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By 5-1 majority SC suspends verdict of nullifying civilians' trial in army courts

Verdict allows military trial of civilians held in connection with May 9 riots; Justice Hilali differs with majority decision

courts case.

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court (SC) on Wednesday conditionally suspended its verdict dated October 23, in which it had nullified the trial of civilian accused in the army courts. The Supreme Court

allowed the trial of civilians to continue in military courts, but the final decision regarding the trial would be subject to the judgment of the apex court.

The court said that the trial of 103 civilians accused of May 9 riots would continue in army courts but the final judgments wouldn't be issued till the decision of the top court. A six-member larger

bench of the top court, headed by Justice Sardar Tariq Masood and comprising Justice Amin ud Din Khan, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Musarrat Hilali and Justice Sadaat Irfan Khan heard the intra-court appeals against the verdict in army

The decision was suspended by a majority of 5-1, as Justice Musarrat Hilali dissented from it. During the course of proceedings, Justice Sardar Tariq Masood remarked that those who martyred the military men would not be tried now because the law has been repealed. He questioned that under which law the trial of these civilians who killed 23 soldiers yesterday, be done now.

He further said that after the repeal of Section 2 (1) D, where would the trial of terrorists be held.

Salman Akram Raja Advocate said that he would give arguments if he was allowed.

lawyer Khawaja Haris argued that the judgment dated 23th October didn't mention

Defence Ministry's

that under which Articles of the Constitutions, the provisions of Army Act were declared unconstitutional. He said that in the case of Brig (reted) F.B Ali, the Army Act's sections were upheld. A 17-member full court bench had also declared the judgments as correct during hearing a case pertaining to the 21st Amendment. The lawyer said that the top court had previously ruled that the trial of civilian ac-

cused could be held in an army court if the crime pertained to the military

PESHAWAR (APP): Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Wednesday said a vibrant and reinvigorated democratic process was the sole option to put the

country's economy on a path of development and progress Addressing a lawyers'

convention, he said that under the democratic system, Pakistan could get rid of current challenging circumstances, adding the lawyer fraternity always played a vital role for the supremacy of law and struggle for democratic process

He said that the leader of the people and the then Prime Minister of Pakistan Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto had to face the consequences of flawed judicial process. He said : "I am grate-

Bhutto. Bilawal said that the PPP was a staunch supporter of the strong judicial system in the country, free from any influence or pressure. Criticizing previous

PTI's governments in the provinces and the centre, the PPP chairman said that PTI promises of jobs and houses remained unfulfilled and people were forced to face the high inflation and price-hike. He said that during

PTI's government the minimum wage was not implemented, the problem electricity bills, of loadshedding increased manifold, the infrastructure was damaged from Sindh to KP due to flash floods

ful for the struggle that the He said that no incenlawyers have started to get tive was given to attract their own houses.

people Zulfiqar Ali country and instead of resolving the problems of the masses, the leadership of other political parties

was detained in jails. Bilawal said PPP has a history of serving the masses, providing relief to common man and taking incentives for the welfare of the people and the coun-

He said lot of people had been benefitting from Benazir Income Support Program and now Benazin Sahulat Program in Sindh was facilitating the labor ers, adding this facility would be extended to the rest of the country in fu-

He said that two million houses were being built for poor people in Sindh and soon people living on roads and in slums would become owners of

PM says terrorists already lost war; reiterates unyielding "no surrender, no retreat" policy

DERA ISMAIL KHAN viction of the soldiers who that terrorists had already lost the war, emphasizing the nation's unwavering resilience against this scourge and preparedness to deliver a fitting response to terror-

"I want to tell the per-

ism.

(APP): Caretaker Prime were resolved to fight the Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq terrorists even while being Kakar said on Wednesday injured. He said those sup-

porting the war against terrorism would stand victorious in the world as well as the life hereafter but contrarily, the terrorists had not only destroyed their lives but would also rot in hell after their death.

petrators that you have al-ready lost the war. Only the The prime minister told the media that the declaration is yet to be made and the time is vet to be Ulema stood with the state, finalised. They are fighting peace and the whole societv. "With whom they are a lost war and we are fighting a war already won by us, Alhamdulillah," he said fighting? Do they want to frighten us with death? No talking to the media at the Combined Military Hospione will be scared. They should fulfill the desire to tal after inquiring about the health of the soldiers infight us for any desired duration," he remarked.

jured in a terrorist attack He said the state was that took place on Tuesday. pursuing an unyielding He said he was amazed policy of no surrender and to witness the strong conno retreat.

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar inquiring about the health of those injured in the Dera Ismail Khan blast during his visit of CMH Dera Ismail Khan.

Federal cabinet approves country's first-ever "National Space Policy"

No possibility of change, extension in ECP's announced polls date: Solangi

federal cabinet has ap-

policy establishes the

framework for utilizing

Low Earth Orbit (LEO)

Communication Satellites.

lows private companies to

offer services to consumers

in Pakistan, marking a sig-

country's space program,

lighted that this develop-

ment signifies a crucial mo-

The minister high-

he added.

