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CPEC journey to move forward; detractors to lose relevance very soon, says PM Kakar

Unveils Pakistan-China Friendship Hospital and Desalination Plant in Gwadar

GWADAR (APP): Care- as their relevance will be it was a must to join the ambassador for announcing taker Prime Minister over very soon. The pru-Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday urged the people of Balochistan, particularly, the youth to avail the historic opportunity of development in their province as the detractors of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) were about to lose their relevance very

The prime minister, addressing the inauguration ceremony of Pak-China Friendship Hospital and Gwadar Seawater Desalination Plant here, said the journey of CPEC would surely move forward, not the backward, so joining the development course would be a prudent decision.

CPEC) by force, violence lion was expected to take or any other means are

dent decision in the nation's fate is to joint the course of development, instead of re- ity. sisting it and miss the opportunity," he remarked. The ceremony was attended by federal ministers Sami Saeed and Shahid Ashraf Tarar, Caretaker Chief Minister of

Zaidong and the Chinese and Pakistani officials attended the event. The prime minister reduced travel durations

across the province was just due to CPEC interven-

place in and around China

journey through skill devel- the solar power project and opment and claim the share, emergency services for instead of showing hostil-

significance and steering millions of people out of edented.

The prime minister Balochistan Mir Mardan said that the development Domki, Chinese Ambassaof China had a positive imdor in Pakistan Jiang pact across the region, particularly Pakistan and its Balochistan province.

He said the clean drinking water had been an issue said the ease in the form of faced by the Gwadar people and the desalination plant project would address it to a great extent. Besides, the construction of a 150-"Those who think to that trade worth \$36 trilpeople, he added.

The prime minister also thanked the Chinese

Prime Minister Kakar He said the journey of assuring the all-out sup-China's modernisation was port of the federal and provincial governments on the matter of security, reiterated that the Pakistan Army, police and law enforcement agencies would safeguard the Chinese workers even at the cost of their lives.

He expressed the hope that Gwadar would complete its course of development soon to become a trade hub with the Pak-China cooperation for the benefit of future genera-

He directed the authorities concerned to connect Northern Zone with main grid to address the ectricity issue.

Sharif on Monday met

Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam chief

Fazlur Rehman and dis-

cussed collaborative ef-

forts, including seat adjust-

ments and a joint presiden-

central secretariat of PML-

N at Model Town where he

received a warm welcome

from Nawaz Sharif and

meeting included PML-N

chief organiser Maryam

Nawaz Sharif, Senator

Ishaq Dar, Ahsan Iqbal and

the current political land-

scape of the country,

strategising for the upcom-

ing elections. They deliber-

The leaders discussed

Khawaja Saad Rafiq.

The participants in the

Rehman visited the

tial candidate.

Shahbaz Sharif.

nese ambassador and Balochistan chief minister unveiled the plaques to inwhich followed the presentation of the souvenirs to the prime minister as well as the envoy.

PM Kakar, later talking to reporters on the occasion, said the direction of progress Balochistan was set forth and expressed confidence that the province would witness a new era of development.

He thanked the provincial government on completion of the development projects, which he said, would facilitate the locals of Gwadar.

The prime minister hoped that the financial crunch would be over with the steps taken by the in-Earlier, the prime min-terim government.

Nawaz, Fazal discuss

possibilities of seat

adjustment

LAHORE (INP): Former ated upon the seat adjust-

prime minister Nawaz ment formula between JUI-

F and PML-N.

Saad Rafiq briefed the

They reached a consen-

participants on the status

of political negotiations with the MQM in Sindh.

sus on MQM's proposed nationwide local govern-

ment system, agreeing to

support a constitutional

amendment for its imple-

mentation in the next par-

cided to form an electoral

alliance with the MQM and

like-minded groups. In

Sindh, the three parties will

collaborate on seat adjust-

ments, entrusting the deci-

sion of candidates to pro-

vincial leader Bashir

Memon, and the nominated

leaders of MQM.

Dr. Nadeem Jan says:

Pak gets \$100m support

for polio eradication

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for

Health Dr. Nadeem Jan on Monday said that a support

of \$100 million had been obtained from the Islamic De-

velopment Bank (IDB) for the eradication of polio. Ad-

dressing the "Reaching the last mile" forum related to Polio in COP-28 in UAE, the minister said that this was

a major accomplishment. He said that the efforts towards

the eradication of polio had achieved significant suc-

He expressed special gratitude to the IDB, the United Arab Emirates and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

for their support in providing assistance for the eradica-

tion of polio.
Dr. Nadeem Jan pledged full determination for the

eradication of polio from Pakistan. He said that the grant

allocated for the eradication of polio was being effi-

ciently utilized, ensuring effective expenditure.

The two parties de-

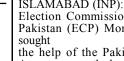
elections amid police shortage ECP says all IGPs have informed it about a collective shortfall of over 270,000 police personnel

GWADAR: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar unveils the

plaques to inaugurate the completed Pak-China Friendship Hospital Project

Army's help sought for general

and the China-Aid Gwadar Seawater Desalination Project.



order situation during the general polls, set to take place on February 8 next

In the lead-up to the polls, all political parties have geared up for a faceoff, while the ECP has notified the final list of delimitation of constituencies of the national and four provincial assemblies.

The electoral watchdog is also expected to announce the election schedule, later this month — 54 days before the polls in line with the law.

During the elections, the security situation is a grave concern for the authorities concerned and to ensure that nothing goes south, law enforcers are Sindh, and 13,769 in cause".

Justice Mazahar Akbar Naqvi submitted reply to Registrar's notice

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court Justice Mazahar Akbar Naqvi has submitted a reply to the notice of Registrar Supreme Court on the matter of complaint in the Su-

preme Judicial Council. Justice Mazahar Nagvi also sent the copy of the reply to the 3-mem ber committee of the Su preme Court, in which it has been said that the registrar should not have the authority to follow the case or not. Registrar's notice has no constitutional

or legal status. He said that I had filed two constitutional petitions in the Supreme Court on November 20 and 30 but my petitions have not

been numbered so far. Justice Mazahar Naqvi said that a miscellaneous application was also filed to set the constitutional petitions early but the case was not filed. Not setting the constitutional petitions is a violation of the Practice and Procedure Law. These constitutional petitions should be placed before a 3-member committee and both my constitutional petitions should be fixed for hearing.

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Monday

deployed at polling stations and they are also on patrol. "While the ECP takes "ECP Secretary Omar"

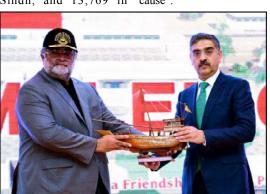
all necessary steps to the help of the Pakistan
Army to ensure the law and
Army to ensure the law and mitment from the executive ment agencies to maintain law and order in the area of the constituencies during the conduct of elections,' the ECP's letter to the inte-

rior ministry read. the elections, the ECP had sought a report from all inhave enough personnel. commission about the avail-

56,717

ECP Secretary Omar Hamid Khan, in the letter to Ministry of Interior Secretary Aftab Akbar Durrani, said that keeping in view, authorities and law enforce- the deficiency of police personnel, the services of the Pakistan Army and civil armed forces (CAFs) shall have to be "requisitioned in static mode".

The letter mentioned In its bid to prepare for that the armed forces need to be deployed at polling stations to ensure "smooth spector generals of police to determine the availabil- elections" in light of the country's "fragile security ity of police personnel for the polls. Responding to the tion". The ECP secretary ECP's request, IGPs from told his interior ministry all the provinces and the capital said that they did not should inform the election Around 4,500 were short in ability of the army and Islamabad, 169,110 Punjab, CAFs before December Khyber 7, seeking the ministry'



GWADAR: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki presenting souvenir to Caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Hag Kakar

No crisis in meeting ECP's financial needs for holding general elections: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Monday ruled out any "crisis on meeting the financial needs of the ECP" in order to hold free, fair and transparent general elections in the coun-

"The Cabinet had approved Rs 42 billion for the budgetary needs of the ECP. An amount of Rs 10 billion was already re-leased," the minister wrote on X formerly Twitter.

