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Govt taking multiple initiatives to streamline governance structure of Balochistan: PM

Govt determined to conduct free, fair polls: Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar

QUETTA (APP): Care- the provincial structure. taker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday said that the government had taken multiple initiatives to bring about reforms in bureaucracy in order to improve overall governance structure of Balochistan province.

Addressing a press conference, he said the province had some chronic and complex issues which ought to be resolved by deputing a blend of upright and hardworking bureaucrats from civil service as well as from

'Our issues are linked with the bad governance, that had been badly affecting the performance of the province for the last few decades," he said. On the request of the Balochistan government, he deputed a competent bureaucrat Shakeel Qadir Khan along with a team, to ensure meritocracy and to streamline the overall structure of bureaucracy. He said he specifically instructed the team

to fully support the Chief

Minister and the provincial

government in this regard. PM Kakar said there was an axis of some corrupt bureaucrats and other stakeholders who had crumpled the whole province, thus adversely affecting the na-

tional economy. He hoped that the incoming elected government would also remain vigilant in this regard and would continue the process of reforms in future.

To a question regarding reservations of the nationalist parties to hold free and fair elections in the prov-

ince, the prime minister said it was just a routine matter as these parties had something to say to their voters. Reiterating

government's resolve to hold free and fair elections across the country, he said the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) would perform its duty to conduct the elections in an appropriate way. "It is our task that we run the day-to-day affairs of the government, implement the state affairs, and then conduct the election," he said.



QUETTA: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar alongwith Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki and Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Murtaza Solangi addressing a Press conference

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Asim Munir meeting with Gen Michael Erik Kurilla, the Commander of the US Central Command (CENTCOM).

COAS, US Centcom discuss joint training, enhance cooperation avenues

of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir called eration in regional security States Central Command sion. (US CENTCOM), General quarters Central Command at Tampa Bay,

According to the Inter Services Public Relations Tuesday, during the meet- visit.

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief ing, matters of shared inon Commander United matters came under discus-

Both the sides discussed Michael Erik Kurilla dur- avenues of joint training ing his visit to the Head- and reiterated the need for enhancing training interac-tions between CENTCOM and the Pakistan Army. The COAS also visited the CENTCOM Joint Opera-(ISPR) news release on tions Center during the

PTV Bolan fulfills Hazara community's demand with Hazargi broadcast: Solangi

QUETTA (APP): Care- grams in Balochi, Pashto taker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi said on Tuesday that long standing demand of Hazara community had been fulfilled by start of Hazargi language programmes at Pakistan Television Bolan from to-

Delivering his speech at the opening ceremony of he said the PTV Bolan was already broadcasting pro-

and Brahvi languages. PTV Bolan broadcasts were available on cable and satellite, Murtaza Solangi said adding it could also be accessed through terrestrial antennas that would help people in remote areas too.

'We are grateful to Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar for encouraging us to take this initiative, Murtaza Solangi remarked.

"Hazargi language" The minister said that programme on PTV Bolan, PTV Multan telecast's duration had been extended to 24 hours earlier this month.

Process of training of ROs and DROs completes: **Election Rules and Act to be** implemented in true letter and spirit, maintains PEC

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial Election Commissioner, Balochistan, Ejaz Anwar Chohan has categorically stated that the Election related rules and Act would be imple-



mented in true letter and spirit, and there would be no thing against the law. He pledged that all political parties would be provided level playing field and treated equally ensuring free, fair and transparent elections in the prov-

The PEC was speaking to the media persons on occasion of the training of District Returning Officers (DROs) here at a local hotel on Tuesday.

Also present on the occasion were Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat and Election Commissioner's senior officials. The PEC said that the training of DROs and ROs has been completed in the province. He said that it is mandate of the ECP to ensure free, fair and transparent elections in the province and it is responsibility of the DROs to implement the mandate of ECP on ground.

Domki meets Kakar, discusses matters about Balochistan

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki had meeting with the caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar

here on Tuesday. During the course of meeting, different matters about Balochistan were dis-

US supports free, fair elections in Pakistan:

State Department WASHINGTON (INP) The United States (ÙS) réiterated its stance for free and fair elections in Paki-

US will continue to support free and fair elections in Pakistan, said US State Department spokesperson, Matthew Miller

said in a weekly press brief-

"That is the - and engage with Pakistan on a bilateral basis to discuss our support for free and fair elections," Mathew Miller said and reiterated that the US does not take sides while speaking about Pakistan's politics and they would engage with elected representatives. "As I've said before, we don't take a position as it comes to when it comes to political parties in Pakistan, and we will engage with the leaders that the Pakistani people

select," Miller said. **ECP orders** removal of **Ahad Cheema** from the post

ISLAMABAD (Online) Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has ordered the immediate removal of Ahad Cheema from the

According to the announcement issued by the ECP, Ahad Cheema can influence the elections, he has been instructed to immediately separate the post of advisor. In this regard, the Secretary Cabinet Division was ordered to remove Ahad Cheema.

It may be recalled that in the petition filed last week by Advocate Syed Azizuddin Kakakhil, it was requested to remove caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar and some other members of his cabinet including Ahad Cheema, Fawad Hasan Fawad and Syed Tauqeer

families in Balochistan

Anwaarul Haq Kakar directs to resolve issues of water supply in Balochistan at the earliest besides forming special patrolling force for prevention of illegal fishing in at coasts of all

PM directs to accelerate rehabilitation of flood affected

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar has issued standing directives to the concerned authorities for expediting process of rehabilitation of the flood affected families and their houses in Balochistan.

He also directed to resolve the issues of water supply in the province at the earliest. In this regard, he di-

rected to the provincial administration to ensure water supply in all areas of the province.

These directives were country. issued by the caretaker Prime Minister while presiding over a review meeting on the administrative matters and development here on Tuesday.

The Prime Minister was briefed about different initiatives taken during the period of incumbent caretaker government in the province.

The PM was also briefed about the water re-

houses, minerals, communication, law and justice, fisheries and different other In addition to this, he

was also informed about the progress made on upgrading the mining sector. Addressing the meeting, the Premier said that the future of people of Balochistan is linked with

the local and international investment in the mining and minerals sector. He on the occasion directed to improve the communication and transportation system besides estab-

lishing system of safety

certificates launch in the He stressed that an affective database system should be formulated for issuance and verification of

the licenses of vehicles. Moreover, the Prime Minister directed to form a special patrolling force for prevention of the illegal fishing in the country's coast.

An effective patrolling force comprising local people should be constituted for stopping move-



QUETTA: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar launches the Electronic Public Procurement System of Balochistan.

Properly educated people can transform society: PM

QUETTA (APP): Care- part in overcoming the outtaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday pointed out the seriousness of out-ofschool children issue which warranted collective efforts for its redressal as properly educated people could transform a human society.

He said in the future,

no society would be able to exist without education and knowledge, and stressed that students should have realization for the changes shaping the human societies. During an interaction with the students of different universities of the Balochistan province. PM Kakar said that the out-ofschool children issue was a social issue which had two aspects and according to his view, they required to ponder as to what steps should be taken to make the edu-

He stressed upon utilization of existing infrastructure and enhancement of teachers' capacity building, besides increasing the outreach of education.

cation accessible to such

The prime minister suggested that about 10 million Pakistani diaspora, living in different parts of the globe, could play their expected in the region.

of-school children issue. If they gave commitment to educate at least five children with their minimum donation, that amount could prove huge for catering to the needs the uneducated With such initiative, the

other countries and stakeholders would look towards the move as positive and would be supplementing in those efforts, he opined.

