-23.

ISLAMABAD (APP):

He expressed these Caretaker Minister for views during the meeting National Food Security & with the CropLife Pakistan Research Dr Kausar delegation, which apprised Abdullah Malik on the minister of their Wednesday said that maize contribution to the seed is a strategic crop sector, in particular, maize, concerning national food where over the past two security needs and the decades yields have grown ministry will make all four-fold and overall efforts to promote the production has increased latest technological from a little over 1 million innovation and provide an enabling policy for the impressive 10.5 million

Top Chinese cotton producer welcomes collaboration with Pak

BEIJING (APP): "Our CEO of WinnerMedical. cotton consumption still falls short of achieving directly procure from complete self-sufficiency, cotton farmers, our consider importing cotton. involves In the future, we plan to platforms like China cotton-producing nations globally, tailoring our chains. Collaboration specific requirements," said Ms. Pakistan Zhang Yan, the interim feasible."

"While we do not leading our company to approach primarily collaborate with leading Cotton to select the most partnerships based on with major cottonvariety producing nations like said Ms. Pakistan is entirely Cope with requirements of modern era

Vital to adopt new technology, especially artificial intelligence, says Punjab Governor

inaugurated the first International Electrical Vehicle Expo 2023 at the University of Lahore and attended the event as a special guest.

Punjab Governor while addressing the ceremony stated that it is very important to adopt new technology, especially artificial intelligence, to cope with the requirements of the modern era

at the University of Lahore.

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Punjab Health

Minister Professor Dr.

Javed Akram expressed

gratitude to the dedicated

team of doctors and nurses

who played a crucial role in

the recovery of Rizwana, a

victim of domestic violence.

Lahore General Hospital on

Wednesday, the minister highlighted that Rizwana

underwent 13 surgeries during

her four-month treatment at

the hospital and was now on care for Rizwana.

In a press conference at

Minister hails medical

team over recovery of

domestic violence survivor

Independent Report
LAHORE: Governor
Punjab Muhammad
Balighur Rehman today
He said this exhibition
has provided a platform to
many national companies to He said this exhibition showcase their products and collaborate with one another. Governor Punjab said that today, the world is going through the fourth industrial revolution in which technology and collaboration play a very important role.

He said that better results can be achieved by working together. He said that governments also

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman inspecting the

stall after inauguration of first International Electrical Vehicle Expo 2023

the path to recovery.

Addressing Rizwana as the "daughter of the nation," Dr.

Javed Akram announced her

referral to Child Protection and

Welfare Bureau and Social

Welfare and Baitul Mal for

education and training. A

committee, comprising the

Chairperson of Child Protection and Welfare Bureau

and officers from the

Department of Social Welfare

and Bait ul Mal, has been

formed to ensure continued

institutions on various projects, which yield good results.

Governor Punjab said that in this exhibition, electric vehicles including motorcycles and cars have been displayed, which will promote environmentfriendly transport. He said that the interaction of academia and industry in this exhibition is a welcome thing. He further said that the promotion of electric vehicles will help in work together with public- tackling issues like smog.

IDPD day

observed

in Peshawar

PESHAWAR (Online):

International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) 2023 was observed

at the Special Education

Durrani, Secretary Zakat

Ushr, Social Welfare, Specia Education, and Women

Empowerment Department

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, was

the chief guest at the occasion.

Dr. Awlad Hussain Shah.

Ms. Humaira Naz and

Mukhtiar Gul of Sarhad Rural Support

Dr. Aneela Mehfooz

Complex (SEC) Hayatabad, Peshawar.

private partnership and He said that he is happy to see that international companies in electrical vehicles and artificial intelligence are bringing their expertise and technology to Pakistan, which will help us accelerate the adoption of these technologies in our country and create new opportunities for our citizens. Governor Punjab said that the expo is a testament to the power of innovation collaboration and shows

that when government.



Polluted city in the world in term of air quality, The various forms of pollution have increased at Karachi which has caused widespread environmental and health problems.

