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## **Individuals involved in May 9** riots mustn't hold any public office, opines PM Kakar

### Savs welfare of youth, government's top priority

LAHORE (INP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul tion Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for holding transpar-Haq Kakar opined on Thursday that individuals involved in the violent events of May 9 should not hold public office.

In an interview with a private news channel, PM Kakar stated that no political party should be prevented from participating in electoral activities.

'If any party is hindered, it constitutes an illegal act which must be investigated.3

Kakar clarified that there was no policy to prevent the PTI from holding rallies. He also emphasised that caretakers did not impose any restrictions on featuring the photo of the PTI founder in the media.

The PM pointed out that during electoral campaigns, political parties often targeted each other with criticism, and allegations were not only against the caretakers, but bility also against all past governments.

existed between the caretaker government and the Elec-

ent elections. He assured that the caretaker government would

fulfill all responsibilities for fair elections in the coun-

Kakar also noted that the individuals involved in the violent events of May 9 were currently facing the law.

APP adds: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday terming the young generation as future of the nation, said that the welfare of the youth was top priority of the government.

Chairing a meeting of Prime Minister Youth Programme here, the prime minister directed that the disbursement of loans under the Prime Minister's Youth Program should be done with utmost care and responsi-

He further directed that the youth of the newly merged PM Kakar further stated that a strong coordination districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa should be given special sted between the caretaker government and the Elec-



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting on Prime Minister Prime Minister's Youth Program.

Protestors were not involved in violence, confirms minister.

Govt releases women and children

after crackdown on Baloch protesters

Police crackdown on Baloch protesters aimed at avoiding 'catastrophe': Interim

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi cutting a cake at the Christmas Celebration Ceremony 2023 at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

### Govt. fully committed to ensure peace, equal rights for all communities: President

ISLAMABAD (APP): dent said Prophet Isa (AS) gious teaching of peace and President Dr Arif Alvi has was an embodiment of reiterated that the govern- peace and affection and zens irrespective of and wars. caste, creed and religion as enunciated in the Islamic teaching, pronounced by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and laid down by the Constitution of Pakistan. He said that being an Islamic welfare state, it was their duty to safeguard the basic rights of all religious minorities and reassured that their all rights would be completely protected at all costs as the successive governments had been making strenuous efforts in this regard.

tolerance, the scenes in the world were topsy-turvy. ment is fully committed to these values were much About 19,000 precious huensure peace, tranquility needed in today's world man lives in Gaza had been and equal rights to all citi- shaken by strife, conflicts lost but the human hearts

### Sanjrani announces to participate in Elections

SLAMABAD (Online): Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani has also announced to participate in general elections.

Sadiq Sanjrani will contest elections of both National and Provincial constituencies. Chairman Senate will participate in general election from Chaghi.

Sadiq Sanjrani has obtained nomination papers for contesting elections of national and provinand Jamal Shah. cial assembly.

GOVERNMENT OF

PAKISTAN

ministers; 90% of the men arrested during the crackdown have been released interim government ancision was made to release nounced on Thursday that all women and children all women and children dewithout exception. Additained during the police tionally, all identified men crackdown on Baloch prohave also been freed," stated Fawad Hasan testers had been released. This was announced Fawad

by Privatisation Minister The Islamabad police Fawad Hasan Fawad while had detained numerous addressing a press confer-ence in Islamabad, accom-Baloch men and women during a demonstration panied by Information against enforced disap-Minister Murtaza Solangi pearances and extrajudicial killings. "At the

prime Videos circulating on

ISLAMABAD (INP): The minister's direction, a de- social media depicted se- Jamal Shah to engage with curity forces using water cannons and tear gas on the protesters, forcibly dragging Baloch individuals into police vans, and using batons against them. Furthermore, the police dismantled protest camps and

loudspeaker setups out-side the National Press Club. Following the outcry, the caretaker government

the protesters' families.

During the briefing, Fawad addressed the situation, indicating a clash between police and protesters

He mentioned that the Islamabad police chief, Akbar Nasir Khan, presented facts before the Islamabad High Court (IHC), stating that the protesters were already formed a negotiation team present and not the instigators of the chaos. led by Solangi, Fawad, and

> IHC rejects plea for immediate topping

Addressing a ceremony held here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr in connection with the celebrations of Christmas, the presi-

Sindh at Sindh Museum.

HYDERABAD (INP) -

Pakistan Peoples Party

(PPP) Chairman Bilawal

Bhutto Zardari on Thurs-

day reiterated the impera-

tive to end the politics of

hatred and division, assert-

ing, "Unity leads to vic-

of individuals promoting

division and hatred, and

stressed collective efforts to confront all these

prevalent oppression in

Pakistan, Bilawal stated

that the gravest injustice

was not solely the loss of

popular leaders, but also

Speaking at the Sheikh

tory, not division".

threats.

divisive politics.

HYDERABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chair-

man Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari speaking at 9th Ayaz

Melo organised by Khanabadosh Writers Cafe in

**Bilawal reiterates** 

of hatred, division

He said that teachings of Islam as well as by almost all religions laid emphasis upon the value of human life and when its value was reduced, it gave rise to conflicts. "Wars and carnage are no solutions. My message to the world is; wars must end," he

stressed. The ceremony was arranged by the ministry of religious affairs and interfaith harmony was attended by parliamentarians, religious leaders and members from different faiths, members of diplomatic corps and a large number of Christian

families. The president referring to atrocities in Gaza, said contrary to the reli-

had not melted, he added He opined that despite the United Nations

ued where churches besides, mosques were razed to the ground.

advocating the tenets of democratic values was so oblivious to the humanitarian woes in the conflict, he added

# **Tehran on**

**Dec 23** ISLAMABAD (APP) Pakistan will participate in a consultative conference on Palestine being

Tehran on December 23, the Foreign Office said Thursday.

collaboration with Culture & Turism Department imperative to end politics

the suppression of history weekly press briefing. The FO spokesper-The PPP leader called son said Pakistan refor a societal shift, encourmained deeply concerned aging a transition from a over the ongoing campaign culture where youth of brutality and large-scale wielded guns to one where massacre unleashed upon

they held pens, aiming to showcase Pakistan's rich history and culture. Ayyaz mela [a public event] here, Bilawal ac-knowledged the presence made tow while recognising the progress made towards curbing extremist mindsets, cautioned against political parties labelling each other as traitors or infidels.

culture and language.

Instead, he stressed the The ex-foreign minisimportance of collaborative ter asserted that a united governance, urging an end youth was the key to deto political polarisation feating those involved in with the assistance of the masses. Voicing concern over

About the global challenge of climate change. Bilawal proposed a comprehensive awareness campaign to tackle environmen-tal concerns.

calling for immediate ceasefire and a denunciation by the Pope himself, the carnage of Palestinians including Christians contin-

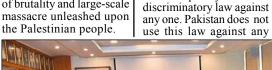
The enlightened world

He said when Pakistan Resolution was passed during 1940, a simultaneous resolution over Palestine was also adopted and reaffirmed that the two-state was the only solution to the issue.

### Pak to attend conference on **Palestine** in

held in Iran's capital

'We will continue to support international efforts to bring an end to Israel's ongoing campaign against the Palestinian people," Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said at a



minority. Action is taken indiscriminately as per law. All the minorities enjoy equal rights in the country. Army Chief Gen Asim Munir is on official visit of US and he has held important meetings with the authorities therein. Pakistan

"Blasphemy law is not will participate in conference on Palestine.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Secretary for Interior Aftab Akbar Durrani in a meeting with the Director General of International Organisation of Migration Ms. Amy Pope.

