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PM asks terrorists to make 'unconditional surrender; rules out any negotiations

Says no person would be allowed to take the law into his hands, only the State had the legitimate right to use armed power through its security forces

paid the ultimate price.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday warned terrorist groups in the country to make an "unconditional surrender", saying the State would not negotiate with

show any leniency towards the terrorists who committed violence and killed innocent citizens," he said in an interaction with the families of martyrs here at the Interior Ministry, where he earlier launched the country's new visa

Mainstreaming of deprived segments,

would be allowed to take the law into his hands, adding that only the State had the legitimate right to use armed power through its security forces.

"No one should have any doubt about the stance reward for the martyrs' n. of the State against terror-ists," he said. "All organs of the State have the clarity to remain persistent against

> He said any damage incurred in the past by giving a lenient space to the militants would be mitigated. The prime minister said

if someone wanted to denounce terrorism must seek forgiveness from the fami-

fast decision-making vital for

Pakistan's progress: President

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Mon-

day said the mainstreaming of the deprived segments

including women and differently-abled women, leverag-

ing artificial intelligence and fast decision-making were

inevitable for the progress and prosperity of the country.

The president, addressing the Members' Convoca-

tants of Pakistan (ICMA), urged the new graduates to play their role for the welfare of their employees and

environmental protection besides fulfilling their responsibilities to their respective industries as well as the soci-

ety. He urged the educational institutes to produce lead-

ers as the country faced an acute shortage of leadership

which should be honest to the people and the nation

besides being capable of addressing the pervading issues.

ongoing killings in Gaza and rejected the Indian Supreme

Court's decision to uphold the revocation of Article 370

No hurdle in holding

elections in-time: Solangi

ducive, he said, recalling dif-

ferent sort of situations

during various general elec-

tions including 2008, 2013

and 2018. Solangi said it

was responsibility of the

Election Commission of

Pakistan (ECP) to hold the

general elections and the

government would provide

all-out assistance in that

had been releasing the re-

quired funds to the ECP for

holding the polls. Security

would also be ensured for

conducting the general elec-

tions in a free, fair and trans-

parent manner. All political

parties were fully allowed

He said the government

in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Caretaker Minister for In-

formation, Broadcasting

and Parliamentary Affairs

Murtaza Solangi on Mon-

day said that there was no

hurdle in holding the gen-

eral elections in the coun-

try in accordance with the

schedule issued by the Elec-

tion Commission of Paki-

news channel talk show, he

said that the announcement

for the election date should

change in the polling date

and said that the elections

would take place on Febru-

He also ruled out any

end all the speculations.

Speaking in a private

stan (ECP).

The president reiterated his condemnation of the

he Institute of Cost and Management Accoun-

'We cannot compensate those who lost their loved ones, but can make a gesture to acknowledge and honour

their invaluable sacrifices," he added. PM Kakar said the souls rested with Allah Almighty, however, it was the responsibility of the society to honour them with a distinguished status.

"I pay tribute to all the martyrs - an unending list of heroes from all segments of the society, including police, politicians, journalists, soldiers, and even children," he said.

Earlier, at the launch of

He questioned the con-

science of the developed

world over the barbarism in

Gaza and said the world

was in dire need of an order

anchored on morality which

the vested interests had

overpowered the humani-

earlier awarded certificates

to the new graduates and

medals to the council mem-

bers, said that around 28

million Pakistani children

were out of school and

needed support to brighten

faced a shortage of profes-

sional graduates so the ap-

proach of encouraging them to go abroad and send re-

mittances was unjustified. The president said af-

ter joining the practical life,

they should strive to provide a secure working envi-

ronment to the women in

their businesses as well as

their respective fields be-

sides creating opportunities

for the differently-abled

Customs authorities

get smuggle, seize

vehicles themselves:

Supreme Court

ISLAMABAD (Online)

Chief Justice of Pakistan

(CJP) Qazi Faez Isa has

remarked Customs Au-

thorities get smuggle the

vehicles themselves and

then get them seize them-

this truck is not a match

box that Customs authori-

ties are ignorant of it came

from what way.

He further remarked

He gave these remarks

while hearing the case of

He said the country

tarianism in world affairs.

He said, unfortunately,

President Alvi, who

legacy of the Muslims.

prime minister congratulated the Ministry of Interior on the achievement of a "good milestone". He said the country needed to further rationalize its visa policy with the target of attracting investment. "Unless we open up to the world, we cannot attract investment and develop connectivity," he said, adding that a country's visa policy

economic roadmap. The minister was briefed that the new visa policy includes the introduction of investor visas and the revision of the existing business visa cat-

was the cornerstone of its

The investor visa has been introduced in line with the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) initiative. The hassle-free process allows visa approval within 24 hours with a short-term (1-3 years) and long-term entry visa (5 years).

The process requires minimal documentation with the option of converting the entry business and investor visa into a longterm investor visa.

The prime minister was informed that the business visa category was revised with the introduction of SIFC Business Entry

President Alvi says

Indian judiciary succumbed to fascist Hindutva ideology

President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday strongly rejected the Indian Supreme Court's (ISC) decision to uphold the revocation of the special status of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (ÎIOJ&K).

He expressed dismay over the decision, saying the Indian judiciary had succumbed to the fascist Hindutva ideology giving decisions suited to the Indian government.

He added that such decisions could not legitimize the occupation of IIOJ&K by India as the Jammu and Kashmir issue was an internationally recognized struggle against Indian illedispute that remained on gal occupation.

ISLAMABAD (APP): the agenda of the UN Security Council for over seven While condemning the

decision, the president said that it was unfortunate that Indian courts had a history of giving decisions against Muslims as in the cases of Babri Masjid, Samjhuta Express, Hyderabad Mecca Masjid blast and Naroda Gam massacre during the 2002 Gujrat riots etc. He added that the verdict of the ISC could not change the status of the IIOJ&K

He said the Judgement would further strengthen the resolve of the people of IIOJ&K in their just



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari along with Caretaker Minister of Interior Sarfraz Bugti talking to media persons during press conference after inaugurating Martyrs Wall at Ministry of Interior in Federal Capital.

Bilawal Bhutto says Wall of Martyrs - a good initiative to remember sacrifices of martyred heroes

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Monday visited Wall of Martyrs' at the Interior Ministry and commended the step to remem-

of Martyrs', Bilawal said

he was grateful to Caretaker

Interior Minister Sarfaraz

"The 'Wall of Martyrs'

Bugti for the initiative.

seizing of smuggled truck by KP customs authorities ber the sacrifices of the here Monday. martyred heroes. The CJP while reject-Talking to the media after hoisting the picture of Mohtarma Shaheed Benazir Bhutto at 'The Wall

ing customs appeal reprimanded counsel for cus-The CJP remarked you

are neither giving arguments in the court nor are talking of law. The vehicle was seized inside 400 kilometers away from Peshawar border without the knowledge of customs authorities. He observed customs authorities get smuggle the vehicles by taking money and then they get seize them by

The CJP remarked as to why the inquiry should not be got conducted against customs department. Truck was manufactured in 1996 and was seized in 2016. Where it kept on running for 22

See in Peshawar how the vehicles are smuggled. As to why Collector customs be not summoned.

ate, as it has immortalised the sacrifices of the martyrs," he added.