The caretaker prime minister, to another query, replied that career counseling should be introduced at universities, keeping in view the contemporary needs of the local industry and particularly in the region, and cited the massive construction work being undertaken in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which required skilled manpower. He also expressed the

hope that the upcoming government would focus and improve the skill development capacity of the people by taking different steps. The caretaker prime

minister, referring to the trade and economic potential of the region, said trillions of dollars trade was

No delay will be accepted in election: Supreme Court

Suspends BHC verdict regarding constituencies; Delimitation cases be heard after elections

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday suspended another decision of Balochistan High Court (BHC) pertaining to the delimitations and said all appeals, would be taken up again after the general elec-

The court reiterated that it wouldn't spare any hindrance with regard to general polls in the country. There was no chance to delay the electoral process, it added.

A three-member bench of the top court, headed by Acting Chief Justice Sardar

Bilawal calls for end to traditional politics, cites need for justice in fake cases

Lahore (INP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari urged for a shift away from traditional politics, emphasizing the need for justice in cases he believes are politically moti-

Addressing the Lahore High Court Bar on Tuesday, Bilawal reiterated his gratitude for the hearing of a graft case against him, lodged over a decade ago.

Two generations have been oppressed and victimized," Bilawal stated, expressing his appreciation for judges, including Justice Qazi Faiz Isa, who are presiding over the case. He expressed hope for a fair resolution after years of waiting, highlighting the importance of justice not just for himself and his party members, but for setting a precedent against political per-

PTI won't ally any party in general elections: Gauhar

PESHAWAR (Online): Newly elected chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, has said that he will not form an alliance with any party in the general elections. If DCs are ROs, they are part of the government which has not been transparent. Speaking to the me-

dia after appearing in the Peshawar High Court, PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan said that taking the election symbol from us would be an injustice to the people.

Tariq Masood and com- in the country after the anprising Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Athar Minallah, heard the various appeals against the delimi-

tations in Balochistan. Secretary ECP Umar Hameed appeared before

During the course of proceedings, the court said that the decision wouldn't affect the cases of all petitioners. It said that the delay in the conduct of the general elections.

Justice Sardar Tariq

nouncement of election date. Whether the petitioners didn't want stability, he asked, adding that announcement of election schedule was not an ordinary issue. Justice Athar Minallah

remarked that it was not the duty of high court to see the maps, rather it was the job of ECP. He said that it could derail court couldn't accept any the process of polls if the court allowed the changes in the delimitations at this stage. There was no chance Masood remarked that of delay in elections, he added



ISLAMABAD: Senior Member Federal Public Service Commission, Mr. Akbar Hussain Durrani presenting Annual Report- 2022 of FPSC to President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

GoB decides to establish Skills Development Fund

Balochistan Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki on Tuesday said the provincial government has decided to establish 'Balochistan Skills Development Fund' under the supervision of Planning and Development Department to provide technical education and training to the youth of the province.

He expressed his views while addressing the inauguration ceremony of the Prime Minister's Youth Skills Development Program here.

The chief minister said that the existing infrastructure of the Labor and Mandepartment would be utilized where the youth will be trained in artificial intelligence, hoteling, tourism, health care, nursing, fashion designing, film making in order to produce quality technical human resource.

He said that the ob-

jective of the program is to provide skills in various fields of technology to the youth of Balochistan to secure employment opportunities worldwide upon completion of their train-

Domki said that the purpose of providing the training program was to equip them with muchneeded valuable skills that will enable them to contribute to the economic development of the province and send remittances to family

He said that on the direction of Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar, the youth of Balochistan are being provided with skill training in various fields so that they can support their families and work abroad.

Caretaker chief minister said that more than 60 percent of the total population of the country consists of youth which are a valuable asset of any country and society



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Kakar, Principal Asif Jan, Dr. Waheed Yousaf, Madam Yasmeen Joseph and others cutting cake during anniversary of Saint Mar's School

Daily Soice of Masse Independent

Balanced ballots

The latest voter data by the ECP is a harbinger of progress. The electoral gender gap in Pakistan has notably shrunk to below 10m. With the overall voter count soaring beyond 128m, women now represent 46.13pc of the electorate. This shift, while heartening, underscores an ongoing challenge: the need for sustained efforts to further reduce this gap and enhance women's participation in our democratic

The reduced gender gap, albeit significant, is unevenly distributed across the provinces. Punjab, with a disparity of over 5m, leads in gender disparity among voters, followed by Sindh, KP, and Balochistan. While Punjab boasts districts with more than 48pc female voters, areas like South Waziristan (Lower) in KP report considerably low female voter percentages, as little as 34.54pc.

This contrast not only reflects the varied sociopolitical landscapes of these provinces but also signals where targeted interventions are most needed. The responsibility to further narrow this gap rests significantly on the shoulders of political parties. Their role extends beyond mere competition in elections; they are, in essence, the stewards of our democracy and must lead the charge in initiatives aimed at encouraging and facilitating women's voting. This duty encompasses a range of actions, from awareness campaigns to the implementation of measures such as ensuring the availability of safe and accessible polling stations, and addressing the sociocultural barriers that impede women's political participation. In addition, the role of communities in shaping attitudes towards women's voting rights cannot be overstated. Comprehensive efforts to educate and engage communities, especially in regions marked by pronounced gender disparities, are of utmost importance. This engagement needs to transcend tokenistic approaches and strive to genuinely empower women, dismantling the entrenched patriarchal norms that restrict their political agency. Reflecting on the history of past elections, the gender gap has been a persistent issue, reaching its peak at 13.17m in 2016.

The current reduction is a clear indication of the concerted efforts by various stakeholders, including the ECP. However, the objective extends beyond merely decreasing numbers; it aims for the achievement of gender parity in voter participation. As we approach future elections, the narrowing of this gap marks an important milestone, signalling progress yet reminding us that there is a considerable journey ahead. It is crucial to recognise that the true strength of a democracy is reflected in the inclusivity of its processes. Political parties, civic groups, and communities must persist in their collaborative work to ensure that every citizen's voice, regardless of gender, is heard and valued at the ballot box. This journey towards an inclusive, equitable democracy demands unwavering commitment and concerted action from all sectors of society. Let this be the legacy we aspire to create and solidify for future generations.

Issues with BRT

ın--d-ertaking based on

the possible enterprises

evolving from the BRT.

However, the performance

of local and provincial

bodies is at a record low,

professi-o-nal handling

Two, the BRT will ca-

seven lines become opera-

grows, the trips will expand

benefit to the commuter

population would be

velopment and operations

congestion on the streets.