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Privatisation & Federal Min-

ister for Inter Provincial Coordination Fawad Hasan Fawad addressing a press conference along with Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi and Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage & Culture Jamal Shah

### Pak demands probe into banned TTP acquiring advanced weapons

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan has demanded a probe to determine how the banned out-fit Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan acquired advanced weapons, used in recent ter-

rorist attacks in the country. The demand was placed by Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Munir Akram to UN Security Council during a debate on the situation in Afghanistan. He said TTP and its affiliates have carried out a series of organized cross-border terrorist attacks on Pakistan's soil

He further said the terrorist group has access to weap-ns originating in the stock left behind by foreign forces. Munir Akram said Islamabad has clear evidence that the TTP receives support from Pakistan main adversary.

He called on United Nations to conduct a thorough investigation to elicit how these weapons got into the hands of the TTP and to identify ways of retrieving them.

## Pakistan deeply concerned

and facilitation by the Pakistani government for the resettlement process of Afghan nationals to Canada

The Canadian High Commissioner thanked the foreign minister for Pakistan's assistance in the resettlement process

**Canadian HC** 

**ECP rules out KPBC's statement** about reduction of NA seats in KP ISLAMABAD (INP) The Election Commission of Pakistan on Thursday ruled out the statement of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council (KPBC) regarding reduction of National Assembly seats in the province. Terming the statement as baseless and contrary to facts, the ECP said it was meant to create confusion in the

minds of the people. The erstwhile FATA was merged in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 2018 in light of the 25th Constitutional Amendment, the Commission said adding that 12 National Assembly seats of FATA were abolished and instead six added. It stated that seats of the Lower House Maryam Nawaz Sharif were reserved for that area

## cipher case trial

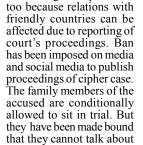
ISLAMABAD (Online): on coverage of cipher case Islamabad High Court (IHC) has issued notice to Attorney General (AG) and FIA on the petition filed by PTI founder Imran Khan against in-camera trial in cipher case. The court rejected the

plea for immediate stopping the trial of cipher case. The case came up for

hearing before single bench of IHC led by Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb here Thursday. Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb remarked we want to hear AG on this matter.

Expressing his surprise over giving deadline of four weeks by Chief Justice (CJ) IHC for completion of trial of cipher case remarked we don't give four weeks time in general cases.

Suleman Akram Raja counsel for petitioner said the court announced the decision of holding in-camera trial on the request of prosecution. It wrote in the decision there will be ban



ourt's proceedings. The court inquired if the indictment has been framed they cannot tell the indictment has been made.

The lawyer said not absolutely not. They have been made bound not to tell about court's proceedings.

Suleman Akram Raja said it has been said by the prosecution that the act by Ìmran Khan has affected ci pher security. They leveled this allegation but no clarification was given what was security. The concerned authorities tell that cipher codes are changed after some months.



LAHORE: Quaid of PML (N) Muhammad Nawaz Sharif presiding over Parliamentary Board meeting.

### Nawaz Sharif obtains nomination papers from NA-130 in Lahore

stan Muslim League (PML-N) leader Nawaz Sharif has received nomination papers from NA-

LAHORE (INP): Paki- tion from the provincial constituency.

On the other hand, Hamza Shehbaz received nomination papers from NA-118. Nawaz Sharif had also obtained nomination papers from NA-15 in Mansehra, his son-inlaw Captain Muhammad Safdar told reporters on Wednesday. "Nawaz Sharif will be our election candidate from NA-15 (Mansehra-II). He will become the prime minister as an elected representative Khyber of Pakhtunkhwa," Safdar will also contest the elec- added.

130 constituency in Lahore to contest the February 8 general elections. According to media reports, PML-N president Shehbaz Sharif will also contest election from NA-123 constituency of Lahore and the provincial assembly seat. Maryam Nawaz Sharif will contest from NA-119, sources



over India's terrorism: FO ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan has said it is deeply concerned over Indian terrorism adding Modi government is spreading terrorism in all over the world including South Asia.

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Friday December 22, 2023

OPINION

### Daily **Independent** Islamabad

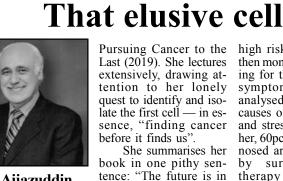
## Daily A oice of Masse, Independent

## **Multiple candidacies**

In light of the recent consultative meeting organised by Pildat and UNDP, it is high time Pakistan's political landscape embraced a much-needed reform: limiting the number of seats an election candidate can contest. The practice, while not new, has recently sparked debate, especially following PTI chief Imran Khan's decision to contest from eight constituencies in last year's by-elections. We regret that a private bill introduced last year by a Jamaat-i-Islami MNA, aimed at restricting candidates to no more than two seats, was not taken seriously. The lack of progress on this front perpetuates an unfair electoral advantage and a financial burden on the nation. Globally, democratic nations have addressed this issue with pragmatic solutions. India, for example, permits a maximum of two simultaneous candidacies, while Bangladesh allows three. Meanwhile, the UK has completely banned the practice of contesting more than one seat. These measures not only ensure financial prudence but also uphold the fairness of the electoral process. In Pakistan, the financial implications of this practice are significant. The ECP estimates a cost of Rs20.7m associated with conducting by-elections in constituencies vacated by winning candidates. These expenses, borne by taxpayers, are hard to justify, especially in a country facing economic challenges.

Furthermore, the ability to contest from multiple constituencies creates an inherent imbalance in the poll competition. It favours those with ample resources, often sidelining capable candidates with limited financial means. This disparity goes against the very essence of a democratic system, which should ideally ensure equal opportunities for all aspirants, irrespective of their economic status. The matter also has a direct impact on voter sentiment.

When elected representatives vacate seats to choose another, it can lead to a sense of disenfranchisement among the electorate. This practice not only necessitates costly by-elections but also weakens voters' trust in the democratic process. In the interest of these concerns, a mutual agreement must be reached among political parties to limit the number of constituencies from which a single candidate can contest. This self-regulation would be a significant step towards ensuring fair play and financial responsibility in the electoral process. Thereafter, it is imperative that the next government, irrespective of its political alignment, takes definitive steps to amend Article 223 of the Constitution. This amendment should aim to limit candidates to contesting from no more than two seats, in line with international practices. The need for reform in Pakistan's poll system is clear. Political parties must collectively work towards implementing these changes. Such an initiative would not only enhance the fairness and integrity of elections but also demonstrate a commitment to responsible governance. We hope that with mutual understanding and collaboration, Pakistan can move towards a more equitable and financially sustainable electoral system.



F.S. Aijazuddin

identifying the earliest Dr Azra Raza's name — a playful anagram — is markers of the first canevertheless one of the cer cell rather than chasmost universally reing after the last.' spected in oncology.