The martyrs of the country, he said, included politicians, policemen, lawyers, judges, and the army soldiers, who had been a target of terrorism and they all rendered great sacrifices.

As a result of their struggle, peace was achieved and terrorism was eradicated from the country, he added. Unfortunately, a decision was later taken which undermined the efforts of the is an initiative we appreci- martyrs.

Nawaz Sharif vows to put country on road to progress

LAHORE (INP): Former N's ticket contenders prime minister Nawaz Sharif has said time has come to put Pakistan on the

road to progress. He expressed these views while addressing a PML-N meeting in Lahore

on Monday. Sharif highlighted the need for national unity and emphasised the responsibility of overcoming self-interest for the greater good.

Addressing the PML-

achievements and expressed concerns over the halted journey of development. He called for meritbased ticket allocations and stressed the importance of serving the nation above personal interests.

Sharif recounted the past

Sharif acknowledged current challenges, including the soaring cost of electricity, meat, flour, and



gurating the Martyrs' Wall in the Ministry of Interior, placing a portrait of Shaheed AIG Safwat Ghayur.

'Travesty of justice':

Pakistan rejects Indian SC's verdict on Kashmir

India has no right to make unilateral decisions on the status of this disputed territory against the will of the Kashmiri people and Pakistan: FM Jilani

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Monday categorically rejected the judgement, announced by the Supreme Court of India on the status of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), terming it "another manifestation of the pliant judiciary under India's ruling dispensa-

Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani, during a press conference at the Ministry of Jammu and Kashmir,

mir an 'internationallyrecognized dispute, which remained on the agenda of the UN Security Council for over seven de-

Kashmir was to be made in accordance with relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions and as per the aspirations of

Kashmiri people.

termed Jammu and Kash-'India has no right to make unilateral decisions on the status of this disputed territory against the will of the Kashmiri people and Pakistan," he said.

The foreign minister Jilani said the final dissaid Pakistan did not acposition of Jammu and knowledge the supremacy of the Indian Constitution over Jammu and Kashmir. "Any process, subser-

vient to the Indian Constitution, carries no legal significance," he said.



QUETTA: A delegation comprising members of committee formed resolve complaints about distribution of laptops in the University of Balochistan meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Zubair Jamali calls on Health Minister Dr. Amir Jogezai

QUETTA (APP): Provincial Caretaker Home Minister Mir Zubair Jamali on Monday met with Caretaker Provincial Health Minister Dr. Amir Muhammad Jogaizai.

In the meeting, security, health sector including organization of health card in province and issues of mutual interest were discussed

The Provincial Home Minister while appreciating the organization and initiative of health card said that the steps taken by the caretaker provincial government for the welfare of the people are commend-

Governor Balochistan emphasizes: Political leadership ought to keep

close & effective rapport with masses every time & situation Independent Report crimination so as to protect

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has emphasized that the political leadership should keep close and effective coordination with the masses every time and every situation so that they are well aware of the issues and hardships being faced by them, and thus re-

solve the same timely. The Governor was speaking to different delegations who called on him

here at the Governor House on Monday. The Governor said that political philosophy deals

with the service and welfare

their basic rights and dignity. He was of the view that we get thoughtful guidance along with practical politics for bringing real development and prosperity in the society and country.

He said that we have learnt from our political elders that the public service is the guarantor of dignity of political leader-

If we our politics is based on the increase of rights and empowerment of the people then the democratic values, behaviour and public democracy can be strengthened, the Governor of the people without dis- believed.

Land of Afghanistan being used for terrorism against Pakistan: Jan Achakzai

Caretaker Minister Information terms COAS's visit to USA very important at critical juncture; says Ministry of Information sign MoUs with two NGOs for promotion of E-education & E-commerce Jan Achakzai spoke who has been visiting US

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker

Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has pointed out that the land of Afghanistan is being used for terrorism against Pakistan, and it (Pakistan) is also confronting this critical situation too. However, the brave

armed forces of Pakistan would defend every inch of the country and the terrorism would be rooted out. The caretaker Minis-

ter Information was addressing a hurriedly called press conference at Quetta press club on Monday.

about the Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir's visit to United States of America, besides terrorism from Afghanistan, protest rally of the Baloch Yekjehti committee from Turbat, besides the Memorandum of Understanding reached between Ministry of Information, Government

Balochistan and Educational and Youth Empowerment Society.

The Minister Information said that the Army Chief has embarked on US visit, and he is a first COAS after a long time. He said that the Army

chief's visit to US has come at an important juncture when the war is continued in Ukraine and Ghaza. On the other hand. Afghanistan under Taliban failed to fulfil its commitments with the international community and has been source of terrorism in Pakistan.

While it is also important to mention that elections are about to be conducted in Pakistan and India, adding he mentioned



Gwadar Safe City Project



Achakzai and Eyes Organization's Executive Director Sami Shark signs a MoU regarding border trader.

Bail granted to Imran in 3 cases, Qureshi in 2 cases

(ATC) Islamabad has approved bail of former chairman PTI Imran Khan in three cases and bail of Shah Mehmood Qureshi in two

Shah Mehmood Qureshi.

ISLAMABAD (Online): and PTI counsels Sardar Anti Terrorism Court Masroof and Khalid Yousuf appeared in the court.

Prosecutor Raja Navid took the plea PTI leaders staged protest deliberately. PTI founder tried to provoke people. Unnecessary Judge Abual Hasanat leniency is being shown to Zulqarnain approved bail PTI leaders. The bail pleas of Imran Khan and Shah pleas of founder of PTI and Mehmood Oureshi be dis-Prosecutor Raja Navid missed

Daily Soice of Masse Independent

Future plans

Nawaz Sharif is planning ahead. Perhaps confident of his chances in the next election, he seems keen to want to avoid the run-ins he has had with security establishments during past stints in

In general, it seems like he wants to take a strong stance on civilian supremacy and wants some guarantees that he will be able to run the country unhindered this time around. It is a carefully calculated power move.

The state seems to have all but run out of options, and Mr Sharif is leveraging the opportunity to push back on the issues that are most important to him. For example, he has repeatedly tested the waters by reiterating his demand for the accountability of those who 'conspired', in his view, to push him out of power in 2017.

Demanding such accountability just months ago could have rapidly backfired on the PML-N. Younger brother Shehbaz Sharif would always be quick to soothe nerves each time Mr Sharif publicly put forth this demand.

Not so more recently, while Mr Sharif has gradually grown more insistent on this 'accountability drive'. "Who ruined the country? Who brought the country to this point today? Why are the poor starving today? [...] All these things are eating up the country," Mr Sharif noted while addressing party leaders on Friday.

On Saturday, with Shehbaz Sharif by his side, he went further, "Those who have brought the country to this point, they should also be held accountable. They should be asked how you meted out such treatment [to] this country.'

In the same gathering, the former prime minister also defended his position on the Kargil issue, while stressing the need to improve ties with neighbouring countries, especially India.

He also recalled the visits of Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 1999 and Narendra Modi in 2015, rhetorically asking if anyone had come to Pakistan before them. It was clear that the thrice-ousted prime minister was keen to assert himself from the outset this time around.

It is encouraging to see that Nawaz Sharif remains committed to a strong civilian government and an independent foreign policy, and he is fully entitled, as a former chief executive, to pursue accountability and push the overreaching arms of the state back into their respective domains.