He said the Election Commission of Pakistan had approached to release Rs 17.4 billion, out of the budgeted amount.

"Whatever budgeted amount is needed by the ECP, will be released as per



He said the caretaker government firmly stood behind the ECP in holding free and fair elections as mandated by Article 218(3) of the Constitution.

New measures introduced to boost tax revenue on IMF 'pressure'

ISLAMABAD (INP): The caretaker government Monday announced a comprehensive plan, targeting an expansion of the tax net and increased filings as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) applies pressure for economic reforms.

How many registered taxpayers are in Pakistan? Only 10.18 million individuals out of a population exceeding 240 million are registered taxpayers, with a mere 3.3 actively fil-

ing returns. The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has devised measures to encourage tax compliance to ad-

dress this disparity. Under the new plan,

individuals with an annual income of Rs0.6 million or more, ownership of multiple properties, vehicles of 1000 cc or more, and frequent international travel are obligated to file income tax returns.

Disconnection of electricity and gas connections Failure to comply will result in severe consequences, including the disconnection of electricity well as the blocking of mobile phone SIM cards.

As per documents, submitted their tax returns

phasizes that tax evasion is pervasive across all sectors of the economy and insists that non-filers must transition to become filers to avoid pu-

nitive measures. Dr. Abid Qayyum Silhari, Executive Director of the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), identifies the undocumented economy as a major contributor to tax and gas connections, as evasion. He stresses the need for transitioning to a documented economy, discouraging large cash transonly 3.3 million people actions until that goal is



LAHORE: Chief of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) Maulana Fazlur Rehman meeting with PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif.

Will name ex-COAS Bajwa, US embassy officials as witnesses in cipher case: Imran

Monitoring Desk

RAWALPINDI: Former Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan on Monday stated that he will include former army chief General (retd) Qamar Javed Bajwa and US embassy officials as witnesses in his de-

fence in the cipher case. "Will include General Bajwa and US embassy officials as witnesses [in the case]. General Bajwa did everything on Donald Lu's directives," claimed Khan during an informal conversation with journalists in Adiala jail during the

cipher case hearing. A special court estab-

Saudi Press Attaché Dr.

Naif Al-Otaibi on Monday

conveyed Saudi Arabia's

eagerness to foster in-

creased cooperation with

private broadcasters in

strengthen bilateral ties in

persons underscoring the

significance of this devel-opment, he said, "We as-

Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.

immense importance as

tual interest in each other's

phasized the people's de-

Briefing the media

the realm of media.

Dr. Al-Otaibi says:

Saudi Arabia seeks closer ties

with Pakistani private media

for collaborative ventures

ISLAMABAD (APP): sire in both countries to

Pakistan in a bid to by facilitating the ex-

pire to see a deepening of between Saudi Arabia

collaboration between pri- and Pakistan is in-

vate media institutions in creased. This will not

Such cooperation holds ties but also provide an

both nations share a mu- countries to showcase their

The press attaché em- dia platforms," Dr. Al-

Secrets Act 2023 held an open court hearing in Adiala jail where Imran Khan and Shah Mahmood Qureshi are incarcerated. The court

is conducting the trial afresh after the Islamabad High Court nullified the iail trial on November 21. Both of them were indicted on October 23 but the indictment stood cancelled after

the IHC order. Speaking to the media person today, the former prime minister predicted that his party would win the February 8 polls, adding that he was arrested

under a plan.

engage with the cultural of-

ferings, particularly dra-

mas and films, from Paki-

stan and Saudi Arabia. He

said this collaboration

aimed to meet this demand

change of content between

two nations.

the media entities of the

where the exchange of

films and productions

only strengthen cultural

opportunity for both

rich histories and traditions

through each other's me-

Otaibi explained.

"We envision a future

lished under the Official thankful to those PTI leaders jumping the ship.

He also rejected reports that he held negotiations in iail. In November, PTI President Parvez Elahi claimed that officials of the European Union and the International Monetary Fund routinely visit Imran Khan at Adiala.

He also shared that he did not face any difficulties in jail

Khan also spoke about the allegations put forward against him by Khawar Maneka—the former husband of his wife Bushra Bibi. He stated that he saw his wife's face for the first time after their nikkah.

Khan said he was

to visit Pakistan lated crafts business.

The closing ceremony of the events will be held on December 7, in which Caretaker Minister for Commerce Dr Gohar Ejaz will be the chief guest, said a press release issued here on Monday. A three-member WIPO delegation is visiting Pakistan to attend the events. The delegation comprises of Hasan Kleib Deputy Director General WIPO, Ms. Yaning Zhang and Dr David Simmons Counsellors Division for Asia and the Pacific

WIPO high level delegation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Intellectual Property Organization (IPO) Pakistan will organize a series of events from tomorrow on Tuesday in connection with the closing ceremony of WIPO's project on 'Intellectual Property and Women Entrepreneurs in Embroidery' and re-

Regional and National Development Sector WIPO.



LAHORE: Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi being brief after inaugurating a Business Facilitation Center in Lahore for convenience of investors.

Ahmed presenting keys of the stolen goods to the Chief Secretary Punjab. NAB chief confesses to slow-paced working at corruption watchdog

LAHORE: Chairman NAB Lt. Gen. (R) Nazir

(NAB) Chairman Lieutenant General (retd) Nazir Ahmed has said that the perception about slowpaced working at NAB is

true to some extent. Speaking at an event here on Monday, NAB Chairman Nazir Ahmed said that 7 out of every 10 people are victims of some housing

scheme fraud. He said that the antigraft watchdog is trying that no injustice would be done to people. We will tighten our noose around the opportunists, he added.

He said that the purose of starting an organized awareness campaign among the people is that the youth

LAHORE (INP): National who will be a part of the Accountability Bureau awareness campaign, will become the ambassadors of the NAB. Lieutenant General ® Nazir Ahmed said that the impression of slowness about NAB is true to some extent. He was of the view that the watchdog should remove the impression of fear and harassment, 'we have to catch the thief, not to harass the entire

neighbourhood'. He said that the word fraud has been replaced with victim, and the accused are being called as respondents instead of calling them accused.

"NAB is your protector and supporter. We will make NAB a professional institution," he added.

Daily Aoice of Masse Independent

One crucial year of extraordinary achievements

Undoubtedly it was an extraordinary year of extraordinary achievements made by an extraordinary person. He is no other but the Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir who completed one year as the COAS recently. General Syed Asim Munir had taken command as COAS on November 29, 2022 at the times when Pakistan was really facing numbers of challenges, economic crisis, poor law and order condition and also the political un-stability. When we talk about the achievements during a period of just one year as Army Chief there are some of the most important goals and success which Pakistan achieve due to the efforts of General Asim Munir. During this year, under his leadership, the Pakistani armed forces and affiliated institutions tirelessly worked to make the country successful on every front. When General Asim Munir assumed command, the country was politically and economically vulnerable. There were fears that it might default in few days leading to upheaval in the military. Things got to a point where rumors began to circulate about Pakistan's nuclear assets falling into the wrong hands. All in all, the entire country was gripped by a strong grip of panic and uncertainty. It was during those days that General Asim Munii stepped to the front with a determined resolve. The tenacity with which he steered the military towards pulling the country out of these challenges should be appreciated. He initiated steps to improve the economic and military aspects of Pakistan all the while focusing on a vision that aimed at the betterment of the nation.