Pakistani by origin, perience in the field since 1984, she found that she graduated from Dow Medical College, "while there has been little progress in cancer Karachi, in the 1970s. There, treating a victim research, there has been dying of cancer — "the even less improvement in emperor of all maladies" treatment", some of it un-- she decided to make changed since the 1970s. that She makes this startling disease her specialisation.

observation: "Since 2005, Like many talented 70 per cent of approved Pakistanis who found lodrugs have shown zero cal institutions a useful improvement in survival springboard only to disrates, while up to 70 per cent have been actually cover that the pool of future options was empty, harmful to patients." Dr Raza migrated to the She notes that in 1977, the survival rate of United States where she joined the Roswell Park cancer patients was 26pc. Cancer Institute in Buf-

Over 40 years later. despite the billions of dolfalo (New York) in 1977. Its motto, composed by lars spent on research, it has improved only mar-Dr Grace, gripped her: 'If I had a choice beginally to 28.5pc. Having seen death tween a walk on the moon

Synthesizing her ex-

too often and too closely, and saving one life from cancer, I would never she is qualified to assert: look at the moon again.' "Dying is not a failure. Rather like Dr Raza, Denying death is." It is whose husband Harvey not shared nihilism that Preisler would in time draws her close to the Afro-American writer the himself die from cancer, it took a personal tragedy late James Baldwin, who mused: "It seems to me - the death of his twoyear-old son Jimmy from that one ought to rejoice in the fact of death by leukaemia — for Dr Grace to realign his priorities. Dr confronting with passion the conundrum of life [.] Grace too made it his mis-It is the small beacon in sion to find a cure for cancer. He discovered to his that terrifying darkness chagrin though that the from which we come and US government committo which we shall return." ted 400 times more money Dr Azra borrowed

Baldwin's telling phrase to the military than to cancer research. (Which as the title of her recent Yohsin lecture at Dr Raza has com-Karachi's Habib University: Confronting with ressed her research over the past 40 years in can-Passion the Conundrum cer prevention and treatof Life.

During her lecture, ment into a moving, readshe explained the uniqueable (even for a layman) ness of her approach. She book titled The First Cell: And the Human Costs of identifies patients with a her. -- Courtesy Dawn

Pursuing Cancer to the high risk of cancer and Last (2019). She lectures then monitors them, looking for that first tell-tale tention to her lonely symptom. She has analysed that the major causes of cancer are age and stress. According to her, 60pc of cancers diagnosed are cured, mostly by surgery, chemotherapy and radiation. preventing cancer by The remaining 40pc are

> advanced a stage to be salvaged. Her medical library consists of a tissue bank she created that contains over 60,000 specimens drawn from cancer patients. Her pioneering effort in this type of specialised documentation is now being given re-cognition the (bela--ted--ly) it deserves

In her inimitable, often bilingual presenta-Auden,

mainstreaming of climate She change in development planning involves myriad intricacies. Prioritising the most promising investments in the public sector with a strategic focus on addressing climate concerns requires a wise approach. This entails development planning and financial allocations to pre-empt climate woes through diligently de-

mitigation projects. Last year's floods inflicted losses and damage to the tune of \$30 billion on Pakistan. A deeper scrutiny of the factors that triggered this devastation reveal climate-insensitive planning and misplaced priorities. The logical cure to perpetual disasters is removing the bugs from the development process that worsen the impact of extreme climatic factors. The latter can convert hazards into

## **Climate resilience**

developmental defects is right priorities is the next a prerequisite for averting disasters and mitigating loss and damage.

Climate-sensitive budgeting and mainstreaming of climate change adaptation is often misconstrued as financial allocation for the relevant ministries and departments. In reality, the concept transcends budgets. International expert on climate change adaptation Richard Klein explains the concept as "the integration of policies and measures to address climate change into ongoing sectoral planning and Plan 2023-2030. management, so as to ensure the long-term viability and sustainability of sectoral and development

investments" This approach underscores the need for applying a climate lens to development projects. Sectoral policies should focus on adaptation that can be infused into sectoral plans and eventually trickle down to the project level. Applying climate filters at the project level requires an in-depth dissection of every development project with a climate knife and not just marking a perfunctory tick box in the PC-1 pro forma. Another possibility could be to broaden the scope of the environmental impact assessment to climate impact assessment. This can climate-

fence projects. The EIA is mandatory for large-scale, complex and environmentally sensitive projects but inces. A robust climate has been reduced to a ritualistic drill these days. The process has been trivialised to the extent of circumventing the EIA altogether or conducting it mid-course only to observe a formality. The environmental protection climate-induced toragencies have been rendered spineless. At times, they take a compromised position when projects involve special interests for powerful people.

calamities, and removing mate-proof, setting the nities. -- Courtesy Dawn

goalpost. Water conservation, disaster mitigation, resilient agriculture, efficient irrigation systems, reducing emissions in brown sectors, renewable energy sources, preventive public health systems, sanitation, storm drainage, and afforestation are some of the key priority areas of the investment portfolio. These sectors need integrated strategies to create synergies, with adaptation agendas in line with the Pakistan National Climate Resilience and Adaptation

A silver lining is that the glass is not half em--pty. The Climate Public Expen-di-t-u-res and Institu-tional Review, 2017, for Pakis-tan shows that the country is already spending a sizeable proportion of its budget on sectors contributing to offsetting the impact of climate change. Nevertheless, a significant financial gap still persists as the average costs for annual adaptation to climate change have been estimated at \$10.70bn per annum over the next 35 to 40 years.

The provincial governments have to lead from the front as all these subjects fall under their ambit. The provinces are equipped with locally contextualised climate change policies. Climate-sensitive planning and budgeting will have an enduring advantage for the provmitigation and adaptation plan will reduce their vulnerability to hydro-climatic disasters, and thus create fiscal space for other developmental needs that are often compromised due to ments. Investment in such projects will have multifarious benefits, including disaster mitigation, ecosystem restoration, the greening of the economy and the creation of resilient commu-

Once the development process is made cli-

Naseer Memon diagnosed but are at too The screening of development projects through the lens of climate resilience requires a paradigm shift in development plan-

ning and budgeting. The International Monetary Fund wants Pakistan to introduce this shift through the FY2024-25 budget. Prodding the ministries of finance and planning, the IMF has prescribed making budget documents more explicit on the nexus between the budget and

tions, Dr Azra leavens science with poetry, in English and in Urdu. She does not need to search for the appropriate quotation: Rainer Maria Rilke, W.H. Shakespeare, Allama Iqbal, Faiz and Ghalib

wait impatiently to be summoned. honoured Ghalib particularly by co-authoring a book on him with Sara Suleri Goodyear titled Ghalib: Epistemologies of

Elegance (2009). At a small gathering in Lahore on Dec 11, Dr Azra discussed how the life span of humans has lengthened. Whereas previous generations

had a life expectancy of signed adaptation and 50-60 years, then 70-80 years, now 80-90, our elders reaching 100 or more, she suggested, should no longer come as a surprise. "Will a hu-

man being live up to 150 years?" she was asked. "Why not?" she replied. "In fact, I suspect that the first person likely to live 150 years has already been born." Dr Azra should herself have been born more recently. She would have had at least a century of vital lifesaving research ahead of

climate-related action. It

has put emphasis on ad-

vancing green budgeting,

including budget track-

ing, publishing informa-

tion on climate-related

spending and aligning the

next budget with climate

overall

change adaptation.

The

## **FTO can take action against** FBR, President Arif Alvi

country doesn't?)

ISLAMABAD (Online): report, Federal Tax that lack of proper follow President Arif Alvi has Ombudsman (FTO) has up by FBR officials, said that Federal Tax directed FBR to take steps frequent transfers and Ombudsman (FTO) has full authority to initiate an investigation into the alleged misconduct of any results of immediate FBR official under suo investigation regarding 6 motu notice.

President Arif Alvi LTO Islamabad has been has rejected 6 documents directed to identify and presented by Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and confirmed the orders of Federal tax Ombudsman unnecessary regarding investigation unjustified delay. against tax officials.

in the light of information changes in scope were not issued by office of Federal achieving the desired Tax Ombudsman regarding results. An analysis by FTO

Secretariat revealed that cases. Chief Commissioner FBR has adopted all modern methods including proper data base and web portal.However adequate point out the officers steps have not been taken responsible for reduction in collection due to regarding comprehensive and communication coordination with officers

FTO Secretariat was deployed and mobilized for According to media informed with evidence tax collection.