KP Governor directs resolution of problems of IRNUM hospital's entrance

Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali here Wednesday directed the authorities concerned to resolve problems related to the main entrance of the IRNUM cancer hospital.

He passed these directives while presiding over a high-level meeting about problems at the central entrance of hospital,

parking problems and bringing communication between patients, relatives, and other people at the main entrance of the hospital. He directed the

Director General Peshawar Development Authority, high-ups of the police, and Peshawar University to address these problems at the earliest. The Governor praised the long services of the hospital regarding the The meeting treatment of cancer exchanged views on patients.

Minister directs to expedite work on **Journalists WEF**

PESHAWAR (APP): Minister of Information, Firoz Jamal Shah, has directed the swift resolution of journalists' issues and expedited efforts on the Journalists Welfare Endowment Fund to address their financial

Journalists Endowment Fund, he actions to the public.

concerns.

emphasized urgent action on journalists' requests, urging comprehensive presentation of these requests to the committee for

timely assistance. He acknowledged challenging roles journalists ensuring in transparency in government During a meeting of the affairs and facilitating the Welfare dissemination of government

Women should take legal ways to claim their rights: Ombudsperson to the office of the Woman Gul Naz, faculty members

FAISALABAD (APP): Woman Ombudsperson Puniab Nabila Hakim Ali Khan said on Wednesday that women should not remain silent for their rights, instead they should adopt legal ways to claim their rights where they were denied.

She was addressing a seminar for the protection of women's rights here at Govt College Women University, Madina Town. RPO Dr Abid Khan, SSP Operation Dr Rizwan, Incharge Protection Center

anyone to take away your rights or abuse you by keeping silent.
"If you (women) do not get a share in the inherited property, file a said that several initiatives complaint for your share the

and students were also

present on the occasion.

The Ombudsperson said

the government was taking

all possible steps to ensure

women rights in the

province, so do not allow

local

Ombudsman Secretariat. 'she said.

Ombudsperson said that today was the day of women, their development and rights.

She urged the students and women to bring out their hidden abilities and improve their said that several initiatives were being taken by the government at national and administration and if you are not listened then report rights and their protection.

kept restored warrants of

IG Islamabad. Copy of

written order should be

sent to Secretary

Establishment Islamabad

Two people killed as trailer hit motorbike

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): Two people were killed in a collision between a trailer and motorbike at Alipur Jhang road on Wednesday.

According to the rescue source, the incident occurred due to the negligence of the trailer driver in which two persons died on the spot. The heirs of the deceased refused to take legal action.

Police have registered a case and started

LHC issues written order on contempt of court petition against Parvaiz Elahi's arrest

Lahore High Court (LHC) has issued written order on contempt of court petition filed against arrest of Former Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Chaudhary Parvaiz Elahi despite Court order. Justice Sultan Tanvir Ahmad of LHC has issued written order for hearing on petition of Parvaiz Elahi's wife Qaisara Elahi.

and he should appoint an officer for judicial assistance in this matter. Court has written in the order that it is suspected that IG Islamabad and SSP were wrongly advised of It has been said in the jurisdiction.

Program (SRSP). International News

Putin, escorted by fighter jets, lands in Saudi Arabia for MbS talks

Monitoring Desk RIYADH: Russian Presi-

dent Vladimir Putin landed in Saudi Arabia on Wednesday for hastily arranged talks with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on oil. Gaza and Ukraine. It was not immediately

clear what Putin, who has rarely left Russia since the start of the Ukraine war, intends to raise specifically about oil or geopolitics in a face-to-face meeting with the crown prince of the world's largest crude ex-

Advertisement · Scroll to continue Putin's meeting with MbS, as the prince is widely known, comes after oil prices fell despite a pledge by OPEC+, which groups the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and al-

lies led by Russia, to further cut output.