Taking command during a crucial time, he recognized the necessity of the IMF program for the country. General Asim Munir engaged with strategic allies like Saudi Arabia and the UAE, ensuring them of credible progress during their diplomatic visits and managed to secure a \$3 billion deposit. This Saudi and Emirati injection of confidence, in turn, paved the way for Pakistan to enter the IMF program. Following this, a special Investment Council was established, based on General Asim Munir's vision, aiming to provide protection for investments within the country. As per the vision, this could only be achieved if all obstacles hindering economic stability were removed and steps taken to control inflation. General Asim Munir's personal efforts within the business community instilled confidence in the nation's progress. The Investment Council's longterm program for foreign investment includes the signifi cant involvement of the COAS. Saudi Arabia acknowledged the success of General Asim Munir's efforts, pledging a \$25 billion fund solely for Pakistan. The UAE is also working on a \$20 to \$22 billion investment program. Meanwhile, chatter on the street celebrated that China's investment in Pakistan is evident. After General Asim Munir took charge, he revived projects under the CPEC. Some questioned the inclusion of the Army Chief in the Investment Council, but it should be remembered that going beyond its traditional role, the Pakistani military has played a crucial hand in bringing foreign investment, especially in projects requiring security clearance.

The military's support is vital for investment, and General Asim Munir's inclusion in this forum has provided credibility. Pakistan's deep-rooted relations with these countries and past experiences demonstrate that the military has played a significant role in enhancing ties when civilian leadership fell short.

Hell's architects

its cornerstone, because

— if Gaza were to be inte-

the Jews would even-

And so, it was con-

grated into Israel proper

tually be outnumbered.

sidered better to fence

Gaza off from the world,

with that fence eventu-

ally becoming a wall and

with everything going in

and out being at the

whim of the Israeli au-

thorities. The minimum

daily caloric intake for a

human being to survive

on was calculated so that

the average Gazan perma-

nently remained on the

sign, because as Soffer

himself says in a 2004 in-

terview with Jerusalem

Post titled 'It's the demog-

raphy, stupid': "It's a

fence that we will be

guarding on either side.

Instead of entering Gaza,

the way we did last week,

we will tell the Palestin-

ians that if a single mis-

sile is fired over the fence,

we will fire 10 in response.

And women and children

will be killed, and houses

will be destroyed. After

the fifth such incident,

Palestinian mothers

won't allow their hus-

Kassams, because they

will know what's waiting

consequences, and wel-

comed them. He contin-

ues: "When 2.5 million

off Gaza, it's going to be

Those people will be-

come even bigger ani-

Soffer knew the

shoot

bands

for them."

This too was by de-

brink of starvation.



Zarrar Khuhro

Gaza wasn't always what it is today. Gaza wasn't always a giant prison that has now been transformed into a death camp; a hellscape of broken bodies and buildings and butchered babies.

Before 1948, Gaza was

a wealthy territory in Mandatory Palestine. Located on the coast, it benefited from trade and fishing and was also blessed with fertile land, which led to a strong agricultural economy. Then came the Nakba, with Zionist terror militias — which later coalesced into the Israeli army killing, looting and raping across the territory. The first Arab-Israeli war saw Egypt occupy the territory, which remained in Egyptian control even after Israel prevailed in the

treaty that ended the war. For a brief period during the Suez crisis, when Israel, France and the United Kingdom jointly attacked Egypt, and Israel occupied both the Sinai and the Strip, Egyptian military rule continued till the 1967 war, which saw the comprehensive defeat of the Arab armies and the military occupation of the Strip by Israel.

conflict as part of the

The usual formula of apartheid and Jewish settlements — under the guard of the Israeli army - began, and continued

until 2005, when Israel's then prime minister Ariel Sharon withdrew its forces and dismantled the people live in a closedsettlements. This is presented by pro-Zionist a human catastrophe. circles as a magnanimous step towards peace that was 'typically' spurned by the Palestinians, but day, with the aid of ... one step closer to fruiit is instructive to see

what the actual architects The pressure at the borof that move had in mind. der will be awful. It's go-Israeli geo-strategist ing to be a terrible war. Arnon Soffer is consid-So, if we want to remain ered to be the originator alive, we will have to kill of the separation and and kill and kill. All day, withdrawal plan, and he every day ... If we don't kill, we will cease to exwent this process not out ist. The only thing that of a desire for peace — a concerns me is how to word he says he despises ensure that the boys and men who are going — but because the alternative would be the end to have to do the killing will be able to return of Israel as a Zionist state with Jewish supremacy as home to their families

and be normal human

beings."
When asked what the end result of all this killing would be, Soffer "The Palestinians will be forced to realise that demography is no lon-ger significant, becau--se we're here and they're there. And then they will begin to ask for 'conflict management' talks — not that dirty word 'peace'. Peace is a word for believers, and I have no tolerance for believers — neither those who wear yarmulkes nor those who pray to the God of peace.

For Soffer and those who agree with him the majority of Israelis one would presume Gaza is just the start.

He continues to say, a full 19 years before today's ongoing atrocity: "The popula-tion increase of Israeli Arabs is going to present a major problem. But, if we no longer include the Palestinians, and we begin embracing immigrants, foreign workers, Druze, and Christians — who are now on our side, because they see what .. radical Islam is — then there won't be an Israeli Arab problem. While we're on the subject, you tell me what you need East Jerusalem for. Why do you need 300,000 Arabs as Israeli citizens? What's holy there? Anything that is holy we should annex." This has always been mals than they are to- the plan and now it is

Labour inspection



Parvez Rahim

Prominent labour leaders in Sindh recently complained to the caretaker chief minister of the province about non-compliance with labour laws by some employers. In response, the CM asked the secretary labour to carry out inspections of all factories in Sindh and prosecute the violators. The labour leaders' concern was more focused on the contracting out of most jobs, non-compliance with the law on minimum wages, and termination of employment without notice.

It is an arduous exercise to keep track of the status of compliance stipulated in some 200 labour laws and rules. However, one can concentrate on those areas which are critical to the economic welfare of workers and workplace safety. The Employers' Federation of Pakistan recently developed a labour inspection questionnaire, covering questions regarding the maintenance of records, payment of wages, occupational safety, health and environment, work timings, overtime benefits, the right to organise, collective bargaining, disciplin-

ary action, etc. The questionnaire, taken by labour inspectors to factories, primarily comprises questions relating to record-keeping in pursuance of the rules framed under the Factories Act, 1934, Shops and Establishments Ordinance, 1969, and the Minimum Wages for Unskilled Workers Ordinance, 1969.

Rules relating to maintenance of various

advent of IT, when such work was done manually. However, despite electronic advancement, no to simplify the requirements or digitise them. In fact, the government, with the involvement of workers and employers' representatives, should review whether such recordkeeping is required when lifestyles and technology have drastically changed over the last half century. The following are

quirements besides the maintenance of certain manual re--cord-keeprecords and display of notices on factory premises, anyone still maintaining which might have been relevant decades ago, but are now obsolete, even absurd. A rule under the Factories Act, 1934, provides: "A well for the supply of drinking water to a tory should contain abfactory or for the purpose of humidification in a factory, shall not be constructed or located within 50 feet of any latrine, drain or other source liable to pollute the water in the well". Similarly, the Factories Canteen Rules, 1959, provides that "The canteen building shall be situated not less than 50 feet from any latrine...

