# Indenendent

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# PM for health sector reforms to meet global requirement of experts

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Higher Education Commission and medical universities. Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday emphasized the introduction of reforms in country's health sector with a view to meet the global requirement of health experts. The prime minister, chairing a meeting of the task force on reforms in medical education and patients care, said the reforms in the health sector was vital in current

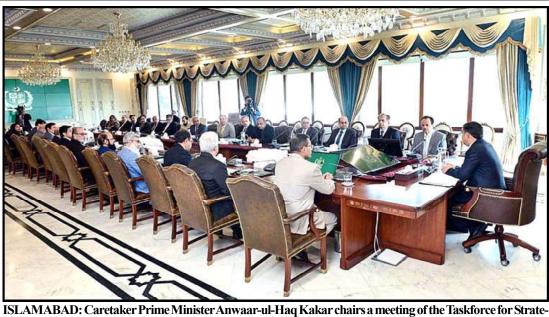
He also called for improving the standards of medical education in accordance with the contemporary requirements. The participants of the meeting were briefed on the strategy to uplift the health sector at par with international standards. The prime minister said that considering its significance, enhanced attention should be given on uplifting the nursing sector.

The meeting was also briefed on the steps taken for improvement in the health sector in coordination with the health ministry, College of Physicians and Surgeons of Pakistan, Pakistan Medical and Dental Council.

It was told that a three-prong strategy had been formulated for health sector reforms to enforce the rules and regulations of international standards. The participants were also apprised of the reforms strategy for the graduate and postgraduate levels in the health sector. Prime Minister Kakar appreciated the performance of the task force working under Special Assistant Dr Amir Bilal for bringing in health sector reforms.

Meanwhile Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Kakar on Tuesday lauded the services of the Bohra community for the progress of the country and said the government and nation valued their positive contribution.

The prime minister was talking to the Spiritual leader of the Dawoodi Bohra community, Dr Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin who led an eight-member delegation here at the PM House. PM Kakar felicitated Dr Saifuddin on being awarded the Nishan-e-Pakistan in recognition to his services for the country.



gic Reforms in Medical Education and Patient Care

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi conferring the award of Nishan-i-Pakistan upon Dr. Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin, Head of the Dawoodi Bohra community at a special investiture ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

| 2023 in the billing month of December 2023.

#### Nepra hikes power tariff by Rs3.07 per unit ISLAMABAD (APP):The

National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Tuesday notified Rs 3.0786 per unit increase in power tariff for consumers of XWAPDA power distribution companies (DISCOs) under the fuel cost adjustment (FCA) mechanism for October

The said adjustment shall be shown separately in the consumers' bills based on units billed to the consumers in October 2023, said a notification issued here.

XWDISCOs shall reflect the fuel charges adjustment in respect of October

#### **President Alvi confers** Nishan-i-Pakistan award on Bohra community head

ISLAMABAD (APP): the School of Law at the President Dr Arif Alvi on University of Karachi and Tuesday conferred the civil award of Nishan-i-Pakistan on Dr Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin, the Head of the Dawoodi Bohra Community, in recognition of his services for Pakistan in the field of spiritual guidance and social services.

The award was conferred at a special investiture ceremony held at the Aiwan-e-Sard and attended by the federal cabinet members as well as the representatives of the Bohra community

According to the citation read out before the conferment of the award, Dr. Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin is the 53rd Dai-e-Mutlaq whose followers are spread across all continents with a large number of them being Pakistani citizens.

The Bohra community Pakistan and is an advocate of peace, harmony and goodwill.

Recounting his services tributed to the building of free loans.

launched a university project. Multiple healthcare institutions are operating in the name of the Bohra community head providing affordable healthcare to people.

Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin has repeatedly emphasized the importance of conserving and protecting the environment. In the past few years alone, over 100,000 trees have been planted by his followers in different parts of Pakistan.

He also launched a global initiative named 'Project Rise' encompassing a range of areas, including healthcare, nutrition, sanitation and hygiene, environmental responsibility and conservation, and edu-

He urged his followers head has a special regard for to contribute actively to Pakistan's socioeconomic ness opportunities in the country besides developing in the education sector, it an extensive network of was told that he had con-schemes offering interest-

#### **UNGA** approves 4 Pakistani resolutions to promote disarmament, int'l security

UNITED NATIONS weapon states. (INP): The United Nations General Assembly approved four annual Pakistani disarmament-related resolutions that are aimed at advancing the goals of regional as well as international peace and security.

The resolutions were recommended on Monday by the 193-member Assembly's First Committee (Disarmament and International Security) where the texts were adopted by overwhelming support of its members. Of these, three resolutions deal with regional disarmament, conventional arms control at regional and sub-regional levels as well as Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) in the regional and sub-regional context. The fourth Pakistani resolution sought international security assur-

The resolutions, entitled "Regional Disarmament and Confidence Building Measures" in the regional and sub-regional context, won the unanimous approval of the Assembly adopted without a vote. But the resolution on "Conventional arms control at regional and sub-regional levels" was supported by an overwhelming majority of 186 votes, with India casting the only "no vote."

The resolution titled, Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, was also approved by a large majority. It garnered 123 votes in favour to none against, with 62 abstentions. Diplomats said that all

ances for non-nuclear- the significance of and peace and stability.

complementarity between regional and global approaches to arms control, disarmament and confidence building to promote international peace, security and stability. The resolutions also draw attention to the excessive conventional military danger in the regional context - implicitly in South Asia -, propose measure to address the associated risks and encourage efforts aimed at promoting confidence building Measures (CBMs) at the regional and sub-regional levels to ease regional tensions; and further disarmament and nuclear nonproliferation measures.

They said the resolution on conventional arms control at regional and sub-regional levels acknowledges that the preservation of a balance in states' defence four resolutions recognize capabilities strengthens

#### 'Tobacco smoking not an addiction, but a death pill,' says Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): :Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Tuesday said tobacco smoking was not an addiction rather it was a death pill and a threat to human lives at the global

Delivering his speech at an event organised to educate children about the harmful impacts of smoking, he said like environmental destruction, smoking was also a threat to human lives.

was important to ask some important questions regarding the habit of smok-

"Smoking is a disease that kills one person every six seconds on average", Murtaza Solangi said add-



takes the life of one person among ten.

Recounting the devastation caused by smoking, he said 100 million people lost their lives due to smok-At the outset, he said it ing in the 20th century and some five million deaths were caused by smoking every year worldwide.

that the number of people killed by smoking would million per year by 2030 smoking.

if the habit of smoking continued at this intensity. Appreciating the services of those who have waged war against smoking, he termed them "the anti-smoking heroes"

He said due to business compulsions, tobacco smoking was not mentioned with other harmful substances, but now this tendency should end.

An increase in taxes on the tobacco industry was meant to discourage the tendency of smoking in society, especially the young generation, he maintained.

He said that like climate change, tobacco had been badly affecting the daily lives of human beings and He said it was feared increasing health sector expenditures. Solangi pledged to keep on supporting the increase from five to eight volunteers fighting against

#### Fazal questions polls feasibility amidst KP, **Balochistan lawlessness**

ISLAMABAD (INP): While noting that two provinces are still in a state of lawlessness and disorder, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman questioned on Tuesday whether the next general elections can be conducted under the

present circumstances. Interacting with media here, Fazl stated that his party was ready to contest elections at any given time, but stressed the need to ensure a conducive environment in all four prov-

He also questioned how a party could run its election campaign in a state of lawlessness in the prov- Nawaz.

inces of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, recalling recent incidents of terrorism in Peshawar, Dera Ismael Khan, Tank and Lakki Marwat.