However, Mr Sharif should perhaps not consider himself the 'ideal' candidate just yet. It is clear that he still has a weak understanding of the Pakistani economy, which seems heavily influenced by the thoroughly discredited ideas of Ishaq Dar.

Therefore, while his ideas about civilian supremacy and assertive policymaking are commendable, until both he and his party figure out what good fiscal management entails, there is not much they can offer inflation-weary Pakistanis desperate for growth and meaningful change

Taxing agri incomes



Aijaz A. Nizamani

Pakistan's inability to generate enough revenue means it invariably finds itself at the mercy of inter- export restrictions. To IMF deal that binds the to benefit local industry government to increase and large farmers. overall revenue generation GDP ratio which, in our unenforceable due to a case, is among the lowest in the world. This cannot be possible unless the state starts taxing all sectors of the economy equitably. This includes the rural sector, where great potential lies in efficiently tax-

of Pakistan's \$350 billion economy. If the sector was contributing its fair share, at the policy level, taxing a fifth of the current year's tax collection target of Rs9,415bn would be comage of satellite imagery ing from farm output. and machine-learning is a tiny fraction of the ideal amount. There is a need to correct the common misconception that Pakistan to formally be agriculture is exempt from considered part of the income tax. It is not. Income from agriculture is documented as a part of taxed like any other in- national supply chains. come as per the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001. The that agricultural revenue only difference is that this collection is still done tax is collected by provin- manually by revenue cial authorities and not the Federal Board of Rev- ago. In the prevailing out first clearing their enue. Farmers and other system, if someone interest groups advance does not pay or is overvarious against agriculture income taxes. They generally feel that since they Therefore, the time has are already heavily taxed indirectly, they should not be made to pay in- In this regard, the lead come taxes as well. They has to come from the also complain of con- IMF, international lendtrolled commodity prices, ers and bilateral do-

in 2022 has rendered price transparency in the controls ineffective. In farm and rural econoany case, other com- mies modities like cotton and rice are free for export; in ers and development fact, the latter is encour- partners should proaged for export under government policy. Sugar, among the major crops, is the only exception. It remains subject to strict government connational lenders. Currently, offset this, sugar import we are signatories to an is heavily taxed in order

Many tax experts

lack of documentation of the economy and its vast geographic spread. Perhaps this is the reason why our colonial overlords levelled presumptive taxes on agricultural revenue and based it on agricultural land rental value instead output. Agriculture ac- of actual production or counts for about one-fifth productivity potential. is sufficient commitment agriculture should no longer be an issue in the However, actual collection technologies. In fact, farmers should advocate for such an approach if they want agriculture in larger economy and

It is preposterous staff as it was 100 years arguments charged, there is no way of monitoring or to redress the injustice. come for the entire system to be modernised. which is an implicit tax on nors, as our domestic income tax while also entheir incomes. However, system seems too sub- abling modernisation of

doubling of wheat prices to allow tech-enabled

International lend-

vide grants to digitalise the farmlands and make land records easily searchable. As a second step, all imagery of farmlands should be trols and usually faces made available yearround to individual farmers (irrespective of their landholding size) as well as to the government. The imagery service should enable and improve the tax-to- feel agricultural taxes are farmers to assess the condition of their crop on a periodic basis (ideally, daily), and help the government monitor and aggregate crop data. This will greatly help the government in its tax collection, as not much can be hidden in this digital age. Lastly, machine-learning can help the government However, assuming there and farmers interpret this satellite imagery in depth and even assess the yield potential of various crops at the time of harvesting if the systems used to analyse the imagery are properly trained in this Given Pakistan's re-

source constraints, agricultural taxation as well as fiscal transfers need to be technology-based. At the farmer level, those who refuse to pay taxes must be penalised, for example by not being able to sell or gift their property to fellow family members withdues with the government. This is only possible when farm and land records are diligently digitalised. Technology will also help net the large farmers, who account for merely four per cent of all cultivators but own nearly 40pc of all farmland. It will help recover hundreds of billions of rupees in agri while such complaints are servient to vested inter- farming practices. -- Cournot unreasonable, the ests which are unlikely tesy Dawn

Conflict and climate



Huma Yusuf Promises are meant to be broken. That's why we should respond to the outcome of COP28 with a healthy dose of scepticism. The headlines will focus on the language agreed regarding the fate of fossil fuels: 'abate', 'phase down', 'phase out'. Whatever the agreement, it is unlikely to be fettered with concrete targets or firm deadlines and will rely on fantasies of how quickly we can scale carbon capture technologies. In all scenarios, you can expect the ongoing, unapologetic use of fossil fu-But let's not fully dis-

miss COP28 yet. In other areas, the summit has been more productive. Foremost among these is the new Declaration on Climate, Relief, Recovery and Peace, which calls for "bolder collective action to build climate resilience ... in highly vulnerable countries and communities, more space for non-state particularly those threatened or affected by fragil-

ity or conflict" Seven out of 10 of the most climate-vulnerable countries are also ranked as fragile states. COP28's focus on intersections between climate and security is thus a welcome addition. The declaration enshrines a twofold recognition: one, that climate change exacerbates security challenges; two, that state fragility and conflict impede climate adaptation and mitigation efforts. This is a most vulnerable further and climate risk. These the Pakistan Institute for security forces from their Dawn

Conflict and Security crease in militant attacks in November as compared to the previous month, bringing the number of attacks this year until Nov 30 to 599. Security concerns are also cited as the reason why Pakistan is expelling undocumented Afghans in a controversial move. Though underresearched, there can be no doubt that cycles of drought and flooding in Pakistan and Afghanistan are exacerbating these trends

The links between climate change and security challenges are increasingly better understood. Until now, the focus has primarily been on resource competition, the idea that food and water scarcity drives competition between different groups (for example, Kenya's herders, farmers and conservancy owners) leading to conflict. But other factors are at play

In an article titled

How Climate Change Helps Violent Non-State Actors, Noah Gordon underscores how climate legitimacy by reducing states' capacity for service delivery and creating actors. Gordon discusses how the spread of inhospitable environments, particularly in agricultural and more susceptible to militant recruitment. He also points out how climate migration will increase the demand for illicit activities such as people smuggling, which will provide militant groups with a new funding stream. Most imporpost-disasters will further weaken state legitimacy vicious circle, leaving the and spread anger that can be channelled exposed to both violence through non-state actors' narratives. There is also topics have relevance to growing awareness that Pakistan. According to climate disasters distract

prime aims as they are in-Studies, our country wit- creasingly pulled into resnessed a 34 per cent in- cue and reconstruction efforts. This year, from Spain to the US and East Africa, militaries were involved in responses to wildfires and floods, tapping resources and blocking capacity in unpredictable ways. In this context, Nato Secre-t-a--ry General Jens Stoltenberg said at COP28 that climate change would be at the top of Nato's agenda and that member states would be more cautious about considering issues such as food and energy sec-urity while supporting the just transition.

policymaking is arguably more easily achievable than ensuring that insecure areas receive adequate access to climate finance and adaptation and mitigation initiatives. A UNEP report released ahead of COP28 found that there is an adaptation finance gap in low-income countries of between \$215 billion and \$387bn per year, at least 50pc larger than thought. The issue is worse in fragile and change undermines state conflict-affected areas, due to concerns about funding flows and project viability in these areas.

