

# Independent

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## No security compromises with undocumented foreign nationals: PM

**Our ultimate aim is to build safer, more peaceful, and prosperous Pakistan; 65 terrorists killed in encounters were identified as Afghans; No responsible government can ignore such concerns. Whenever we raised this with the interim Afghan government, they advised us to "look inwards"**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has said that as Pakistan stood at the crossroads of history, it could no longer continue to compromise its national security by accommodating huge number of undocumented immigrants.

"Our ultimate aim is to build a safer, more peaceful and prosperous Pakistan – with associated benefits for our own people, for the region, and the wider world," the prime minister wrote in an article published in The Telegraph on Sunday.

He said that the governments across the world were adapting to a new era of mass migration linked to

conflict, climate change, and economic opportunism.

He said the UK Government's plan to deport illegal immigrants to Rwanda was a sign of that pressure. The heated debate surrounding the proposal and the many efforts to derail the scheme illustrated the huge challenges for policymakers as they sought to balance human rights with hard realities.

Similarly, he said, France was also struggling, while Italy had expressed fears that it might become "Europe's refugee camp". After opening its arms to several million refugees in recent years, Germany was

also feeling the strain, prompting the announcement of tough new deportation measures.

The situation in the United States was no easier, he remarked.

"Pakistan's problem is of a different magnitude altogether. Over the last three to four decades, between four and five million migrants (roughly the population of Ireland) have arrived. Many have no right to remain. Despite being a non-signatory to 1951 Convention on Refugees (and its 1967 Protocol), we have generously accommodated the single largest caseload of refugees," the prime minister wrote.



## Caretaker PM visits Kuwait; conveys deepest sympathies to new Amir

KUWAIT (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar visited Kuwait today to offer condolences over the sad demise of the Amir Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

During his meeting with the new Amir Sheikh Meshal al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the Prime Minister offered his heartfelt condolences on behalf of the leadership, government and people of Pakistan. He said Pakistani nation stands united with our Kuwaiti brothers in this time of sorrow and grief.

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said the State of Kuwait has lost a visionary leader, who transformed Kuwait into a prosperous State.

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah will be remembered as well-wisher and friend of Pakistan who made great contributions in advancing bilateral relations between the two brotherly states.

Sheikh Meshal al-Ahmad al-Sabah expressed gratitude to the leadership, Government and the people of Pakistan for standing with the people of Kuwait in this time of grief. He expressed full support for Pakistan-Kuwait relations and affirmed his commitment to further augment this relationship.

## No one can exercise ECP powers Can't object to constituencies delimitation after election schedule issued: SC

**Mullifies BHC decision for changing delimitation of two constituencies**

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has declared null and void Balochistan High Court (BHC) decision on changing delimitation of two constituencies of Balochistan.

A 3-member bench of SC presided over by Justice Sardar Tariq Masood nullified BHC decision on the petition against the delimitation of two provincial constituencies of Quetta, Monday.

SC has said in the decision that objection cannot be raised on constituencies following the issuance of election schedule.

The court accepted commission's appeal.

Justice Athar Minallah said in his remarks it is the biggest test of Election Commission (EC) that general elections are held in transparent manner on February 8.

When election schedule is issued then every thing

stops. If we give decision on this petition then the petitions will start flooding in SC. How can high court exercise what power has been delegated to EC by the law.

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah remarked all the litigation about delimitations has become ineffective following the issuance of election schedule. The entire electoral process cannot be affected to provide relief to an individual. We have to fix a limit by drawing a line in this regard.

Acting Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Sardar Tariq Masood remarked it is incomprehensible to him that why all want election is delayed. Let the election take place.

BHC had changed the delimitation of EC in regard to two provincial constituencies of Balochistan including Sherani and Zhob.

EC had filed appeal plea in SC against BHC decision.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi addressing the event to celebrate Award Winning Project Green Presidency, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## President for improving energy efficiency to curb climate change impacts

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday called for improving energy efficiency, adopting sustainable practices, and changing attitudes and priorities to mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change.

"Transitioning to renewable energy sources, improving energy efficiency, and reforestation are key to curb the adverse impacts on the planet's climate and ecosystems," the president said while addressing an event with respect to a project "Green Presidency of Pakistan" here at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

He said the modern world with changing priorities and attitudes, was becoming dangerous which must be stopped to curb the adverse impacts of climate change. The Green Presidency of Pakistan is a flagship initiative under which

a one-megawatt solar PV system was installed, along with effective implementation of energy conservation and efficiency measures. The president said the initiative would result in a reduction in energy usage by Aiwan-e-Sadr by 42.5%.

This energy savings is equivalent to a reduction of 3,144 tonnes of greenhouse gases or a plantation of 142,090 mature trees. "It is a matter of great pleasure that, out of 129 projects from around the world, the Green Presidency Project of Pakistan has been conferred with the prestigious award of "International Energy Project of the Year 2023", he added.

He also expressed gratitude to the Association of Energy Engineers USA for recognizing with the esteemed Best International Energy Project of the Year Award for 2023. He also

called for promoting peace in the world and discouraging wars that were a big cause of deviating the world's focus on mitigating global warming.

He said despite contributing less than 1% in carbon emission, Pakistan suffered huge losses in last year's devastating floods that occurred due to global warming and climate change. He recalled that by mid 20th century, the people were conscious about utilizing the natural resources despite abundant resources, but now the priorities had been changed, the needs and wants had been mixed due to which they started using abundant resources for their ease.

He said the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) had also taught for consuming the natural resources with utmost care by demonstrating the same in his life.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Paktoonkhwah Milli Awami Party Mahmood Khan Achakzai meeting with Amir Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Maulana Fazlur Rehman.

## ECP reveals updated voters' registration statistics

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has unveiled the comprehensive data, outlining the total number of registered voters across the nation.

The ECP conveyed that 53.87 percent of the country's voters are male, while 46.13 percent are female.

The ECP's commitment to transparency is evident in this disclosure, providing citizens with accurate electoral information.

According to the latest data, the total number of registered voters now exceeds 128.5 million.

Within this demographic, over 69.2 million individuals identify as male, constituting a significant portion of the

electorate. Simultaneously, the female voter count is recorded at over 59.3 million, showcasing a strong and active participation of women in the electoral process.

This disclosure aligns with the Election Commission's continuous efforts to keep an updated and easily accessible record of the nation's voting population.

In Islamabad, the overall voter count is 1.083 million, with 568,406 male voters and 514,623 female voters.

In Punjab, the total voter count exceeds 73.278 million, with over 39.122 million male voters and more than 34.085 million female voters, according to the Election Commission.

## Pak, Iran FMs discuss Gaza situation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Minister Jilani Abbas Jilani on Monday held a telephonic conversation with his Iranian counterpart Amir Abdollahian wherein they discussed the dire situation in Gaza as well as the recent terrorist attack that took place in South-eastern Iran.