Regarding PTI's intraparty elections, Fazl expressed regret that about 40 individuals were called in for the intra-party polls, adding that the initial enthusiasm within the party had now deflated. He observed that individuals who had been forcibly brought into the PTI were now jumping

Fazl indicated that the JUI-F would pursue seat adjustments under an electoral alliance with the Pakistan Muslim League-

#### International Conference on Sirah, Civic Sense and Tolerance at HUI, Faisal Masjid Campus. Jamal for incorporating teachings of Khutba-e-Hajjatul Wida in edu. institutions

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Jamal

Shah inaugurating International Sirah Exhibition on sideline of Pak-Saudi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Syed Jamal Shah has emphasized incorporating the teachings of Khutba e Hajjatul Wida of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) in all educational institutions. He was addressing the inaugural ceremony of an international conference on Sirah, civic sense and tolerance organized with a joint venture of Pak-Saudi Governments by the International Centre of Excellence for Sirah Studies, Islamic Research Institute, IRI of International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) at the Quaid-e-Azam Auditorium, Faisal Masjid

Addressing the opening ceremony of the conference, Minister Syed Jamal Shah said that Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) served as the epitome of civic responsibility. He was of the view that the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) consistently highlighted the significance of

ness and consideration. Syed Jamal Shah added that one of the Prophet's (PBUH) well-known sayings encapsulates this spirit.

treating others with kind-

"The best among you are those who have the best manners and character." He said this timeless wisdom underscores the importance of civic sense in the daily lives of Muslims. Earlier, the minister inaugurated the International Sirah Exhibition held in connection with the conference.

and international repute unveiled timeless wisdom for success in this world and the hereafter highlighting the Sirah of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in this 2-day international conference. During the conference, more than 100 research papers will be presented by researchers and scholars of international repute. The conference will identify the historical roots of civilized social living, the causes of the lack of good manners in our society, and the reasons for cultural ignorance such as mistrust, misconceptions, conflicts, hatred and the lack of mutual understanding among various segments of Muslim societies, particularly Pakistani society.

Speakers of national

#### Sarfaraz Bugti says

#### **ECP** to have full security for holding next elections in peaceful environment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmad Bugti on Tuesday said that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), would have full security for holding the next elections in a peaceful environment.

The caretaker government would take necessary measures to provide all required facilities to ECP for conducting general elections in a transparent manner, he

said while talking to a private television channel. Political parties should cooperate with law enforcement agencies (LEAs), before arranging any public meeting or corner meet-ing for election campaign, he said.

Timely information about public gatherings or meetings would help security institutions for aking better arrangements for them, he said.

#### Sanjrani, Iraqi Ambassador discuss bilateral relations, current situation in Palestine

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senate Mohammad Sadiq Sanjrani and Ambassador of Iraq, Hamid Abbas Lafta, on Tuesday discussed bilateral relations, issues of mutual interest, and current developments, including the situ-

attached great importance to the long-standing brotherly relations with Iraq. In the meeting, there was also a detailed discussion regarding the further enhancement of bilateral trade.



that the ties between Pakistan and Iraq were rooted

respect, highlighting shared

values. He said that Pakistan



Chairman Sanjrani said in religion, brotherhood, Islamic culture, and mutual their steadfastness in adunity in the Muslim world.

The chairman expressed admiration for the resilience of the Iraqi

dressing their challenges. He stressed the need to enhance direct air links between Pakistan and Iraq.

The chairman asked international powers to put pressure on Israel to stop the genocide of innocent Palestinians and end the siege of Gaza immediately. facilitating the supply of food and medicine.

The ambassador reciprocated the sentiments, affirming Iraq's perspective on its friendly relations with Pakistan. He called for expanding economic and trade ties between the two nations. The envoy commended the contributions of Pakistani expatriates working in Iraq, assuring them of every possible facilita-

He also praised

explosion left 7 people including 3 children injured on Warsak Road here on Tuesday morning.

7 people including 3 children

injured in blast in Peshawar

was planted alongside the road near a private bank and a school. Glasses of nearby buildings splintered by the explosion.

Rescue teams rushed to the scene and shifted the blast has been started

PESHAWAR (Online): An injured to Lady Reading hospital. The age of children who were injured range between 7 years to 10 years. The blast is said Police said explosive to have taken place at 9:10 am. Four kilogram explosives were used. The condition of a nine-year-old child is stated to be criti-

The investigation into



KARACHI: Group photo of Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf with officers of naval aviation at the induction ceremony of 5th ATR 75 in Pakistan Navy Aviation Fleet.

#### unity in the Muslim world. Pakistan Navy inducts 5th ATR aircraft into its fleet and training missions, a news release said.

KARACHI (APP): The induction ceremony of 5th ATR of Pakistan Navy was held at Naval Aviation Base PNS Mehran, Karachi where Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf was the Chief Guest on Tuesday. The newly inducted ATR aircraft, acquired from PIA, is equipped with day and night flying capability to undertake ferry, logistics support, Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC), General Evacuation (GENEVAC)

Pakistan Navy is in the process of acquiring ATR aircraft from various the Indian Ocean Region sources and is modernising them to carry out maritime reconnaissance and antisubmarine warfare missions at sea. Being a commercial aircraft it has very low operating cost as compared to tailor-made military aircraft. This is the 5th aircraft which has been acquired for the purpose. Speaking on the occa-

Staff highlighted the importance of evolving geostrategic environment in and emphasized the need to have a potent naval force in order to counter emerging challenges.

He underlined the significance of strong maritime defence for Pakistan and reiterated that the induction of modern aircraft will enhance Pakistan Navy's capability of safeguarding maritime frontiers.

# Daily Aoice of Masse Independent

#### Chilas bus attack

Perhaps even more challenging than countering terrorism in urban areas is the threat posed by militants in remote regions of Pakistan. This is especially true in the rugged terrain of Gilgit-Baltistan and adjacent regions of KP. Here, in the shadow of towering peaks, tracing the perpetrators is arguably more difficult than it is in the cities.

However, terrorists cannot be given a free hand to stomp through the mountains, killing innocent people at will. In fact, the geopolitical and communal sensitivity of the area requires that strong counterterrorism measures be taken.

No group has as yet claimed responsibility for Saturday's atrocity, in which at least nine people were killed when terrorists opened fire on a bus travelling on the Karakoram Highway in GB's Chilas area. A number of suspects have been detained.

The authorities have ruled out a sectarian motive, while the fact that two of the victims were military men could explain a possible motive for the

Diamer, where Chilas is located, as well as the adjacent Kohistan area of KP, have witnessed militant activity previously, while both areas are known for their ultraconservative mores. In 2012, at least 18 people were pulled off buses and massacred in a sectarian attack in Kohistan.

Later that year, a similar atrocity took place in Mansehra. In both attacks, most of the victims were Shia. In 2013, terrorists massacred 10 foreign climbers and one local at the Nanga Parbat base camp, while in 2021 nine Chinese nationals working on the Dasu dam project, along with four locals, were killed in a TTP suicide bombing.

Meanwhile, in September, a militant incursion from Afghanistan was thwarted in Chitral, which also borders GB, resulting in a number of soldiers being martyred. These events show that this particular region of Pakistan is not immune from the

Complicating matters is the fact that militant activity in the area often has sectarian overtones. Also, GB borders Afghanistan and China as well as India-held Kashmir, making it a target for transnational militant activity.