The Russian defence ministry showed the Kremlin chief's Ilyushin-96 aircraft flanked by Sukhoi-35S fighter jets on its flight from Russia to the United Arab Emirates, his first In Abu Dhabi, Presi-

dent Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan welcomed his "dear friend" Putin, while UAE jets greeted him with a fly-past trailing the colours of Russia's flag. "Our relations, largely due to your position, have reached an unprecedentedly high level," Putin told him. "The UAE is Russia's main trading partner in the Arab

Putin said Russia and

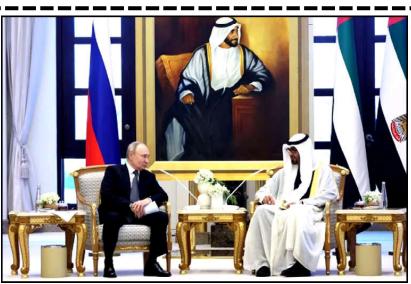
part of OPEC+, whose members pump more than 40% of the world's oil, adding that they would discuss the Israeli-Hamas conflict

and Ukraine

After the UAE. Putin flew to Saudi Arabia for his first face-to-face meeting with MbS since October 2019. His last visit to the region was in July 2022, when he met Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in Iran.

The trip to meet MbS, only days after a key OPEC+ meeting was de-layed, appeared hastily arranged. One source had told Reuters beforehand that MbS had plans to visit Moscow. The Russian delegation includes top oil, economy, foreign affairs, space and nuclear energy

the UAE cooperated as



President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Russian President Vladimir Putin attend a meeting at Qasr Al Watan in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

COP28 deal may demand phase-out of fossil fuels greenhouse gas methane.

Monitoring Desk

DUBAI: Countries at the COP28 climate conference are considering calling for a formal phase-out of fossil fuels as part of the UN summit's final deal to tackle global warming.

The proposal is set to spark heated debate among the nearly 200 countries, with some Western and climate-vulnerable states pushing for the language to be used and many oil and gas producers keen to leave

could be the final agreement from COP28, released by the UN climate body on Tuesday, proposed "an or-

killing 23 people.

derly and just phase-out of fossil fuels" which if adopted would mark the first global deal to end the

But even as NGOs slammed the record number of fossil fuel lobbyists at the UN climate talks this year, the industry showed it wouldn't browbeaten, with the OPEC cartel hosting a chat on "climate initiatives" and one of the heads of the "Big Oil" majors sparring with activists.
On the COP28 main

The draft of what stage, the CEOs of several major energy firms argued in favour of oil and gas,

'We are big guys and we can do big things. We can deliver results and we will have to report them very soon," said Jean Paul Prates, CEO of Brazil's state-run oil company Petrobras. "The energy transition will only be valid if it's a fair transition," he

added.

At least 2,400 fossil fuel lobbyists registered for this year's summit, an analysis of UN registration data published by Kick Big Polluters Out showed, outnumbering the delegates from the 10 most climate vulnerable countries com-

Iran sends up rocket with test living

space capsule on Wednes-

Qatar emir slams 'shameful' inaction on Gaza crisis

Monitoring Desk DOHA: Qatar's ruler hit

out at "shameful" international inaction over the Israeli aggression against Gazans as he opened a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) meeting in Doha on Tuesday

"It is shameful for the international community to allow this heinous crime to continue for nearly two months, during which the systematic and deliberate killing of innocent civilians continues, including women and children," Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani

Qatar was a key meresulted in a seven-day

truce, which saw scores of Israeli prisoners exchanged for Palestinians prisoners and humanitarian aid, until it ended on Friday. Its foreign ministry

said that GCC summit was aimed at forming a united approach to end the aggression in Gaza. "Now the ceiling

should be raised to talk about a sustainable truce" that could lead to ending this unrest, Majed Al-Ansari, spokesperson for Qatar's foreign ministry, told Al

Qatar's ruler said his country was "constantly working to renew" the truce, but added this was "not an diator in negotiations that alternative to a permanent



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, President of Brazil, hold a press conference at the Federal Chancellery on the occasion of the 2nd German-Brazilian intergovernmental consultations, in Berlin.