It has been also stated that FBR headquarters and other formations have not arranged tracking system under modern IT facilities to regularly review the performance of officers.

In most cases, adequate performance is possible.FTO not Secretariat also comes to know that investigation reports and case studies of few cases of alleged tax evasion were prepared and shared by directorate related to Broadening of Tax Base (BTB).

and



Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication, Dr. Umar Saif visited Frontier Works Organization (FWO) Headquarters in Rawalpindi.



ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Planning Development & Special Initiatives, International Growth Center (IGC) and Consortium for Development Policy Research (CDPR) hosts a seminar in Islamabad, featuring Dr. Sadiq Khan, Vice Chairman of the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh. The event, organized by Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Mohammad Jahanzeb Khan, focused on the "Development Journey of Bangladesh and Lessons Learnt for Pakistan.

Dr Iqrar says: UAF chickpea has production potential of 25 maunds per acre

FAISALABAD (APP): University of Agriculture Senior Management Faisalabad (UAF) has Course, introduced new variety of Institute of Management chickpea for irrigated land, which has the potential of 25 maunds per acre production, said Prof Dr Iqrar Ahmad Khan Vice University of Agriculture University of Agriculture Idea to Wallagement institute of Wallagement their visit to UAF, he said that Pakistan spends billions of rupees on the import of chickpea and other pulses but now Chancellor (VC) other pulses but now University of Agriculture UAF variety would play its active role to trim

National its active role to trim

Addressing a 16- down its import bill.

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) member delegation of 34t turned around to bullish trend on Thursday, gaining 245.56 points, a positive change of 0.39 percent, closing at 62,693.57 points against 62,448.01 points the previous trading day. A total of 812,383,481 shares valuing Rs.16.687 billion were traded during the day as compared to 1,187,368,881 shares

**PSX turns** 

around to

bullish trend,

gains 245 points

valuing Rs. 26.038 billion.

## Seminar held on development journey of Bangladesh

**Commerce** News

The Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives on Thursday held a seminar titled Development Journey of Bangladesh: Lessons Learnt for Pakistan" in collaboration with International Growth Center (IGC) and Consortium for Policy Development Research (CDPR).

Country Director International Growth Center (IGC) Dr Ijaz Nabi, Chief Economist Zafar ul Hassan, Additional Kamran Secretary Rehman, representatives from think tanks, economic institutions, academia, investments.

## **Commissioner directs** authorities to ensure supply of fertilizers at govt rates

RAWALPINDI (APP): Commissioner Rawalpindi division Liaquat Ali Chatta here on Thursday directed the authorities concerned to ensure the supply of

fertilizers at government rates in Rawalpindi division. Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Liaquat Ali Chatta presided over the meeting of the Divisional Agriculture Advisory

ISLAMABAD (APP): private sector, civil society Caretaker Minister for and various government Finance, Revenue, and organisations participated in the seminar, a news release said. Thursday Vice Chairman of Policy Research Institute

of Bangladesh Dr Sadiq Khan gave a comprehensive presentation covering Bangladesh's early challenges, including quantitative restrictions, economic deregulation,

ЕХІМ' operationalization is a

### meets FBR chairman

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan Dr Reza Amiri Moghaddam on Wednesday held a meeting with Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Chairman Malik Amjed Zubair Tiwana. During the meeting, the two sides discussed agreed to take joint steps to matters pertaining to customs, cross border trade and the estate and resolution management for smooth other issues, besides provision of facilities to the flow of bilateral trade between the two countries, said a FBR news release. According to details, the SDPO Hayatabad They agreed to remove the irritants in the barter trade for increased economic Moiz held a meeting with IAP president Ayub activities between the two neighbors.

to catalyze global trade ISLAMABAD (APP): milestone for us today. It Detailing the diverse will augment the banking portfolio of products and trade finance landscape offered by EXIMs, Dr Akhtar emphasized the significance of export credit loans, which provided competitive-rate financing to exporters.

The minister said as the EXIM of Pakistan grew and matured it would shape Pakistan's trade finance, promoting it principally through a proper institutional framework backed by countries and boosting effective policies and

## IAP, SDPO agreed to take joint steps to facilitate business community

Hayatabad

Peshawar, ASP Nayab Moiz

improve security situation in

business community through

Peshawar, ASP Nayab

PAL on priority basis.

PESHAWAR (Online): Zakori in the association Industrialists Association office, said in a press Peshawar (IAP) president release here on Thursday. Ayub Zakori and Sub-The meeting was Divisional Police Officer

attended by IAP executive member Malik Niaz, Zarak Khan, Adeel Rauf, Haris Mufti, Shayan Imtiaz, secretary general Muqtasid Ahsan and member Saad Khan Zahid.

The Estate Manager KPEZDMC and SHO Hayatabad were also present in the meeting. Participants of the meeting thoroughly discussed overall security measures in the estate

Committee and Divisional Agriculture Task Force. Crop Reporting Service

sufficiency and private

Divisional Director Chaudhry Mohammad Jafar, Deputy Director Agriculture (Extension) Rawalpindi Sadia Bano,

Deputy Director Attock Shakeel Ahmed besides progressive farmers and representatives of fertilizer dealers.

fortifying external trade, attracting investments and propelling broader country. banking reforms, trade with India, sectorial policies, special bonded warehouse systems, raw Iranian envoy material imports, and strategies for food self-

### Economic Affairs, Dr as we know," the finance Shamshad Akhtar here on minister remarked while formally speaking at the inaugural launched the Pakistan's ceremony of the bank. Export-Import Bank (EXIM), marking a The minister highlighted the global significant stride towards impact of EXIMs, citing

(SDPO)

that these institutions disbursed a staggering \$2.5 trillion in trade economic growth in the finance last year, substantially fostering exports across over 60

**EXIM Pakistan launched** 

proud moment and a major export investments. regulatory framework.

Independent Islamabad

## National News

Page 03

roads will not only ease the

traffic but also flow in the

and

## **Punjab governor awards** 29,456 degrees at Sargodha **University convocation**

Medical and Health Sciences,

Pharmacy, Science and Social

**Independent Report** SARGODHA: Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman conferred degrees upon 29,456 students at the 10<sup>th</sup> awarded to students from the convocation of the faculties of Agriculture, Arts University of Sargodha (UoS), held on Thursday.

The ceremony was significant as it marked the graduation of around 64.5 per cent girl students, out of the total students, out population.

The ceremony was presided over by Chancellor Muhammad Balighur Rehman, accompanied by Chairman Education Higher Commission Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Vice students." He expressed Chancellor UoS Prof. Dr. Qaisar Abbas and deans of unique eight faculties at the capabilities, convocation venue.

As many as 81 PhD the dignity of institutions,

degrees, 1098 MS/ MPhil/ teachers, and the value of MSc (Hons)/ LLM, 12,713 degrees earned.' MA/MSc, 4741 BS/ BSc

He emphasised the (Hons)/ BBA and 10,823 fortune of Pakistan, BA/BSc/ADP degrees were boasting a large youth awarded to students from the population, stating that the youth are the most and Humanities, Computing valuable asset for any and Information Technology, nation. Furthermore, the Engineering and Technology, governor highlighted the imperative use of fact checking in era of Sciences. Moreover, 277 disinformation to counter students with distinctions the exposure of youth with were honoured with medals. false narratives across Governor Balighur digital platforms. He Rehman extended heartfelt applauded the efforts of congratulations to the University of Sargodha in graduates and scholars, skill development of the

stating, "Today is a day of students. He appreciated joy and success for the efforts of the Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Qaiser hope that the graduating Abbas to promote students, through their academic culture with research emphasis commercialization of the

would contribute significantly to ideas generated students



the special meeting to review progress on Roads Projects.