The threat from militancy will also scuttle the state's plans to promote tourism in the area, affecting the livelihoods of the locals of this beautiful, but economically deprived region. Due to these reasons, it is imperative that the administration take

decisive action to root out militancy. Efforts should be headed by federal counterterrorism agencies, with the involvement of the GB and KP administrations. Locals, particularly in Diamer and Kohistan, need to be on board to ensure that militants have no place to hide. Meanwhile, transporters are of the view that the security provided even to convoys of vehicles is inadequate. This needs to be rectified to ensure the safety of those travelling to and from the region.

# New security threats



Arifa Noor

The security situation in Pakistan continues to be of concern. And the decision to repatriate illegal migrants has done little to stem the tide. That the latter is a result of the incaretaker governments have been at pains to disseminate.

The decision to zero in on the 'migrants' came week of September, in state-owned news agency, reported that ments.

"The caretaker govern-ment has decided to evict 11 lacs foreigners living illegally in Pakistan because of their involvement policy towards Afghaniin funding, facilitating terrorists and other illegal activities

"In the first phase, illegal residents, in the second phase, those with Afghan citizenship and in the third phase, those with proof of residence cards will be expelled. 'Illegally [sic] resident foreigners pose a serious threat to the security of Pakistan', said a source privy to the develop-

A day later, the interior minister briefed the media after the apex committee meeting. Announcing the Nov 1 deadline he said, "The most important thing that was decided was that the welfare and security of a Pakistani are most important for us over any country or its policy." Once again, he seemed to link the decision to the security situation.

The caretaker prime former and Baloch sepaminister also expressed similar views.

which were repeated more and is now trying to reach than once, were sufficient to link the decision to the deteriorating security situation in Pakistan. And as the focus shifted to the administrative preparations and movement of the migrants, it appeared that the number of attacks also came down. But this was not a permanent shift. By November, it appeared that the attacks were increasing again.

Unfortunately, the creasing unease over the caretaker government's former is a message the constant efforts to link the deportation/return of the migrants with the security situation means that the policy is now being seen as ineffective, coupled as shortly after the blood- it is with portrayal of the bath in Mastung in the last migration as having caused human suffering. which nearly 60 people This perception is going lost their lives. Within days to be hard to change, esthe attack in pecially as the ministers Balochistan, APP, the seem unaware of the consequences of their state-

> However, outside of the caretaker set-ups, the matter has set off a larger debate on Islamabad's stan and the militancy within, especially by the

The tense relationship with Afghanistan has now laid to rest all earlier assertions of a better regional environment with the change of regime in Kabul. And it is also leading to serious questions about the larger policy towards the western neighbour.

At the same time, there is a growing debate about the challenge of militancy and its growing complications (compared to what Pakistan dealt with the last time).

For instance, there are increasing reports of the TTP's expansion into Balochistan and what this means for the insurgency there, especially as some reports suggest there may even be coop- through the use of force. eration between the

ratist organisations.

Similarly, the TTP Such statements, has changed its tactics out to the people, instead of solely relying on violence. Its use of social media, for example, and outreach on interests of public importance will need a response, which seems to be missing at the moment. The strategy of simply constraining coverage on mainstream media may not prove enough

On the other hand, what is even more serious is the absence of a clear strategy on the part of the state. After all, there is little space — fiscal or otherwise — to carry out large-scale military operations as in the past.

And frankly, there is little clarity on how effective they may prove this time around, especially as ordinary people are wary of military operations because of what they entail for residents. What are the options in this case and will they prove effective, especially as civilian law-enforcement person-nel continue to be short on resources?

which includes a debate and public buy-in, which will be impossible without getting the political leadership within parliament and outside on board. And it will also require brainstorming on the evolution of the threat and how to address it.

But before any of these steps can be taken, we will need to acknowledge that security issues cannot be viewed as simply administrative matters, where state force will prove sufficient.

The political context in which they arise has to be recognised. Take Balochistan, for example; a political process has to be initiated there. Without that, little will be achieved just -- Courtesy Dawn

**Bridging Horizons:** 

# Economic Strategies and **Geopolitical Dynamics**

By Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani

Have you ever pondered how economic strategies and geopolitical maneuvers shape the world's future? In a landscape where nations grapple with challenges, China seems to be orchestrating a different symphony. Let's embark on a journey through the maze of global infrastructure competition, where economic uniqueness, strategic initiatives, and collaborative endeavors intertwine. In a recent East Asia Forum article, a striking revelation emerges—China's economy dances to its rhythm. While the rest of the world battles inflation, China tactically cuts interest rates to ward off deflation. This distinctive economic strategy showcases

navigating global financial currents. Traditional geopolitics often spawned arms races, but China is charting a new course—an infrastructure competition that diverges from the norm. The global stage witnesses major powers initiating substantial infrastructure projects, challenging conventional paradigms. It's a novel approach that beckons a redefinition of global power dynam-

Enter the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC), a memorandum signed by eight nations responding to China's Belt and Road Initiative. This ambitious project aims global infrastructure to connect half the world's population and lective action, foster- be contacted through 40% of the global ing a sense of partner- syeed.gilani@gmail.com.]

economy, unfolding as ship. the evolving infrastruc-

ture narrative.

progress

for Global Infrastruc-G7 countries, takes cenmitment to mobilize \$600 the global infrastrucbillion for developing nations by 2027, the US State Department surge to address the indeems projects like the Lobito Corridor and Zambia–Lobito railway in Africa as significant contributors to global

Responding to the

Belt and Road Initiative,

the EU unveils its \$340 billion Global Gateway investment plan. Positioned as a credible altinctive approach to admegaprojects, a tapes-Free and Open Indo-Pacific and Partnership for Quality Infrastructure, along with India's regional connectivity smaller strokes confrastructure develop-

Despite geopolitical tensions, collaboration emerges as the Secretary General of nizations McKinsey and the Association's Khyber Asian Development Pakhtunkhwa chapter. Bank view these With a passion for fosprojects not as rivalries tering international but as collaborative efforts. The \$26 trillion gap necessitates col-

a potential game- China's proximity changer. It signifies a to investment-focused strategic response to regions and its status as the world's largest trader amplify its influ-The Partnership ence in the global infrastructure race. The ture and Investment trend initiated by China (PGII), an initiative by propels major powers to allocate substantial ter stage. With a com- capital, transforming

As investments

ture landscape.

frastructure gap, opportunities unfold for widespread development and collaboration. Regardless of the financier, these megaprojects promise benefits that extend to various nations, promising a shared journey toward progress. The prevalence of terms like conternative, this plan nectivity, corridors, indoesn't merely mimic frastructure, and Belt but introduces a dis- and Road echoes a trend set by China. This China's prowess in dress global infrastruc- marks a paradigm shift ture gaps. Beyond in great power politics, with a significant allotry of regional initia- cation of capital toward tives unfolds. Japan's global infrastructure and connectivity projects initiated by China. In the grand symphony of global infrastructure developendeavors—these ment, China's unique notes resonate, steering tribute to the evolving the world toward a fulandscape of global in- ture where collaboration, innovation, and connectivity redefine the very fabric of progress.