The corridors are being

built on the major arteries

Three, the BRT's de-



Dr Noman Ahmed

While meeting an Asian Development Bank delegation earlier this month, Sindh's caretaker chief minister said that 180 solar-powered buses will be and the level of introduced to support the operations of the Bus and follow-up needed for Rapid Transit (BRT) sys- a project of such magnitem in Karachi. These im- tude is difficult to expect ported buses are meant to from them. The BRT may provide urban commuters also cause enormous with a cleaner, more effi- physical displacement. cient public transport op-

However, questions necessary during its conarise: can these expensive struction. buses operate as efficiently as promised, given the rundown state of our roads? Not too long ago, the government launched electric buses on three rently over 30m per day. As routes, most of which were out of service in less than a year. Issues of charging facilities and other operational difficulties were cited as the main reason.

In fact, one can question the financial model of the entire BRT system. won't reduce the existing Currently, the Green Line is operational. It was developed by the federal government-owned Sindh Infrastructure Development Company. Will this service continue when it available road space for has been unable to generate revenue amounting to even a fraction of the sum motorcycles, cars, delivery spent on its operations? The under-construction ers and other vehicles, be-Red Line is a \$503 million sides adding to air polluundertaking. Life in many neighbourhoods has been adversely impacted by the consider owning a slow pace of construction. mo-torcycle or a car a so-Besides, work on the Yellow Line, running from Korangi to Numaish, will soon start. The loan from torcycles once the BRT bethe World Bank for this is comes functional. In North

Do we need the BRT locations along the Green system? Five arguments Line, no visible reduction justify a negative answer. in motorcycles or cars has One, the proposed been noticed. Perhaps the Courtesy Dawn

BRT's cost and manage- absence of feeder services and long and inconvenient walks will leave people with ment needs serious review. According to a document prepared by the relevant little choice but to continue to use private vehicles. au--t--horities, the total cost of the Karachi Many people have outdoor Cir-c-ular Railways and employm-ent, including deseven BRT corridors is livery services where pos-Rs520.6 billion. An investsessing a vehicle is necesment plan has also been sary. Thus the BRT offers prepared to justify the

little solace to them. Lastly, there is little interconnectivity between the existing paratransit and the BRT system. While those managing the BRT claim that this will be ensured, there have been no indications of this so far. One must also study

other examples. For instance, the Lahore BRT runs on a huge subsidy with a limited passenger trip load. The Peshawar BRT Be--sides, capable traffic was hit by allegations of management wou-ld be malpractice and corruption. Several investigations were carried out by various agencies to ascertain the charges of cost overruns and opter to only nine per cent of erational inefficiencies total passenger trips, if all Across the border, the Delhi tional. Such trips are cur-BRT was dismantled by the state government due to rising congestion and its Karachi's population own relative ineffectiveproportionally. The net ness.

From a macroeconomic perspective, the government can focus on road development and maintenance, while bus operations are left to local bus operators without any sub-

The people of Karachi

need short-, long- and meof the city. In many cases, exclusive right of way for dium-term solutions to their BRT buses shall reduce commuting woes. The immediate increase in buses other modes of transport. and mini buses, and removal This will be a challenge for of encroachments from roads for the smooth flow of traffic should be undervans, water tankers, oil tanktaken as a low-cost, shortterm action. The revival of ordinary Karachi buses Four, ordinary folk on designated routes and alignment of larger rickshaw routes to connect cial attainment. Thus it is the modes of mass transit very unlikely that people with neighbourhoods will stop using cars or momay be undertaken in the medium term, while the planning and develop-Nazim-abad and adjoining ment of grade-separated mass transit BRT should be started as a long-term option.

Ambitious outcome



Aisha Khan

The recently concluded Conference of Parties, COP28, held in Dubai delivered a package of agreements setting out the pathway for global climate action in the years to Global Stock-Take (GST) under the UAE COP presidency, was historic in many ways. It called for action to transition away from fossil fuels for the first time, made headway in the operationalisation and initial capitalisation of the Loss and Damage Fund (\$85 billion) pledges in climate action. narratives

The

emerging at COP28 reflect a climate regime struggling to come to terms with the need for urgency in climate action and maturing to move to an era of 'implementation'. However, despite consensus and incremental gains, COPs remind us that negotiations are part of a broader agenda and not an endgame, with some wins, some disappointments and a few loopholes carried forward to the next meeting. The ultimate arbiter of COP's significance will be the delivery of emissions cut, adaptation action, and finance through the Dubai-

Baku-Belem roadmap. The GST has set the stage for accelerating action between now and 2025 when parties are expected to submit their next Nationally Determined Contributions. This will make finance the central focus of COP29, highmobilising and aligning financial flows with Article banks to 2.1c of the Paris Agreement and finding a way to ing finance for transition.

Implementation in the finance package to address debt burdens and forward thinking in strengthening resilience. The seriousness of the GST decision can be seen in its call for a two-year dialogue on implementing its outcomes to start at COP29 and a 'Roadmap to Mission 1.5' to enhance global cooperation under the guidance of the presidencies of COP28, COP29 and COP30. Notwithstan-ding the lack of detail on come. The outcome of the transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems, the use of 'just', 'orderly' and 'equitable' in the text language raises hope of significant emissions reductions in this decade and the beginning of the end of the fossil fuel-

dominated era. COP28 also saw and saw record breaking many new announcements and pledges, ranging considerably in their significance and credibility. The UAE-led Finance Framework, along with record-breaking pledges to the Green Climate Fund and new finance for loss and damage of around \$655.9 million can be interpreted as a shift in politics of financing.

The UAE announced a package of finances as a contribution to delivering on the framework with a \$30bn investment fund for clean transition, \$4.5bn for energy transition investment in Africa, and a new announcement plan to rechannel \$200m equivalent in special drawing rights to the IMF Resilience and Sustainability Trust Fund. The gap between adaptation finance pledges and the need for implementing adaptation plans signal a need for heightened political attention. Significantly, COP president Sultan Al Jaber called on the need lighting need for to inject more capital into multilateral development support mobilising and distribut-

incorporate Means of Other highlights of COP28 include pathways for alignment on climate, food and nature goals ahead of Brazil's COP30 and a High Ambition Coalition to serve as the centre of gravity for pushfollow-up, including a ing outcomes on fossil fuels, adaptation and finance. The US-China Sunnylands statement ensured a basis of support for the final package, but without a major shift in their pre-COP posi-

> The fiercely contested negotiations went into overtime to reach consensus but successful shuttle diplomacy in the last 48 hours played a role in gavelling the agreement. For Pakistan, it's important to translate GST into NST (National Stock-take) and convene a multidisciplinary discussion on the impact of global climate agreements on the country and the region. An analytical review to assess the impact will help in setting the course for coping strategies, inclusive of economy-wide impacts and options, for increasing revenue streams to meet mitigation commitments and adapta-

The climate change ministry-led delegation at COP28 marked a new start by taking a 'whole of society' approach, working closely with all relevant stakeholders to foster collective ownership in framing Pakistan's stance. The 29 events hosted at the Pakistan Pavilion included high-level segments with diverse themes that provided opportunity for expanding outreach and showcasing the impact of climate calamities, as well as networking opportunities for deepening engagement and forging new partnerships. The next steps include balancing national gaps with international obligations and moving towards a point of convergence, complementarities create an enabling environment for long-term investments. --Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Pakistan exports first shipment of dried Chillies to China: Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of Commerce and Industries Dr Gohar Ejaz, on Tuesday, announced a significant breakthrough in Pakistan's agricultural exports to China with the appreciation for the inaugural shipment of dried

This momentous achievement, achievement, made possible through the outstanding efforts of Litong Food Co. Ltd., marks the beginning of a consignment of dried new era in the trade chillies is on its way to relationship between China. This achievement exporters. Pakistan and China, said a not only showcases the

press release issued here. The minister exporters but also upnoid standards, Litong Food Co. Ltd. for their extraordinary feat and expressed sincere Chinese businesses," the marketing meet the exporters and upnoid standards, productivit implement chinese businesses," the unwavering support of the

Chinese government in creating a substantial market for Pakistani goods within China. "I am delighted to announce that the first-ever

capabilities of our encouraged the exporters to exporters but also uphold high-quality

He emphasised that the exports of Pakistan's products to China have the potential to exceed \$20 billion in the coming years.