## **Czech Republic envoy** visits city, explores cultural heritage

PESHAWAR (APP): The sites such as Masjid Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Pakistan, Ladislav Steinhübel along with his spouse, embarked on a captivating journey to Peshawar, leaving an indelible mark on their visit to the city on Thursday.

The purpose of their visit was to delve into the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, rich cultural heritage of Peshawar.

Their sojourn in the expressed city allowed them to explore various historical and cultural landmarks, history and heritage of encompassing significant Peshawar.

Mahabat Khan, the famed antiques market at Asamai Gate adjacent to Sarafa Bazar, Qissa Khwani Bazar, Tehsil Gor Gathri, and Sethi House. As guests of the

Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic for His Excellency Ladislav Steinhübel and his wife immense

delight in immersing themselves in the rich to avert arrest

SARGODHA: Chancellor University of Sargodha Governor Punjab, Mohammad Baligh-Ur-Rehman and VC University of Sargodha Pro Dr Qaisar Abbas distributing degrees during 10th Convocation of the University.

## **Governor KP highlights** rule of law for social, economic development

PESHAWAR Governor Khyber Haji Pakhtunkhwa, Ghulam Ali Thursday said that supremacy of rule of law was prerequisite for economic development of a country and establishing society on firm foundations.

to 3 accused in

He was addressing a ceremony in Centre for Learning Law and Business development. (CLLB). The ceremony was also attended by

from the University.

(APP): Governor was informed to further polish their Khyber that the center is affiliated abilities and skills and play with University of London role to improve status of and the students of CLLB country among world would be issued degree nations. Youngsters are would be issued degree assets of the country and the they must work in cohesion with a purpose for country's development, he

> The KP Governor said that justice, peace, knowledge and conscious were the factors that derive strength from justice and supremacy of law in a society. He also lauded the administration of CLLB for organizing the co-curricular activities and assured his cooperation to faculty members

### **Police seized** smuggled petrol, diesel PESHAWAR (APP): Saddar Police in a successful operation has

seized a significant quantity of smuggled petrol and diesel. The seized fuel, suspected to be non-custom paid, was illegally transported from Iran Saddar Police Station

has effectively cracked down on the smuggling of ATC grants bail | In Court of Abdul Baseer Judge Banking

**Court Hazara Division Abbottabad** 

PESHAWAR: Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Pakistan, Ladislav Steinhubel along with others take keen interest historical Masjid Mahabat Khan during visiting in Peshawar.

## Minister chairs meeting to review Tourism Dept's initiatives, future plans

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information, Culture, Tourism, Archeology and Museum, Barrister Firoze Jamal Shah Kakakhel chaired a review meeting at the office Secretary Tourism here Thursday. The meeting focused evaluating the performance of the Tourism Department, ongoing projects and the road map

for future endeavors. During the meeting, Secretary Tourism, Mutahir

Zeb gave a detailed briefing, shedding light on the artists in the province.

progress of Integrated Tourism Zones and the identification and development of new tourist destinations within the province. He emphasized ongoing efforts to enhance infrastructure, ensuring improved tourism facilities for visitors. He highlighted the commitment to the welfare of artists, announcing plans to revise the Artist Welfare Endowment Fund Act Rules. He stressed on more effectively on proposed amendments to address challenges faced by

In Court of Abdul Baseer Judge Banking **Court Hazara Division Abbottabad** HREC Abbottabad Branch

bialable arrest warrants of **51 PTI leaders** LAHORE (Online): Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) Lahore has issued nonbailable arrest warrants of

Ali Amin Gandapore in

May 9 cases.

Gujranwala cantt and May 9 siege and arsons cases on the request of police. The police told the court that the accused are nominated in case and are absconding

Advocate General, Amir Javaid, Secretary Higher not be undermined and Education Regulatory added that law students Authority, Sajid Inam, should also be informed lawyers, students and about their role in existing judicial system. He urged the students faculty members. On the occasion, the **GB** gov't forms committee to address

social and economic He said that the role of lawyers community in our judicial system could

Addressing the ceremony, the Governor highlighted the significance of rule of law and said that expressed. it was the prerequisite for

Mohsin Naqvi. Addressing the meeting, Chief Minister said that construction of roads, rehabilitation and completion of expansion projects are indispensable

Punjab CM gives approval to construction, repairing of 2600km roads Independent Report needs of the people. He

traffic.

Punjab said that the construction. AHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister repair and maintenance of Mohsin Naqvi has given approval to the building and reparing of 2,600kilometre roads in Punjab. More than 105 roads

In the meeting, Secretary C&W Sohail Anwar gave a briefing on of best quality will be constructed, repaired and the progress on road expanded in different construction rehabilitation. It was districts.

briefed that about 104 road A report on road's construction, repair and rehabilitation project was presented in special maintenance projects were meeting, presided over by pending Chief Minister Punjab

In less than a year, 104 roads projects will be completed with excellence. construction The expansion and maintenance projects of 104 roads of the province will cost around Rs150 billion.



(Plaintiff)

ban on vapes in Pakistan

**Civil Society demands complete** 

## May 9 cases: ATC issues non

## 51 leaders of PTI including Murad Saeed, Hammad Azhar, Farrukh Habib and

The court has issued arrest warrants in attack on

the issues of journalists GILGIT (APP): The other provinces to protect government of Gilgit the rights of journalists and Baltistan has formed a solve their main solve their main grievances. A notification high-level committee under the chairmanship of has been issued in this

Provincial Minister for connection. The high-level Law and Parliamentary committee form on the Affairs, Syed Sohail Abbas special orders of the Chief to enact comprehensive legislation on the pattern of Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan.