- [The writer, serves as defining theme. Orga- the Pakistan China like Friendship bonds, he also lends his expertise as a Senior Media Consultant based in Peshawar, can

# Commerce News

# Planning Minister reviews power sector's progress

Caretaker Minister for Power and Special Initiatives considered by the Central Muhammad Sami Saeed on Development Working Tuesday chaired a meeting Party (CDWP) and ministry. The Chief Energy Section gave a detailed briefing on current policies and new initiatives of the power sector, a news release said

prevalent policy-formulation

Sector's prevalent policies in the Planning, Development development projects to be power sector. In this regard, National Electricity Policy, 2021 was approved to review the progress of Executive Committee of Council of Common the power sector of the ministry. The Chief Energy the Council (ECNEC). The down six principles for the Power Section is also growth of the power sector involved in planning, including Efficiency, Transparency process and furnishes Competition, Financial comments on CCI, Viability, Indigenization Cabinet, ECC summaries and Environmental The Power Section of and other reports/ Responsibility. To meet the Planning Ministry is intergovernmental policy goals, principles and

ISLAMABAD (APP): technical appraisal of the was also briefed about the respective areas as provided in the National Electricity Policy, an objective-oriented National Electricity (NE) Plan has in June 2021 by the recently been approved by Council of Common the CCoE in August 2023. The NE Plan envisaged 20 priority areas intervention including Integrated Energy Planning, System Operations, Electrification, Tariff Design and Subsidy Rationalization. Among the new initiatives being undertaken in the Power



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi in a group photo with a delegation of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

# assigned the tasks of agreements. The minister underlying directives in the

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed chairing a meeting to review progress of Power Sector at the Ministry.

#### **Currently rice export third** largest sector in country's economy: REAP leaders

ISLAMABAD (APP): increase the production of Rice Export Association of rice in Pakistan and to find Pakistan (REAP) on new markets, which if fully Tuesday said that rice available, rice export can export is currently the third largest sector in the in Pakistan's economy. country's economy, which should be given the status of an industry.

REAPs leaders, Pakistan has an export potential of rice worth \$4.5 billion, which can be further improved through the use of technology and modern methods. According to the REAP leaders, government support is necessary to National Press Club.

become the largest sector Leaders of REAP in National Press Club Islamabad, including According to the rice Chairman REAP Chela exporter organization, Ram Kelwani, Group Chairman Sindh Abdul Rahim Janu, Group Chairman Punjab Shahzad Ali Malik. Senior Vice Chairman Haseeb Ali Khan. Vice Chairman Habibur Rahman and other

leaders including President

#### **PSX** gains 462 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with a bullish trend on Tuesday, gaining 462.67 points, a positive change of 0.74 percent, closing at 62,956.03 points against 62,493.05 points

the previous trading day. total 765,418,288 shares valuing Rs 30.858 billion were traded during the day as compared to 734,294,598 shares valuing Rs 31.641

billion the last day. Some 382 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 187of them recorded gains and 177 sustained losses, whereas the share prices of 18 remained unchanged.

#### **President of PAS** press release issued by ISLAMABAD (APP):

Dr Kausar elected

Caretaker Minister for National Food Security Tuesday. and Research Dr Kausar Abdullah Malik has elected as the 20th unopposed President of Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS).

After scrutinizing and counting the ballot paper, the members of the Ballot Opening Committee formally announced the election of Dr Kausar Abdullah Malik as the President on December 1, 2023, and the other council members as well, said a Pakhtunkhwa.

Ministry the Apart from the

President, Dr Muhammad Ashraf elected as Vice President, Dr Muhammad Qaiser Vice President, Dr M. Aslam Baig Secretary General, Dr Abdul Raoof Shakoori Associate Secretary General, Dr Saleem Asghar Treasurer, Dr M. Raza Shah Secretary for Sindh, Dr Waheed Akhtar Secretary for Punjab and Dr Sardar Khan elected as Secretary for Khyber

# Dr. Umar holds various meetings in Qatar

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Federal Minister Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif held a meeting with CEO of Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) Mansoor Ebrahim Al-Mahmoud in Oatar. They discussed opportunities and mutual collaborations across various sectors during the meeting, said a news release received here on Tuesday. Faisal Al-Thani, QIA CIO of APAC & Africa was also present in the meeting. Meanwhile, Dr. Umar Saif

Pakistan's IT companies can visit, Dr. Umar Saif met with the CEO of Oatar Free Zones Authority Sheikh Mohammed Al-Thani. Ambassador of Pakistan to Qatar Muhammad Aejaz was also present in the meeting. Dr. Umar Saif also visited the Oatar Science and Technology Park and met with its management to explore how Pakistani (NCERT).

visited the Qatar Free Zones startups can benefit from Authority to explore how their incubator and Startup Fund. The two sides agreed register in Qatar and use it to sign an agreement to as a hub for regional business establish a startup exchange opportunities. During his program between Ignite and Qatar Science and Technology Park. The Caretaker Federal Minister for IT Dr. Umar Saif also met with the authorities of Oatar National Cyber Security Agency (NCSA) to explore a partnership with Pakistan's newly created National Computer

#### **Economy steadily progressing towards recovery, revival: Report**

ISLAMABAD (APP): mark for the first time in 1.0 percent in September The national economy is history. 1.0 percent in September 2023. steadily progressing along a promising path toward monetary policy stance recovery, propelled by the and momentum of economic revival initiatives that are fostering a significant

According to the "Monthly economic update & outlook November 2023," released by the Ministry of Finance on Tuesday, the positive economic signals and recovery indicators have triggered the market sentiment, propelling the KSE-100 index of PSX by

33% in November.

The sustained

successful International Monetary Fund staff review in November drove the surge in economic activity. market confidence. Owing to reforms in exchange companies and a reduction in illicit transactions, the exchange rate remains stable thus exerting a positive impact on overall

economic activity. The Large-Scale Manufacturing (LSM) sector demonstrated a positive trend for the second consecutive month surpassing the 58199-point while posting a growth of After several months

of decline, the industry has

been on the path of recovery since August The stability in the exchange rate, ease in supply disruptions due to the removal of import

restrictions, and improved dollar liquidity contributed to this economic upswing.

agriculture sector, the input situation shows positive signs, whereas the farm tractor production (17,098) and 86.8 percent substantial increase in non-

during July-October of of higher receipts from fiscal year 2024 over the corresponding period last

During October 2023 urea and 122 percent in October 2022, indicating a positive growth in Rabi crops.

On the fiscal front, healthy growth in revenues Meanwhile, in the outpaced the growth in expenditure during the first quarter of current fiscal year. Both tax and non-tax collection attributed to a and sales witnessed the significant rise in total growth of 55.1 percent revenues, however, a

(17,296), respectively tax collection on the back petroleum levy remained the major source of the increase.

With healthy growth the 6.8 percent growth in in revenues relative to expenditures, the fiscal DAP off-take compared to deficit reduced to 0.9 percent of GDP during the period from July-September 2023-24 from 1.0 percent of GDP last

> Primary balances continued to be in surplus and improved to Rs.416.8 billion (0.4 percent of GDP) in the first quarter of fiscal year 2023-24 from Rs.134.7 billion (0.2 percent of GDP) last year.

# CM Naqvi chairs cabinet meeting, approves reforms

Independent Report LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister system for allocating management committee for Mohsin Naqvi, chairing the 33th provincial cabinet meeting at the Civil Secretariat on Tuesday, addressed crucial matters.

The cabinet approved an increase in driving licence fees effective from January 1. Until this date, driving licences will continue to be issued at the existing rates. Starting January 1, the learner fee will surge from Rs 60 to Rs 1000, alongside an increase in LTV, HTV, and PSV licence fees. Residents of the US, Canada, and other to the health department countries can obtain a and a healthcare system licence online by paying for prisoners was also

During the meeting,

Nazir Ahmad Advocate.