During the conversation, they discussed matters of bilateral importance and the regional situation, a Foreign Office press release said.

Foreign Minister Jilani expressed Pakistan's deep concern over the dire situation in the Occupied Palestine, especially in Gaza.

He emphasized the urgency of a ceasefire, lifting of the siege, provision of uninterrupted humanitarian assistance, including medical supplies to the people of Gaza, and the resumption of diplomatic efforts for lasting peace in the Middle East based on a just solution to the Palestinian question.

Foreign Minister Jilani strongly condemned the terrorist attack in Southeastern Iran on December 15, resulting in the deaths of several Iranian security personnel.

He underlined Pakistan's firm commitment to working closely with Iran in confronting the menace of terrorism, which was a collective challenge to regional peace and security.

## Nawaz Sharif says: PML-N always abided by law despite excesses

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-N Supremo Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif said on Monday that the country would have been in a much better condition if the development process of his government had not been stopped.

Addressing a PML-N parliamentary board meeting here, he said his government had built motorways, set up power generation plants, dams and many other projects of public welfare whereas in Karachi the drinking water project

could not be completed unfortunately.

He said that when the PML-N was in power the world acknowledged that Pakistan would soon become an economic power.

"We do not want inflation in the country but to see a prosperous Pakistan. The PML-N has always abided by the Constitution," he said, adding that he was not facing any accusation of violating law.

He said that his party had tolerated a lot of excesses and fake cases were also registered against him.

## Sarfraz Bugti joins PPP

INDEPENDENT REPORT QUETTA: The former caretaker Federal Interior Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti joined the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) just days after he resigned from office.

"Respected leader Asif Ali Zardari came to Turbat and directed me to join PPP," Bugti told the party's workers convention in Turbat in the presence of the PPP co-chairman and other leaders, as he expressed delight to be entering into the general elections with PPP's support.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani recording his condolence on the demise of AMIR of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in the visitor's book at Embassy of Kuwait.

## Senate delegation visits Kuwait Embassy, condole death of Emir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber

ISLAMABAD (APP): A Senate delegation led by Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani paid a visit to the Kuwait Embassy in Islamabad to convey heartfelt condolences on the passing of the esteemed Emir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The delegation, comprising Senators Naseebullah Bazi, Mohammad Abdul Qadir, and Danesh Kumar, led by Chairman Senate expressed deep sorrow with the Kuwaiti Ambassador, over the great loss of the Emir of Kuwait, said a news release issued here on Monday.

As a gesture of respect, Sadiq Sanjrani penned poignant condolence remarks in the memorial book dedicated to guests, underscoring the significant

loss felt not only by Kuwait's royal family but also resonating profoundly with the people of Pakistan.

"In the demise of Emir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, we have lost a true friend and a dynamic leader," Chairman Senate remarked.

"His personal commitment to regional stability, global development, and his role in fostering international harmony will be remembered and cherished for generations to come".

Sanjrani further conveyed his heartfelt condolences, sharing the grief of Kuwait and its people during this difficult time. "May Allah grant forgiveness and exalt the late Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah," he added.

## LHC orders release of Sher Afzal Marwat

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Monday ordered the release of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Senior Vice President Sher Afzal Marwat.

Justice Shehram Sarwar Chaudhry passed the orders on a petition filed by Khalid Latif Khan, the brother of Marwat, challenging his detention.

During the proceedings, Advocate Khawaja Mohsin Abbas submitted a reply on behalf of the caretaker Punjab government, wherein it was submitted that the Lahore deputy commissioner had issued a notification for detention of Sher Afzal Marwat and the petitioner should have approached the relevant forum first against it.

Secretary Interior takes notice of policeman's killing

ISLAMABAD (APP): Secretary Interior Aftab Akbar Durrani on Monday took the notice of the martyrdom of Head Constable Muhammad Ashraf and his son by robbers in Islamabad. Expressing deep sorrow over the martyrdom of Head Constable Muhammad Ashraf and his son, the Secretary Interior sought a report from the Inspector General of Police Islamabad about the incident.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf exchanging views with Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Pakistan Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi at Naval the Headquarter.

## Foreigners can not stay in Pakistan indefinitely without visa: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Monday said that foreigners including Afghan citizens could not stay in Pakistan indefinitely without a visa.

Talking to "Hum News" the minister said that some foreign countries had criticized Pakistan for sending illegal immigrants back to their countries. "There are about 20,000 Afghans in Pakistan who worked with the US coalition forces," Murtaza Solangi said.

The minister said that the Taliban government was established in Afghanistan on August 15, 2021, but the US and its allies were not yet able to shift these 20 thousand Afghans to their own countries.

He said that everyone knew the treatment of illegal immigrants across the world. When illegal immigrants were drowning in Greece, no one came to save them, Murtaza Solangi recalled. Pakistan's record about illegal residents was very good as compared to other countries of the world, Murtaza Solangi opined.

The minister said that millions of Afghan citizens legally present in Pakistan had access to all facilities including health, education and business activities. About the foreigners who do not have documents or visas, he said "we only asked them to go back to their countries". The minister said that Pakistan will have to decide how long foreigners could stay inside Pakistan.



LAHORE: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari inquires about health of PPP senior activist Zubaidah Shaheen during meeting held at her residency in Lahore.

## PPP will surprise everyone if provided level playing field: Bilawal

LAHORE (INP) – Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto said on Monday if the PPP got a level playing field in Punjab, it would surprise everyone.

Speaking to media, he said the regime of Nawaz Sharif proved no less than a dictatorship for the PPP workers.

"The PPP is a political party and the doors of a political party should always remain open for discussion," he said.

Bilawal said it was good to be in Lahore as the PPP was quite organised here. "Inflation, poverty and

unemployment have hit the common people hard," he stated, adding whenever the PPP came to power, it fought against unemployment and inflation.

In the past, the PPP launched the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and programmes would be launched for the youth and workers in the future to give them relief, the PPP chief promised.

"I will take everyone along with me and a great deal of work is required to prove PPP's prowess in Lahore," he concluded.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

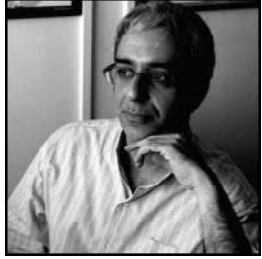
Giant leap

In what can fittingly be described as 'one giant leap for mankind', over 100 countries have agreed to transition away from fossil fuels at the recently concluded COP28 in Dubai.

COP28's success, heralded by environmentalists for finally addressing the 'elephant in the room', is a significant step forward. However, this is but one step in a long journey.