Germany and Brazil hope for swift finalization of a trade agreement between EU and Mercosur

Monitoring Desk BERLIN: The chancellor of Germany and president of Brazil expressed hope Monday that decades-long negotiations might soon yield a finalized free trade agreement between the 27member European Union and a bloc of four South American nations. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva told reporters in Berlin that they support the trade deal for the EU and Mercosur, comprised of Brazil, Argentina,

two blocs are holding a summit Thursday in Rio de Janeiro, but final approval of a preliminary trade agreement has remained elusive. "We are strongly

Paraguay and Uruguay. The

committed to ensuring that the agreement is now finalized swiftly," Scholz said after a meeting of senior officials from both countries in the German capital.

Lula also vowed to fight for the deal, and said he hoped for a breakthrough at the Rio de Janeiro meeting.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskiy addresses

to service members during award ceremony on Day of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Kviv, Ukraine.

Sudanese warring parties dig in as Jeddah talks falter again

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: Saudi and US- mated the economy, and brokered talks aimed at halting fighting between Sudan's warring parties have faltered again, and the country's army and paramilitary Rapid Support Forces have pressed on with military campaigns that have caused a major humanitarian crisis.

The lack of progress at the talks in Jeddah dashed hopes for resolution of a conflict that has displaced more than 6.5 million inside

and outside Sudan, decitriggered ethnically driven massacres in Darfur. Sudan's army has escalated its rhetoric and residents say it has intensified air strikes in the capital Khartoum, while its rival. the paramilitary RSF, has secured advances in the Darfur and Kordofan regions. "They are firing artillery aggressively, and it often lands in civilian homes. said Ahmed Abdallah, a 51year-old in Omdurman.

China says its fighters shadowed US Navy patrol plane over Taiwan Strait **Monitoring Desk**

BEIJING: China's mili-

tary said on Wednesday it sent fighter jets to monitor and warn a US Navy patrol aircraft that flew over the sensitive Taiwan Strait, a mission that took place weeks before Taiwan holds elections.

China claims sovereignty over democratically governed Taiwan, and says it has jurisdiction over the strait. Taiwan and the United States dispute that, saying the Taiwan Strait is an international water-

. The US Navy's 7^t Fleet said the P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol and reconnaissance plane, which is also used for anti-submarine missions, flew over the strait in international airspace.

The aircraft's transit of the Taiwan Strait demonstrates the United States' commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific. when it began spewing gray

after eruption killed 23 **Monitoring Desk** clouds of ash as high as 3 kilometres (2 miles) into the TANAH DATAR: Rescusky on Sunday. ers have evacuated all of the

Indonesia rescuers evacuate all

climbers from Marapi volcano

climbers who were trapped Jody Haryawan, a spokesperson for the resin Indonesia's Marapi volcue team, said one missing cano, a spokesperson for the search and rescue climber was found on Wednesday afternoon. On agency said on Wednesday, Tuesday, the rescuers evacuated 22 bodies from after it erupted this week, There were 75 climbthe volcano. All the climbers were accounted for, folers at the time on 2,891lowing the rescue earlier of metre (9484.91 ft) high Marapi, one of Sumatra's dozens, many of whom were wounded or burned by most active volcanoes, the eruption.

capsule **Monitoring Desk**

DUBAI: Iran sent up a

rocket with a test living day, the semi-official Tasnim news agency reported, as the country pressed on with plans to send astronauts into

The announcement came 10 years after Iran announced it had sent two live monkeys into space and brought them back



ISLAMABAD: President of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazal-ur-Rehman, Chief of Jamat-e-Islami Sirajul-Haq. Moulana Taqi Usmani and others rises hand together to show solidarity with the oppressed Muslims of Palestine during "Hurmat-e-Al-Aqsa Conference" at Convention Center.

Religious scholars, leaders unite against Israeli aggression, call for global solidarity

JUI-F chief urge Muslim World not to recognize Israel

ISLAMABAD (APP): ars and leaders representing diverse schools of thought on Wednesday gathered at the Jinnah Convention Centre for the National Conference titled The Sanctity of Al-Aqsa Mosque and Responsibility of the Muslim Ûmmah.