An entrepreneur, who has invested in establishing a factory, will system and switch over to modern living standards. A labour inspector from Sukkur used to frequently visit an American MNC's state-of-the-art fertiliser plant in Daharki, where I worked in the 1970s. Mostly, he would be accompanied by his family and stay in our guest house for a few days. legal provision cited and their performance here, he would object to the distance of just a wall between the urinal in the washroom and the electric drinking water ments of those employrecord-keeping, such as the display of notices, outside. During the inspection of factories or laws. -- Courtesy Dawn

registers, etc, were legis- establishments, inspeclated decades before the tors ask employers to produce registers for employment, remuneration and leave, and the inspection book. They effort has been made by also check whether the successive governments employers have displayed the following notices near the main entrance: abstracts from the Factories Act, the Shops and Establishments Act, and a few other laws and rules, the day of wage payment, and a list of holidays.

Now that it has become more economical for employers to mainsome administrative re- tain electronic records, instead of age-old ing, there will hardly be registers as required under the prevailing laws.

According to the laws, the notices to be displayed at or near the main entrance of the facstracts of the laws and rules in English and Urdu. The purpose was to make workers aware of their rights and benefits, so that they were not kept in the dark. As most employers have adopted electronic record-keeping, the traditional time offices at the main entrance to the factories no longer exist. Such offices now cater only to the security staff, or to control the entry and exit of visidiscard such a primitive tors and employees. Now that most people have access to Google and WhatsApp, who will be interested in reading abstracts from the acts displayed on the noticeboard? There is a dire need to simplify the requirements of inspection, besides converting them to electronic form. The level of inspectors Taking advantage of the should also be raised,

consistently monitored

by superiors to ensure

that they also start in-

Commerce News

fundamentalist Islam. tion. -- Courtesy Dawn

German Dev. Bank boosts support for Pakistan's Power **Transmission & Health Sectors**

The Ministry of Economic Affairs and KfW, the German Development Bank, solidified their partnership with the signing of agreements aimed at enhancing the capacity of Pakistan's power transmission sector and supporting the health sector, particularly in areas affected

by floods on Monday.

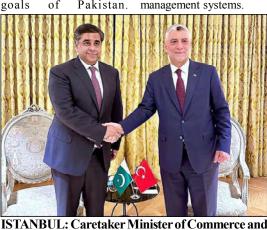
In a ceremony held in Islamabad, Mr. Sebastian Jacobi, Country Director of KfW and Dr. Kazim Niaz, Secretary of the Ministry ensuring the effective of Economic Affairs inked agreements that signify Germany's commitment to incorporating furthering the development environmental and social

ISLAMABAD (Online): Managing Director NTDC, The Ministry of Economic Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan was also present on the occasion. Under

Accompanying Measures support to the "Promotion of Renewable Energies and Efficiency"
KfW, Energy program, representing the German Government, will provide an additional grant of Euro

2.5 million to the National

Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC). This funding will assist NTDC in operation and maintenance installations



Industries, Dr. Gohar Ejaz meeting the Turkish Trade Minister H.E. Dr. Ömer Bolat on the sidelines of the 39th Ministerial of COMCEC.

Services' exports increase by 3.34% to \$2,416 mln

ISLAMABAD (APP): The exports of services increased by 3.34 percent during the first four months of the current fiscal year as compared to corresponding period of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. The services exports during July-October (2023-24) were recorded at \$2,416 million as compared to the exports of \$2,338 million during

July- October (2022-23). into the country also million in October

by going up from \$2,729 million last year to \$3,263 million during the first four year.Based on the figures, the services' trade deficit increased by 116.66 percent during the period under review by going up from \$390 million last year to \$847 million this year. Meanwhile, on year on year (YoY) basis, the services exports from the country increased by 5.63 percent The services' imports by going up from \$621.07



Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, at the Parliament House.

Sanjrani recognizes role of business community in driving economic progress

ISLAMABAD Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on Monday recognized the pivotal role of the business community in driving economic progress and affirmed the Senate's dedication to creating an enabling environment for collaboration sustainable economic addressing key economic

During meeting with delegation from the Gwadar Chamber of Commerce and Industries (GCCI) who called on him, he expressed unwavering commitment to supporting

Energy minister participates **GRA** session at COP 28

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of Energy Mr Muhammad participated in a session participated in a conganized by the Energy Alliance (GRA) between the government of Pakistan and Renewable Energy Investors at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 28).

Minister for Energy led the Pakistan delegation to discuss the investment potential for Renewable Energy in Pakistan, according to a statement received from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) here Monday.

(APP): the chamber's endeavors in development, Senate promoting economic strategies to boost trade Sanjrani growth and displayed keen and investment in the interest in understanding Gwadar region were also the challenges and discussed in detail. He highlighted the significance of Chinaopportunities facing the business community in Gwadar. The discussions Pakistan Economic focused on fostering

Corridor (CPEC) and Gwadar Port as driving forces behind future issues, providing a platform for GCCI officials economic initiatives in Pakistan. He emphasized to share insights on regional that Gwadar Port is not economic development and only important for Pakistan but for the entire trade dynamics, said a The Gwadar Chamber

economic

Industries, represented by its officials, expressed gratitude to Chairman Senate for his time and attention to the economic

concerns of Gwadar. They underscored the importance of collaboration with the government to promote prosperity, attract investments, and facilitate a conducive business environment in the region Senator Palwasha

Muhammadzai Khan and Senator Prince Ahmed Omer Ahmedzai were also

Pakistan emerging as hub of ICT, digital innovation in the region: Dr.Saif

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MOITT), Dr. Umar Saif, has said that Pakistan is emerging as the hub of information and communication technology (ICT) and digital innovation in the region.

press release.

During his address at Pak-Qatar IT Conference in Doha, Qatar, he highlighted Pakistan's abundance of talent and success stories in innovation

and entrepreneurship. He said Qatar is home to abundant Pakistani knowledge workers, urging Pakistani IT companies to leverage this resourceful

Qatar diaspora to establish countries, showcasing their a foothold in the Qatari market.

Earlier, Dr. Umar Saif inaugurated the Pak-Qatar Conference, collaborative effort mainly underscoring the potential involving the Ministry of IT and Telecom (MOITT), the Embassy of Pakistan in solutions but also Qatar, and Pakistan collaborate in global Business Council Qatar with support from the Qatar Financial Centre (QFC), said a news release received here on Monday.

This conference featured esteemed speakers from the public and private companies of both

expertise and strengths.

Dr. Saif also shared Qatar's forward-looking vision in expanding its knowledge economy, ventures.

The Minister further said that Qatar has taken a big leap in establishing data centres, bringing Microsoft Azure Cloud here, and Pakistan has a lot of capability in cloud sectors, along with management, data center representatives from IT operations, and cloud operations, and cloud applications

KPTMA delegation calls on KP CM

by Ex-Senator, Salim present on the occasion. Saifullah Khan called on Pakhtunkhwa, Justice ® Syed Arshad Hussain Shah here Monday.

The delegation apprised the chief minister province with special focus on the exorbitant price hike of gas for industrial sector.

Caretaker Provincial Minister for Industries, Aamir Abdullah, Secretary Industries, Syed Zulfiqar

PESHAWAR (APP): A Ali Shah, Secretary Energy delegation of Khyber and Power Nisar Ahmad Pakhtunkhwa Textile Mills and other relevant Association (KPTMA) led authorities were also

The delegation the Caretaker Chief expressed serious Minister Khyber reservations on the recent decision of Economic Coordination Committee with regard to increase the price of gas for industrial sector and appealed to the of the problems faced by chief minister to take up the textile Industries of the the issue with the federal government on urgent

> The ECC had taken a decision to enhance the price of industrial gas from Rs. 1238/MMBTU to Rs. 2400/MMBTU



of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Pakistan called on Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik, Caretaker Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research at Minister Office.