Including a climate

Given that Pakistan is eyeing Loss and Damage Fund support to build climate resilience, including in many parts of the couneconomies, will lead to try that would be farmers being desperate categorised as fragile or conflict-hit, we should pay close attention to the plans for better partnering with local governments and community networks, such as schools and NGOs, to deliver climate finance in difficult contexts, groups that are sadly disempowered in our polititantly, climate injustice cal set-up. Ultimately, vulnerable countries themselves will also have to play a role in tackling the vicious cycle of climate and security by improving demonorms cratic and prioritising climate-related concerns. -- Courtesy

Commerce News

PM directs to ensure supply of urea fertilizer on controlled rates

ISLAMABAD (APP): framework should be Caretaker Prime Minister prepared and presented in Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on consultation with the Monday directed the provinces and the relevant departments concerned to industry," he said while prepare and submit an chairing an emergency action plan immediately review meeting regarding for uninterrupted supply demand and supply, and of urea fertilizer on priority

He also ordered to ensure its availability to the the prime minister asked farmers at government the district administrations controlled rate and submit to take immediate action a report in this regard by against the hoarders of the tomorrow (Tuesday).

"To uninterrupted supply of urea fertilizer during crop sowing, a comprehensive

price of urea fertilizer in the country.

fertilizer, and identify and ensure punish those responsible.

He said the government subsidy on urea fertilizer must reach

the deserving farmers.

Industry and the Ministry their consumption. of Food Security to provide the production and supply statistics of urea fertilizer to the provincial governments, and ensure coordination in operations against its hoarders.

He said the transportation of fertilizer should be monitored at all provincial borders, while ensuring that no hurdle was made in its supply to meet the provincial

requirements. He said all the Pakistan by next week.

provinces should bear the The prime minister burden of subsidy on urea directed the Ministry of fertilizer in proportion to

Earlier, a detailed

briefing was given in the meeting on the recent production, demand and supply of urea fertilizer to farmers in the country. The meeting was told that the production and stock of urea in the country was sufficient for the wheat crop, whereas 220,000 metric tons was being imported for buffer stock. and its first consignment would would reach

a 20-member delegation to

businessman and exporters

trade imbalances.

meetings with Chinese said.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Kakar chairs a meeting regarding uninterrupted supply of Urea fertilizer to the farmers on Government control rate.

BEIJING: Commerce Minister Dr. Gohar Ejaz meeting Zhang Xinmin, Chairman of the China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of

that

Pakistan to meet its

complimented the current

initiatives for supporting

economy and investment.

The minister thanked the

ambassador and the UAE

government for their

longstanding and continuous

support for Pakistan.

The Ambassador also

economic challenges.

government's

UAE Ambassador calls on Privatization Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Pakistan Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi on apprised Monday called on the Caretaker Minister for Privatisation, Fawad Hasan of recently signed MoUs on Fawad. Issues of mutual interest and cooperation came under discussion at

length, said a press release. The Ambassador recalled the recent visit to UAE by Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar as an outstandingly successful visit and conveyed the desire of His Royal Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al

Rupee sheds 02 paisa against Dollar ISLAMABAD (APP) Nahyan to extend full support and cooperation for the development of

Pakistani Rupee on Monday weakened by 02 paise against the US Dollar Pakistan. The envoy in the interbank trading and his closed at Rs283.89 against government wants to move the previous day's closing towards the implementation at Rs283.87 a fast track in order to enable

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at R\$284 and R\$286.5 respectively.

The price of the Euro decreased by 63 paise to close at Rs305.36 against the last day's closing of Rs305.99 according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

SCCI, CG agree to further improve Pak-US bilateral economic ties

Gohar Ejaz holds meetings

with Chinese businessman

to boost trade ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): the COFCO Group Luan

Minister of Commerce Dr Richeng - a key player in

Gohar Ejaz, who is leading China's food processing

China, on Monday held Ministry press release

to boost trade and remove the pivotal part of

Chairman of the China leveraging the strength of

Chamber of Commerce for COFCO Group's position

Import and Export of as China's largest food

Textiles (CCCT) Zhang processor, manufacturer, and

Xinmin, and President of trader," it added.

The minister met augment non-textile exports,

PESHAWAR (INP): President of the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Fuad Ishaq and Shante Moore, U.S Consul General in Peshawar on Monday agreed on further improving Pak-US bilateral trade and economic relations, besides development of young entrepreneurs, enhancing their abilities and

promotion of exports. Fuad Ishaq invited U.S. companies and investors to invest in potential sectors in

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa through joint ventures to further cement mutual trade ties between the two

sector, a Commerce

Pakistan's strategy to

"The meetings denote

friendly countries. According to a press release issued here, a meeting was held between the U.S Consul General in Peshawar Mr Shante Moore and prominent members of the business community in residence of Mr Ammad Rasheed, Honorary Consul General, Republic of Tunisia, Peshawar, Dean - Honorary Counselor Corps Peshawar KP chapter and former senior vice president of the SCCI.

ADB approves \$155m to help boost Pak women's access to finance women their livelihoods while

ISLAMABAD (INP): lend The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved \$155.5 million in financing for Pakistan that will support policy reforms and sustainable enhancing women's access development cannot be to finance and provide credit to women-led micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises. The financing comprises a \$100 million policy-based loan that supports legal and regulatory reforms that will help women to better access finance; a \$50 million financial intermediation loan that will enable participating

entrepreneurs; and a \$5.5 million grant that will finance related activities. "Inclusive, resilient

achieved if women do not opportunities benefits," said ADB rates of women's Director General for entrepreneurship in the Central and West Asia Yevgeniy Zhukov. "ADB's new program

will help transform Pakistan's current financing ecosystem to help women to access much-needed finance and financial institutions to empower them to boost at 34%.

contributing significantly to the economy," Zhukov added. According to ADB press statement received here Monday, female labor force participation in Pakistan currently stands have equal economic at about 23%. The country and also has among the lowest world at 4% of female working age adults. While Pakistan's financial inclusion has been improving, women are increasingly left behind with a large gender finance gap which currently stands

PSX loses 211 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Monday, losing 211.31 points, a negative change of 0.32 percent, closing at 66,012.33 points against 66,223.63 points the previous trading day. A total of 1,215,932,469 shares valuing Rs.33.423 billion were traded during the day as compared to 1.329,550,091 shares valuing Rs.33.377 billion the last day.

Some 386 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 159 of them recorded gains and 224 sustained losses.

NBFC posts 35.9% growth in FY23

ISLAMABAD (APP): The collective base sector of the Non-Banking Financial Sector (NBFC) stood at Rs 2.87 trillion during the fiscal vear 2022-23 as compared to Rs 2.11 trillion during the same period of last year. showing a promising annual growth of 35.9%.

Commission of Pakistan (SECP), within the NBFC sector the Fund Management segment of the mutual fund industry emerges as a key player.

As of June 30, 2023, Assets Management(AUM) of the Mutual fund industry stood at Rs 1,675 billion, showing substantial growth from Rs 1,281 billion in June 2022, marking a remarkable 30.8% increase.

The report said that the According to the surge in AUMS can be annual report issued by the attributed to the prevailing Security and Exchange monetary policy situation, the major thrust of investment remained vectored towards with its flexible product structure and robust ability to incorporate dynamic shared compliant solution.