**Independent Report** 

Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker

Minister for Technical

Education, Industries,

Commerce and Newly

Merged Districts Affairs,

Dr. Aamer Abdullah has

termed the provincial

government and Overseas

Corporation(OEC)

mployment

GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji

Gulbar Khan addressing during the 27th

session of Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly under the

chair of Speaker Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly

**OEC's Korean language** 

Centre generating manpower

for Korea: Dr Aamir

collaborative efforts of of the province can get

imparting the skilled force honorable employment in

of the province on Korean various fields in the Korean

language training, a very market every year.

important and useful.

manpower of the region

could be able to gain

more opportunities available in various

technical fields in Korea

of this effort, hundreds of

trained and skilled people

He said that as a result

through this project.

professional

He said that the

Punjab transparent government land to landless farmers in Cholistan. A substantial 3,44,000 acres of land will be allocated to landless farmers at subsidized rates.

Additionally, the cabinet approved the transfer policy for MBBS and BDS students in government medical and dental colleges, allowing transfers only from high-grade merit to low-grade institutions. management of prison hospitals will be entrusted approved.

Funds were greenlit

the cabinet endorsed a to double the number of lottery nursing students, and a the Institute of Public Health Lahore was established. The cabinet renewed the agreement between the Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Department and the Recep Tayyip Erdogan Health Trust for the operation of Regional Blood Centers in Multan

> Decisions were made elevate Children's Hospital Faisalabad to the status of a medical institute under the Punjab Medical and Health Institutions Act 2003. The establishment of PKLI-2 for South Punjab in Multan Institute of Kidney Diseases was

and Bahawalpur.

#### Governor inaugurates swimming pool

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Governor Punjab Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman on Tuesday inaugurated the newly constructed swimming pool of Bahawalpur Gymkhana.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that the swimming pool was a good addition for the club members.

The governor said that a committee had been formed to affiliate Lahore Gymkhana with Bahawal Gymkhana. He appreciated the efforts of office bearers of Bahawal Gymkhana in making the club more beautiful. The governor said that Bahawal Gymkhana was a useful recreational facility for the people of area.Deputy

C o m m i s s i o n e r Bahawalpur, Zaheer Anwar Jappa briefing the governor told that the funds of the gymkhana had been used transparently and all office bearers had performed their duties dedication. with

Commissioner Bahawalpur, Dr Ehtesham Anwar, General Secretary Ejaz Nazim and others were also present.



with position holders of Flower Show organized by Horticulture Society of Pakistan at Jilani Park.

# CM KP Arshad chairs meeting **Meeting deliberates on** strengthening police force in merged districts

PESHAWAR (APP): An Syed Arshad Hussain Shah Home Muhammad Abid important meeting to review law and order in the province, and deliberate upon the matters related to strengthening of police force in merged districts. was held here on Tuesday with the Caretaker Chief Minister Pakhtunkhwa Justice ®

Caretaker Provincial Ministers Dr Aamir Abdullah. Barrister Feroz Jamal Shah Kakakhel, Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, Inspector General of Police Akhtar Inspector Khyber Hayat Khan Gandapur, Additional Chief Secretary

professional and technical

fields in Korea. Dr.

Abdullah expressed

confidence that, as a

result of this effort,

hundreds of trained

individuals from the

province would secure

honorable employment in

the Korean market

During a visit to the Government Technical and

Vocational Centre (GTVC) in

Peshawar, the minister

proposed the establishment

of a provincial organization

or cell, modelled after the

annually.

Majeed, and other senior in the chair. Besides, officials attended the meeting. Divisional Commissioners Regional Police Officers participated in the meeting via video link. The meeting was briefed in detail on the overall situation of law and order, challenges.

#### **KP Caretaker Minister lauds** collaboration with overseas employment corporation opportunities in various

**Independent Report** PESHAWAR: Th PESHAWAR: The caretaker minister for Technical Education, Industries, Commerce, and

Newly Merged Districts Affairs in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Dr. Aamer Abdullah, has commended the joint initiative between the provincial government and the Overseas Employment Corporation (OEC) for Korean language training.

He emphasized the significance of this collaboration, stating that it opens doors for the rkforce to numerous Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA). LEAs in establishing peace and tranquility in KPK. region's workforce to access

#### **KPCS** condemns Warsak Road blast PESHAWAR (Online): Chief

Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhary on Tuesday condemned the blast on Warsak Road and promptly sought a detailed report from authorities. He directed district administration, police, and other law enforcement agencies (LEAs) to maintain heightened vigilance in the area. The Chief Secretary prayed for swift recovery of the injured and instructed hospital administration to provide the best possible medical care to them. The Chief Secretary highlighted the sacrifices rendered by OEC, under the Technical the general public and Education and Vocational

#### **Punjab Governor says:** Govt is committed for promotion of health activities

**Independent Report** 

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman distributed shields and trophies to the prize winners of flower show, organized by the Horticultural Society of Pakistan at Jilani Park, in a ceremony held at Governor House Lahore. Vice-Chairman Horticulture Society Pakistan, Abrar

Mumtaz, Secretary General, Tariq Jilani, Convener Sajid Sambal, Marketing Head Shaista Khawar, Chairman Millat Tractor Limited Sikandar Mustafa Khan and others were present in the event.

While addressing the

Balighur Rehman said that the government is committed to the promotion of healthy activities.

He said that the

Walled City of Lahore under the leadership of Director General Walled City of Lahore Authority is doing a good job by promoting cultural activities and tourism in Lahore. Governor Punjab said

that public private partnership is a successful model in Pakistan, adding that PHA and other institutions can work on various projects through publicprivate partnership.

Governor Punjab said that flowers are one of the beautiful and priceless gifts Muhammad of nature.



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi enquiring about medical facilities from mother of under treatment children at Children Emergency during his visit to Mayo Hospital.

#### **Doctors' protest** against attack on clinic of Dr. Ranjeet

**Independent Report** MIRPŪR MATĖELO:

Mirpur Mathelo doctors' profest against the attack on the clinic of child specialist Dr. Ranjeet Kumar, all private hospitals closed, doctors' protest ended on the assurance of SSP Ghotki, demanding the arrest of the attackers, Dr. Meher Chand, Dr. Sativaan, Dr. Om Prakash, Dr. Jai Kishan, Dr. Bhajanlal and others held a press conference with Dr. Ranjit Kumar against the alleged attack on

Dr. Ranjit Kumar in Mirpur Mathilo.

While saying that yesterday, a man named Shahid came to Lady Dr. Sapna for an ultrasound due to the premature delivery of his wife, on whose normal report he left, returned in the evening with four colleagues and rushed to the private hospital. They tortured me mercilessly and ransacked the hospital and ran away. Clinics have been opened so that ordinary patients do the clinic of child specialist not have to face difficulties.

# International News

# Gazans running out of safe places: UN official

NORTHERN (Online): White, said on Monday toward the border crossing been left with virtually no-been left with vir where to go as the Israeli army continues its offensive in the enclave following the end of a truce with reports, heavy fighting Hamas, a UN official has

Forces (IDF) is shifting its focus to the southern part of Gaza and has urged the population to evacuate. However, Palestinians and human rights groups have condemned the move after the area was initially declared a safe zone when Israel launched retaliatory strikes following the Hamas attack of October

The head of the UN Relief and Works Agency

safety. We have nothing to tell them."

According to media punctuates the day. has taken place near the largest city in southern The Israel Defense Gaza, Khan Younis, ces (IDF) is shifting its around 10km from the Rafah border crossing with Egypt.