Minister, CCIs presidents visit Business **Facilitation Center**

Provincial Minister of Industries and Commerce SM Tanveer along with presidents of various chambers of commerce and industry (CCIs) visited Business Facilitation Center (BFC), where the business community's representatives were briefed about the center's operations and facilities. Punjab Industries

Department Secretary Ehsan Bhutta, Punjab Industries Small Corporation (PSIC) Managing Director Asim Javed and other relevant officers were also present.

On this occasion, Provincial Minister SM Tanveer highlighted the community.

Business Facilitation Center as a revolutionary initiative by the caretaker provincial government to bolster investment. Completed within a month under the efficient leadership of Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, the center is poised to significantly benefit the business community and accelerate the pace of industrialization, he added.

Tanveer mentioned that the center houses officers from 17 to 20 departments of both federal and provincial governments, ensuring a comprehensive streamlined service to the investors and business

Governor Punjab says:

Development of the country related to the promotion of education and research

Delegation of students and teachers of Balochistan Residential College Zhob called on Governor

LAHORE (Online): A delegation of students and teachers of Balochistan Residential College Zhob and Cadet College Hasan Abdal called on Governor Muhammad Balighur Rahman at development of the Governor House Lahore, here today. Governor Punjab welcomed the and research. students and teachers to the Governor House.

The delegation included Prof. Khurshid Bukhari, Prof. Akbar, Prof.

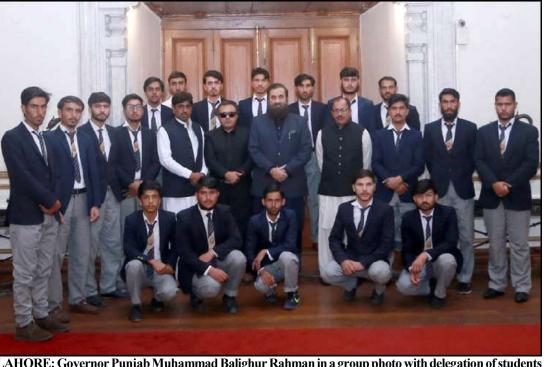
and others. occasion, Governor Punjab development of the Muhammad Balighur country. Rahman said that the country is related to the institution of high promotion of education traditions. He said that

today's modern era, Balochistan in universities learning new research and and medical colleges of technology important.

Tuesday December 05, 2023

College Hasan Abdal is an seats and scholarships are He said that in reserved for students of is very Punjab. Governor Punjab Governor said that the students of

Sardar Ali, Mirza Saeed Punjab said that the Balochistan were also Ahmed, Mudassar Hasan students should adopt included in the laptop positive thinking and play scheme so that the Speaking on the their role in the students of Balochistan can be brought at par with other provinces of the He said that Cadet country in the field of education. He said that the country can progress only with the supremacy of merit. Governor Punjab said that continuity of policies is very important for development in other sectors including



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rahman in a group photo with delegation of students and teachers of Balochistan Residential College Zhob and Cadet College Hasan Abdal called on at Governor House.

CM launches one-window operation, unveils business facilitation center

Independent Report Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi inaugurated the first-ever one-window operation to streaming the services of investors here

on Monday. Under one roof, 20 provincial and federal departments now facilitate a swift system, issuing 106 NOCs within a remarkable 15 days. The inauguration ceremony, attended by the CM, Provincial cabinet, and Consul Generals of China and Turkiye marked the official commencement of the Business Facilitation Center, also launching its online system. Chief Minister Naqvi, during the inspection of the center, emphasized the need for expediting NOC issuance to 15 days, down from 30, and sought plans for a 10-day timeline for overseas

Pakistanis and foreign

PESHAWAR (APP): As an important relief to special while chairing the 31st evolving a mechanism to meeting of the Board of dispose off the cellular persons, the caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Governors of KP, ETEA Pakhtunkhwa Justice ® here on Monday. Provincial Syed Arshad Hussain Shah Caretaker Minister for tests. The committee will has decided to give waiver Higher Education, Dr. come up with final in test fee to the disable Qasim Jan, Secretary candidates appearing in all Higher Education, Arshad kinds of screening tests Khan, Secretary Health, under Educational Testing Mehmood Aslam and other and Evaluation Agency members of the Board attended the meeting.

KP CM gives fee waiver to

disable candidates in ETEA tests

It was decided in the committee headed by Provincial Minister Justice to put in place.

This, he decided ® Irshad Qaiser for phones confiscated from candidates during screening proposals to this end after looking into all the legal and technical aspects of the matter. Various matters related to curb the menace of cheating in examinations and screening tests came meeting to constitute a under discussion in the meeting and it was decided

Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges, Uniting Women's Voice for a Better ANF seizes 31 kg drugs in

eight operations RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting eight operations

across the country managed to recover 31 kg drugs and arrested eight accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday.

PESHAWAR: VC SBBWU Prof. Dr. Safia Ahmed, SRSP CEO Masaud ul

Mulk and UNHCR KP Head Kofi Ohenenana Dwomo giving shield to Governor

KP Haji Ghulam Ali during 1st International Women Conference on

He informed a foreign passenger (Nigerian) who arrived from Bahrain by flight number GF-791 was arrested at Faisalabad International Airport. During the operation, 40 cocaine-filled capsules were recovered from his stomach. 1343 grams Ice and 558 grams heroin were recovered from a passenger's

240 intoxicated tablets (ecstasy) were recovered from two suspects arrested in

trolley bag at Jinnah International Airport. The accused was leaving for Jeddah by

the commercial market Rawalpindi. 3600 grams hashish was recovered from a vehicle intercepted near Hangu Road Kohat while an accused was also arrested during the operation.

Election 2023: Great enthusiasm witnesses among female voters PESHAWAR (APP): cast our first vote and would be a deciding factor

Great enthusiasm is being witnessed among female voters of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa ahead of Sidra Sheraz and her sister

General Election 2023. Samina Qaiser, the young female voters of Wapda Town Nowshera district were excited to exercise their right to vote for the first time in the February 8, 2024 General Election after their names were enrolled by ECP. "We are eagerly

awaiting the February 8

become part of the electoral process viz a viz decision making for setting of future Govt," said Sidra who associated with the teaching profession, adding that women were about half country's population and their votes would play key role in deciding fates of political

"I would cast my first vote based on political parties' past performance record and manifestos," she said, adding votes of young general election and would voters, especially females their right of votes in 2024 country in 2018 was nearly to 66.40 million.

in February 8 General

(ETEA). Now onward,

disabled candidates

appearing in such screening

tests will be exempted from

According to ECP's data, approximately 127 million registered voters would exercise their right of franchise in the upcoming general election.

About 72.31 million (56.9pc) of total voters were registered in Punjab, 26.65 million voters are in Sindh (21pc), 21.69 million voters (17.1pc) in KP while 5.28 million (4.2pc) of all registered voters in

The total number of

registered voters was recorded in 2018 as 106 million which had increased to 127 million this year. The gender gap among

voters slashed with an addition of 11.74 million female voters compared to 9.28m male voters, to the electoral rolls since the 2018 general election raised the total number of registered voters to 127 million in 2023.

Balochistan were exercise registered voters in the slashed from 66.50 million

106 million including 59.22m men and 46.73m women voters with 12.49 million deferences in all provinces of Pakistan.

This difference of 12.49 million was further increased to an all-time high of 12.72m next year when 62.55 million men and 49.83 million women were found eligible to cast a vote.