KP govt decides to launch Khushal KP programme

Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Justice (Retd) Arshad Hussain Shah has said that the government is determined for the welfare of the people of the province in its short period, saying for this purpose, a Khushal bringing improvement in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa the law and order situation, Programme will be launched soon.

He expressed these views while presiding over the 17th meeting of the caretaker cabinet here on Monday. Besides, members of the caretaker cabinet, Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretary measures would be

(P&D), Additional Chief implemented Secretary (Home & Tribal Affairs) and administrative secretaries, concerned authorities also attended the meeting.

Under the proposed

programme, steps would be taken for the resolution of financial problems, service delivery system, guaranteeing of good governance, generation of employment opportunities for youth and provision of maximum facilities to the

The chief minister said that short-term

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor,

Haii Ghulam Ali addresses during Annual

Convocation Day ceremony of the Sarhad

University of Science and Information Technology

ANF seizes 1416 kg

drugs in 12 operations

Anti-Narcotics Force from two accused going in

(ANF) while conducting 12 a vehicle and a rickshaw,

A total of 48 kg Sher Shah Karachi.

Peshawar.

netted from Ring Road

intercepted near Yaro

Chowk Pishin while an

accused was also arrested

during the operation.
55 kg hashish was

recovered from a vehicle

near Jamshoro Toll Plaza

Sukkur and two accused

were arrested. ANF also

recovered 54 kg of hashish

from the possession of an

accused rounded up near

Three kg of heroin,

held at SUSIT in Peshawar.

operations across the

country managed to

recover 1416 kg of drugs and arrested 12 accused,

said an ANF Headquarters

spokesman here on

grams of hashish and three

kg of opium were recovered from the

possession of three

suspects arrested from a

bus at Chongi number 26,

recovered from three

suspects coming from

Quetta to Karachi on a bus

intercepted on RCD Road

18 kg hashish was

Islamabad.

He informed that 500

immediate effect while long-term steps would be proposed for the upcoming elected government. A roadmap would be provided to the upcoming elected government, so it could keep public welfareoriented steps continuing.

He appreciated the efforts of the Chief Secretary administrative secretaries in the preparation of Khushal Pakhtunkhwa Programme He said that the Chief Secretary and his team had prepared a good and feasible programme within a short time.

Infuriated wife sends husband to iail for solemnizing second marriage

KARACHI (INP): An infuriated wife sent her husband to jail for illegally solemnizing the second marriage in Karachi on Monday. Reportedly, a local

court in Karachi heard a case filed by a Christian woman against her husband who contracted a second marriage.

During the hearing, the petitioner's lawyer Saleem Michael said that accused Joshua could not solemnize the second marriage under the Christian Marriage Act.

Relief for Qingqi, rickshaws till January 2

LAHORE (APP): The 1370 grams Ice and 7 kg of 200 grams of hashish were Punjab Transport department has provided recovered from a house in relief to ensure fitness of 950 kg hashish was recovered from a vehicle 'Qingqi' and rickshaws till January 2.

According

official sources here on Monday it was a golden opportunity rickshaw owners to get fitness of their rickshaws done and get immunity from fine. Immunity from fine had been given till January 2



Dua after unveiling the plaque of re-construction of Lady Willingdon

Governor urges universities to focus on research & development activities

PESHAWAR **K**hybér Governor Pakhtunkhwa,

Ghulam Ali has highlighted the critical importance of education focused on modern technology along with mental development

utilization of the province's announced 80 scholarships natural resources. The for students from the

governor expressed these merged district's region to views as the chief guest at the 16^h Annual Convocation of the Sarhad University of Science and Information Technology. During the event, degrees were awarded to 337 male and female and training of youth.

He emphasized that educated youth need to research the proper Governor Ghulam Ali

progress and prosperity of the province.

He urged universities to promote new research for increased production, industrial and commercial development

support their education.In

his address, Governor

Ghulam Ali stated that

education must be aligned

with the vision and

research of students for the

Punjab cabinet approves amendments to Motor **Vehicles Rules**

Independent Report AHORE: The 34th meeting of the provincial cabinet held under the chair of

Chief Minister Punjab

Mohsin Naqvi at his office. The cabinet approved amendments to the Motor Vehicles Rules of 1969, extending legal recognition to Qingqi rickshaws. These rickshaws will now be categorized as three-wheelers, with the regional transport authority designated as a special registration authority for the temporary registration of existing motor-

Following temporary registration, motorcycle rickshaws will undergo a four-month window for specific size and redesign modifications. Subsequently, they can obtain a registration number from the excise department upon the issuance of a fitness certificate. The CM emphasized the need to streamline the registration process and requested the forms to

be prepared in Urdu. The meeting also sanctioned the permanent fortification of the infrastructure for 18 major roads.



KARACHI: Police officials carry out the combing search operation against criminals as security has been tightened in city due to security reasons at different areas of Lyari area in Karachi.

Minister reviews proposals to provide electric bikes to students

Independent Report LAHORE: Caretaker Provincial Minister for

Planning and Development Bilal Afzal, along with Chairman P&D Board Iftikhar Ali Sahu, presided over a meeting to review proposals from the committee established by the Punjab government to provide electric motorcycles to students,

here on Monday. The meeting was attended by Secretary P&D Board Muzaffar Khan Sial, Secretary Transport, Chairman PITB, Members P&D fine would be Board, and other officials. applicable once the relaxation date would end.

Transport Secretary proposals for Ahmed Javed Qazi and discount.

provided a comprehensive briefing during the meeting, covering various manufacturers, prices, and market analysis of electric bikes.

He elucidated the proposed conditions for applicants, computerized draw, and the online application process facilitated by

Additionally, the Bank of Punjab presented a briefing on a 'Post-Purchase Reimbursement Model' for the supply of electric motorcycles, offering different proposals for credit value

18th Karachi International Book Fair to begin on Dec 14

KARACHI (APP): The 5day 18th Karachi International Book Fair (KIBF) 2023 featuring national and international publishers and exhibitors will open its door to the public on December 14, 2023, at Expo Center Karachi.

Besides 150 leading publishers and booksellers from Pakistan and 40 exhibitors from 17 countries will participate in the KIBF being organized by Pakistan Publishers and Booksellers Association from 14 to 18 December, Convener 18th KIBF, Wagar Mateen Khan and Chairman Pakistan Publishers and Booksellers Association Aziz Khalid announced at a press conference here on Monday, along with members of the managing committee.

taker Chief Minister Sindh Justice ® Maqbool Baqir was invited to inaugurate the Book Fair while Caretaker Minister Information, Minority Affairs and Social Protection Muhammad Ahmed Shah was expected to participate as Guest of Honor in the inaugural ceremony.

Karachi International Book Fair has now achieved the distinction of being Pakistan's largest consumer and trade fair since its inception in 2005 It brings together publishing and distribution houses, domestic as well as international publishers, booksellers, librarians, and institutional customers on a single platform.

Publishers from Iran, India, Turkey, Singapore, China, Malaysia, England,

Monitoring Desk PARIS: The U.K. and Nor-

way will lead a coalition

aimed at helping Ukraine

secure its maritime export

routes against Russian in-

terference, the U.K.'s Min-

istry of Defence said on

to help Ukraine transform

its navy to become more

compatible with Western

The long-term goal is

Dec. 11.

attending the Karachi International Book Fair where more than 330 stands display books on all subjects to discerning readers including vast numbers of families, students, and book lovers from all over the country, they stated.