As we look towards the next iteration of the climate change conference in Baku, it is imperative to address these shortcomings. The IEA's emphasis on discussing finance mechanisms for clean energy in developing countries at COP29 should be a top priority.

Songs of slaughter



Zarrar Khuhro

We all have soundtracks to our lives; background music that plays in our heads depending on our mood and situation.

Recently, one such song topped the Israeli charts. Charbu Darbu (swords and strikes) celebrates Israel's murderous actions with lyrics that call Palestinians 'rats and sons of Amalek'.

In keeping with the psychopathic nature of Israeli society, the song was hugely popular, with Israelis posting videos of themselves dancing to it.

Prominent among the hate singers was Simon Bikindi who was indicted in 2005 by the International Criminal Tribunal of Rwanda on six counts for crimes perpetrated during the genocide.

'uninvolved civilians'. Charming, coming from a military famous for murdering children, women and unarmed men.

This genre of music isn't recent, nor limited to Israel. In recent years, with the rise of the fanatical Sangh Parivar in India, Hindutva hate pop has also secured itself a large, growing audience.

Highly popular in Hindutva circles, these songs are played at Hindu supremacist rallies and marches through Muslim neighbourhoods, events that are almost always followed by violence and hate crimes.

That this genre of music has deadly consequences is an established fact: in 2012, Wade Michael Page murdered six people at a church in Wisconsin, before killing himself to avoid capture.

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It wasn't just the lyrics but also the music itself that was targeted by Interahamwe and their allied mobs. Neo-Nazis and white supremacists in the Western world have also used hate music, known as 'hatecore' in those circles.

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Studying habits



Neda Mulji

We've often heard human beings are creatures of habit and many of us have become habitual complainers. Each working day seems to be a burden, each conversation drags us into the alleys of despair.

A departure from habits, which become a comfort zone for many, would need some conscious forays into planning, reading, implementation. This brings us back to the question: what is our education system really teaching our children?

We often talk about 21st-century habits but choose to fester in our last century mindsets. There isn't much change in our classic brick-and-mortar schools in the last perhaps 50 years and students are still seen striving for grades.

We often talk about 21st-century habits but choose to fester in our last century mindsets. There isn't much change in our classic brick-and-mortar schools in the last perhaps 50 years and students are still seen striving for grades.

something to be proud of, we would find more students being driven by internal motivation.

Educators, for example, hope that they can teach creativity and critical thinking, and enable students to learn through collaboration and communication. Yet, there is little opportunity or expertise in classrooms to bring these wonderful skills into play.

In a world where students get the immersive experience of being actors and players in their digital video-gaming experiences, we cannot expect them to turn into still and patient auditory learners in class. Not only the curriculum but also teaching practices require a shift towards replicating immersive learning experiences in class.

Reading can do so. Reading can be a motivating, immersive experience just like video games, especially if students are given digital opportunities. Where that isn't possible, involving children in reading groups, with hands-on projects related to books may be a good starting point to motivate primary-level students.

The habit of not reading or studying only for exams may be difficult to break but the investment of time and effort in developing good reading habits can pay dividends for life. For example, many students view reading and studying as a time-consuming, complaint-worthy activity that they have come to resist and resent.

For long-term sustained achievement, studying can be skillfully intertwined in the students' daily habits, especially if they are motivated by an internal drive. Much of that drive comes from enjoying the content, engaging with it beyond the classroom, and learning to experience studying, not as a chore but as necessary building blocks to growth and success.

Excellence is often the result of consistent habits that are contributing to success, not short-term achievement based on a firefighting attempt at getting through exams. It's time to revisit the habits that our students have developed over time.

Commerce News

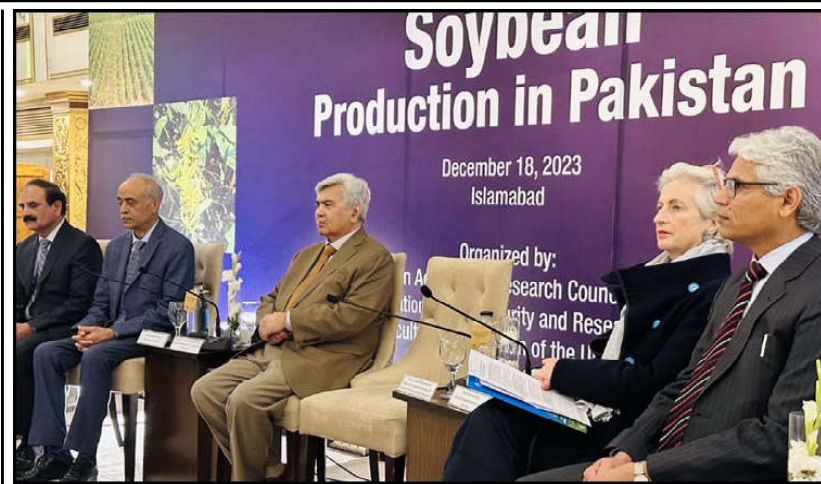
Belt and Road (Pakistan) Center launched to empower Pak-Changshu cooperation

BEIJING (APP): The Belt and Road (Pakistan) Center was officially launched in Changshu, China.

A delegation led by Gohar Ejaz, Minister of Commerce, attended the launching ceremony and had a meeting with Qin Meng, the mayor of Changshu city.

provide information and communication channels, organize regular economic and trade forums, and provide offline matchmaking and transaction services for enterprises of China and cooperating countries.

Gohar Ejaz highly praised Changshu's achievements in economic and social development and expressed great anticipation for its future cooperation.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Food Security & research Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik sitting on stage during the National Workshop on Soybean Production in Pakistan. Country Representative of FAO Ms. Florence Roll is also present.

Inflow of remittances thru exchange companies rises by 10 to 15 percent

ISLAMABAD (APP): General Secretary of the Exchange Companies Association of Pakistan (ECAP), Zafar Paracha, in a statement on Monday, said that the inflow of remittances into the country through exchange companies has seen a rise of 10 to 15 percent following the recent crackdown.

into the country through unregulated money operators like hawala and hundi, has caused a massive loss of more than \$4 billion to Pakistan in FY23.

The dialogue aimed at expanding the framework to enable women to participate freely as overseas workers.

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SBP Governor calls on CM Punjab

LAHORE: Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Jameel Ahmad called on Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi here on Monday.

paramount. The anticipated positive outcomes include widespread benefits from enhanced economic activities in the agricultural and other sectors, he noted.

The CM also highlighted the significance of achieving record cotton production in Punjab, projecting substantial savings of two billion dollars in foreign exchange. The CM pointed out that the rice export from Punjab has exceeded two billion dollars as the provincial government is following a policy of providing comprehensive facilities to investors and industrialists, foreseeing positive ramifications in the form of a thriving stock exchange.



LAHORE: Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Jameel Ahmad called on Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi.