A significant drop in the gender gap was witnessed last year when the total number of The total number of registered male voters

International News

Turkey's Erdogan says Israel's Netanyahu 'will be tried as war criminal'

Monitoring Desk ISTANBUL: Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said on Monday that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would eventually be tried as a war criminal over Israel's ongoing offensive in the Gaza Strip,

while slamming Western

countries supporting Israel. Turkey, which supports a two-state solution to the decades-old conflict, has sharply criticised Israel over its campaign in Gaza, launched in response to Hamas' rampage on Oct. 7. More than 15,500 people have been killed in the Israeli air and ground attacks, according to Gaza's health

Cooperation (OIC) committee meeting in Istanbul, Erdogan said the Western nations supporting Israel were giving it "unconditional support to kill babies" and were complicit in its crimes.

"Beyond being a war criminal, Netanyahu, who is the butcher of Gaza right now, will be tried as the butcher of Gaza, just as Milosevic was tried," Erdogan said, in reference to Yugoslav ex-President Slobodan Milosevic who was tried for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes at a tribunal in The Hague.

"Those who try to skip over the deaths of all

Organisation of Islamic those innocent people by using the excuse of Hamas have nothing left to say to humanity," he added, referring to Western powers, which he said were "blind

> Unlike most of its Western allies and some Gulf states, NATO member Turkey does not view Hamas as a terrorist group and hosts Erdogan, whose ruling party has Islamist roots, said a socalled contact group of Muslim countries, which was formed by the OIC and Arab League last month to hold talks on Gaza with Western countries and others, would continue discussions until the fighting in Gaza stopped, but added more must be done.



RAFAH: An elderly woman, injured in an Israeli strike, appears to be in shock as she sits amid the rubble of her bombed-out building in the south

IARAWI: At least four others were wounded on

The blast, claimed by the militant Islamic State group, happened during a State

Jniversity's gymnasium in Marawi, the country's largest Muslim city, which was besieged by militant groups

General Emmanuel Peralta said four people were killed and around 50 wounded in the blast from an improvised explosive device.

Lanao del Sur provincial government's Facebook page showed several overturned plastic chairs, shattered glass and debris around a black patch on the floor of the gymna-

University student Chris Jurado, said that the explosion happened during the first Bible reading of the morning mass at 7am.

Nowhere safe as Israeli army overruns Gaza **Monitoring Desk** Commissioner for Human

Ukraine accuses

Russia of killing

surrendering soldiers

GAZA: Israeli forces overran nearly all parts of the Gaza Strip on Sunday, as more than 700 Palestinians were reported to have been killed after Tel Aviv ended a week-long truce. A statement from Is-

raeli Chief of General Staff Herzi Halevi said that his forces were operating across north and south Gaza, with tanks and soldiers seen moving through the besieged territory over the weekend.

The death toll from Israel's relentless bombing has climbed above 15,500, including 280 medical staff, in more than eight weeks of Israeli aggression. United Nations High

Monitoring Desk

KYIV: Ukraine launched

an inquiry on Sunday

into what it said was an

"execution" by Russia

forces of two unarmed

Ukrainian soldiers who

had signalled their inten-

Rights Volker Turk voiced alarm that hundreds of thousands of Gazans "are being confined into ever smaller areas" in the southern of the

There is no safe place in Gaza," he said. UN-OCHA said at

least 160 Palestinian deaths were reported in two incidents in northern Gaza on Saturday: the bombing of a six-storey building in Jabalia refugee camp, and of an entire block in Gaza City.

In a new estimate, OCHA said around 1.8 million people in Gaza, roughly 75 per cent of the population, had been displaced, many to overcrowded and unsanitary

Jumana Murad said her son Mohammad, 19, was killed as he tried to help women and children out of

a tent inside a school.

'A piece of shrapnel hit him in the head," she told AFP before bursting into tears. Nasser hospital in the southern Gaza city of Khan Yunis overflowed with both the wounded and the dead.

Hospitals in the southern Gaza Strip have descended into chaos since the resumption of hostilities, and WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that some patients there were being treated on the floor, in conditions "unimaginable for the provision

of health care". **Palestinian** student shot in US is paralysed, says family

Monitoring Desk

the three college students

Hisham Awartani, a cupied West Bank.

China says a US Navy ship 'illegally intruded' into waters in the South China Sea

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: The Chinese military said that an American naval ship had "illegally intruded" on Monday into waters near the Second Thomas Shoal, the site of a hot territorial dispute between China and the Philippines in the South China Sea. A Chinese naval force was mobilized to track the USS Gabrielle Giffords during the operation, according to a statement from the People's Liberation Army Southern Theater. The U.S. Navy's 7th Fleet said the ship "was conducting routine operations in international waters ... consistent with international law." Chinese and Philip-

ships have confronted each other repeatedly around the shoal in the Spratly Islands in recent months as China tries to prevent the Philippines from resupplying and repairing a rusting warship that it intentionally ran aground in 1999 to e as a military outpost. Dwarfed by China's

military might, the Philippines has sought America's help in its multiple territorial disputes with China in the South China Sea. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. agreed to an expansion of the U.S. military presence in the country early this year and launched joint sea and air patrols with the United States late last pine naval and coast guard month



People move in a boat past partially submerged vehicles in a residential area following heavy rains ahead of Cyclone Michaung in Chennai, India.

Cyprus pushes Gaza corridor idea; leader to visit Egypt, Jordan

Monitoring Desk NICOSIA: Cyprus President Nikos Christodoulides will visit Egypt and Jordan on Tuesday as part of an initiative to establish a humanitarian aid corridor to Israeli-besieged Gaza.

Cyprus, the closest European Union member state to the Middle East, has offered to host and operate facilities for sustained aid directly into the Gaza Strip once hostilities between Israel and the Palestinian militant Hamas group cease.

Christodoulides planned to meet Egyptian

President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and King Abdullah of Jordan. There were "technical discussions" on the matter between Cypriot and Israeli officials on Sunday. The Cypriot plan is aimed at expanding capacity for humanitarian relief directly to the coastal Gaza Strip beyond limited deliveries being made through the Rafah crossing between Egypt and

the Palestinian enclave. Such an aid corridor faces logistical, political and security challenges - Gaza has no port and its waters

Delegates walk at the Dubai's Expo City during the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Floods kill more than 20 people in northern Tanzania

Monitoring Desk DAR ES SALAAM: At least 20 people have been killed by floods after heavy rain in the Manyara region of northern Tanzania, the ministry of health

said on Sunday.

Severe flooding caused by the El Nino weather phenomenon has killed hundreds of people in Kenya and Somalia in recent weeks.

The rains have also left a trail of destruction. ruining infrastructure like cue efforts to prevent roads and submerging more deaths.

towns in East Africa, displacing hundreds of thousands of people.

"We are very shocked by this event," President Samia Suluhu Hassan said in a video message posted online by the Tanzanian ministry of

She directed security agencies, the ministry of health and other relevant bodies to put in all efforts into ongoing search and res-

Four killed in **Philippines** bomb attack **Monitoring Desk**

people died and several Sunday in a bomb attack on a Catholic mass in the insurgency-plagued southern Philippines.

morning service Mindanao

Police Lieutenant

Photos posted on the

tion to surrender. Ukrainian officials condemned the reported incident as a "war crime". There was no official reaction from Moscow

On Saturday a short video, whose authenticity could be confirmed, was posted on Telegram showing two men coming out of a shelter, one with his hands above his head, before lying on the ground in front of another group

of soldiers. This is followed by what appears to be gunfire, and rising smoke, before the video cuts off abruptly.

WASHINGTON: One of

of Palestinian descent who were shot in Vermont last month is paralysed from the chest down after a bullet lodged in his spine, the student's family said.