However, achieving this ambitious goal requires concerted efforts from Pakistani agricultural

Dr. Gohar Ejaz

implement effective marketing strategies to meet the expectation

Acknowledging the crucial role of the Chinese companies in the process, the minister expressed optimism about the prospects of collaboration. 'If our companies can meet the standards set by the Chinese authorities, our

the Chinese market

exports can soar.



Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.



ISLAMABAD: Dr. Maen Khreasat, Ambassador of Jordan to Pakistan called on the Caretaker Federal Minister for Privatisation, Fawad Hassan Fawad

PCJCCI suggests export of Pak honey

China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) President Moazzam Ghurki said on Tuesday that certificated Pakistani honey could triple its value, enhancing its export to other countries.

Sharing his views in a think-tank session held here at PCJCCI Secretariat, he added, "Our honey is sold for merely USD 20 or USD 25 per kilogram but the price can rise to USD 100 per kilogram when it is packaged at other countries. The situation could improve if we establish labs and certification systems and implement management most traditional method.

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan and supervision policies.' Ghurki called for upgrading Pakistani honey industry, asserting that Pakistani honey is cheaper and tastes better than New Zealand's honey, but the latter's certification has been recognized by four international companies. "If we work to establish an internationally recognized modern laboratory, our honey will be among the best. Another way to upgrade Pakistan's honev industry is to establish large-scale honey processing plants." Although the Pakistani has

a large honey market with many varieties, the honey

production still follows the

PSX stayed bearish, loses **2,371** more points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bearish trend or Tuesday, losing 2,371.64 more points, a negative change of 3.64 percent, closing at 62,833.03 points against 65,204.68 points the previous trading day. A total of 1,513,931,019 shares valuing Rs.29.099 billion were traded during the day as compared to 1,890,424,261 shares valuing Rs.24.595 billion the last day.

Some 386 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 31 of them recorded gains and 351 sustained losses. whereas the share prices of 4 remained unchanged.

resolve farmers' issues (APP): Balochistan Caretaker Prime Minister secretary to ensure Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on electricity supply for the

PM directs Balochsitan govt to

Tuesday directed the agriculture tube wells in provincial administration the province. of Balochistan to resolve the problems faced by the members apprised the farmers in the province prime minister of the issues including electricity supply, irrigation and

in a meeting with a delegation of Zameendar

sector as well as the power load-shedding The prime minister, Balochistan. Prime Minister Kakar said that the welfare of the

confronting the agriculture

Action Committee of farmers was among the Balochistan, asked the state's priorities. Pakistan's current account

deficit enters into surplus after 6 six months

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan's current account deficit entered into surplus for the first time in six months. The current account deficit narrowed to 64% in the first five months of the current financial year. In November, the first month after four months, when the current account surplus raised to \$9 million, exports rose by 12 percent.

monetary and fiscal policy and stringent administrative measures taken by the government, the current account balance has declined substantially in the first 5 months of FY2024. As a

result of the correct policies, the current account deficit has reduced to \$1.16 billion in July-November of fiscal year 2024, which was \$3.3 billion during the same period last fiscal year.

trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also After four months, November is the first month increased by Rs 343 to Rs in which the current account 186,557 from Rs 186,214 surplus remained at \$9 whereas the prices of 10 gram million. The encouraging 22 karat gold went up to Rs 171,011 from Rs 170,696, As a result of tight news is that both exports and remittances showed the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers improvement in November Association reported. The 2023, with Pakistan's price of per tola and 10 gram exports at \$3.36 billion up silver remained stagnant at Rs 2,670 and 2,289.09 12 percent and remittances up 4 percent at \$2.25 billion respectively. in the month of November

filers and non-filers MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): circumstances.

Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has directed the State Inland Revenue Department to pool in all its efforts to achieve the tax collection targets besides reducing the disparity between filers and non-

Chairing a high level meeting of the AJK Inland Revenue Department here Tuesday, he said that the government would provide the required resources to the department but negligence in duties won't be tolerated under any

Gold rates

up by Rs 400

ISLAMABAD (APP): The

per tola price of 24 karat gold

increased by Rs 400 and

was sold at Řs 217,600 on

Tuesday against its sale at Rs 217,200 on the last

further directed the IRD the Inland Revenue

base in the region.

AJK PM directs for focusing

on reducing disparity between

of all the private hospitals, hotels, tourism resorts, discussed in detail the business centers, shops, local industries, marquees taxation related matters, setting up taxation targets and private schools and and implementing fiscal furnish the report to the policies to widen the tax PM office within next

couple of weeks.

The Commissioner of The meeting was attended among others Inland Revenue (North), on the occasion, briefed the by senior Minister Colonel Retired Waqar prime minister, in detail of he tax collection targets in Ahmed Communications Minister Muzaffarabad, Neelum and Jhelum Valley and the Azhar Sadiq, Health problems faced by the Minister Ansar Abdali, Special Secretary Masood-The prime minister ur- Rahman and officers of

officials to collect the data Department.

FGEHA all set to initiate new residential projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) is all set to initiate new residential projects in eight major cities of the country to provide housing to government employees and the general public. The authority has

already received several applications from land owners, companies and firms interested in the mega projects," sources in the FGEHA told APP. said the

schemes (plots, houses and apartments) projects in major cities of the country. The procedure for applications and selection was being followed as per Joint Venture Regulations

applications were invited

developers, firms and

eligible individuals for the

supply of land for housing

2020, they added. They said

authority was planning to launch new residential projects in eight major cities of the country

KP cabinet authorizes depts to transfer buildings for launching skill development classes

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa ministers, Chief Secretary, country.
Caretaker Cabinet on Tuesday authorized secretaries.

attenued by provincial country.

country.

Addressing the meeting the Chief Minister provincial departments to transfer their buildings in spare time for launching classes of skill development among the youth under the Khushala Pakhtunkhwa Program.

These departments include Elementary and Secondary Education, Technical Education, Industries and Labor, Health, and other line departments.

The special meeting of the provincial cabinet was held under the chairmanship of Caretaker Chief Minister Justice (Rtd.) Syed Arshad Hussain Shah was also

It was revealed at the meeting that recently South Korea had demanded over one hundred thousand skilled workers in response to which Pakistan could only provide 16000 skilled workers from all over the country because the country had no skilled labor force to be employed in the outside world.