Organized by Majlis Ittehad-e-Ummah Pakistan, the conference saw a joint declaration expressing full solidarity with the freedom of Al-Aqsa Mosque and condemning the oppression faced by Palestin-

Addressing the gatherthe religious scholars and leaders highlighted Israel's relentless aggression, branding it as a violator of international law since its illegal establishment. They emphasized the recent brutal bombings in Gaza, resulting in the mar-

tyrdom of over 15,000 Palestinians, including 6,000 children and numerous women. They declared these actions as war crimes against humanity, targeting mosques, churches, hospitals, and even newborns. The

Expo 2023-12-06.

US reaffirms

to protect

resettlement

of Afghan

Refugees to US
ISLAMABAD (Online):
U.S. Assistant Secretary of

State Julieta Valls Noyes

visited Pakistan December

4-6 to reaffirm the United

States' steadfast commit-

ment to the protection and

safe, efficient resettlement

and relocation of eligible

Afghan refugees to the

nior Pakistani government

officials, Assistant Secre-

tary Noyes discussed how

both countries can work

together to accelerate the

processing of Afghan na-tionals eligible for reloca-

tion or resettlement in the

United States, expressed

the U.S. desire to continue

working with the Govern-

In meetings with se-

United States.

Ulema and Mashaykh criticized Western powers for their complicity in supporting Israel's crimes through financial, practical, and military assistance. They called for an immediate end to the brutal bombings, war crimes, and all forms of support for Israel. They asserted that the entire land of Palestine belonged to its original inhabitants, condemning the unjust settle-

ments established by Zion-

ists. They urged the people

of Palestine to resist this ag-

gression, emphasizing the

religious duty of Muslims

QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Sports and Culture Nawabzada

Jamal Khan Raisani visiting staff during inaugural ceremony of Education

Labelling the current conflict as a grand defensive Jihad rooted in pure Islam, the scholars and leaders stressed liberating the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the land of the Last Prophet Peace Be Upon Him from Zion-

to support the cause.

They demanded basic rights for the people of Palestine according to United Nations resolutions, calling for an end to military intervention, the siege on Al-Quds, Gaza Strip, and the West Bank, and the permanent opening of the Rafah

ADB approves \$658.8mln financial support for Pak sustainable development

Bank (ADB) has approved this week three projects amounting to \$658.8 million to help Pakistan achieve its goal of more inclusive and sustainable growth and development. The projects would

focus on improving domestic resource mobilization; rehabilitating schools damaged by the devastating August 2022 floods; and enhancing agricultural productivity to improve food security, a news release said on Wednesday.

sive," ADB Director General for Central and West Asia

Utilization Reform Programme would support the government to realize its ambition of achieving economic growth that is sustain-

subprogram, which focuses on laying the foundation for reforms to policies, laws and institutional capacity that would improve domestic resource mobilization and utilization. The programme is helping to transform tax administration, public expenditure management, and other institutional structures to strengthen resource mobilization including non-debt resources such as private investment and savings. The ongoing Sindh Secondary Education Improvement Project would receive additional financing—a \$275 million emergency assistance loan that is part of ADB's \$1.5 billion pledge of support for Pakistan's recovery.

Pakistan urges India to ensure safety of minorities particularly Muslims

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan has urged the Indian government to ensure the safety, security, and protection of minorities, particularly Muslims and their

places of worship The Foreign Office in statement issued on Wednesday, on the completion of 31 years to the demolition of the historic Babri Mosque said that the day was a sad reminder where a mob of Hindu zealots demolished the centuries-old mosque in Ayodhya city of Uttar Pradesh state in full view of Indian law enforcement authorities.