ban on vapes in Pa	akistan	Askari Tower	ZTBL Abbottabad Branch	(Plaintiff)	HBFC Abbottabad Branch	(Plaintiff)
PESHAWAR (APP): The Peshawar Press Club.	Qamar Naseem,	attack case	Versus		Versus	
Provincial Alliance for The spotlight of the Sustainable Tobacco conference was on the	Program Manager of Blue		(1) Muhammad Daud S/o Muhammad Yaqoob Khan R/		(1) Abdul Latif S/o Muzaffar R/o Pind Ghakra Tehsil	
Control Khyber unregulated sale of vapes	Federal and provincial	terrorism court (ATC) on	o Kairi Raiki P/o Kalabagh Tehsil &	District Abbottabad (Defendant)	Khanpur District Haripur	
Pakhtunkhwa, alongside and e-cigarettes,	governments must act swiftly to impose a	Thursday granted post- arrest bail to three accused,	Whereas the <b>ZTDL</b> Abl	( )		(Defendant)
the local Non-profit particularly highlighting organization Blue Veins on their detrimental impact on	complete ban on vapes and	allegedly involved in	Whereas the ZTBL Abb instituted a suit for the recovery of F	Rs. 406929/- etc due	Whereas the HBFC A instituted a suit for the recovery of	Abbottabad Branch has
Thursday called for an Pakistan's youth.	all forms of e-cigarettes in	Askari Tower attack case.	against you under Section-9 of F	inancial institutions	against you under Section-9 of	
immediate ban on vapes The speakers said and e-cigarettes in that despite common	Pakistan. The potential health	The court granted bail to Muzzamal Rehman,	(recovery of Finances) Ordinanc (27-11-2023). You are hereby summ	es, 2001 and dated	(recovery of Finances) Ordina	inces, 2001 and dated
Pakistan. misconceptions that		Ayaz Talat and Huzaifa	to defend the suit within 30 days of	of the publication of	(28-11-2023). You are hereby sur to defend the suit within 30 day	
This urgent plea vaping is a safer alternative	youth, are too significant	Zia, and ordered them to submit surety bonds of Rs	this proclamation. In default wh	ere of the plaintiff	this proclamation. In default	
aligns with the recent to smoking, the WHO has directives by the World highlighted the necessity	to overlook. We must choose public health over	200,000 each for availing	will be entitled to a degree for the suit cost to funds etc from the d	said sum and cost of	will be entitled to a degree for the	he said sum and cost of
Health Organization for "urgent measures" to	industry profits."	the relief.	suit till realization of entire amoun		suit cost to funds etc from the suit till realization of entire amo	
(WHO), which has regulate these products,	Dr. Qazi Shahbaz,	ATC Judge Abher Gul Khan heard the post-	Next date of hearing is 09-01-2024	l.	Next date of hearing is 04-01-20	
recommended that adding that recommended governments should treat e- actions include the	Chairman Provincial Doctors Association, a	arrest bail pleas of the		$\frown$		$\frown$
cigarettes similarly to prohibition of flavoring	leading voice in tobacco	accused and announced the verdict after hearing		(sd/)		( sd/ )
traditional tobacco agents like menthol and the products and enforce a implementation of rigorous	control, emphasized, "The imperative to ban vapes in	detailed arguments of the		JUDGE		JUDGE
complete ban on all flavors, tobacco control measures,	Pakistan is clear.	parties.	Banking Cour	t Hazara Division, Abbottabad.	Banking Co	ourt Hazara Division,
they told a press such as high taxes and usage	In Court of Abdul H	Baseer Judge Banking		Abbottabau.		Abbottabad
conference here at bans in public places. In Court of Abdul Baseer Judge Banking	Court Hazara Di	vision Abbottabad	In Court of Abdul Baseer	Judge Banking	In Court of Abdul Base	ar Judga Banking
Court of Abdul Baseer Judge Balking Court Hazara Division Abbottabad	777DL 411	(DL::	Court Hazara Division		Court Hazara Divisio	
Court Hazara Division Abbottabau	ZTBL Abbottabad Branch	· · · ·				n Abbottabau
ZTBL Abbottabad Branch (Plaintiff)		SUS	ZTBL Abbottabad Branch	(Plaintiff)	ZTBL Abbottabad Branch	(Plaintiff)
Versus		Suleman Ahmed R/o Seri hsil & District Abbottabad	Versus		Versus	
(1) Mst Shehnaz Bibi W/o Muhammad Fareed R/o Dal	presently residing at House	No. 496 Street No. 25 Block	(1) Ali Jan S/o Sher Zaman R/o Ban & District Abbottabad	di Chammiali Tehsil	(1) Muhammad Rashid S/o Gury	aman R/o Sayali Dalola
Boi Tehsil & District Abbottabad (Defendant)	D1 Gulshan Ravi Lahore	(Defendant)	& District Abbottabad	(Defendant)	Tehsil & District Abbottabad	(Defendant)
Whereas the ZTBL Abbottabad Branch has	Whereas the 77	BL Abbottabad Branch has	Whereas the ZTBL Abb	``´´´	Whereas the ZTBL A	Abbottabad Branch has
instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs. 256595/- etc due		very of Rs. 223987/- etc due	instituted a suit for the recovery of F	Rs. 237024/- etc due	instituted a suit for the recovery of	of Rs. 116482/- etc due
against you under Section-9 of Financial institutions against you under Section-9 of		of Financial institutions against you under Section-9 of Financial institutions		against you under Section-9 of Financial institutions (recovery of Finances) Ordinances, 2001 and dated		
(recovery of Finances) Ordinances, 2001 and dated (27-11-2023). You are hereby summoned to obtain leave (27-11-2023). You are hereby		by summoned to obtain leave	(27-11-2023). You are hereby summ	noned to obtain leave	(27-11-2023). You are hereby sur	
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suit till realization of entire amount.			suit till realization of entire amount.		suit till realization of entire amount.	
Next date of hearing is 09-01-2024. Next date of hearing is 09-01-		01-2024. (sd/)	Next date of hearing is 09-01-2024.		Next date of hearing is 09-01-2024.	
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In Court of Abdul Baseer Judge Banking		Dense Index Dender	In Count of Abdul Docoor	Judgo Donking	In Court of Abdul Base	or Judgo Ponking
Court of Abdul Baseer Judge Balking Court Hazara Division Abbottabad	In Court Hazara Di	Baseer Judge Banking vision Abbottabad	In Court of Abdul Baseer Court Hazara Division	Abbottabad	Court Hazara Divisio	
Court mazara Division Abbottabad	Court nazara Di	vision Addottadau		Abbollabau		
ZTBL Abbottabad Branch (Plaintiff)	ZTBL Abbottabad Branch	(Plaintiff)	ZTBL Abbottabad Branch	(Plaintiff)	ZTBL Abbottabad Branch	(Plaintiff)
Versus	Ver	rsus	Versus		Versus	
(1) Muhammad Shamoon S/o Mir Ahmed Khan R/o	(1) Muhammad Zaheer S/c	Abdul Lateef R/o Mohalla	(1) Muhammad Riaz S/o Muhami		(1) Muhammad Iqbal S/o Haday	at Ali R/o Darra Dalola
Pattan Klan (Khoi) Tehsil &District Abbottabad (Defendant)	Kannisa Nathiagali Malach	Tehsil & District Abbottabad	Kali Kath Bairon Gali Tehsil & Di	(Defendant)	Tehsil & District Abbottabad	(Defendant)
Whereas the ZTBL Abbottabad Branch has	Wheness the 77	(Defendant)	Whereas the ZTBL Abb	````	Whereas the ZTRL	Abbottabad Branch has
instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs. 93270/- etc due		BL Abbottabad Branch has ery of Rs. 514855/- etc due	instituted a suit for the recovery of F		instituted a suit for the recovery of	
against you under Section-9 of Financial institutions	against you under Section	-9 of Financial institutions	against you under Section-9 of F	inancial institutions	against you under Section-9 of	f Financial institutions
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suit till realization of entire amount.	suit till realization of entire amount.		suit till realization of entire amount.		suit till realization of entire amount.	
Next date of hearing is 09-01-2024.	Next date of hearing is 09-0	01-2024.	Next date of hearing is 03-01-2024	l.	Next date of hearing is 09-01-20	)24.
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## Daily **Independent**, Islamabad

## Friday December 22, 2023

## **Protesters breaching Red Zone to face legal** consequences: ICCPO

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan on Thursday warned that the protesters attempting to breach the Red Zone would face legal consequences

Taking to the media here at the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), he said that on Tuesday night, some individuals concealed their identities and tried to enter the Red Zone while carrying sticks. He said that the action against the law violators including the use of water cannon was the responsibility of the government as well as a requirement to maintain law and order as the Red Zone housed the Parliament, government offices and residences of diplomats.

Dr Abkar Nasir highlighted that the use of water cannons was not perilous if managed responsibly and that there were no women and children among the protesters on the site. ICCPO said the pro-

testors were told to gather at H-9 or F-9 Park to make it easier for the administration to provide security cover to the venue.

He said that the pro-

testers were urged to uphold the rule of law and express their dissent in a nonviolent manner, recalling last year's tragic incident where a police officer sacrificed his life to neutralize a potential suicide bomber. We remain commit-

ted to preventing any loss of life, whether due to protests or unforeseen circumstances. Regardless of one's stance on protests, every one shares the responsibility of respecting the law," he added. He said that it was also the responsibility of the protestors' leadership to hold protest gatherings as per planning to ease the management as well as the residents. ICCPO said that the

protestors also resorted to violence against the policemen which also compelled the police to act accordingly.