The IDF warned Gazans on Monday that some areas in the north and east of Khan Younis are "extremely dangerous," offering them a way to a reach refugee camp in the Rafah district.

The same day, White said the humanitarian situation "worsens by the hour" as another wave of for Palestine Refugees in Gaza (UNRWA), Thomas displacement was underway and the roads leading





GAZA: A man carrying dead body of a child who martyred during Israeli attack.

#### **Qatar pushing to repair** truce, bring comprehensive end to Gaza war

**Monitoring Desk** DOHA: Qatar is pressing

for a comprehensive end to the war in Gaza and is working to repair a collapsed truce agreement between Israel and Hamas, its emir said on Tuesday. "We are constantly working to renew (the truce) and to alleviate the burden of our people in the Gaza Strip, but truces are not an alternative for a comprehensive ceasefire," Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani said in a speech to Gulf leaders gathered in the Qatari capital Doha.

Qatar, where several political leaders of Hamas are based, has been leading negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian militant

Those talks led to a truce that ultimately lasted for seven days before hostilities resumed on Friday.

During the truce Hamas released dozens of hostages held in Gaza in exchange for hundreds of Palestinian prisoners, and Israel allowed humanitarian aid to flow into the coastal

added that even in Rafah 'the sound of airstrikes

The UN official declared on Tuesday that Rafah, which normally has a population of 280,000, "will not cope" with the influx as it is already hosting around 470,000 displaced persons. Meanwhile, Palestinian telecom provider PalTel announced a complete disruption of communication services" in Gaza due to Israeli

bombing. The company later reported that services in the central and southern regions of the enclave were gradually being restored after being cut off from

#### ambassador charged with spying for Cuba

**Monitoring Desk** MIAMI: A former US ambassador to Bolivia and member of the National Security Council has been

charged with spying for

Cuba for 40 years, the

Justice Department an-

nounced on Monday. The charges against Victor Manuel Rocha, 73, "exposes one of the highest-reaching and longest-lasting infiltrations of the United States government by a foreign agent," Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a statement ex-

plaining the charges. Rocha, a naturalised US citizen originally from Colombia, allegedly began aiding Havana as a "covert agent of Cuba's General Directorate of Intelligence" in 1981, and his espionage activities continued to the present, the

statement said.
"Those who have the privilege of serving in the government of the United States are given an enormous amount of trust by the public we serve," Gar-



# Israel mulls flooding Hamas tunnels - WSJ

NEW YORK (Online): Israel is considering using seawater to flood the extensive network of tunnels under Gaza, used by Hamas militants to smuggle goods in and out of the Palestinian enclave, the Wall Street Journal reported on Monday, citing sources.
According to US offi-

cials interviewed by the paper, the Israeli military assembled an extensive flooding system not far from the Al-Shati refugee camp in northwest Gaza in mid-November. The unit reportedly consists of five pumps capable of drawing thousands of cubic meters of water per hour from the Mediterranean Sea, potentially allowing Israel to flood the underground maze within a few weeks. The Israeli government

of the initiative last month, sparking debate about whether the plan was feasible, as well as its pros and cons, WSJ sources said. They noted that no final decision on its execution has yet been made and that it is unclear how ready Israel is to implement it. The plan, the report says, could drive Hamas fighters out of the sprawling system of tunnels. which span hundreds of ki-

lometers, with some passages reaching into Egypt. The network also provides Hamas and other local Islamist groups with formidable cover from missile strikes and allows them to evade Israel's blockade. Some tunnels are tall enough for an average man to stand up in. are built from reinforced concrete, and boast a network of informed the US, its key ally, communication lines. How-

ever, some US officials are said to have serious doubts about the plan. "We are not sure how successful pumping will be, since nobody knows the details of the tunnels and the ground around them," one source said. Meanwhile. Jon

Alterman, a senior vice president at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. warned in a WSJ interview that it was hard to estimate how much seawater would seep into the ground or what impact the pumping would have on water and sewage infrastructure.

This sentiment was echoed by Wim Zwijnenburg, an environ-mental expert, who noted that the flooding could wash hazardous materials out of the tunnels, further contaminating the soil.

### 11 hikers die as volcano erupts in Indonesia

**Monitoring Desk** 

AGAM: Eleven hikers were found dead on Monday and another 12 were missing after a volcano erupted in Indonesia, with rescuers racing to carry injured and burned survivors down the mountain on foot.

Rescuers worked through the night to find dozens of hikers stranded on Mount Marapi on the island of Sumatra after it spewed an ash tower 3,000 metres (9,340 feet) — taller than the volcano itself into the sky on Sunday.

found near Marapi's crater after the 2,891-metre volcano rained ash on nearby villages, according to a local rescue official. Twelve were missing, three more were found alive and 49 had safely descended from the crater, some with burns and fractures, the official said. "Until now I have not received any information," said Dasman, father of missing hiker Zakir Habibi, who made a two-hour drive from Padang city to the base of the mountain last night

in hope of good news.

#### **Putin to visit** UAE, Saudi Arabia this week **Monitoring Desk**

MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin will visit the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia this week, Russian news outlet Shot reported on Monday, citing Putin's

aide Yury Ushakov. The reported visit comes after the OPEC+ group of oil producers, which includes all three countries, agreed last Thursday to voluntary output cuts totalling 2.2 million barrels a

#### China says Afghan Taliban must reform before full diplomatic ties

BEIJING: China said on Tuesday Afghanistan's Taliban government will

need to introduce political reforms, improve security and mend relations with its neighbours before receiving full diplomatic recognition. Beijing does not for-

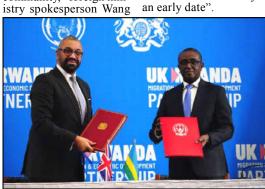
recognise Afghanistan's Taliban rulers, although both countries host each others' ambassadors and have maintained diplomatic engagement.

"China has always believed that Afghanistan should not be excluded from the international community," foreign min-

when asked if China would now recognise the Taliban government.

"We hope that Afghanistan will further respond to the expectations of the international community, build an open and inclusive political structure (and) implement moderate and stable domestic and foreign policies," he

Wang also said China urged Kabul to "resolutely combat all types of terrorist forces, live in harmony with all countries around the world, especially neighbouring countries, and integrate with the international community at



British Home Secretary James Cleverly and Rwandan Minister of Foreign Affairs Vincent Biruta sign a new treaty, in Kigali, Rwanda.

#### Senior EU official warns of huge security risk in Europe over Christmas as Israel-Hamas war rages **Monitoring Desk**

BRUSSELS: Europe faces a "huge risk of terrorist at-

tacks" over the Christmas holiday period due to the fallout from the war between Israel and the Palestinian militant group Hamas, the European Union's home affairs commissioner warned Tues-

The warning came as French investigators probe a fatal weekend attack near the Eiffel Tower in Paris. Questions were raised about the mental health of the suspect, who swore allegiance to the extremist Islamic State group before ered in Brussels.

stabbing a German-Filipino tourist to death and injuring two other people with a hammer.

"With the war between Israel and Hamas, and the polarization it causes in our society, with the upcoming holiday season, there is a huge risk of terrorist attacks in the European Union," EU Home Affairs Commissioner Ylva Johansson told re-

porters "We saw (it happening) recently in Paris, unfortunately we have seen it earlier as well," she said, as EU interior ministers gath-

#### **DRAP** approves registration of life saving medicines

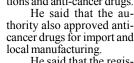
ISLAMABAD (APP): On tions and anti-cancer drugs. the direction of Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan, major progress has been made to ensure the availability of life-saving medicines.