Minister says: Punjab govt takes measures to resolve problems of business community

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs400 and was sold at Rs 217,200 on Monday compared to its sale at Rs 216,800 on last trading day.

promoted and the wheel of economy will move forward. He expressed these views while addressing the meeting with the officials of different trade associations in Sialkot.

He said that the business community of Sialkot is a role model for other business communities of the country. He said that Sialkot is earning valuable foreign exchange for the country by exporting 3 billion dollars annually.



SAPM Jawad Sohrah Malik meets with President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at Global Labour Market Conference (GLMC) in Riyadh, KSA.

Steel industrialists demand withdrawal of PHL surcharge to boost industry

ISLAMABAD (APP): The steel industrialists on Monday demanded the withdrawal of the Power Holding Limited (PHL) surcharge to boost the industry and for playing a large role in the growth of the country's industry.

Industry (ICCI) to highlight the issues being faced by the large steel producers due to the levy of PHL surcharge and other taxes on the electricity bills and demanded that the NEPRA should withdraw this surcharge to save the steel industry from collapse, said a press release issued here.

A delegation of Pakistan Association of Large Steel Producers (PALSP) led by its Secretary General Syed Wajid I. Bukhari visited the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and

Khalid Javed, Nasir Khan, Dawood Khan, Javed Iqbal, Raza Farid, and others were in the delegation.

Rupee on recovery path; gains 05 paisa against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Monday witnessed the 5th consecutive recovery session as it gained 05 paisa against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs283.20 against the previous day's closing of Rs283.25.

The price of the Euro decreased by Rs2.03 to close at Rs 309.35 against the last day's closing of Rs311.38, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen came down by 01 paisa and closed at Rs1.98; whereas a decrease of Rs2.02 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs359.53 compared to the last closing of Rs361.55.

Jawad meets President ECOSOC in Riyadh

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Jawad Sohrah Malik, on Monday engaged in a significant meeting with President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations Ambassador Paula Narvez.

The heart of the discussion revolved around critical themes of migration dynamics, the imperative for

equal opportunities, social responsibility, and the elimination of gender inequalities, a news release said. A specific focus was placed on fostering inclusion and empowerment of women in economic activities, with a special reference to Pakistan.

## PPP, ANP, QWP discuss seat adjustment with JUI-F

PESHAWAR (INP): The delegations of Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Awami National Party (ANP), and Quami Watan Party (QWP) visited Mufti Mahmood Markaz, the provincial secretariat of JUI-F and discussed seat adjustment in the forthcoming general elections with it, said Abdul Jalil Jan, the provincial spokesman of JUI-F here on Monday.

The delegation of PPP consisted of former provincial president, Syed Zahir Ali Shah, former KP Assembly Speaker Karamatullah Khan Chagarmati, Amjad Khan Afridi, Malik Tehmash Khan, and Misbahuddin

while the delegation of ANP consisted of the provincial president, Aimal Wali Khan, Senator Hidayatullah Khan, Khadim Hussain and Shaheel Umerzai.

Similarly, a delegation of QWP comprised of its provincial president Sikandar Hayat Khan Sherpao, Dr Farooq, Aad Afridi, and Fayyaz Khan also visited the provincial headquarters of JUI-F and held detailed negotiations regarding seat adjustment. During the negotiation team of JUI-F was represented by its provincial ameer, Senator Maulana Atta-ur-Rehman, Maulana Atta-ul-Haq Darwais, Senator Dilawar Khan.



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi chaired a special meeting in which approval for desilting 15300 miles long canals accorded.

## CM approves desilting of 15300 miles long canals in province

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi chaired a special meeting in which approval for desilting 15300 miles long canals was accorded.

A committee comprising Chairman P&D, Secretaries of Irrigation, Agriculture and Mines has been constituted to formulate the mode of desilting.

CM Mohsin Naqvi stated that water will be

provided to 3-4 lacs acres of land with the completion of desilting campaign across the province.

Secretary Irrigation Wasif Khurshed while giving a briefing on the desilting campaign to be carried out after ten years apprised that the canals of Mangla Dam will be closed down from 26<sup>th</sup> December to 13<sup>th</sup> January in the first phase. The canals of Tarbela Dam will be closed down from

13<sup>th</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> January in the second phase. The desilting campaign will be launched from 26<sup>th</sup> December in three phases after the closure of canals in Punjab.

The campaign of desilting will be formally launched from the first week of January across the province.

LIMS will provide a satellite image of the desilting situation across the province. The data

will be uploaded on the Irrigation Monitoring App at 10:am daily.

The police will register a case and initiate an action on finding an illegal water theft channel during the desilting campaign. Provincial Minister Amir Mir, Chairman P&D, Additional IG, Secretary Agriculture, Secretary Information, Secretary C&W, Commissioner and other officials attended the meeting.

## KPCM approves appointment of BoGs of nine MTI hospitals

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister has acceded to the appointment of new chairmen and members of board of governors (BoGs) of nine MTI hospitals of the province after an approval of the Election Commission of Pakistan.

According to the notification of KP Establishment department, the appointment of the BoGs would be for a period of three years, adding that Ghulam Qadir Khan has been appointed as chairman of BoGs Hayatabad Medical Complex Peshawar, while Professor Mahfooz Hussain, Akhtar Naveed, Dil Roz and

Dr Muhammad Ali Chohan nominated are the members. Similarly, Malik Mushtaq Ahmad Dar has been appointed as chairman BoGs MTI-MMM DI Khan while Dr Muhammad Iqbal, Khalid Mahmood, Samin ullah Khan, Musa Khan and Esa Khan were appointed as the members.

Prof Dr Ejaz Hassan Khan was appointed as chairman of BoGs MTI-Bacha Khan Medical College, Swabi while Prof Mohammad Ishaq Khattak, Sher Bahadur Khan, Prof Noor Jehan, Muhammad Irfan and Prof Sajjad Muhammad Khan were appointed as the members.



FAISALABAD: A group photo of Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Faisalabad Maqsood Ahmad Lone along with Prof Dr Zill-i-Huma Nazli Vice Chancellor (VC) Government College Women University Faisalabad (GCWUF) with other officials after distributing certificates among women police on their completion of WOW (Women on Wheels) training program.

## Work on 36 city roads to be started soon: Dr Jamal

RAWALPINDI (APP): Caretaker Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare and Population Welfare Dr Jamal Nasir on Monday said that the repair and carpeting work of 36 roads including Asghar Mall Road would be started soon.

He said this while meeting a delegation of Anjuman Tajran Asghar Mall Road led by General Secretary of Markazi Anjuman Tajran Tahir Taj Bhatti.

He said that work on these projects would be completed at the earliest with "Mohsin Speed".