Waqar Mateen Khan hoped that, this year as in the past, a record-breaking number of visitors would participate in the 18th Karachi International Book Fair.

Aziz Khalid stressed that the 18th edition will be remarkable and distinctive as efforts were being made to establish effective working relationships with key international book fairs leading towards an exchange of professional expertise for highlighting the importance of book fairs at national and They said that Care- UAE, and other countries are international levels.

"The rebuilding of

the Ukrainian Navy has begun," U.K. Secretary

for Defence Grant

Shapps said in a post on X. "The U.K. will bring

together our allies in a

new coalition to give

Ukraine the power to rule

the waves."
The UN says com-

modity shipments in the

Black Sea continue to face

'significant risks" from air

strikes and sea mines, and

International News

France, Germany, Italy back EU sanctions to target Hamas

Monitoring Desk

BRUSSELS: France, Germany and Italy called for the European Union to set up a special sanctions scheme to target Hamas as EU foreign ministers met on Monday to consider possible next steps in response to the Middle East crisis. Among the possible

measures up for discussion at the meeting are a crackdown on Hamas' finances and travel bans for Israeli settlers responsible for violence in the West Bank.

In a letter to EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, the foreign ministers of the bloc's three biggest countries said it was important the EU take "all the terrorist group Hamas and its supporters"

'This implies a stronger European commitment both to combating Hamas' infrastructure and financial support, and to isolating and delegitimising Hamas internationally, which in no way represents the Palestinians or their legitimate aspirations," said the letter, seen by Reuters. Hamas is already listed by the European Union as a terrorist organisation, meaning any funds or assets that it has in the EU should be frozen.

It was not immediately clear from the brief letter the details of how sanctions would be broadened or

agreed in principle, the next step would be for experts to draw up the legal framework to figure out which individuals or entities would be targeted. The EU said on Friday it had added Mohammed Deif, Commander General of the military wing of Hamas, and his deputy, Marwan Issa, to its list of terrorists under sanction. It is also considering adding Hamas Gaza chief Yahya Sinwar to the list according to diplomats.

The letter said a separate sanctions scheme targeting Hamas would send a strong political message' about the EU's commitment against Hamas.



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskiy speaks with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban during the inauguration of newly-elected President Javier Milei, in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Israeli tanks blast their way into Khan Yunis

Monitoring Desk

GAZA: Israeli tanks blasted their way into the heart of Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip — the refuge for hundreds of thousands of civilians who fled other parts of the enclave on Tel Aviv's orders — as Hamas said Israeli forces were mounting "very violent raids'

the Gaza Strip, residents also described some of the east. Warplanes were most intense fighting of the war so far. Intense fighting was

reported in Jabalia and Gaza City's Shejaiya district, while the Israeli army umns of whi

The Norwegian Nobel com-

mittee in October awarded the

prize to Mohammadi, 51, for

her non-violent fight "against

oppression of women in Iran"

and the promotion of human

said on Sunday that it had struck over 250 targets in the previous 24 hours.

The fighting has claimed at least 17,700 lives in Gaza since Oct 7. Residents of Khan Yunis said tanks had reached the main north-

south road through the middle of Khan Yunis after intense combat through the At the opposite end of night that had slowed the Israeli advance from the pounding the area west of the assault. The air rumbled with the constant thud of explosions and thick columns of white smoke rose from their homes.

China's actions in S. China

MANILA: The United States has called out China for interfering in the Philippines' maritime operations and undermining regional stability, urging Beijing to stop "its dangerous and destabilising conduct" in the South China Sea. The Philippines and China have traded accusations over a ramming incident during the weekend while Manila's vessels were

allies, and to bolster security in the Black Sea, the Gazans say

fuelling fears of exodus into Egypt **Monitoring Desk** GAZA: Fighting between Israel and Hamas intensified

hunger is growing,

across Gaza on Monday, fuelling fears flagged by the United Nations at the weekend of a breakdown in public order and a mass exodus of Palestinians into Egypt. The narrow coastal

strip has been under a full Israeli blockade since the start of the conflict more than two months ago and the border with Egypt is the only other way out. Most of Gaza's 2.3 million people have been driven

Sea undermine regional stability, US says

Monitoring Desk

on a resupply mission to Second Thomas Shoal.

ministry said. The U.K. is several cargo and grain transferring ships reportedly hit mines minehunter ships to in the area in recent Ukraine as a first step.

Ukraine allies provide

ships to ward off Russia

in the Black Sea

Boys hold containers while they line up, as displaced Palestinians, who fled their houses due to Israeli strikes, shelter in a tent camp near the border with Egypt, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip.

Canada's surging cost of living fuels reverse immigration

Monitoring Desk TORONTO: The dream of making it big in Canada is turning into a battle for survival for many immigrants due to the high cost of living and rental shortages, as rising emigration numbers hint at newcomers being forced to turn their back on a country that they chose to make their adopted

home. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has made immigration his main weapon to blunt Canada's big challenge of an aging and slowing population, and it has also

Canada's population up at its fastest clip in more than six decades this year, Statistics Canada said. But now a reversal of

that trend is gradually taking hold. In the first six months

of 2023 some 42,000 individuals departed Canada, adding to 93,818 people who left in 2022 and 85,927 exits in 2021, official data show.

The rate of immigrants leaving Canada hit a twodecade high in 2019, according to a recent report from the Institute for Canadian helped fuel economic Citizenship (ICC), an imgrowth. That drove migration advocacy group.

Licypriya Kangujam, an Indigenous climate activist from India, holds a banner during the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

China's leaders meet to discuss growth targets for 2024, say sources

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: China's leaders started a closed-door meeting on Monday to discuss agenda as China's economy ing on Monday to discuss economic targets and map out stimulus plans for 2024, four sources familiar

with the matter said. The annual Central Economic Work Conference, during which President Xi Jinping and other top officials chart the course for the world's second-largest economy next year, is likely to end on Tuesday, the sources said.

Investors are closely watching for clues on next has struggled to mount a strong post-pandemic recovery amid the deepening housing crisis, local government debt concerns, slowing global growth and geopolitical tensions. The Politburo, a top decision-making body of the ruling Communist Party, said on Friday that fiscal policy would be moderately strengthened.

Big US donors rally around Nikki Haley **Monitoring Desk** NEW YORK: A growing number of US business

lea--ders are rallying be-hind former South Carolina governor Nikki Haley as the Republican Party's presidential hopeful, seeing her as more stable than rival Donald Trump, and more favorable to business interests than incumbent Joe Biden.

"Even if you're a very liberal Democrat, I urge you: help Nikki Haley too. Get a choice on the Republican side that might be better than Trump," said Jamie Dimon, who as head of JPMorgan Chase bank is often seen as one of the country's most powerful

For the last month or so, a growing list of entrepreneurs and business leaders have been lining up behind Trump's former UN ambassador. stumping for her, swelling her campaign coffers or considering doing so as her standing in polls strengthens.

prevail against rulers **Monitoring Desk** rights for all, in a rebuke to OSLO: The Iranian people Tehran's theocratic leaders. Her 17-year-old twins Kiana will ultimately overcome and Ali Řahmani collected the authoritarianism imposed by a government that has lost leprize, a gold medal and digitimacy and public support, ploma, at a ceremony in Nobel Peace Prize winner Oslo's City Hall attended by several hundred guests. The Narges Mohammadi said prize includes a cheque for 11 from prison in a speech read million Swedish crowns by her children on Sunday.