It was also learned that more than 500 thousand youth from all over the province will be imparted different trainings in information technology, computer, paramedics, nursing, trade etc. so that they could earn

said though the prime duty the caretaker government was to facilitate fair and impartial elections but in view of the increasing unemployment

and poverty in the province, the youth cannot be left to desperation to become nurseries for the terrorists. He said that the government cannot wait and has to contribute to the welfare of the people at

"All Mighty Allah might have provided us an opportunity to serve the people this way at this point of time therefore we must come forward to play



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi presides over the meeting regarding Protected U-Turns Project for smooth flow of Traffic.

DCs asked to ensure best arrangements for elections

LAHORE (APP): Chief Secretary said that the Secretary Punjab Zahid deputy commissioners as Akhtar Zaman has directed DROs must fulfill their commissioners to ensure responsibility in a good the best arrangements for manner. He said that

transparent elections.

He issued this Commission, all directive while presiding arrangements should be over a meeting of all deputy commissioners at the Civil Secretariat here on be prepared for polling Tuesday. The secretary stations, staff deployment, home, special secretary transport and security.He local government, all deputy commissioners and officers regarding the launch of an concerned attended the anti-encroachment operation

deputy constitutional and national conducting free, fair and according to the guidelines transparent elections. of the Election

> completed on time and a comprehensive plan should also issued instructions Chief across the province.

LDA evacuates two plots from land grabbers

LAHORE (APP): On the direction of Commissioner Lahore and DG LDA Muhammad Randhawa, LDA teams conducted an early morning operation against the mafia involved in land grabbing in Tajpura and took possession of two plots worth crores of

During the operation, LDA teams evacuated Plot No. 57 and 59 Block A situated at main road in Tajpura Scheme. The operation was supervised by Director Housing V Shahbazul Haque Ghurki. changed.



Provincial Health Minister Dr. Javed Akram in a group photo with participants on the eve of inauguration of Society of Gynecology Oncology Pakistan.

CM Naqvi sets deadline for protected u-turns in Lahore

Independent Report LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday chaired a meeting focusing on addressing traffic issues

approved establishment of protected U-turns at the six busiest intersections of the city to streamline traffic flow. The CM set a deadline of January 19 for the implementation of the Uturns at Qadir Topash Chowk, Gujjumatta Chowk, Nishtar Chowk, Gujjumatta

RAWALPINDI (Online):

Former Prime Minister

Imran Khan's lawyer Shoaib

Shaheen has raised the

question that if we can't

even discuss a list with Imran

Khan, how did this level

playing field happen? PTI's lawyer Shoaib Shaheen

while talking to the media

outside Adiala Jail said that

the petition against the jail

trial order in the Election

Commission of Pakistan

(ECP) contempt case is

ordered without any rule of

law. This is an open trial

case, only the venue has

pending. A jail trial was

Joray Pull Chowk. Additionally

approval was granted to relocate Babusabu Toll Plaza, and various proposals were examined to alleviate congestion at the Thokar Niaz Baig entrance on Multan Road. A consensus was reached to direct heavy traffic onto the M2 Motorway. The CM emphasized the need for sustainable measures to ensure smooth traffic flow on Multan Road. The meeting was also

attended by Inspector General of Police, Khokhar Chowk, and Additional IG, Secretary

said

transparency requires the

presence of media. Media,

public, relatives, lawyers

should be present for open

trial and indictment. We were

not allowed to enter with

complete files. For half an

hour our files were checked

should ensure that if we

cannot discuss the list with

the former chairman, then

where is the level playing

field? The bat symbol has

been withheld till date, all

the other parties have

received their electoral

He said that ECp

and we stood waiting.

Communication Works, Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, CCPO, CTO, and relevant officials. Meanwhile, Puniab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi chaired a meeting in which an important decision was made to export high-protein fodder from Punjab to Kuwait. The meeting approved measures to enhance the cultivation of high-protein "alfalfa" fodder for livestock development, emphasizing the scientific drying and preservation of this

PDWP Punjab approves two uplift schemes

nutrient-rich feed.

LAHORE Provincial Development Working Party (PDWP) of Punjab Tuesday approved developmental schemes of the local government sector with an estimated cost of Rs 3436.04 million.

The schemes were approved in 35th PDWP meeting of current financial year 2023-24 chaired by Planning and development Board Chairman Iftikhar Ali Sahoo. Secretary P&D Board Muzaffar Khan Sial was also present. The approved schemes include the improvement schemes of Sewerage System.

Steps being taken for development, progress of tribal areas: Governor

PESHAWAR Pakhtunkhwa, Ghulam Ali has said that steps had been taken to tribal people

He was talking to a thirty five member delegation of Mohmand tribal district led by Malik Shehryar Khan here Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion, the Governor said that provincial and federal governments have taken steps for the development and progress and assured cooperation to of merged tribal districts.

for the peace of the of tribal area.

(APP): country and strengthening Khyber its sovereignty. He also urged the youngsters to counter narrative of elements that are targeting usher tribal areas into new state institutions and phase of progress and to added that it was the prime address deprivations of responsibility of each and every citizen to join hands for protection of the

motherland. informed the Governor about their problems relating to transport, health, education and other basic amenities.

Governor listened to their problems resolve them and stressed He highlighted the the use of modern sacrifices of tribal people technology to tap potential



Punjab Brigadier Sikandar Hayat Chaudhry talking to media persons at Drug Advisory Office in provincial Capital.

PPP always believes in power of public mandate: Kundi

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Central Information Secretary Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday said his party would opt to play the opposition's role during the next tenure rather than becoming 'Laadla' (favorite) or 'Selected' as it always believed in the power of public mandate.

Addressing a press conference here at Kundi Model Farm, the PPP Information Secretary said the country had faced a 'Laadla' in the recent past and borne its losses.

He said the PPP has a clear stance that the general elections must be held in time in a free, fair and transparent manner.

The different political parties, who have fear of defeat, expressed their wish to delay the elections by showing their lame excuses like bad weather conditions and demanding appointments of ROs and DROs from the judiciary, he mentioned.

Replying question regarding PPP candidates, Kundi said the party was in the process of finalizing its candidates.

International News

If we can't discuss list with

Imran, where is level playing

field: Shoaib Shaheen

He

At least 126 dead in northwest China earthquake

Monitoring Desk GANSU: Rescuers in remote villages of northwest

The quake damaged more than 155,000 build-China dug through the rubble of collapsed homes and sent residents running on Tuesday after the country's deadliest earthquake in years killed at least 126 people and injured hundreds more.

State media said the shallow tremor just before midnight had caused the deaths of at least 113 and injured more than 530 in impoverished Gansu province, as of Tuesday after-

A further 13 died, 182 were injured and 20 were neighbouring Qinghai province, state broadcaster

CCTV reported.

into the freezing streets for

At a village near the epicentre, AFP reporters saw huge cracks running through the exterior and interior walls of a brick home. and the roof of a building that had caved in completely.

"I am 70 and I have never experienced such a powerful quake in my life," resident Ma Wenchang told AFP. "I can't live (in this house) anymore because missing in Haidong in it's too dangerous. My relatives have been relocated somewhere else." At an-

other location, the top of a mosque had collapsed askew, and another build-

emergency and military vehicles, and the AFP team saw trucks covered in red banners reading "earth-quake relief supplies".

he quake was China's deadliest since 2014, when



quake in Jishishan County, in northwest China's

US, UAE work toward middle ground at UNSC

Monitoring Desk UNITED NATIONS: The United States and the United Arab Emirates engaged in last-minute consultations on Monday as the UN Security Council prepared to vote on a new resolution urging an "urgent and sustainable cessation of hostilities" in Gaza.