Dr Jamal said that a Business Facilitation Center would be set up soon in Rawalpindi to facilitate the business community of the district, adding representatives of 20 federal and provincial departments would be present in the facilitation centre, and all necessary NOCs for investment would be provided within two weeks.

## Maulana Ashrafi meets KP governor

PESHAWAR (APP): Special Representative to the Prime Minister of Pakistan for Middle East and Interfaith Harmony, Maulana Tahir Ashrafi here on Monday met with Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali at Governor's House. At the meeting, both discussed the security conditions and interfaith harmony in KP. The governor and Maulana Ashrafi also strongly denounced the atrocities of Israeli army in Gaza and the genocide of Palestinians. Ashrafi apprised the governor regarding steps taken for the interfaith harmony and welfare of Pakistanis residing in the Middle East.

## Minister for collective efforts for betterment of healthcare system

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Health Minister Prof. Dr. Javed Akram has urged the stakeholders of healthcare sector to unite for the betterment of patients.

Speaking at a risk-based inspection training seminar hosted by the Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (PPMA) at a local hotel on Monday, the minister shared that he had faced terrorism-related cases in pursuit of enhancing the healthcare system. Emphasizing the significance of taking risks for success, he underscored

that patients held the utmost importance for him. Expressing concern over the absence of a biotechnology plant and unsafe industrial practices in the country, Dr. Javed Akram advocated for a revolution in the country's biotechnology sector. He reiterated the need to transform the field of biotechnology within the nation. The minister stressed that the Drugs Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) should monitor both Good Clinical Practices (GCP) and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP).

## LHC moved for nullification of mdcat final merit list

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has been requested to nullify the final merit list of mdcat.

The petition against final merit list of mdcat came up for hearing Monday.

The petitioner said marks were given to students of 2021 against rules in merit list.

Students of 2022 and 2023 have been affected by this decision.

The court has sought reply from university of health sciences and others with reference to final merit list of mdcat.

## WSSP Officers get training in 'Asset Management, Energy Optimization'

PESHAWAR (APP): The Water and Sanitation Services Peshawar (WSSP) completed a three-month online training programme on Monday in "Asset Management and Energy Optimization" for 19 officers and staff members.

The training was conducted in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and German experts provided online instruction to the officers. During the training course, participants were educated on various aspects of solid waste

management, tube wells, and efficient energy utilization through 12 modules. After each module, participants were tested, followed by a comprehensive examination. Those who passed the exam received certificates. The primary objective of this training programme is to enhance operational efficiency and ensure the effective utilization of resources to reduce costs.

Zameer-ul-Hasan, General Manager of HR and PMER, distributed certificates to the officers who completed the training.

# International News

## Gaza's Al Shifa hospital a 'bloodbath' says WHO

**Monitoring Desk**  
CAIRO: Gaza's Al Shifa hospital is providing only basic trauma stabilization, has no blood for transfusions and hardly any staff to care for a constant flow of patients, the World Health Organization said on Sunday.

After a UN visit to deliver medicines and surgical supplies, the team described the emergency department in the enclave's main health facility as resembling a "bloodbath".

The WHO said there were hundreds of wounded patients, with new ones arriving by the minute and trauma injuries being stitched on the floor, with almost no pain management available. Only four hospi-

tals of 24 working in north Gaza before the war with Israel began have even partial service, and three of those are barely functioning, the WHO said.

The WHO said it was urgently gathering information at the Kamal Adwan hospital, where Gazan authorities said Israeli forces this week used a bulldozer to smash through the perimeter of a site Israel said was used by Hamas fighters. The group which governs Gaza has denied using the Kamal Adwan or other hospitals for militant activities.

Israel has also said Al Shifa, which it had occupied earlier in the war, had been used by Hamas.

Tens of thousands of Palestinians are believed to

remain in north Gaza, after Israeli forces pushed most of the population to the south during the first days of the bombing campaign and ground war that began after the Oct. 7 Hamas attacks on Israel.

Gazan health authorities under the Hamas government say that more than 50,000 Palestinians have been injured during the Israeli operation, and 19,000 killed. The WHO said "tens of thousands" of displaced people were using the Al Shifa hospital for shelter, describing severe shortages of safe water and food.

Gaza is home to 2.3 million people, most of whom have been displaced from their homes by the offensive.



German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius and Lithuanian Defence Minister Arvydas Anuskauskas sign an agreement for further deployment of thousands of German troops to the Baltic country in Vilnius, Lithuania.

## Iran petrol stations hit by cyberattack

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

A hacking group that Iran accuses of having links to Israel claimed it carried out the attack which disrupted services at petrol stations across the country on Monday, Iranian state TV and Israeli local media reported.

Owji had earlier told Iranian state TV that services had been disrupted at about 70% of Iran's petrol stations and that

outside interference was a possible cause. He later said 1,650 petrol stations were operational. The ministry supervises 3,800 petrol stations.

Iran's state TV news said a group called Gonjeshke Darande or "Predatory Sparrow" had claimed it was behind the disruption. Israeli local media outlets also reported the claim.

"This cyberattack was carried out in a controlled manner to avoid potential damage to emergency services," the group said in a statement on Telegram.

## More than 300 rescued from floodwaters in northeast Australia

**Monitoring Desk**  
BRISBANE: More than 300 people were rescued overnight from floodwaters in northeast Australia, with dozens of residents clinging to roofs, officials said on Monday. Cairns Airport was closed on Monday due to flooding and authorities were concerned that the city of 160,000 people will lose drinking water. While rain was easing in Cairns, severe weather warnings were in place in nearby Port Douglas, Daintree, Cooktown.

## Egypt's Sisi sweeps to third term as president with 89.6pc of vote

**Monitoring Desk**  
CAIRO: Abdel Fattah al-Sisi has swept to a third, six-year term as Egypt's president, winning 89.6% of votes in an election in which he faced no serious challengers, the National Election Authority announced on Monday.

The election took place as Egypt struggles with a slow-burning economic crisis and tries to manage the risk of spillover from the war in Gaza, which borders Egypt's Sinai Peninsula.

Some voters said the eruption of conflict in Gaza had encouraged them to vote for Sisi, who has long presented himself as a bul-

wark of stability in a volatile region - an argument that has also proved effective with Gulf and Western allies providing financial support to his government.

Voting in Egypt was held over three days on Dec. 10-12, with the state and tightly controlled domestic media pushing hard to boost turnout, which the election authority said had reached 66.8% - above the 41% recorded at the last presidential election in 2018. The election featured three other candidates, none of them high profile. The most prominent potential challenger halted his run in October, saying officials and thugs had targeted his supporters.



Bulldozer tracks are seen in the area where tents were erected outside the Kamal Adwan Hospital by displaced people. Palestinian authorities have accused Israel of razing the area as people slept.