Quoting the recent incident in which a police of ficer and his son were martyred, he said that the criminals involved in the heinous crime were not from Islamabad as some accused were arrested from

stan.

Bannu and Waziristan. Earlier, addressing the participants at ICCI while celebrating the 148th Birthnities day of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi chairing the 7th meeting of the Senate of National Skills Univer sity Islamabad, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## Dr Nadeem calls for addressing antimicrobial resistance

National Action Plan on ISLAMABAD (APP): AMR. He added that all Caretaker Minister for National Health Services, stakeholders should be con-Regulations and Coordinasulted for revising the plan.

He requested committion Dr Nadeem Jan on Thursday called for galvament of all stakeholders in nizing efforts to deal with updating the national plan on AMR. the critical issue of address-The minister sug-

ing and containing antimigested forming a high-level taskforce on AMR, which crobial resistance in Paki-Addressing a closing should serve as the coorceremony of the Fleming dination platform for ef-Fund Country Grant Paforts and initiatives on adkistan, the minister called dressing antimicrobial resisfor a narrative on antimi-He said the most crucrobial resistance which

was digestive and palatable cial factor in containing to political leaders, health AMR was the change in professionals, and commubehaviour towards the use of antibiotics. In this regard, he rec-

equip the journalists in un-

derdeveloped areas of

Balochistan with informa-

tion of the Chinese invest-

ment in the region and its

positive impacts.

CPEC projects.

Dr Nadeem said there vas a need for revising the ommended a comprehen-

sive communication strategy on AMR.

terms of addressing AMR under the One Health ap-The Fleming Fund is a UK-funded programme foproach cusing on controlling anti-The Fleming Fund has

actively supported the inimicrobial resistance (AMR) in more than 25 tiatives to implement countries, including Paki-Pakistan's National Action stan, across Africa and Plan on AMR.

Asia Managed by the UK Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), the Fleming Fund supports governments through country and regional grants and fellowship schemes to

the grant's four-year work implement AMR strategies in Pakistan He said the silent threat of AMR should be globally, especially in lowincome countries where AMR has a disproportionunderstood at all levels from the policymakers to the ate impact.

Since 2019, Pakistan

**CPEC Balochistan Forum MoST to equip** 

people.

and global collaborations.

## Jordan's Ambassador explores collaborative initiatives with COMSTECH

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, in a comprehensive meeting with the recently appointed Ambassador of Jordan to Pakistan, Dr. Maen KHREASAT COMSTECH Secretariat here Thursday, discussed the establishment of a joint Water Resource Management Center and launch of a young scientists exchange program. During the meeting, Prof. Iqbal highlighted the ongoing collaborative ef-

forts between COMSTECH and Jordan,

revealing that COMSTECH had spent around \$1.5 Million in vari-

ous active projects with

Dr. Iqbal further briefed the Ambassador

about the existence of two

COMSTECH-affiliated or-

ganizations in Jordan,

namely the Islamic Acad-

emy of Sciences (IAS) and

the Inter-Islamic Network

on Water Resources Devel-

Jordan to date.

(INWRDAM)

proposal, COMSTECH demanded the establishment of a joint Jordan-Pakistan Water Resource Management Laboratorv under COMSTECH's auspices at the Paniwani Hisaar Water Institute (NED University). He also recommended the initiation of a young scientists exchange program between COMSTECH and Jordan, for scientific collaboration and knowledge exchange.

In a groundbreaking

the CC

Dr. Iqbal also in-formed the Ambassadors about 500 free scholarships for Palestinian students by COMSTECH and Association of Private Sector Universities of Pakistan (APSUP) Ambassador KHREASAT expressed Jordan's commitment to sustaining cooperation with COMSTECH, emphasizing Jordan's role as a tech-

nology hub in the region. He envisioned joint programs with COMSTECH to explore new technological frontiers opment and Management and enhance higher education initiatives



ISLAMABAD: Candidates for National Assembly Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar talking to media persons after submissions of nomination papers to contest in upcoming general elections at ECP Offices.

### PM' program to empower skilled youth key pillar to prospers country: NAVTTC ISLAMABAD (APP): Ex- the skills were linked with

international certification. PM's youth empow-

erment programme aims to promote youth empowerment by reducing young women and men's vulnerability and exclusion through a three pronged approach of jobs & economic empowerment, social engagement and education and skills development,

was empowering youth through imparting skilled This This program aims to

He also advised par-

ED said that a skilled

ISLAMABAD: Special advisor to the prime minister of Pakistan on human rights and women empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick addressing during an event following the celebrations of Christmas at Nazriya Pakistan Council (Trust) Fatima Jinnah Park.

## Senate body directs **MoCC&EC** to work out **better strategy to curb smog** Independent Report SLAMABAD: The mem-sion by pointing out that this critical matter is often dardized procedures. They

to equip journalists in under-developed areas SLAMABAD (INP): The completed without the de-

velopment of Balochistan. China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Media especially Gwadar. We should encourage Forum Balochistan Initiamore journalists to join the tive was launched on to

media industry especially focusing on the region's developmental projects and will give them the right information to encounter the negative propaganda against the corridor."

In an exclusive interview with Gwadar Pro, On asking about the Caretaker Federal Minister availability of media educafor Information and Broadtion at the University of casting Murtaza Solangi Gwadar one of the University said that the CPEC Media students Samaa who was present at the forum told Forum Balochistan Initiathe correspondent that jourtive will equip the local journalists of Balochistan with nalism has not been introthe right information about duced at Gwadar University as vet, and introducing media education at the university

He said, "CPEC starts from Gilgit-Baltistan to level will help youth play Gwadar, and it cannot be their role in this field.

NIO with latest facilities: Saif ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Sci-

has come a long way in

This cooperation at

Dr Qadeer Ahsan

the federal and provincial

levels will continue in the

second phase of the grant.

Team Lead of the Fleming

Fund, gave an overview of

ence and Technology, Dr Umar Saif Thursday said his ministry will start worl to equip National Institute of Oceanography (NIO with a new marine vesse for ocean surveys, research

According to a tweet, he said this while chairing the Board meeting of NIO.

He said that the blue economy, ocean surveys exploration of ocean minerals and oil exploration are significant national issues, often ignored in government

priorities. "We will start work to equip NIO with a new marine vessel for ocean surveys, research and global collaborations, especially for CPEC", the tweet said

> Hafeez Jalandhri

bers of the Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change on Thursday di-rected the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination to work out a better strategy to curb smog as the environmental pollution in the major cities of the country was lingering despite all policy and regulatory efforts.

The Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change was held here at the Parliament House with Senator Seemee Ezdi in Chair.

The committee mem-bers emphasized the urgent issue of smog in various cities of Punjab.

The committee chair-person initiated the discus-

industries in the north of

tion

The 3rd round of the ISLAMABAD: A view of accident after a vehicle hit to another at Islamabad Expressway. time on China-Pak Eco-

nomic Corridor (CPEC) **EC** reserves judgment ICT projects was held at the office of the All-Pakiin ANP intra party stan Chinese Enterprises' Association (APCEA). election case menced with an overview

Election Commission (EC) has reserved judgment in Awami National Party the election. (ANP) intra party election case.

A five members commission of EC under Chief intra party election. 5 years Election Commissioner will be completed on May (CEC) took up the case for hearing Thursday.

Asfand Yar Wali president ANP was present on the occasion. years but cabinet will con-While DG political finance wing Masood Sherani gave briefing to EC in regard to intra party election of ANP.