The UAE resolution responds to escalating tensions in the region and growing impatience among key allies, notably the US, with Israel's military ac-

The resolution calls for an immediate and sustainable cessation of hostilities to allow safe and unhindered humanitarian

access in Gaza and supports a two-state solution But it does not explicitly condemn Hamas, prompting objections from Israel and the US.

The move follows the recent US rejection of a Security Council resolution proposing a "humanitarian ceasefire" in the battered Palestinian territory. The rejection raised questions about the international community's stance on the conflict.

While the General Assembly, with 193 members, overwhelmingly supported a ceasefire, the Security Council has faced challenges in passing resolutions reing was reduced to mere rubble. The roads were full of

more than 600 people died in southwestern Yunnan province. China's western hinterland carries the scars of frequent seismic activity. and a huge quake in Sichuan province in 2008 left more than 87,000 people dead or missing, including 5,335 schoolchildren.

12 killed in attack on party in Mexico: officials

Monitoring Desk

SALVATIERRĂ: At least 12 people were killed and another dozen were wounded in an attack early Sunday on a pre-Christmas party in central Mexico, authorities the state of Guanajuato said.

The violence occurred in the town of Salvatierra, reportedly at a hacienda, or ranch, that can be rented out for festivities.

"So far 12 people are reported dead," the state's prosecutor's office said on X, the former Twitter. Twelve others who were wounded have been taken to hospital, according to authorities.

The Tierra Negra foundation, which promotes social projects in the area, said the victims were young people participating in "posadas," religious gatherings that celebrate aspects of the story of Christmas. A person who was at the party but asked not to be identified for security reasons told AFP that about six men with long entered the guns venue.



ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, in Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip.

"In Ukraine, those

Putin says Russia is ready to talk on Ukraine

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday that Russia would be prepared to talk to Ukraine, the United States and Europe about the future of Ûkraine if they wanted to, but that Moscow would defend its national interests.

Putin, who sent troops into Ukraine in 2022, has repeatedly said he would be prepared to talk about peace, though Western officials say he is waiting for the U.S. presidential election in November before making a genu-

who are aggressive towards Russia, and in Europe and in the United States - do they want to negotiate? Let them. But we will do it based on our national interests," Putin told a meeting of the defence leadership in Moscow. "We will not give up what is ours." Russia controls about 17.5% of the territory that was internationally recognised as part of Ukraine as the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991. Russia annexed Crimea in 2014, and last year said the four additional regions of Ukraine that its troops partially control are part of Russia.

Taiwan reports another suspected Chinese weather balloon crossing Taiwan Strait

Monitoring Desk TAIPEI: A suspected Chinese weather balloon flew

across the sensitive Taiwan Strait on Monday but stayed well north of Taiwan, the island's defence ministry said on Tuesday, the third time this month Taipei has reported them nearby.
The potential for

China to use balloons for spying became a global issue in February when the United States shot down what it said was a Chinese surveillance balloon. China

said the balloon was a civilian craft that accidentally drifted astray.

Taiwan is on high alert for Chinese activities, both military and political, ahead of Jan. 13 presidential and parliamentary elections. Taipei has warned of Beijing's efforts to interfere in the ballot to get voters to pick candidates may prefer. China Taiwan's defence ministry said the single balloon was detected at 9:09 a.m. (0109GMT).

UN agencies voice anger at attacks on Gaza hospitals

Monitoring Desk GENEVA: UN officials voiced anger and disbelief on Tuesday about the situation in Gaza hospitals, where injured people do not have basic supplies and children recovering from amputations are being killed in the ongoing

"I'm furious that children who are recovering from amputations in hospitals are then killed in those hospitals," said James Elder, spokesperson for the UN children's agency.

Cyberattack hits Iran's petrol stations **Monitoring Desk**

DUBAI: Iran's Oil Minister Javad Owji on Monday confirmed that ongoing nationwide disruption to petrol stations was caused by a cyberattack.

A hacking group that Iran accuses of having links to Israel claimed it carried out the attack that disrupted services at petrol stations across the country on Monday, Iranian state TV and Israeli local media reported. Owji had earlier told Iranian state TV that services had been disrupted at about 70 per cent of Iran's petrol stations.

Erdogan says signals from US, Canada may help Turkey move on Sweden NATO bid

Monitoring Desk ANKARA: Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan was quoted on Tuesday as saying that positive develop-ments on the US sale of F-16 fighter jets to Ankara, and on Canada's arms embargo, would help Turkey's parliament move toward ratifying Sweden's NATO membership bid.

After long-time non-

alignment, Sweden and Finland asked to join NATO last year after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. But NATO member Turkey raised objections over what

it said was the two countries' protection of groups that Ankara deems terror-

Turkey endorsed Finland's membership bid in April but, along with Hungary, it has kept Sweden waiting.

"Positive develop-

ments we expect both on (procuring US) F-16s and Canada's promises (on lifting its arms embargo) would help our parliament to have a positive approach to Sweden... All of them are linked."



French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin and members of the French government attend the questions to the government session at the National Assembly ahead of a vote by members of parliament on immigration bill in Paris, France.

Hundreds stranded as parts of India's Tamil Nadu flooded after heavy rain dicted on Tuesday. **Monitoring Desk**

CHENNAI: Heavy rain has paralysed several parts of India's southern state of Tamil Nadu, inundating roads, affecting train services, and leaving authorities scrambling to rescue those stranded. The deluge occurred while the state was still recovering from the damage caused by Cyclone

Michaung, which lashed the coast this month, killing at least 13 people.

Tamil Nadu received almost 50 mm of rainfall between Sunday and Monday, compared with the 2.5 mm that would be normal at this time of year, the weather department said,

and more rainfall is pre-

Local media reported at least five people died in

the flooding and accidents related to the rain, which primarily affected the districts of Tuticorin, Tirunelveli, Tenkasi and Kanyakumari. Entire neighbourhoods remained submerged on Tuesday, with houses appearing like lonely islands surrounded by murky, brown water, according to footage from Indian news agency ANI, in which Reuters has a minority stake. Teams were using inflatable rafts to rescue people from houses and temples, and to distribute food packets to those they were unable to move to safety.

President urges enhanced ties with Egypt, Oman, Bosnia, Sri Lanka, Cyprus

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday underscored the need for increasing cooperation with Egypt, Oman, Bosnia, Sri Lanka and Cyprus in the fields of trade, economy, and culture as their envoys-designate presented diplomatic credentials to him. The president expressed these views while talking to the envoys of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Sultanate of Oman, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Republic of Cyprus and the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

The envoys presented their diplomatic credentials to the president and separately called on him, at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, a President House press release said.

Ambassador Dr Ihab manitarian aid to Gaza. Mohamed Abdelhamid Hassan, the president highlighted the importance Pakistan attached to its bilateral relations with Egypt, reflected by shared bonds of common faith, cultural affinities and values between the people of the two brotherly countries. He emphasized the

need for increasing the trade, economic and cultural cooperation between the two countries.