The statement said. it is lamentable that India's superior judiciary not only acquitted the criminals responsible for this hateful act but also allowed the construction of a temple on

Mosque.
The Foreign Office said the temple was expected to be inaugurated in January 2024 - months before the next general elections in India. It said the anti-Muslim frenzy that caused the Babri Mosque's destruction remains unabated. A few weeks ago, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh publicly cited the Mosque's demolition as a template to reclaim parts of Pakistan. The statement said the elements belonging to the ruling dispensation in India continue to incite hysteria and hatred against Muslims. "Today, Hindu supremacist groups are demanding conversion of many other mosques into

temples, including the

Gyanvapi Mosque in Varanasi and Shahi Eidgah



QUETTA: Former Provincial Minister Umar Khan Jamali meeting with caretaker Home Minister Captain (Retd) Muhammad Zubair Jamali.

ment of Pakistan as we process individuals in U.S. Govt. ends free electricity facility for DISCOs,

officers ISLAMABAD (INP) Government has ended free electricity units for the DISCOs and GENCOs, WAPDA and NTDC officers, effective from December 1, reported on Wednesday. In a notification issued by the power division, it was stated the federal cabihad approved monetisation of free electricity units admissible to

GENCOs

the employees of Wapda, ex-Wapda companies, including distribution companies (Discos), generation companies (Gencos), National Transmission and Dispatch Company (NTDC) and Power Information Technology Com-

pany (PITC). According to the notification, 17 to 21 officers of the power companies will get a utility allowance instead of free electricity units from now onwards.

The notification further said the grade-17 employee of Discos and Wapda, who are allowed 450 units per month.

Education & Skills Expo begins: Interim Govt resolves to work on project of sending youth abroad for making them skilled

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Mir Jamal Khan Raisani stated that the interim provincial government is resolved to send youth of the province abroad to make them skilled so that they may play effective role in development of the coun-try by learning skills in dif-

ferent sectors. These views were expressed by the caretaker Minister Mir Jamal Khan Raisani while addressing the ceremony held marking inauguration of the Education and Skills Expo 2023 at Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS)

on Wednesday. Also present on the

occasion were Director Schools, Abdul Wahid Shakir, Director Monitoring and Evaluation, Munir Ahmed, Director

> tions and Education department Addressing the ceremony, the caretaker Provincial Minister exhorted the children to learn skills

> PITE, Sher Ahmed Samalani, representatives of UNICEF and other

high ups of different non-

governmental organiza-

along with education. He appreciated the Education department, UNICEF and other organizations for organizing the Education and Skills Expo in Quetta.

He said that the Expo would provide the opportunities of business in fu-



QUETTA: Ending violence Against Woman & Girls members hold awareness walk regarding '16 days of Activitisim Against Gender Based Violence" outside QPC.

Scrutiny of various dev. projects continues by CMIT in Usta Muhammad

Independent Report QUETTA: The scrutiny of different development projects is continued by the Chief Minister Inspection Team (CMIT) in the prov-

In this regard, the Member CMIT, Umeed Ali Khokhar visited Usta Muhammad on Wednesday where he presided over a meeting to review the

projects the same day. Deputy Commissioner Usta Muhammad, Muhammad Hussain, Senior Superintendent of Po-Assistant Commissioner,

Abdul Nasir Kakar and

at the meeting held at the Deputy Commissioner Usta Muhammad. The concerned high ups briefed the meeting about the progress of dif-

development

other concerned district

high ups were in attendance

projects being executed by their respective depart-The Member CMIT expressed anguish over ab-

ferent

projects.

sence of few officers. Addressing the meeting, Umeed Ali Khokhar stressed the need to resolve lice, Javed Iqbal Gharsheen, the issues being faced in early execution of the

Ismail Haniyeh for Pak support against Israeli occupation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Se- Accords, citing an increase nior Political Leader of Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh on Wednesday virtually addressed the National Dialogue on 'The Sanctity of Al-Aqsa Mosque and Responsibility of the Mus-lim Ummah' held at the Jinnah Convention Centre and sought Pakistan's support against Israeli oc-

cupation. Organized by Majlis Ittehad-e-Ummah Pakistan, he emphasized Israel's occupation of Palestinian

territories, addressing the challenges faced by the Palestinian people. Haniyeh stated that Israel's actions, including the arrest of approximately 16,000 Palestinians and

desecration of holy sites, were a violation of international norms. He expressed disap-

pointment over the non-

in the occupation of Palestinian territories.