The counsel told the erwise. EC we were told that six months are given to us. If the election is not completed within 6 months then the election be held again

tra party elections were no authority after five not held. Election symbol

considered only when it's mentioned their forward too late. Officers from the strategy involves strength-Ministry of Climate ening field officers, pres-Change and Environmental ence, drone surveillance. C o o r d i n a t i o n improved and timely re-(MoCC&EC) provided a porting, and daily debriefing sessions. briefing on the factors contributing to air pollution in ECO Watch Android app Punjab's cities.

The MoCC&EC offor accurate mapping of irficers explained that a sigritants, ensuring daily monitoring of actions, and tracknificant portion of polluing pollutant footprints. tion is due to traffic pollu-They also reported imple-

They presented their 1 and institutional menting 80% effective emission control to reduce legal and institutional framework for smog pre-vention and control. They black smoke also highlighted weaknesses person expressed that, dein watch and ward, work spite these efforts, smog persists in the region, sug-gesting a possible flaw in prosecution, collaboration.

the implementation of their monitoring. They admitted some

presence, operations, and

methodology. Officers concluded that local pollutants such as transport, fugitive dust, and uncontrollable dry sweeping contribute to environmental degradation, while industrial contributions to pollution have significantly decreased.

ISLAMABAD (APP):

'Infodor Media Salon" this

The event com-

The session was at-

kistan, said a news release.

Among other partici-

They initiated the

The committee chair-

PD

**ISLAMABAD: Laborers are busy in decorate paint** wall of Rawal Dam underpass "Let's Get Digital Islamabad" in the Federal Capital.

## Indonesia, Pakistan to collaborate for improving distant learning programs

ISLAMABAD (APP): A ing. Led by its Rector Prof. delegation from the Univer-Ojat Darojat, the University's sity of Terbuka, Indonesia's delegation included faculty members representing varileading open university, visited Higher Education Comous departments and exmission (HEC) on Thursperts in distant learning proday to foster collaboration grams. Dr. Muhammad Latif and discuss opportunities Gondal, Executive Director and key challenges in the (Planning and Monitoring) realm of distant learning Allama Iqbal Open Univerprograms. Dr. Zia Ulsity, Awais Ahmed, Adviser Qayyum, Executive Direc-Quality Assurance HEC and tor HEC chaired the meetother divisional heads.

**3rd round of 'Infodor Media Salon' held** 

tion

porting and communication

contributions in the energy

sector, emphasizing the

crucial role of sustainable

energy solutions imple-mented, specific CPEC

projects undertaken and

enhancing Pakistan's eco-

nomic development and its

pants were senior represen-

tatives from the Embassy

of People's Republic of

China, Global Silk Route

Research Alliance, and COMSATS University

China Study Center, said a

significant from both Chi-

nese media (CCTV, Eco-

nomic Daily, Huashang

Weekly, Xinhua News, China Economic Net) and

Pakistani media (Pakistan

Observer, PTV, Jang Me-

dia Group, Daily Ittehad, Pakistan Economic Net,

Gwadar Pro, Hum News.

The event also had

news release.

APP)

remembered on death anniversary

ISLAMABAD (APP) nel The 41st death anniversary of creator of Pakistan's national anthem, Abul Athar Hafeez Jalandhri observed on Thursday.

He was born in Jalandhar, Indian Punjab on 14th January 1900. his family migrated from Jalandhar to Lahore after partition.

He was a great poet of song as well as poem and ghazal. His extreme achievement is "Shahnama Islam" which he wrote in poetic form and published in four volumes. Due to this commendable achievement, he was given the title of 'Firdowsi Islam'. The second major achievement of Hafeez Jalandhri was the National Anthem of Pakistan and he will always be remembered for this unique creation.

supporting the digital trans-

formation crucial for

CPEC's success and en-

The advancement in

smart cities and the role of

ICT in facilitating seamless

connectivity and communi-

cation and had an outstand-

ing performance by Huawei

and it's a great initiative taken by Huawei for the

and vocational training proempower hundred thousand marginalized and exgrams to provide them better employment opportucluded youth across the nities within the country country, he said. and abroad, he said while talking to PTV news chanents to allow their children

ecutive Director National

Vocational and Technical

Training Commission (NAVTTC) Muhammad

Aamir Jan Thursday said

that the Prime Minister's

Youth skilled program is

key pillar to empower them

with the necessary tools and

innovative skills, which will

Caretaker government

growth globally.

take up vocational skills Amir Jan explained the pending when academic acprogram that over 4.5 miltivities resumes, adding, lion people in the country media should play pro-acentered the labor stream tive role to aware people at every year with only 1.5 the grass-root to encourage vocational education trainpeople having proper skills. He said the objective ing programs.

of the programme was to provide skilled training to human resource was essen-56,000 people all across the tial for running industrial country and mentioned that units constantly



**ISLAMABAD: Managing Director Associated** Press of Pakistan, Muhammad Asim Khichi along with Christian employees cutting cake in connection with Christmas celebrations.

## **Religious Ministry to** provide Abaya to women pilgrims this year

ISLAMABAD (APP): the Ministry. He dis-Minister of Religious Af-fairs and Interfaith Har-mony, Aneeq Ahmed has said that this year women pilgrims will be given Abaya by the Ministry that will have Pakistan's flag embossed on it. He expressed these

views while addressing the closing ceremony of the Hajj Master Trainers training program for women organized by the Dawah Center for Women of the International Islamic University (IIUI). Federal Minister Aneeq Ahmed

said on the occasion, that Hajj is a journey from one-self to God. He said women pro-

tect religious values and transfer religion to future generations. He further said that the role of women as mothers and sisters in Islamic society is vital. He said trainers of In-

ternational Islamic University's Dawah Center for Women will be utilized in training programs for Hajj to be organized by

and women in society. Federal Minister for Religious Affairs said that it is our responsibility to pass on religion to our generations. Addressing the participants, Aneeq Ahmed said that there is a need to strengthen the relationship with Allah and Prophet (PBUH).

He said there is a need to form a society in the light of religious principles. He said that the Ministry and the University will jointly work for Hajj train-

On this occasion, the Rector of IIUI, Prof. Dr. Samina Malik said that the services of the Ministry and Dawah Center for Women for the Hajj training program are commendab

She said that the representation of women from every corner of the country made this program a success

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of CPEC's progress, the ISLAMABAD (Online): will not be allotted to you contributions of all stakein this situation. You will holders, and perspectives not be able to take part in on Pak-China relations.

EC authorities said tended by representatives from Chinese ICT sector ANP has sought adjourncompanies including China ment in connection with Mobile Pakistan (CM Pak) Zong, Huawei, Sunwalk, Hikvision, Heroboss, 01, 2024. Carlcare Services, ZTE Pa-Counsel for ANP

said constitution says the slots will be for four tinue to work in the event of the polls.

It remained confusion in six months if the election are taking place or oth-

The CEC said the way you are talking means the election is not needed. What is it that election will be held or not. What is its concern with your party CEC said why the in- election. Commission has

vears



ISLAMABAD: Senator Seemee Ezdi, Chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.

economy.

effect on Pakistan's ecoyouth. Sunwalk mentioned nomic landscape. Executive Director their achievement on fiber Infodor shared Infodor's Huawei outlined its network delivery and planperspective as a media enning and importance of significant contributions to the development of 5G intity, emphasizing the imconnection for digital portance of transparent refrastructure in Pakistan,

in enhancing the public's understanding of CPEC and Pak-China relations. hancing connectivity be-He highlighted the tween the two nations. They included the technical details, deploy-ment timelines, and the specific coverages, chal-lenges faced and various strategies employed to disbroader societal benefits of seminate accurate informa-Huawei involvement in ad-CM Pak presented its vancing digital connectivity