The president expressed Pakistan's deep concern over the killing of innocent people and the tremendous damage done to the public property in Gaza by the Israeli security forces. The Egyptian ambassador said that his coun-

Talking to Ambassador of Oman Fahad Sulaiman Khalaf al Kharusi, President Alvi said that Pakistan and Oman enjoyed excellent relations in various

He informed the ambassador that Pakistan offered investment-friendlyenvironment to the foreign investors and had constituted, in that regard, Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) that provided one window operation for investment in IT, cooperate farming, minerals and energy sectors.

The president also highlighted the atrocities being committed by India in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJ&K).



Dr. Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.

felicitated the Hazaras on the launch of PTV's pro-

gramming in their regional

language and termed it as a

tribute to all the martyrs of

Hazara community who

sacrificed their lives for the

dence that the talented com-

munity would use the plat-

form to highlight their beau-

tiful culture as an important

feather to the country's di-

was a historic asset that glued the nation through its

outstanding programmes

vowed

government's continued as-

sistance for the uplift of the

He expressed confi-

PM Kakar said PTV

homeland

Pakistan's cultural diversity a source of its strength as federation: PM

QUETTA (APP): Care- terming their contribution taker Prime Minister as significant for the devel-Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday said Pakistan as a federation derived its strength from diversity of its cultures, traditions and languages with every ethnicity having a unique

binding factor.

'Pakistan is not about monotony or uniculturism, but a blend of cultural identities that strongly hold and integrate each other," he said at the launch of a Pakistan Television's programming in Hazargi lan-

PM Kakar said like provinces, Balochistan was a rich kladioscope of ethnicities and tribes with their cultures and values imbibed ments that created divide with Baloch values.

irregular Afghans residing in

Pakistan is ongoing, with

another 1,586 individuals

returning to their home

country on December 18th.

This brings the total num-

ber of repatriated Afghans to over 438,000 since the

those who returned on De-

initiative began.

He lauded the Hazara communities community of Balochistan,

Repatriation of illegal

Afghans continues: over

438,000 return home

ISLAMABAD (INP): The nerable populations, par-

process of repatriation for ticularly women and chil-

make Balochistan and Pakistan a hub of peace, saying that peace prospers opment of Quetta and the province The prime minister

He mentioned the prominent figures of the Hazara community including former Governor of Balochistan General (retd) Muhammad Musa, Sardar Sadaat and Brigadier Khadim Hussain who earned respect due to their

He paid tribute to the Hazara community who demonstrated resilience while braving the challenge of terrorism, which hit all segments of the country.

He expressed the resolve that with unity, the nation could defeat the eleand differences among

dren. It's important to note

that even before the official

repatriation process com-

menced, many irregular Af-

ghans were already choos-

fears of potential arrest.

This indicates a complex

interplay of factors influ-

including economic hard-

ing to return home due to

PM Kakar vowed to

training strategy to produce skilled human resource Chief

PM stresses effective

QUETTA (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday terming skilled human resource the most important asset for a nation said effective training strategy was crucial to meet the needs of the contemporary

Addressing here at the launch of PM's Youth Skill Development Programme, he said in the era of technology and artificial-intelligence, there was a need to equip the youth with necessary up-to-date knowledge. PM Kakar said imparting skills to one person did not restrict to him but the families associated with him and also the coming

generations benefit from it. He said the country was in dire need of such initiatives of social development which resulted in the overall uplift of the people.

Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Domki said the provincial government was committed to providing every possible opportunity to the people of Balochistan. He said the

provincial government had decided to set up the Balochistan Skilled Development Fund under the supervision of the Planning and Development Department. He said the government of China showed interest to provide a \$60 million grant for the development of Balochistan, of which the provincial government had the intention to use fifty percent on skilled development of youth. Federal Minister for Education Madad Ali Sindhi said imparting skills to youth was the main ingredient of empowering them by

helping them qualify for em-



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed talking to media along with Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah to inaugurate two-week long "Teaching of Calligraphy to Madrassa Students

organization. PHC stops EC from initiating any proceeding against PTI

PESHAWAR (Online): Peshawar High Court (PHC) has restrained election commission from initiating proceedings against PTI till December 21.

PTI petitions filed against election commission notices on the matters of election symbols and PTI intra party election came up for hearing before PHC Tuesday.

Justice Attique Shah and Justice Sahibzada Asadullah heard the peti-

During the hearing of the case, election commission representative said we

will file reply.

Upon it, the court directed EC not to initiate

any proceedings against PTI till December 21. The hearing of the case was adjourned till De-

cember 21. **ECP** announces guidelines for intending election candidates

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday announced its guidelines to the candidates intending to submit nominations for the national and provincial assemblies' seats. According to the election schedule nomination papers can be filed from Dec 20-22.

The nomination papers can be filed from 8:30 in the morning till 4:30 in the afternoon. "The nomination fees for the National Assembly candidates and provincial assemblies' candidates have been Rs 30,000 and 20,000 respectively,' ECP said. The candidate can pay the fees in cash or deposit it in a branch of a

bank.
"A candidate will submit his/her income tax returns of three years, annexed with nomination papers," the guidelines read. 'The copies of full passport of the candidate would also require to be annexed with nomination papers" "The age of a candidate on last date of submitting the nomination papers must not be lesser than 25 years, ECP said. "A candidate of the National Assembly seat must be a voter of any place within Pakistan"

Robber held with stolen bike in Kalat

QUETTA (APP): Levies Force arrested an alleged robber and recovered a stolen bike from his possession in Kalat Town on Tues-

According to a Levies Force source, a man informed the patrolling Levies Force that a robber snatched his bike from him and fled away.

The Levies Force chased and apprehended him along with a stolen motorbike at the police

The arrested robber was handed to police for further investigation.

as a creative segment of Curriculum" at PNCA. Religious minister

highlights urgency of interfaith understanding ISLAMABAD (APP): in hospitals, refugee camps.

Minister of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed on Tuesday emphasized the need for understanding among different religious beliefs, asserting that the current global scenario doesn't represent a clash of civilizations but a confrontation with igno-

Talking to French Ambassador Nicolas Gale, the minister strongly condemns targeting of civilians, including children, in hospitals, refugee camps and schools in Palestine. These uncivilized acts require immediate global attention and intervention.

Expressing vehement disapproval, he highlighted the unprecedented and appalling targeting of innocent civilians, including children,

schools, and places of worship. Such acts, deemed utterly uncivilized, demand swift global attention and During the discus-

sions, a mutual consensus emerged on the imperative of providing respect, trust, and equitable facilities to minority populations worldwide.

Ambassador Nicolas Gale stressed the pivotal role of education in fostering tolerance and love among the younger generation, transcending religious differences.

Moreover, he commended the government's scholarly circles' support for minorities post the tragic events of Jardanwala, acknowledging the clear stance against indifference



QUETTA: A protest of Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party led by Dr. Hamid Achakzai, Abdul Rahim Ziaratwal & others passing through Manan chowk.

PML-N to emerge as largest party in general election: Sheikh Jafar

QUETTA (APP): Former president of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Balochistan Sheikh Jafar Khan Mandukhel on Tuesday said that PML-N would emerge as the largest party in the general elections and the next government in Balochistan could be of PML-N.