According to the spokesperson of the Ministry of Health, Dr Nadeem Jan had issued orders for the registration of medicines on an emergency basis to improve the supply of these medicines.

He said that on the instructions of the Minister for Health, Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) has approved the cases for registration on a priority basis.

The registration will help supply diabetes and anticancer drugs in the mar-

He said that the DRAP approved the registration of anesthesia injec-



tration board approved the registration of influenza vaccines, heparin and enoxaparin injections.

He said that the registration of the new anti diabetic drug Semaglutide injection was also approved.

these drugs will significantly improve the provision of anti-cancer, diabetes and life-saving drugs. He said that an uninterrupted supply of life-

He said that the gov-

ernment is taking all necessary steps to ensure the availability of life-saving



ISLAMABAD: The spiritual leader of Dawoodi Bohra Community, Dr. Ŝayedna Mufaddal Saifuddin called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-

#### Climate resilient urban planning: Pakistan, Ethiopia discuss city-to-city collaboration

kistan and Ethiopia on Tuesday discussed the prospects of initiating a city-to-city collaboration in order to promote sustainable governance in the global south through climate resilient urban planning. The collaboration came under discussion during a meeting between Ethiopian Ambassador Jemal Beker Abdula and CDA Chairman Captain (Retd) Anwarul Haq, said a news release of the Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of (FDRE)-

Both sides discussed

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa- including knowledge exchange between the administrations of both the countries' capital cities — Addis Ababa and Islamabad. Ambassador Jemal briefed the CDA chairman about the overwhelming response received by the Green Legacy Initiative of Ethiopian Prime Minister Dr Abiy Ahmed from around the

He said Ethiopia had planted more than 32 billion seedlings of different trees, fruits and animal feed during the last four years. "Our government's target is to plant over 50 billion plants by the end of 2025,"

#### Pak, Mexico 6th BPC review bilateral ties, multilateral developments

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 6th Round of Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) between Pakistan and Mexico on Tuesday reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral relations, regional and multilateral issues. The two sides expressed satisfaction at the cooperation between their delegations at various international organizations and forums especially in the United Nations, and on the question of Security Council Reform, Foreign Office Spokesperson in a press

Ambassador Mariam Aftab, Additional Foreign Secretary (Americas) Ministry of Foreign Affairs, led the Pakistan delegation while the Mexican delegation was headed by Ambassador Jose Tripp Villanueva, Director General for Africa, Central Asia and Middle East, at the Mexican Foreign Ministry Regional and global matters including Afghanistan, Palestine, and the situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) were discussed during the consultations.

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

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police have initiated a special awareness cam-

that drug abuse is detrimen-tal to the health and future of students. Students are urged to



paign 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 special lectures in various educational institutions to educate students about the harms of drugs and preven-

tive measures. The Islamabad Capital City Police Officer cinity. The cooperation of (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir the public is deemed cru-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

During this campaign, police teams have delivered lectures in various educational institutes about the harms of drugs and preventive measures, emphasizing will be brought to justice.

protect themselves and contribute to saving their surroundings from the curse of drugs. Parents and teachers are encouraged to collaborate in preventing youth from falling victim to drugs. The police teams have appealed to the public to immediately inform the police about any drugrelated activities in their vicial for the successful eradi-

cation of this menace. Islamabad Capital Police and Anti-Narcotics Force are jointly working to combat drug trafficking, while special teams have been formed to apprehend drug peddlers in educational institutions. ICCPO emphasized that individuals involved in businesses related to narcotics and liquor

He said that the regis-

The registration of

saving medicines will be

President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday terming financially-empowered women an important contributor to socio-economic development said their emancipation necessitated a harassment-free environment at

workplaces. 'The State and the society need to provide every woman a safe and secure space in public and domestic domains where they could thrive amid equal opportunities," he said in his address here at an event organized by the Federal

PTI intra-party

elections

challenged

in EC

ISLAMABAD (INP): A

member of the Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has

filed petition against Intra-

party elections of the party

been filed by Raja Tahir

Nawaz, a resident of

Islamabad and a PTI

member, in the Election

the PTI's constitution was

not followed in intra-party

elections. "A dummy panel

was floated to conduct the

party elections," according to

the plea.

"The responsibility

was upon the party's secre-

tary general to hold intra-

committee at Parliament House.

**IHC** bars

NAB from

action against

A two-judge bench,

The petitioner's law-

comprising Justice Mohsin

Akhter Kayani and Justice

Ijaz Ishaq Khan, heard the

petition of Faisal Chaudhry

yer adopted the stance that

his brother Chaudhry

Fawad Hussain was ar-

rested on November 4, in a

**PML-Q** eyes

adjustment'

with PML-N

AHORE (INP): Pakistan

Muslim League-Quaid

(PML-Q) is eyeing 'seat

adjustment' with the Pa-

kistan Muslim League-

Nawaz (PML-N) in the

Sources said the PML-Q is considering

seat adjustment with the

PML-N on more than two

National Assembly and

**Punjab Assembly seats in** 

Gujrat. It emerged that

Hussain wants to contest

the election on both MPA

seats from Gujrat. PML-

Shujaat Hussain is ex-

pected to meet former

three-time prime minis-

ter Nawaz Sharif to dis-

cuss the 'seat adjust-

the Pakistan Muslim

League-Nawaz's Parlia-

mentary Board has al-

ready opposed seat adjust-

ment with the PML-Q.

It is to be noted that

chief Chaudhry

Chaudhry

general election 2024.

Advocate.

party elections," he said.

Commission of Pakistan

Petitioner pleaded that

the election commission.

The application has

Protection Against Harassment (FOSPAH).

tariat for Protection Against Harassment (FOSPAH) at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing an awareness event "16 Days of Activism against

Gender-Based Violence and Harassment of Women" organized by the Federal Ombudsperson Secre

Sanjrani urges collective

efforts to end suffering

of innocent Palestinians

President Álvi said it was the responsibility of both the State and society to bring a change in attitudes that promoted genderbased harassment.

He said the empowerment of women had several facets including the right to ample representation in financial, political, and leadership

The president said denial of property and inheritance rights to women

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani

Tuesday urged collective ef-

forts to end suffering of in-

nocent Palestinians and em-

phasized the the need of a

resolution in accordance

with international law. Dur-

ing a meeting with Ambas-

sador of Jordan to Pakistan,

Maen Khreisat who called

on him here, he said the

genocidal actions and war

crimes of zionist Israeli re-

gime in Palestinian territo-

rily focused on strengthen-

ing bilateral ties and ad-

dressing pressing humani-

ISLAMABAD: Senator Muhammad Tahir Bizinjo, Chairman Senate Com-

mittee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges presiding over a meeting of the

The discussion prima-

They delved into the

ries were condemnable.

Chairman

of Islam and the country's law and needed to be reported at legal forums such as FOSPAH.

He said Islam enunciated equal rights to women some 1,400 years ago and supported their participation in all fields of life.

The president quoted the founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah as saying "No nation can rise to the height of glory unless your women are side by side with you.

He termed 'honour

Strip and West Bank, con-

demning the Israeli actions

and emphasizing the

broader implications for the

Middle East region. Sadiq

Sanjrani appreciated the ef-

forts of King Abdullah bin

Hussein of Jordan in seek-

ing an end to the ongoing

Jordan's pivotal role as the

custodian of Masjid Al

Aqsa Compound and its

historical significance in

maintaining peace in Alquds

Jerusalem. The ambassador

highlighted Jordan's con-

tinuous support for the

Palestinian people, includ-

ing the establishment and

replenishment of a hospi-

tal in Gaza to provide cru-

#### Ombudsman Secretariat for was against the injunctions killings' of women a crimi nal act that required a change of behaviours against several social ta-

the role of media in promotand cultural programmes.