## Rare snowfall in southern China as deep freeze grips the north

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: The cold weather sweeping China brought rare snowfall on Monday as far south as the province of Guangdong, while temperatures in the chilly north plunged to near historic lows for the month.

In a week of unexpectedly frigid weather, temperatures have fallen to lows below zero in northern areas, disrupting road, rail and air transport and even causing a brake failure in a commuter train in Beijing, the capital. Forecasters early in November had predicted a warmer winter this year due to the El Nino phenomenon,

while warning that temperatures could fluctuate after one of the warmest Octobers in decades.

On Monday in Guangdong, where snow is generally limited to the northernmost areas, snowfall blanketed the top of a mountain in a city just 80 km (50 miles) north of the provincial capital Guangzhou by the coast. A low of 8 degrees Celsius (46.4 Fahrenheit) was forecast for Guangzhou, compared to the province's typical early winter temperatures that hover in the double digits.



State Emergency Service personnel evacuating people from flood waters in far north Queensland, Australia following heavy rain and flooding from ex-tropical cyclone Jasper.

## Thousands flee as Sudan's army, paramilitary forces battle for aid hub

**Monitoring Desk**  
DUBAI: Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces battled the army outside the central city of Wad Madani, pressing an attack that has opened a new front in the eight-month-old war and forced thousands to flee, witnesses said. Crowds of people - many of whom had taken refuge in the city from violence in the capital Khartoum - could be seen packing up belongings and leaving on foot in video posted on social media.

"The war has followed us to Madani so I am looking for a bus so me and my

family can flee," 45-year-old Ahmed Salih said. "We are living in hell and there is no one to help us." He said he planned to head south to Sennar.

Sudan's army, which has held the city since the start of the conflict, launched air strikes on RSF forces to the east of the city, the capital of Gezira state, as it tried to push back the assault that started on Friday, witnesses said.

The RSF responded with artillery and RSF reinforcements were seen moving in the direction of the fighting.

## British MP Layla Moran's family trapped in Gaza church

**Monitoring Desk**  
LONDON: British politician Layla Moran in a series of tweets raised alarm about Israeli attacks on a church in Gaza City, where members of her family have been trapped along with hundreds of others for several days and where two Christian women were shot dead by an Israeli sniper on Saturday.

Separately, Pope Francis on Sunday deplored the killing of the two women, and once again suggested Israel was using "terrorism" tactics in Gaza.

There are reports that nearly 300 people, including children and the sick, are seeking shelter in the Holy Family Catholic Parish.

The two Christian women, identified as Nahida and Samar, were shot dead by an Israeli sniper while inside the grounds of the church, with reports of seven others wounded.

"I am desperately worried for my extended family in Gaza City,

searching for corpses, AFP reported.

The sound of one of them sobbing breaks out while he wraps a body to prepare for burial.

In a statement on Saturday, Hamas accused Israeli troops of having carried out a "horrific massacre" inside the hospital where they said Israeli forces "fired at patient rooms", arrested staff, and destroyed tents of displaced people with bulldozers.

## Bulldozers crush Gazans sheltering outside hospital

**Monitoring Desk**  
GAZA: The Israeli military has bulldozed displaced Palestinians who were camped outside the Kamal Adwan Hospital in northern Gaza, killing scores of civilians, including women and children, who were sleeping in their tents when the demolition occurred.

In what was once the courtyard of the Kamal Adwan Hospital in the northern Gaza city of Beit Lahiya, Palestinians wade through the rubble,

## Nine dead in Nagpur factory blast

**Monitoring Desk**  
MUMBAI: At least nine workers were killed and several injured in a blast at an explosives factory in Nagpur, a central district in Maharashtra state on Sunday morning, a local police officer told this news agency over the phone. The blast occurred early on Sunday morning at a factory run by Solar Industries India, the police officer named Salve said. The factory manufactures industrial and military explosives, as well as propellants and warheads for India's defence sector.

## Jamal Shah inaugurates exhibition of photographs & books on Quaid-i-Azam

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah on Monday inaugurated ten-day long exhibition of photographs and books on Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah here at Heritage Museum, Lok Virsa.

National Heritage and Culture Division, Lok Virsa organized the exhibition in collaboration with National Library of Pakistan (NLP) and National Archives of Pakistan.

Executive Director Lok Virsa Muhammad Uzair Khan, Director General NLP Asif Khan Niazi and large number of students were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the ceremony, the minister said that National Heritage and Culture Division attached departments have planned a series of events from December 17th to December 28th to pay rich tribute to Father of Nation and Founder of Pakistan, adding that these events include lectures, live performances, exhibitions, seminars, tableaux etc.

Jamal Shah said that these events are being orga-

nized with collaboration our cultural departments, community and local artists.

He said that these events are aimed at highlighting the heroic struggle of our Quaid and his associates in achieving a separate homeland for the Muslims of subcontinent.

“Our youth have tremendous potential and I advise them to make the country prosperous by adopting the teachings of the Quaid-i-Azam and Allama Muhammad Iqbal in letter and spirit”, he said.

Jamal Shah said that our younger generation needs to work hard by following the footsteps of Quaid-i-Azam.

He said that every photograph on display tells a story not only about Quaid's life but also the great struggle of our leaders to get separate homeland for Muslim of subcontinent.

He said that it is a great opportunity for youth especially the students to feel real moments captured in photographs, these are the windows to the past which shows how our great leaders went through the freedom struggle.

The minister appreciated Lok Virsa, National Library of Pakistan and National Archives of Pakistan for organizing such a wonderful exhibition and book fair.

Earlier, ED Lok Virsa in his opening remarks said that Lok Virsa in collaboration with NLP and NAP organized the exhibition under the aegis of the National Heritage and Culture Division.

He said that the exhibition is an effort to pay tributes to the father of Nation Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah for his valuable contribution towards the creation of Pakistan.

More than 200 rare photographs and 500 historical books relating to founder of Pakistan Muhammad Ali Jinnah and his companions were displayed.

The young singers also paid glowing tribute to the Father of the Nation by presenting ‘Mili Naghmas’ and got big applause from the audience.

The exhibition will remain on display at the Heritage Museum, Lok Virsa till 25 December.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Jamal Shah cutting ribbon to inaugurate Exhibition of Books and Photographs in connection with upcoming Quaid-i-Azam Day at Heritage Museum, Lok Virsa.

## Minister Madad urges to promote Arabic language

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindhi on Monday said that the Arabic language is a great asset of Muslims and stressed the need to further promote it.

Addressing a conference, “Role of Institutions and Individuals in the Reviving the Arabic Language” organized by the Faculty of Arabic, International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) he said that Arabic is an eloquent language, it is a flowing river whose flow is increasing day by day.

He said that the role of the International Islamic University in the promotion of Arabic is exemplary where teachers from many other countries including Egypt, Sudan, and Saudi Arabia are playing an excellent role.