Nobel Peace Prize winner

says Iranian people will

(about \$1 million). In her speech, sent from Iran's notorious Evin prison, Mohammadi said continued resistance and non-violence.

Balochistan, Henan to strengthen sister province friendship

Balochistan, Henan have decided to strengthen sister province friendship to promote cooperation in agriculture, tourism and industrial fields. A delegation of tribal leaders from Balochistan Province recently visited Luoyang city in central China's Henan Province. The delegation aims to promote sister province friendship between Henan and Balochistan and strengthen practical cooperation in agriculture, tourism, and industrial fields.

Bai Shengbin, Deputy Secretary General of Luoyang municipal government, met with the delegation. He mentioned that Luoyang is a renowned tourist city and one of the oldest cities in China.

"It is also a treasure trove for investment, with flourishing industries and advanced science and innovation," Bai said as he briefed the visitors about the trade and investment opportunities in Luoyang.

Henan Balochistan have established a sister province re-lationship in July 2023, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Monday. This partnership will help inject more vitality into the promotion of common prosperity and progress in both provinces.

Currently, Henan Province is deeply involved in the construction of Gwadar Free Zone in Pakistan. Under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative and the construction of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, Luoyang aims to establish friendly relations with cities in Balochistan that are compatible in terms of their status, complement each other in industry, and learn from each other in culture, Bai said. Mir Maqsood, the leader of the

delegation, expressed that during his visit of several days, he was deeply impressed by the rich historical and cultural heritage of Luoyang. He had an immersive experience of Luoyang's unique cultural tourism projects, such as "Hanfu Tour in Luoyang".

Balochistan to take support from FBISE in modernizing its exam system: Qadir

ISLAMABAD (APP): Qaiser Alam gave a com-Caretaker Minister for prehensive briefing to Education Balochistan Dr the provincial minister Qadir Bakhsh has ex- on the Federal Board's pressed his interest to take advantage of the experiences of Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE) Islamabad in modernizing the examination system of Balochistan province.

He was visiting the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE) the other day to see the new changes and the modern examination system in the Federal

"It will also be considered to adopt such kind of education system in the province, with joint initiatives and cooperation of the Balochistan government and the Federal Education Board", the minister added. Chairman FBISE examination system and facilities for students, especially, the technical education.

Dr. Qadir Bakhsh praised the innovative initiatives of the Federal Board in the education and examination system and hoped that the Board would cooperate with Balochistan in bringing innovation in the examination system of the

Controller of Examinations Aqeel Imran, Technical Controller Shafaq Jabeen, heads of technical institutes and others were present on the occasion.

Chairman FBISE thanked the Balochistan Education Minister and presented him appreciation shields and gifts.

Steps being taken to improve provision of medicines all over Balochistan, says Dr. Jogezai

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for In addition Ameer

Health, Dr. Ameer Muhammad Khan Jogezai has stated that steps are being taken to improve provision of medicines on permanent basis in the prov-

The caretaker Minister Health was speaking to the Minister for Home, Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali who called on him here on Monday.

They discussed the

der, healthcare and other

In addition to this, the matters about Health Card Programme were also dis-

Mir Zubair Jamali appreciated the initiative of Health Card and said that steps taken for welfare of the masses are commend-

Dr Ameer Muhammad Khan Jogezai said that the steps are being taken for improving the supply of medicines on permanent



KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM-P) Convener, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui along with others addresses to media persons during press conference, held at MQM-P Central Election Office located on Shahrah-e-Faisal road in Karachi.

MQM doubts 'transparency, fairness' of elections

Pakistan chief Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui on Monday raised doubt about "fairness and transparency" of general elections on February 8.

Addressing a press conference with Mustafa Kamal, Aminul Haq and other leaders at Pakistan House, Siddiqui said everyone knows how the results of the 2018 general elections were compiled. He claimed that Karachi has been deprived of its real representation. "Those who represented the city, did not belong to it," he added.

(Muttahida Qaumi Movement) leader said that the city needed elections at the earliest as "the caretaker government in Sindh is a continuation of the 15-year government."

KARACHI (INP): MQM- Siddiqui said elections should be held in such a way that the whole process looked transparent. "At this time, it seems, the elections will not be fair and transparent," he continued.

He warned the caretaker government of protest if the mandate was not to its liking. "We will come to the streets to get [real] mandate." He addressed the caretaker prime minister that "it is your job to conduct transparent elections.

He revealed that commission member Nisar Durrani has been an official of People's Party. He warned that the MQM-P would reject the result until Ijaz Anwar Chauhan and Nisar Durrani are members of the Election Commission. Siddiqui alleged that prepoll rigging has been done. "If it is not fixed, people will do the job themselves."



Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce and Industry, Dr. Gohar Ejaz had useful discussion today with Chinese MOFCOM Vice Minister Mr. Li Fei in Beijing.

Senate body unanimously passes resolution condemning Israeli atrocities against Palestinians

The Senate Standing Committee on Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony on Monday unanimously passed a resolution condemning the Israeli atrocities against the innocent Palestinians including the children.

The committee met under the Chairmanship of Senator Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri here at the Parliament Lodges.

committee strongly condemned the United States' veto against the United Nations Security Council Resolution passed by the majority of the world nations for a ceasefire in Gaza.

The resolution also called for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire. The committee strongly con-

Kasi hands

over wheel-

chairs other

equipment to

SPH Quetta

QUETTA (APP): Former

Minister for Home and

Tribal Affairs and tribal el-

der of the Kasi tribe, Malik

Inayatullah Khan Kasi, has

donated five wheelchairs,

five stretchers, and ten

blood pressure apparatuses

to Sandeman Provincial

the dysfunctional water

supply tube well of

Sandeman Provincial Hos-

He also functionalized

Hospital, Quetta.

pital, Quetta.

ISLAMABAD (APP): and aggressive actions against the innocent Palestinians including elderly people, children, and patients in hospitals and urged the government to take immediate action for

> The committee directed the ministry to investigate the non-registered company, Fifth Pilar Takaful Ltd, involved in the illegal booking of Hajj and Hajj Organizers Asso-

ciation of Pakistan (HOAP) Chairman informed that the company was, falsely claiming affilia-tion with HOAP, and deceiving the public by promoting installmentbased Hajj, potentially contributing to a broader fraud scheme.

The ministry enlisted the Federal Investigation the Federal Investigation ing efforts to extend the

Independent Report

Balochistan, Malik Abdul

Wali Khan Kakar has di-

rected to the concerned

authorities to ensure

transparency in the pro-

cess of distribution of

ensure that every eligible

speaking to the members of

committee formed resolve

complaints about distribu-

tion of laptops in the Uni-

ISLAMABAD: Activists of All Parties Hurriyat Conference holds protest in

person gets due right.