He proposed that the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority could be taken on board for relaying short messaging services to cellular phone consumers on awareness about gender harassment.

Harassment-free workspace vital for women's financial empowerment: Alvi

> Dr Alvi emphasized ing awareness about gender harassment through talk shows, television dramas

#### **ECP** receives number of requests to postpone general election

ISLAMABAD (INP): A by terrorists in Tehsil Khan wave of requests has inundated the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), urging the postponement of the upcoming general elections scheduled for February 2023. Citing security concerns and adverse weather conditions, petitioners argue that holding elections under these circumstances would hinder voter participation and compromise the fairness of

the electoral process. Advocate Azizuddin Kakakhil, representing citizen Shakir Khan of Kohlu, submitted a petition highlighting the precarious law and order situation in the region. With the Frontier Corps (FC), responsible for maintaining security, redeployed to border areas, concerns over terrorist activities remain heightened. The petition cites the disruption of the February 2023 municipal elections due to terrorism and fears of similar disturbances during the general elections.

The petition underscores the inadequacy of Levies forces in deterring terrorist movements. It also draws attention to the distribution of pamphlets

aimed at obstructing the election process. Additionally, it emphasizes the impending heavy snowfall across most districts and divisions in February, further impeding access to polling stations for voters.

In a separate petition, Advocate Fatima Nazr contends that the escalating security situation in Balochistan renders it unsuitable for holding general elections. The petition details a surge in terrorist incidents, including targeted killings, IED blasts, and suicide attacks, particularly in Makran Division. This atmosphere of fear and threat, coupled with logistical challenges posed by poor transportation infrastructure, casts doubt on the feasibility of conducting fair and inclusive elections. With mounting pressure from concerned citizens and legal representa-tives, the ECP has agreed to consider the postponement requests. The commission is expected to conduct hearings to evaluate the merits of each petition and make a final decision on the fate of the general elec-



Zahir Shah, Member, PMIC is getting site visit briefing on PSDP project titled Replacement and Upgradation of HVAC Plant Room Equipment and Allied Works at PIMS, Islamabad' at PIMS Hospital Islamabad.

#### Power companies should face action for overcharging consumers: Rabbani

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Senator Raza Rabbani on Tuesday castigated country's power distribution companies (Discos) for overcharging consumers, saying that action should be initiated against them for the 'criminal activity'

The statement came after the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) exposed the "most controversial power theft drive" of the power distribution companies (Discos), defrauding consumers of billions of rupees by overcharging them as much as 100 percent

The regulatory authority, in its inquiry report, claimed that the distribution compacausing thousands of consumers to suffer from higher electricity bills.

In a statement, the PPP Senator said that the NEPRA's inquiry had revealed the mother of all scams, as power firms have been skinning alive users through inflated

#### **Shehbaz meets** PML-N **Balochistan** president

LAHORE (APP): Former prime minister and Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif met with the President of the party in Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail, here on Tues-

Party's central leader Khawaja Saad Rafique, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, and Malik Muhammad Ahmed Khan were present during

Consultations were held regarding organizational matters and preparations for the upcoming general election during the meeting. Political strategies for practical implementation in the context of the general election in Balochistan were also discussed. The PML-N President said "Balochistan is our heart, our soul, we consider the progress of Balochistan as an integral requirement for the progress of Pakistan."

## Farewell ceremony held in honour of outgoing officials

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: A farewell
Speaking at the occasion, the chief guest said ceremony was held in that retirement is part of the honour of Inspector service as the one who joins Kifayat Ullah and Inspective has to retire one



tor Ahmad Khan at Capital Police Officer Security Division office, a police public relations officer said.

He said that, Capital Police Officer (CPO) Security Division graced the ceremony as chief guest. While partment. other senior police officials were also present on the occasion. The ceremony the services of the retiring Inspectors.

day. He asked the serving police officials to do their best to earn respect for the department. He was of the view that public service only could earn a good name for the officials and the de-

He recognized the services rendered by both in-spectors and added that was held in recognition of the department in return gave him respect and honour.

cultivates

#### **Seed Potato Production thru Aeroponics** PARC, KOPIA sign TCPs & contract for construction of Green, Screen Houses

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Republic of Korea are

working jointly on agriculture technology transfer projects for seed potato production through aeroponics, production, chili drying and improvement in artificial insemination in cattle. These projects are being implemented jointly by Korea Program on International Agriculture (KOPIA) and Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC).

Technical Cooperation Projects (TCPs) were signed for the construction of aeroponic green houses, oat and rye grass seed production and artificial insemination using Korean Holstein Sexed Semen in Cattle.

In his remarks, Dr. that conventional potato Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman, Pakistan Council emphasized the significance

plants typically yield only five tuber seeds, whereas Agricultural Research aeroponic plants have the (PARC), potential to produce 50 to 60 seeds each. Pakistan of the currently



developing aeroponic potato seeds in Pakistan. During the signing ceremony of the Technical Cooperation Projects (TCPs), Dr Ali explained

potatoes on approximately 300,000 hectares of land, yet due to the substandard quality of domestic seeds, the country imports 15,000 to 20,000 tons.

#### **COP-28 negotiations enter tense** mode, Loss & Damage Fund secretariat notified: Dr Suleri G-77 states and China.

lawyer Faisal ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court DUBAI (APP): Executive Director of Sustainable De-(IHC) on Tuesday barred velopment Policy Institute the National Accountabil-(SDPI)Dr Abid Qaiyum ity Bureau (NAB) from Suleri Tuesday said that taking legal action against after five days of constant Faisal Chaudhry Advocate negotiations at the COP-28, in an inquiry pertaining to the sale of eight kanal land the excitement of the international forum had conin Pind Dadan Khan. verted into a tension on the The court also sought negotiating text based on the case record from the diverging opinions of dif-Bureau on next hearing.

ferent delegates. In his online interac-tion with media persons here from Dubai, Dr Suleri, who is regularly sharing his views on the official discussions at the COP-28, said tension prevails among the negotiators this time especially on the global goals and means of adaptation not only between the developing and developed However, he said, the Santiago Network, which

was set up to provide technical support on the implementation of Loss and Damage Fund, finally decided its secretariat to be placed under the United Nations Office for Disas-Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

'This was a tie between the Caribbean Development Bank and UNDRR but on developing countries emphasis, it was not placed under the multilateral development bank but the UN office," he added.

Commenting on the Clean Energy Transition, Dr Suleri said negotiations on energy to phase out fossil fuels by 2050 were also countries but also between held.

#### PTI leader Gandapur declared PO ISLAMABAD (Online): district and sessions court

District and Sessions Court Islamabad has declared former minister and PTI leader Ali Amin Gandapur proclaimed offender in possessing illegal arms and li-

The case of possessing illegal arms and liquor against Ali Amin Gandapur came up for hearing before

Islamabad Tuesday. Prosecutor and inves-

tigation officer reached the court with case record. However Ali Amin Gandapur and his counsel Raja Zahoor ul Hassan did not appear in the court. The court upon it de-

clared Ali Amin Gandapur proclaimed offender.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Ethiopia Jemal Beker Abdula exchanging views with CDA Chairman Captain (retd) Anwarul Haq on matters of mutual interest here at his office in Federal Capital.