Haniyeh against the establishment of diplomatic relations between Islamic countries.

and Israel, asserting that it would severely damage the Palestinian cause. Praising Pakistan as a brave nation, he suggested

that if Israel faced resistance

from Pakistan, the perpe-

tration of cruelty could Expressing hope in Pakistan's support, he referred to the country as a land of Mujahideen.

He highlighted the opposition to Israel among those who follow the Quran closely.

Accusing America and other countries of supporting Israel, he voiced his aspiration for Israel to retreat, allowing the truth to pre-

policy-based loan would of long-term development The Asian Development support the initiative's first that is sustainable and inclu-

Yevgeniy Zhukov said. This multifaceted approach is part of ADB's strategic engagement in Pakistan and cohesively deploys our program lending and project investments to enhance support for Pakistan's efforts to improve its economic situation and enhance the quality of life for its people," he added. The Improved Resource Mobilization and

Husband bound to pay

'This significant new wave of financing will help Pakistan recover from the impacts of last year's costof-living crisis and super-floods and return to the path sive. The \$300 million

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The Supreme Court on

Wednesday declared that

the 'haq mehr' (dower) has

to be paid to a woman

the expenditures of litiga-

from her husband.

'mehr' whenever his wife demands: SC wife, it added. The order

whenever she demanded it The court imposed a fine worth Rs1,00,000 on had to file a suit for recovery of the 'mehr ' and mainpetitioner for six-year delay in payment of the 'mehr' amount to his wife and also directed him to pay tion to the woman. A threemember bench, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa issued the

Khalid Pervaiz. The order said that 'mehr' is an Islamic concept and it is specifically recognised by the law of Pakistan. It has to be paid whenever demanded by the said that the mehr (dower) can be demanded during the subsistence of the marriage, and that the husband is under an obligation to pay it It said that the woman

ery of the 'mehr' and maintenance, and the petitioner unnecessarily involved her in litigation, which reached this Court after six and half years. The court said that this kind of frivolous litigation is paralysing the judicial system of the country. The petitioner took up an three-page written order in untenable defence, and peran appeal filed by a citizen petuated it probably because costs were not imposed upon him and the courts did not insist that the decision of the Family Court should first be complied with before entertain-



OUETTA: Caretaker Human Rights Minister, Khalil George along with "Pastor Imran Afzal and others are cutting cake during a ceremony on the eve of Christmas Day "coming ahead.

Lasbela Women Empowerment **Summit sparks inspiration** and development

Independent Report QUETTA: In a momentous collaboration, the Ministry of Information Government of Balochistan, and Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Funds(PPF) join hands to host the Lasbela Women Empowerment Summit, a beacon of change aimed at uplifting women across diverse fields.

The summit, organized by Information Ministry and PPF, has garnered significant attention for its commitment to fostering inspiration and progress among women in the region.

Held in Uthal, Lasbela, the summit witnessed the presence of distinguished guests, with Mr. Naeem Umrani, ADC (R) District Lasbela, gracing the occasion as the Chief Guest. Mr. Umrani, in his address, applauded the impactful strides taken towards women empowerment, emphasizing the importance of collaborative efforts to bring about positive change. He also distributed prizes, certificates and shields.

der the theme "Empowering Change," provided a platform for women to engage in meaningful discussions, share experiences, and gain insights from prominent figures in various fields. Workshops, panel discussions, and interactive sessions were designed to address challenges and opportunities, encouraging women to excel in

their respective domains. Balochistan Government's commitment to supporting initiatives that empower women was evident throughout the summit. The Information Ministry and PPF played pivotal roles in ensuring the success of this collaborative effort, reflecting a shared vision for a more inclusive

and progressive society. The important highlights of the summit included discussions on entrepreneurship, education, healthcare, and technology, showcasing the multifaceted nature of women's contributions to society Attendees were inspired by success stories

Delegation of Senators visits Iraq to enhance bilateral ties

BAGHDAD Headed by Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, a high-profile delegation of Senators arrived in Baghdad, Iraq on Wednesday with an aim to enhance bilateral relations veen the two countries.

Undersecretary of the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mohammed Hussein Mohammed Bahraluloom along with senior officials of the Iraqi Parliament warmly received the distinguished delegation.