He said that institutions like the International Islamic University should

be promoted in society and the other universities should also adopt the IIUI's style of education. Talking about the importance of education, he said the only solution to development lies in prioritizing education. Speaking at the conference, Muhammad Muthar Al-Ashbi, the Ambassador of the Republic of Yemen said that Arabic is the language of the Qur'an, and steps should be taken to promote Arabic.

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## COMSTECH, PASTIC sign MoU to propel Inter Library Network Resource Services

ISLAMABAD (APP): COMSTECH - the OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation and the Pakistan Scientific and Technological Information Centre (PASTIC) have officially inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) towards a landmark collaboration to advance scientific knowledge among OIC member states.

The event highlighted the shared vision of COMSTECH and PASTIC in fostering stronger ties within the scientific community, facilitating seamless access to resources, and ultimately contributing to the advancement of knowledge and technology across OIC member states.

The MoU was signed during a ceremony held here on Monday. The MoU, signed by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhry, Coordinator General COMSTECH, and Prof. Dr. Shahid Mahmood Baig, Chairman, Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF),

signifies a strategic partnership aimed at enhancing the COMSTECH Inter-Library Network Resource Services. The signing ceremony, held at COMSTECH, was attended by high-profile dignitaries, including Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akram Sheikh, Director General PASTIC, and senior officials from COMSTECH and PASTIC.

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## Umair says: Not received contempt of court notice yet

ISLAMABAD (Online): Barrister Umair Niazi said on Monday that in the contempt of court notice, the Supreme Court has asked for an explanation. We are ready and will give a formal reply.

While talking to media outside Adiala Jail, Barrister Umair Niazi said that the order of Supreme Court regarding contempt of court has been read, no formal notice of contempt of court received yet.

Supreme Court has sought an explanation and we will reply to it formally. He said that petition was not to delay the elections. We want level playing field.



The Federal Minister of Education, Mr. Madad Ali Sindhi paid a visit to F-6/3 School to witness firsthand the remarkable efforts undertaken by the local community to enhance the school's facilities and educational standards in Islamabad.

## IJOJK detainees lodged in hell-like jails across India, Kashmir: APHC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has expressed serious concern over the continued illegal detention of Hurriyat leaders and activists and inhuman treatment being meted out to them by communal authorities in jails.

According to Kashmir Media Service (KMS), the APHC spokesman in Srinagar said the detainees lodged in hell-like Indian jails have been deprived of legal rights and basic amenities.

The spokesman said, brave people of Kashmir are facing the wrath of a big military power in the form of state terrorism, arbitrary arrests, physical and mental torture, humiliation, snatching of govt services and properties including lands and residential

## ICT food teams active to provide safe food

ISLAMABAD (APP): Under the directions of Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, the team of Islamabad Food Authority was active in providing safe food in different areas of federal capital.

According to ICT Spokesperson, Deputy Director Food Authority Dr. Tahira Siddique along with the team of Islamabad Food Authority visited various food points in the areas of E-12.

Deputy Director Food Authority Islamabad sealed a bakery unit in E-12 in which rats were found with food items in the bakery premises as well as expired food items for consumption.



ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Federal Minister for Privatisation, Fawad Hasan chairing a meeting regarding conclusion of HEC privatisation.

## Lance Naik Mahfooz remembered on his martyrdom anniversary

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 52nd martyrdom anniversary of Lance Naik Muhammad Mahfooz was observed on Monday to commemorate heroism and sacrifice. The nation solemnly observed the martyrdom anniversary of Lance Naik Muhammad Mahfooz, a distinguished recipient of the Nishan-e-Haider, our highest military decoration.

Glowing tribute were paid to Lance Naik Muhammad Mahfooz Shaheed, Nishan-e-Haider on his 52nd Shahadat Anniversary.

Born on October 15,

## IPRI hosts launch of first ever book in English on Iranian Foreign Policy

ISLAMABAD (APP): The first comprehensive book in English language on Iranian Foreign Policy was launched by Iqbal Forum in collaboration with Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) on Monday. The book titled, “The Foreign Policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran,” has been authored by well-known linguist and professor of International Relations at Tabatabay University, Dr. Jalal Deghani Firouz Abadi, and duly translated by Dr. Muhammad Hussain Baqeri, a news release said.

The original book is in Persian language. Mr. Baqeri is head of Iqbal Forum and is an author himself of many books on ‘Iqbalayat’.

The book dwells into the policy perspective of the Islamic Republic for the last four decades and does a catharsis in an independent manner. It is a debut work on foreign relations of Iran after the Revolution of 1979, and all aspects on domestic, economic and cultural domains that influenced the foreign relations have been discussed at length.

It explores the theoretical approaches to foreign policy, and broadly looks at the tangible and intangible resources of the country, which has been under sanctions and international pressure for decades.

The book also talks about the discourses of the Islamic Republic, and articulately divides it in sections of defence, reformation and the path the country has taken in building it as a self-reliant state.

## Pakistan, Norway celebrate 75 years of diplomatic relations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Norway Monday marked the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

Pakistan and Norway had continued to grow over the past 75 years on the basis of mutual respect and shared values, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said here in a statement.

The two countries enjoy a mutually beneficial partnership in political, economic, academic, environmental, social and cultural domains.

There is a common desire to promote regional and global peace, security and sustainable development.

Pakistan appreciates Norway's steady and generous development assistance in sustainable development including SDGs, climate action and renewable energy and its solidarity during times of natural disasters and calamities.

Following last year's floods, Norway provided humanitarian assistance of 227 million NOK to Pakistan.

NORPART programme of Norway's development agency Norad has helped advance bilateral academic cooperation with enhanced student mobility and curriculum development programmes.

robust and growing with sizeable trade in multiple product lines and substantial investments of leading Norwegian companies in Pakistan, including Telenor Group, Scatec ASA and Jotun Paints. Cooperation in the fields of IT & ITES, ship-breaking and ship-recycling has recently emerged with great promise.

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ISLAMABAD: Justice of Supreme Court Azad Jammu Kashmir Khawaja Muhammad Naseem meeting with President Azad Jammu Kashmir Sultan Mehmood Chaudhary.

## Interfaith harmony being promoted, maximum facilities to be provided to pilgrims: Ashrafi

PESHAWAR (APP): The Prime Minister's Special Representatives on Religious Harmony, Maulana Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi here Monday said that Hajj was one of the most important five pillars of Islam and reiterated that the government was committed to ensuring maximum facilities to all Pakistani pilgrims next year.

Addressing Tazeeem Al-Haramain Al-Sharifeem Conference here as chief guest, Maulana Tahir Ashrafi said that a significant decrease in the expenses of Hajj has been recorded this year after decreasing prices of dollars due to Govt's effective economic and financial policies.