He expressed these views while addressing on the occasion of former MNA Sardar Israr Tareen's

joining to Pakistan Muslim League-N. He said that the PML-N had become stronger in Balochistan with the join-

ing of tribal elders of Harnai

On this occasion, Sardar Israr Tareen said that many tribes of Harnai were in contact with us to join PML-N, saying that he would struggle to further strengthen the Party in The expectations

from the Balochistan Awami Party have not been fulfilled, he said.

Former provincial minister Muhammad Dummar, while addressing on the occasion, said that Sardar Israr Tareen Harnai was related to a famous and well-known

Welcoming Egyptian try was supporting the hu-

OUETTA: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar inaugurates the broadcast Hazargi language programmes on PTV Bolan

Caretaker CM terms historic initiative: Longstanding demand of Hazara community met with launch of transmission in Hazargi on PTV

Independent Report OUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has expressed pleasure over the launch of transmission in Hazargi language from Pakistan Television Quetta center and said that the longstanding demand of Hazara commu-

historic initiative. of transmission in the Hazargi language on PTV

Quetta center, longstanding demand of Hazara community has been met. Mr. Domki said that PTV filled numerous colours in the lives of Pakistanis after it was established in 1960s, which is still imprinted in their minds and

The caretaker Chief nity has been met with the Minister said that the news section of the state-run TV In a statement issued has been criticized because ing the healthy programmes here on Tuesday, the Chief Minister said that the start governments, but still tic news maintaining the Minister said that the start governments, but still there's no two opinions that it had been the only

QUETTA: Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC)

General Manager, Muhammad Anwar Baloch

addresses during public awareness campaign for

DC for safety arrangements

in view of possible heavy

rains, snowfall

PISHIN (APP): Deputy tion. In the meeting, the Commissioner (DC) Pishin Deputy Commissioner dis-

Captain ® Juma Dad Khan cussed cooperation and

Mandukhel on Tuesday maintenance of storm

drains under the compre-

hensive strategy between

the concerned departments.

provement and cleaning of

the sewage system, he said

that action should be taken

against the encroachments

on all storm drains before

the rains and snowfalls

saying that in this regard,

the concerned departments

should ensure immediate

accounting mechanisms

within each province and to

enhance the capacity of

provincial departments in

this regard. Dr. Mohsin

Hafeez, Director, Water,

Food and Ecosystems,

IWMI through virtual inter-

action provided an insight-

ful overview of the WRAP

programme and its compo-

nent one which focused on

the climate resilient solu-

tions for improving water governance (CRS-IWaG).

the way for a sustainable

future, identifying hotspots

and solutions for better

water management in

Balochistan, by unveiling a

He said, "Let's pave

Directing the im-

chaired a meeting regarding

preparations and safety ar-

rangements of the depart-

ments concerned in view of

the possible heavy rains

tended by Assistant Com-

missioners of all Tehsils and

officers of other relevant de-

partments including Irriga-

tion Department, PDMA,

Education, Health, C&W

is grappling with critical water challenges that could

have severe consequences

for its economy and soci-

ety. The urgency of the situ-

ation to this effect was rec-

ognized at a consultative

workshop on water ac-

counting and water re-

sources assessment stan-

dards, organized by the In-

ternational Water Manage-

ment Institute (IWMI) Pa-

kistan, with funding from

UKaid here Tuesday to

support the implementa-

tion of National Water

Policy. Following a federal-

level water accounting

workshop held in March

this year, a series of pro-

and Municipal Corpora- implementation.

Water accounting, resources

assessment standards stressed

to address water challenges

QUETTA (APP): Pakistan assess the status of water

vincial-level workshops are game-changing water ac-

The meeting was at-

and snowfall in winter.

authentic source of news for several decades.

Even today, the private media refers the staterun TV acknowledging it the authentic source of news, which shows its credibility, Mr. Domki maintained.

The Chief Minister expressed the hope that PTV would also maintain its uniqueness in telecastlead in the present competi-

Fawad Ch demands open trial in jail for

contempt case ISLAMABAD (INP): Imprisoned former Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry has ignited controversy by filing an application for an open trial in Adiala Jail for his ongoing contempt of court case against the Election Com-

mission of Pakistan (ECP). Chaudhry, currently detained following his arrest in April, submitted the petition through his lawyer Faisal Chaudhry. In the application, he argues for unrestricted access to the courtroom for both local and international media, citing concerns about trans-

parency and due process. "The jail hearing should be opened for transparency," Chaudhry stated in the application. "I am not being allowed to meet my family and lawyers freely and conducting the trial without media presence raises serious questions about its fairness." The petition's central demand is for the court to grant permission for journalists to cover the proceedings, which, if approved, would mark a significant departure.

Won't contest in election: Shahid Khaqan

ISLAMABAD (ÎNP) Former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has said he won't contest the election. In a media interaction in Islamabad, Shahid Khaqan, a stalwart of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), ducked questions with regard to forming a new political party or quitting the PML-N. On a question estranged PML-N leader said, neither Nawaz Sharif contacted him, "nor I felt any need of it". "General elections will be held definitely on February 08," replying another question he said. On a question former prime minister said that the conditions of level playing field are similar, which were in the past when the PTI was came to

cember 18th highlights the ship, security concerns, and family nature of the movefamily reunification desires While the repatriation ment, with 365 men, 298 women, and 923 children exercise is ongoing across crossing the border. This Pakistan, Karachi stands out as a city with a historitrend reflects broader concerns about irregular cally large irregular popumigration's impact on vul- lation.

The breakdown of encing migration patterns,



QUETTA: Members of Balochistan Union of Journalists (BUJ) are holding protest demonstration against killing of Senior Journalist Jan Muhammad Mahar and demanding to arrest his murderers, at Quetta press club.

Gas leakage accidents to control by following winter safety measures: Anwar

QUETTA (APP): Acting General Manager (AGM) Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) Balochistan Anwar Baloch on Tuesday said that gas leakage accidents could be controlled only by adopting all safety measures during the winter season in respective areas of Balochistan. He expressed these views while addressing a ceremony regarding "Winter Safety Awareness 2023-24" organized by SSGC at Quetta Press Club. The ceremony was attended by scholars, Balochistan Union Journalist (BUJ) President Irfan Saeed, Quetta Press Club's President Abdul Khaliq Rind, other senior journalists and a large number of people.

Anwar Baloch said that gas pressures were improved by laying gas pipelines under the project with a cost of Rs 12030 million in contribution of SSGC and Quetta Development Package (QDP) in respective areas of Quetta city.

After laying the pipe-line in Sabzal Road, Nawan Killi, Spiny Road and adjoining areas, the gas pressure has been recovered, he said. He said that measures were being taken to solve gas-related issues on a priority basis to facilitate the people of Balochistan. He said that 8-inchgas pipelines were also being laid down on both sides of Sariab road which would

be completed by the end of December or mid of January. He said that the citizens should take precautionary measures in the use of gas heaters in winter to avoid any accidents. BUJ's President Irfan Saeed said in his address that it was the responsibility of the Gas Company Authority to address all the gas-related issues. President of Quetta Press Club Abdul Khaliq Rind, Maulana Muhibullah, Maulana Mufti Nauman, and other scholars also addressed the ceremony and assured their cooperation with SSGC.



conference held at Quetta press club.

QUETTA: Muslim League (PML-N) Provincial President, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail addresses to media persons during press