20-year-old student at Brown University who grew up in the Israeli-oc-

WASHINGTON (APP):

the United States, Masood

Khan, has lauded the im-

mense contributions made

by the Association of Phy-

sicians of Pakistani Descent

strengthening Pakistan's

healthcare system as well

as in dealing with other chal-

succeeded in the United

States beyond imagina-

tion—it is a matter of pride

for Pakistan and the

diaspora community, " he

said at the 10th annual ban-

quet of APPNA's Delaware

Valley Chapter, which rep-

resents Pakistani doctors'

of Eastern Pennsylvania,

Upper Delaware and South New Jersey.

Pakistani-American physi-

cians were a valuable asset

The ambassador said

Our doctors have

lenges, including floods.

America

towards

North

(APPNA)

Masood calls Pak,

American physicians

'valuable asset'

of Pakistan and the United

problems, but they will be

just a blip in the country's

long history. "We will ne-

gotiate a transition. We have

the wherewithal to do

lagged behind in some ar-

eas, it had also progressed

in many walks of life,

Masood Khan pointed out.

increasing," he said, adding

this was not the time for

the Pakistani community

to be polarized. This, he

added, was a moment to

consolidate gains and to be part of the United States'

the fringes. You should be

in the mainstream because

you have the requisite com-

petencies to do that," he

told the gathering.

"You should not be on

mainstream.

While Pakistan had

"Our human capital is

Pakistan, he said, has

President stresses upon attitudinal change as key to growth of any sector in economy

President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday emphasized that attitudinal change in any sector of the economy could lead to its growth and development including the production and export of world famed Pakistani indigenous Basmati rice.

The president, elaborating his viewpoint, said that technological and scientific research and inputs would pave way for the latest innovations in the agriculture sector and the rice exporters should utilize all available tools to enhance their yield by supplementing the country's exports. He was addressing the

Biryani Festival and pre-senting of REAP journal organized by the Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan (REAP) at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. The event was attended by the REAP office bearers, members of the diplomatic corps, exporters, traders and

mediapersons. The president underlined the need for inclusion and encouragement of women in the agriculture sector as the country was looking towards such initiatives, leading towards further women empowerment. "With such changes in attitude, they can stimulate of food stuff was also a rea-

The president said that with proper scientific tools and knowledge, Pakistan could attain food autarky and cited Netherlands that was 19 percent smaller than Pakistan in size but had become the second largest food exporter in the world owing to usage of latest technology and re-

Appreciating the role of REAP in boosting country's exports and the national economy, the president said that with orcountries, they were providing huge business opportunities to the local Basmati rice growers and

He also suggested for exploring the organic cultivation of rice crop as the world including Pakistan were facing water scarcity. He opined that if the

world resources were properly utilized, about 7 billion world's population could be fed properly and regretted that along with the global trade, the exploitation of population and accumulatrade, the exploitation of tion of wealth also contin-

OUETTA: Former Senator Roshan Khursheed Bharucha, Chairperson

NCHR Rabia Jaweria Agha showing report on conditions of shelter homes

for women from National Commission for Human Rights and UN Women to

He said the Ministry

for staff deputed in Dar

rights of residents. Min-

ister Khalil George said

an essential component

sponse to violence against

on Dar ul Amans has re-

vealed some very urgent

issues. The availability and

accessibility of women's

shelters is an urgent mat-

ter," he added while stress-

ing collaborative efforts to

mission for Human Rights

(NCHR) and UN Women,

launched "More than Shel-

ters, Needs Assessment of

Dar ul Amans and Shel

prehensive report on the

state of women's shel-

The National Com-

address these issues.

"The NCHR report

Caretaker Federal Minister Khalil George.

Report on the state of

women's shelters

launched in Quetta

QUETTA: Federal Minis- of Human Rights would

ter for Human Rights initiate training programs

every report published on ul Amans to protect the

better than our neighbour that women's shelters are

violence against women, of a comprehensive re-

an environment like home ters in Pakistan" - a com-

across the globe and Islam ters, in Dar ul Amans, in

Noor Zaman clinches

CAS Serena Hotels Int'l

Squash C'ship title

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan's Noor Zaman defeated

compatriot Muhammad Asim Khan in the final to clinch

the men's title of Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) -Serena

Hotels International Squash Championship at Mushaf

a scoreline of 11-8, 8-2, and retired hurt in 18 minutes.

beat her compatriot Nadien Elhammamy in a well-fought contest 13-15, 11-3, 11-7, 11-7 in 48 minutes to lift the

ers from Malaysia, Hong Kong, Egypt and Spain partici-

During championship, Noor outwitted Asim Khan by

In the women's event's final, Amina el Rihany of Egypt

A group of 23 world-ranking men and women play-

Independent Report rights.

Khalil George said that in

the situation of human

rights, Pakistan is far

country. He said that

violation of minorities'

rights and child abuse in

India are worse than any

stan no country exists in

the world where women's

rights have been ensured

and also provided equal

opportunities in every

should learn from these re-

ports and work jointly to

move the country forward.

He said that further efforts

should be taken to provide

in Dar ul Amans. He said

that women's right is equal

is also talking about animal Pakistan

Squash Complex, Islamabad on Monday.

The minister said we

Khalil said like Paki-

other country.

changes in the country's economy," he added. ses and it could be ended in priorities across the globe were set, adding that only \$1 trillion could be suffice to address the food scarcity in the world.

Contrary to it, the Islamic teachings had made the wealth a source for channeling the uplift of entire community, leading to well being of the human beings, he added.

The president also stressed upon measures to water conservation in the agri-sector, particularly during the rice cultivation ganizing of festivals and as it was a water intensive road shows in different crop. Besides, value addition products based upon rice crop, the exporters could increase Basmati outreach to different parts of the world, he said, and lauded REAP for projecting the soft image of Pakistan and promoting their culture, industry and livelihood. He said that certain things in the agriculture sector were possible and doable and expressed the optimism that the country

in his address, highlighted the contribution of the as-He said that hoarding sociation in the country's

MOM

delegation

meeting with

CEC

ISLAMABAD (Online):

ment (MQM) expressed

concerns on constituencies

and level playing field be-

fore Election Commission

(EC). A delegation of

MQM met the Chief Elec-

tion Commissioner here in

Islamabad and expressed

their concerns. The visit-

ing delegation included

Farooq Sattar, Khalid Magbool, Javed Hanif and

Abdul Hafeez. Speaking to

the media after the meeting,

Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui

said that under the

supervison of Sikandar Sul-

CDA introduces

state-of-the-art

fast-track services

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Building Control Director

ate of Capital Development

Authority (CDA) has in-

troduced state-of-the-art

fast-track service by mod-

ernizing the system of pro-

viding amenities to the citi-

zens. In this context, on

Monday, CDA started to

ensure the approval of the

building plan in the facilita-

tion centre on the fast track. Under this modern and

fastest system, residential buildings of 356 yards will

now be approved with an

additional fee of Rs 20,000

thousand with required

documents within two

days, while residential

buildings larger than 356

yards will be approved with a fee of Rs 30,000 thou-

sand. Additionally, com-

mercial buildings up to

10000 square yards will

also be approved within

three days.

tan Raja.

would soon rise economi-



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Jamal Shah inaugurating National Music Academy at PNCA.

PM invites Emarati investors to explore Pakistan's conducive business market

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has said the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is Pakistan's largest trading partner in the Middle East North Africa region with an average annual trade of \$9 billion and urged the UAE investors to explore Pakistani market for new av-

In an interview with Gulf Today, he said Pakistan is planning a comprehensive investment promotion strategy in major countries including the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

PM Kakar said Pakistan's exports to the UAE include agriculture products, textiles and manpower, while the UAE exports petroleum, petro-chemical products and hitech equipment to Pakistan.

also exchange services with each other. Information Technology, Artificial Intelligence and Financial-technology are new areas of collaboration with much greater potential.