He said Hujjaj were like ambassadors of Pakistan and urged them to strictly abide by the rules regulations and laws of Saudi Arabia. He said Pakistan highly valued its time-tested and all-weather friendship with Saudia Arabia having strong bonds of religion, history, culture, and enormous respect for the custodians of the two holy mosques.

While appreciating the overall Hajj arrangements, he directed the Hajj Organization Association of Pakistan to concentrate on the training of intending pilgrims so that they could achieve maximum blessing while staying in the holy land during Hajj. He said Pakistan was our country and its problems could be addressed through hard work, commitment, and self-accountability.

Maulana Ashrafi who is Chairman of the Pakistan Ulema Council said that Inter-faith harmony and mutual co-existence in society are vital for the progress and prosperity of Pakistan. He said all minorities enjoy complete religious freedom in Pakistan.

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## Ambassador Hashmi says: Pak, China focus on B2B cooperation, investment, technology transfer: Hashmi

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan Ambassador to China, Khalil ur Rahman said on Monday that engineering, construction, carbon neutrality, new energy, energy storage, mining development, green and sustainable development and other fields will be the key to future cooperation between Pakistan and China.



“Now we have entered the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), our focus is more on business-to-business cooperation, investment and technology transfer between the two countries, which is also in line with the vision of the leaders of the two countries,” he said in his speech at the Pakistan-China Exchange Conference on Investment Opportunity held at the Pakistani Embassy in Beijing. The conference was aimed at strengthening cooperation in engineering construction, carbon neutrality, new energy, mining and other fields. With the theme of “New Opportunity, New Cooperation, and New Development”, this conference is expected to present a higher level of cooperation.

Ambassador Hashmi further said that the Pakistani government has stepped up efforts to facilitate investors and joint ventures in Pakistan. To this end, the government has established the Special Investment Facilitation Committee (SIFC) to provide “single window” facilities to foreign investors and businessmen by removing all systemic barriers. The Prime Minister of Pakistan himself chairs the SIFC Supreme Council. Mining and energy, particularly renewable energy, are priority areas for SIFC.

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ISLAMABAD: A view of weary condition residential building at sector G-11 in Federal Capital, which may cause any incident any time as needs to attention for concern authority.

## TIP Facilitation center FIA operates in full swing

ISLAMABAD (APP): Newly launched Trafficking In Persons (TIP) Hotline in Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) headquarters, for national referral mechanism and management information system (MIS) for the general public to ensure the provision of service to victims of human trafficking under one roof, in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO), starts functioning in full swing.

Shireen Malik Sher, Additional Director, FIA, who is the focal person of the project said that the hotline was launched to provide quick services to the victims of human trafficking and the redressal of the cases in more organized way.

Miss Shireen Malik Sher, said that the project was done within a very short span of time under the supervision of Israr Ahmed Khan, Director Anti-Human Smuggling Directorate of FIA. Shireen told that after the launching of the hotline by the Director General FIA Mohsin Hassan, along with ADG Immigration, FIA, country representative of UNODC, Australian Deputy High Commissioner, Director ILO, US Political Advisor, other dignitaries, senior FIA officers from the provinces, in very simple and dignified ceremony, the hotline started functioning in full swing for provision of better services.

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## Eight held during search operation in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: In a collaborative effort with various law enforcement agencies, the Capital Police of Islamabad carried out a comprehensive search operation in different areas under the jurisdiction of the Aabpara police station.

As part of the operation, a thorough examination was conducted, resulting in the inspection of 70 individuals, 15 cars, 23 motorcycles, seven shops and many hotels. The intensified scrutiny is part of the police's ongoing efforts to bolster security measures in the region. Eight individuals who failed to provide proper identification documents during the search operation were promptly transferred to the police station for further investigation.

## PTA launches ‘cyber security awareness week to safeguard cyber threats

ISLAMABAD (APP): Director General (DG) Cyber Vigilance Pakistan Telecom Authority (PTA) Muhammad Mukaram Khan Monday on Cyber Security awareness week stressed employees and general public for taking proactive steps in safeguarding their digital lives, assets, and sensitive mobile data information.

Talking to PTV news channel said he said that cyber security Awareness weeks to share its leading cyber security experience and success stories with the public with its social media awareness drives which would help for maintaining the safety of the digital space and protecting institutions as well as individuals from cyber-crime.

As part of this awareness-raising initiative, PTA

is encouraging small to medium-sized businesses, individuals, and families to use strong passwords, to turn on multi-factor authentication, to be wary of unsolicited messages and report them, and to always keep their software updated. He emphasized the importance of including cyber-bullying, phishing, online fraud and safe practices on social media, as well as privacy and personal data protection, in the campaign. Cyber-security awareness week 2023 is a PTA initiative to enhance cyber awareness among consumers related to government and private organizations, he added. The campaign will be executed on PTA's social media platforms from December 18 to 24 and will feature bilingual content in the form of GIFs.



“Now we have entered the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), our focus is more on business-to-business cooperation, investment and technology transfer between the two countries, which is also in line with the vision of the leaders of the two countries,” he said in his speech at the Pakistan-China Exchange Conference on Investment Opportunity held at the Pakistani Embassy in Beijing. The conference was aimed at strengthening cooperation in engineering construction, carbon neutrality, new energy, mining and other fields. With the theme of “New Opportunity, New Cooperation, and New Development”, this conference is expected to present a higher level of cooperation.

Ambassador Hashmi further said that the Pakistani government has stepped up efforts to facilitate investors and joint ventures in Pakistan. To this end, the government has established the Special Investment Facilitation Committee (SIFC) to provide “single window” facilities to foreign investors and businessmen by removing all systemic barriers. The Prime Minister of Pakistan himself chairs the SIFC Supreme Council. Mining and energy, particularly renewable energy, are priority areas for SIFC.

robust and growing with sizeable trade in multiple product lines and substantial investments of leading Norwegian companies in Pakistan, including Telenor Group, Scatec ASA and Jotun Paints. Cooperation in the fields of IT & ITES, ship-breaking and ship-recycling has recently emerged with great promise.

Pakistan appreciates Norway's steady and generous development assistance in sustainable development including SDGs, climate action and renewable energy and its solidarity during times of natural disasters and calamities.

Following last year's floods, Norway provided humanitarian assistance of 227 million NOK to Pakistan.

NORPART programme of Norway's development agency Norad has helped advance bilateral academic cooperation with enhanced student mobility and curriculum development programmes.



ISLAMABAD: A view of weary condition residential building at sector G-11 in Federal Capital, which may cause any incident any time as needs to attention for concern authority.



ISLAMABAD: Pastor and District Superintendent of St Thomas Church Rev Emmanuel Lorraine cuts the cake along with Superintended Police Abdul Aleem and others during the celebrations of Christmas in Federal Capital.