During his stay in Iraq, Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani meetings with senior Iraqi leadership and parliamentary heads including acting Speaker of the Iraqi Parliament. These discussions were expected to focus on strengthening diplomatic ties, fostering collaboration on key regional issues, and exploring avenues for mutual cooperation. In addition to diplomatic engagements, Chairman Senate Sanjrani will pay visits to Holy shrines situated in different parts of Iraq, underscoring the cultural and spiritual connections.

PHC eases rules for Afghan refugees marrying **Pakistanis**

PESHAWAR (INP): The Peshawar High Court on Wednesday relaxed the rules for Afghan refugees who have married Pakistani men or women.

The detailed judgment, penned by Justice Waqar Ahmed, spans 33 pages and marks a significant step towards facilitating the lives of Afghan refugees who have chosen to build their lives in Pakistan.

The court's directive allows Afghan nationals married to Pakistanis to apply for Pakistan Origin Cards (POCs), a document that grants them certain rights and privileges associated with Pakistani citizenship. This move aims to streamline the process for Afghan refugees seeking to regularize their status in Pakistan and integrate into society seamlessly. The decision emphasizes the importance of simplifying the marriage registration process for Afghan-Pakistani couples, eliminating the mandatory requirement of a passport and ID card for POC applications in cases of marriage. Additionally, the court mandates that POC cards be issued promptly following security clearance ensuring that eligible individuals are not subjected to unnecessary delays.

CPEC paving foundation of sustainable development of Pakistan: Chinese CG

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan and China achieved concrete progress under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor which is paving the foundation of sustainable development and economic

growth of Pakistan. The people of Pakistan started reaping the benefits of the CPEC journey as several major projects have been completed while many more were in the

completion process. These views were expressed by the Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Karachi, Yang Yundong in an exclusive interview with the Associated Press of Pakistan here at the

Consulate.

Regarding progress on CPEC projects, Yang Yundong said the Gwadar Port had become operational for a few years, free zones were also in operation while the New Islamabad Airport, Sukkur - Multan Motorway and other major projects have been completed under the Economic Corridor. The Consul General

said the Havalian-Thakot section of Karakoram Highway, Jakla-DI Khan Motorway, Optical Cable, Eastern Expressway and Orange Line Metro Train Lahore projects were also completed which had started giving fruits to the common men



Sharifullah meeting with Secretary Finance Babar Khan.

Chief Secretary directs DCs to ensure implementation of ECP's decision

tended by Senior Member

Balochistan Chief Secretary (CS) Shakeel Qadir Khan on Wednesday directed all Deputy Commissioners (DCs) to ensure the implementation of instructions given by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and to complete repair work of polling stations in their respective districts as soon as possible.

He shared these views while chairing a meeting of divisional commissioners and deputy commissioners regarding the prevention of smuggling, provision of quality education and best facilities in the health sectors, price control committee, and Quetta water treatment plant, in which various related issues were re-

Board of Revenue Hafiz Muhammad Tahir, Additional Chief Secretary Inte-

rior Zahid Saleem, Secretary Imran Zarkoon, Secretary Health Abdullah Khan, Secretary, Education Saleh Mohammad Nasir, Commissioner Quetta Hamza Shafqaat, Deputy Commissioner Quetta while other Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners participated it through video link

Addressing the meeting, the Chief Secretary said that all the Deputy Commissioners (DCs) should ensure the implementation of the instructions given by the Election Commission and all DCs should complete the repair work of polling stations in their re-

He said that provision of health facilities and quality education are essential for the betterment of society and in this regard, the provincial government was

taking steps for improve-

ment in both sectors

He said that all deputy commissioners should visit hospitals, primary health centers, and educational institutions in the respective districts and ensure attendance of absent staff and the supply of medicines in hospitals should be ensured. On this occasion, the meeting gave a detailed briefing by all the divisional commissioners regarding their respective divisions and told that all the commissioners and deputy commissioners have made more than 1200 visits to all

The summit, held un-The meeting was atspective districts as soon as the districts. QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan addressing Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners Conference.