He also directed to

The Governor was

Governor Balochistan directs

to ensure process of laptop

distribution transparent

Agency to probe the matter and submit a report. The committee's di-

rective to involve the Pakistani Ambassador in Riyadh to implement the decision on reducing private Hajj Group Organizers from 905 to 46 was accepted. It was briefed that there would be a gradual reduction in the number of pilgrims, with each organizer allowed a minimum of 500 for Hajj 2024, 1,000 for 2025, and 2,000 for

The discussion also covered approaching Saudi authorities to expand the Road to Makkah Project to other Pakistani airports, including Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, and Quetta. Saudi approval had been granted for including

versity of Balochistan here

mittee also apprised the

Governor about lists of

the students to contact the

concerned authorities re

garding their complaints

also register their com-

plaints on mobile number

0333 3886430 or via

email: dit@um.uob.edu.pk &

marshad@um.uob.edu.ok

laptops distribution.

within three days.

The members of com-

The Governor asked

The students may

on Monday.

Regarding arrangements for Hajj 2024, the committee apprised that the tentative package cost decreased to Rs.1,075,000 Rs.1,175,000. Hujjaj would receive a complimentary baggage allowance of 30kg with a QR code, along with a free Hajj sim containing 7GB data. Additionally, Hajj has been categorized into Short Hajj (20 to 25 days) and Long Hajj (38 to 42 days).

enhanced facilitation.

The committee also emphasized the reduction of airline fare charges to the Hajj package and decided to take the matter to the prime minister for speedy implementation committee's recommenda-

PM orders competitive electricity rates for industries to promote trade activity

ISLAMABAD (APP): sized the role of the busi-Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday directed to introduce competitive electricity rates for industries to benefit the common man and promote trade activity in the country.

In a meeting with a delegation of industrialists and businessmen from Karachi, he said the government was taking every possible step to boost trade in The prime minister

also ordered the finance minister and power minister to devise a strategy for the gas prices in consultation with industrialists.

He said the government was taking steps to and President North Karachi expand tax-net and empha- Association of Trade.

ness community in that regard. PM Kakar mentioned that the government was working on bringing institutional reforms for the welfare of the masses and restoration of economy. The delegation comprised Chairman Businessmen Group Zubair Motiwala, Chief Coordinator Industrial Forum Muhammad Javed Balwani, Patron-inchief Lasbela Chamber of Commerce and Industries Maqsood Ismail, former Chairman All Pakistan Textile Processing Mills Association Saleem Parekh, Patronin-chief Bin Qasim Association of Trade and Industries Mian Muhammad Ahmed,

Siraj terms awakening, struggle of youth crucial to break status quo in country

Haq has termed the awakening and struggle of the young generation as crucial to break the status quo in the country. Talking to media persons at the Islami Jamiat Talba (IJT) head office in Ichra on Monday, he criticized the former gov-ernments of PML-N, PPP, and PTI for failing to honor their promises regarding the restoration of student unions. Sirajul Haq attributed the initial ban on student unions to a dictator's ber 14.

LAHORE (INP): Ameer decision, followed by sub-Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Sirajul sequent governments' resequent governments' reluctance to lift the ban due to fears that heightened political awareness among students would threaten the interests of feudal and corrupt imperialists.

He announced that JI would promptly restore student unions and allocate seven percent of the GDP to education after coming into power. The IJT is conducting a referendum in favor of its demands, which will continue until Decem-



Ministry of Law and Justice led by Secretary Law Raja Naeem Akbar and Nizamettin KOCAME country head Ozpak.

Caretaker PM launches new visa regime

SLAMABAD Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar launched new Visa Regime in Islamabad today to attract the foreign investors. Speaking on the occa-

sion, the Prime Minister emphasized the need to further rationalize and liberalize the visa policy. He noted that until and unless we do not open up to the world, it will be challenging to attract investment and develop trade and economic relationship. The Prime Minister said visa is the cornerstone of economic relationship. He expressed the confidence that the interior ministry will come up with more suggestions to further improve the visa

Under Health Card Program Free treatment of cardiac natients continues at SPHH Quetta

Independent Report QUETTA: The treatment of the patients suffering

from cardiac problems is continued totally free of cost under the Health Card Programme at the Sandeman Provincial Headquarter Hospital (SPHH)

According to Medical Superintendent of SPHH Quetta, Dr. Muhammad Ishaq Panezai, the 100 percent free angiography, angioplasty, open heart and valve surgery of the cardiac patients is being done in the Hospital under the Health Card Programme.

The MS recalled that

the free treatment of the heart patients had been started on November 15, 2023 under the Health Card

in the hospital.

He said that as the Health Card programme is a new one, therefore, some issues are being faced in its execution, still free medical services are being extended to the heart patients.

He informed that angioplasty of 77 cardiac patients was performed with angiography of 78 patients and bypass surgery of 17 patients was done free of cost in the SPHH Quetta, Dr. Panezai informed

the favor of their demands outside Shams Gate in Federal Capital. Punjab govt Indian apex court failed in upholding the merit and Khadija Shah, demands of justice: Anwar **Quetta police**

arrest her LAHORE (Online): Quetta (APP):Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime Minister police have arrested PTI Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, social activist Khadija Shah while condemning the Infrom Lahore jail following dian Supreme Court's verthe withdrawal of her de-tention order by Punjab dict upholding the presidential order regarding the revocation of Kashmir's spe-Case against detention cial status, has stated that of Khadija Shah came up for the Indian apex court has hearing in Lahore High miserably failed in uphold-

Court (LHC). ing the merit and demands Punjab government withdrew the detention orof justice. der of Khadija Shah therein The state counsel will present written order in the court in this respect.
It is said that Jahanzeb

Amin husband of Khadija Shah has resorted to LHC against her detention.

releases

government

Possibility of coalition govt, Nawaz not fond to run it: Danesh

ISLAMABAD (INP) Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) Senator Danesh Kumar has said that there was possibility of coalition government in the government but it was not nature of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif to appropriately deal with the

coalition partners. Talking to a private Tv channel on Monday, he said that Nawaz Sharif might be desirous to become the next prime minister but political party seems to ge simple majority in 2024 general elections.

AJK): said, adding that Kashmiris had no faith in the Indian state apparatus, not even in its pliant judiciary."All Indian in-

In a special statement

issued here on Monday, the AJK prime minister termed the court verdict as tantamount to murdering justice and robbing Kashmiris of their constitutional and human rights. Terming the abrogation of 370 and 35A by the Indian government as illegal and unconstitutional. the PM said Kashmiris had no hope from the Supreme Court of India.

"I was pretty sure that the Supreme Court of India will go the extra mile to defend the Indian and fancies of the Indian government's decision", he

stitutions including the judiciary have been equally responsible for the current mess and worsening political and human rights situation in the occupied Kashmir", he

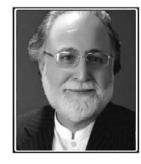
He, however, maintained that the Kashmiris' ongoing struggle for right to self determination would continue despite the Indian government's policies of deceit and deception.

The Indian judiciary has a history of being bi ased towards Kashmiris. It has never given any relief to the Kashmiri people", he said, adding that the Supreme Court through its recent ver dict has proved it bevond any doubt that it was acting on the whims establishment.



QUETTA: Balochistan Shuhada Forum Leader, Atiq Sajidi addresses to media persons during pres conference, at Quetta press club.

CONDOLENCE



APNS expresses profound grief over the sad

demise of veteran publisher and senior colleague

Mr. Rehmat Shah Afridi

Founder of

Daily Frontier Post.

May Allah the Almighty rest his soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the family to bear the loss.



All Pakistan Newspapers Society