Pakistan-UAE bilateral trade during 2022-23 amounted to \$9 billion, he

He expressed satisfaction that Pakistan's exports to UAE surged to \$1.4 billion in fiscal year 2022-23, highest in the last

On prospects of UAE's investment in Pakistan, he said attracting foreign investment in all sectors of Pakistan's economy was the government's top priority.

"Pakistan's Invest-

ment Policy has been designed to provide a compre-

hensive framework for creating a conducive business environment for attraction of Foreign Direct Investment from all parts of the world including the UAE,"

Currently, he said, there are over 1,000 multinational companies profitably operating in Pakistan, and for many, Pakistan is the most profitable part of their franchise.

Foreign companies, individuals, multinational corporations can own 100 per cent shares in locally incorporated or unincorpo

vestment cooperation, the prime minister said the two countries could explore the areas such as agriculture, energy, mining, information technology, logistics and

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Austria, Mrs. Andrea Wicke calling on Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue. rated firms, he added. **USAID** launches strategic Stressing enhanced in-

ISLAMABAD (APP): The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), through the Higher Education System Strengthening Activity, organized a five-day workshop to launch strategic planning at Pakistani public sector universities. University administrators and faculty learned how to develop and implement strategic plans to improve their universities' management, market-relevance, and stu-

planning at Pak universities These strategic plans will support universities to increase students' employ-

ability after graduation.
USAID Mission Director Kate Somvongsiri addressed the university leaders, saying, "Higher education institutions are central to Pakistan's development. Your universities shape future leaders, said a press release issued here on Monday. Your degree programs give youth the skills to benefit from and drive Pakistan's economic growth.

NAB distributes cheques committee worth Rs 600mln among approves Arian city victims student

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Accountability Bureau (NAB), Deputy Chairman, Sohail Nasir Monday handed over cheques worth Rs 600 million to 450 affectees of Arain City scandal. Commencing with the recovered sum obtained through a plea bargain with the management of Arain City, Fateh Jang, Rawalpindi, the funds were distributed among the victims in a simple ceremony held at NAB,



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Chairman NAB Sohail Nasir addressing during ceremony of cheque distribution among affectees of Arain City at NAB Headquarters.

This returned amount, a product of meticulous scrutiny, is being distributed among the victims.

Addressing the cheque distribution ceremony here. the deputy chairman stressed the importance of ensuring social justice and self-accountability in resolving the issues faced by the society NAB is actively conducting an awareness campaign

through the media to educate the public about precautionary measures before investing in a housing society. It was emphasized that people should invest only in societies that are legal and registered.

He committed to returning every penny to the victims of fraudulent housing societies, seeking the public's support in honoring this commitment. This aligns with the bureau's responsibility to pro-

tect the rights of investors and others. He urged individuals to carefully assess the legality

of a society before investing in it.

Additionally, he recommended consulting the relevant regulator to verify the authenticity of any housing

society before making an investment. We must prioritize respecting the rights of others and honoring our commitments," he added.

He highlighted the presence of mafias in the housing sector, advising people not to purchase files without verifying their legality and authenticity.

Senate union bill

ISLAMABAD (INP) Senate Committee for Education on Monday approved the bill for the restoration of student organizations in the federal educational institutions. If an existing the state of Siddiqui presided over the Senate Committee for Education and approved the bill for the restoration of student organizations at the federal universities and colleges. The meeting members considered a bill for the legislation on the student union in the education institutions in the federal.

mock exercise near Diplomatic Enclave **Independent Report**

CTD conduct

ISLAMABAD: Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) conducted a mock exercise at an under construction building near the diplomatic enclave with a purpose to deal with any possible emergency situation and to ensure the safety of life and property of the citizens, a police public re

lation officer said. According to detail, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the mock exercises by the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) are being conducted in different areas of the city in order to prepare the force to deal with any untoward situation.

ICP launch special drive against menace of narcotics; educate youth on drug prevention

Capital Police have initiated tional institutes in the a special awareness campaign to eradicate use of narcotics from the federal capital and ensure the safety of the youth from the curse of drugs. Police teams have conducted spe-

cial lectures in various edu-

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Islamabad lectures in various educa-

Sihala, Humak, Lohi Bher, Koral, Khanna, Kirpa, Shahzad Town, Bani Gala, Nilore, Bhara Kahu, Phulgran, Industrial Area, Sabzi Mandi, Noon, Shams Colony, Shalimar and Ramna police stations ju-



cational institutions to educate students about the harms of drugs and preventive measures

The Islamabad Capi-City Police Officer (ICCPÓ) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan highlighted that Islamabad Capital Police has launched a special awareness campaign to rid the federal capital of narcotics and safeguard the young generation from the

curse of drugs. During this campaign, risdiction about the harms of drugs and preventive measures, emphasizing that drug abuse is detrimental to the health and future of stu-

Students are urged to protect themselves and contribute to saving their surroundings from the curse

Parents and teachers are encouraged to collaborate in preventing youth from falling victim to drugs.

To prevent theft of mobile phones

New mobile app "Find My Cell FMC" launched

PESHAWAR: For the first time in the history of the provincial capital Peshawar, the Capital City Police Peshawar has cooperated with the KP IT Board to ensure the prevention of the purchase and sale of mobile phones stolen and taken away from citizens and to further tighten the perimeter against criminal elements.

A new mobile app called "FMC" has been introduced. While a special form has also been issued for the registration of mobile dealers after the confirmation of the presidents of the mobile dealer association and the SHO's of the respective police stations, will be registered, for which the procedure has also been devised. Initially, this app has been launched at the level of Peshawar, after which its scope will be extended to the entire province.

Capital City Police Officer Peshawar Syed Ashfaq Anwar, DIG IT Irfan Khan and SSP Operations Kashif Aftab at Malik Saad Shaheed Police Line Peshawar have called the

introduction of this app as a good move by the citizens as well as phone dealers A special app "FMC"

was launched regularly by

Capital City Police

Peshawar with the support of KP IT Board has launched an app for the convenience of citizens of Peshawar and to prevent the theft of mobile phones, and a good initiative has been taken, a new mobile app has been launched for the convenience of the citizens of Peshawar and for the businessmen dealing with mobile phones. All police stations and registered shopkeepers will have this facility, in which the IMEI of the mobile phone along with name, parentage, mobile number, identity card and photo of the seller is stored during purchase and sale, according to which the registered shopkeepers who buy and sell mobile phones will get instant data of snatched and stolen mobile phones during snatching. An alert will also be issued on the app, which will enable the elements involved in mobile theft to be dealt



The special mobile app tails. According to the Capital City Police, Peshawar, for the first time in the history of the provincial capital Peshawar, to tighten the perimeter against criminal elements, for transparency in the purchase and sale of mobile phones and prevention of stolen mobile the work of the Peshawar

phones, as well as for the convenience of citizens.A new mobile app has been introduced, CCPO Peshawar Syed Ashfaq Anwar, DIG IT Irfan Khan and SSP Operations Kashif Aftab Abbasi launched this special app at Malik Saad Shaheed Police Line.He gave a detailed briefing regarding the effectiveness and use of the app, while giving a briefing, he said that

Police is to protect the lives and property of the people, for which all the reforms and available resources should be implemented. A special mobile app "FMC" Find My Cellphone has been launched to find an easy solution for buying and selfing mobile phones used in other crimes, with the aim of further improving police reforms and providing easy facilities to traders, to be



ISLAMABAD: Group photo of winners holding prizes along with the organizers during CAS-Serena Hotels International Squash Championship for Men & Women-2023 organized by Pakistan Squash Federation in collaboration with PAF & Serena Hotels at Mushaf Squash Complex.