This authorization al-



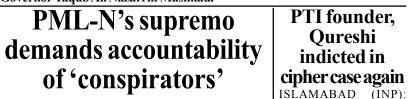
MASHHAD: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori meeting with Khorasan Governor Yaqub Ali Nazari in Mashhad.

Fund

etary

programme.

never heal."





presides over a follow up meeting for beautification of Shahrah-e-Faisal and development of Chaukundi Graveyard, held at CM House in Karachi.

Bilawal for reinvigorated democratic process to ensure country's development & progress

Calls for national unity to wipe out terrorism from country

justice for the leader of the new investment in the

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz supremo and three-time prime minister Nawaz Sharif on Wednesday said he did not believe in revenge but those 'conspiring' against his government must be held accountable.

Addressing the PML-N Parliamentary body meeting, Nawaz Sharif thanked Allah after his acquittal in the Al-Azizia and Âvenfield reference.

Nawaz Sharif said cases against him were registered after the end of his government and his removal as prime minister. There was no proof of the allegations leveled against me, Sharif said. The former prime minister regretted, that he was removed as prime minister on 'Iqama' in Panama case in the end.

ing words like Sicilian Mafia and Godfather were used

During Panama hearagainst me, Nawaz Sharif both references

SUKKUR: Peoples Party (PPP) Senior Leader, Khursheed Ahmed Shah addresses to media persons during press conference held in Sukkur.

Pakistan, Turkey vow to boost collaboration in aviation industry

of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air

Force, shared the frame-

work of PAF's comprehen-

sive modernization strategy

involving integration of

emerging technologies, bol-

stering critical infrastruc-

ture and a comprehensive

restructuring of its training

challenges.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Combat Commander Turkish Air Force, General Ìsmail Güneykaya, called on Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu here on Wednesday.

The meeting underset-up, in order to address scored several key areas of mutual interest with a special focus on bilateral training, progress of current joint ventures and exploration of further avenues of collaboration in the aviation industry, a Pakistan Air Force (PAF) news release said.

During the meeting Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief Force in Exercise.

Special court on Wednessaid and asked do judges use day against indicted former these words? The PML-N supremo

prime minister Imran Khan and PTI vice-chairman stressed that vendetta wasn't his goal; however, Shah Mehmood Qureshi in the individuals responsible cipher case. for the nation's sufferings

The special court Judge Abual Hasnat should be held answerable. Everyone should know who part of the con-Zulgarnain heard the case against Imran and Qureshi. This was the second time that the PTI leaders were spiracy was, Nawaz said and added that they had been targeted for getting rid indicted.

During the hearing, both PTI leaders pleaded not guilty and said the inof the International Mon-(IMF)Elder Sharif said he and dictment was 'fabricated' Maryam were incarcerated They also stated that the in 'fake cases', while his indictment was 'illegal' and they would challenge it in a wife Kalsoom Begum died in London battling with court of law. Prosecutor cancer. "These wounds will Rizwan Abbasi informed the court that the state-

It is worth mentioning ments of the witnesses will here that Nawaz Sharif was be recorded on Thursday. convicted by the account-The court then issued ability court in the a notice to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and adjourned the hearing Avenfield and Al-Azizia references, however, retill today (December 14). cently he was acquitted in

ity of Pakistan. Naval Chief hails PMSA for effective law enforcement

at sea SLAMABAD (APP) Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf on Wednesday visited the Headquarters of Pakistan Maritime Security Agency and appreciated for it's effective law enforcement at sea.

Friendship Park.

present.

Upon arrival, the Naval Chief was pre-sented Guard of Honour by the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) contingent, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

The Admiral was briefed on Maritime Security Operations, carried out by Pakistan Maritime Security Agency to uphold regulations and rule-based order at sea and safeguard the maritime interests of the country.

contemporary air warfare The Chief of the Naval Staff expressed The Air Chief highlighted that both the brothhis satisfaction over the law enforcement funcerly countries enjoy longtions being undertaken by PMSA and comstanding religious and historic ties which are manifested through unprecmended the collective edented strategic partner efforts of all in fulfilling ship. Appreciating the parthe National and Interticipation of Turkish Air national obligations in the maritime domain.

PESHAWAR: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addressing to Peshawar High Court Bar Association, in Peshawar.

China always played key role in development, stability of Pakistan: Mayor Karachi

Mayor Karachi along KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza with Consul General of Wahab Wednesday said the China officially inaugu-People's Republic of China rated the open air gym in always played a key role in Pak China Friendship the development and stabil-Park while on this occa-He said this while ad-

sion cake was also cut regarding Pak China frienddressing the opening cership. The MoU for coopemony of the open-air gym established with the cooperation between Chinese eration of China at the Pa-Consulate and KMC was kistan-China Friendship signed by Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab

Park on Kashmir Road. He said that the and the Consul General people of Karachi express their gratitude to the Chi-Yang Yundong. He appreciated KMC on the estabnese government for the eslishment of Pakistan China Friendship Park. tablishment and provision of modern facilities for the Such initiatives are bringcitizens at the Pak-China ing the two countries closer, cooperation be-On this occasion, tween Pakistan and China.

China's Consul General is already ongoing in Yang Yundong, People's Party District Central many fields and various institutions have been es-General Secretary Dil tablished in Pakistan in Muhammad, Director this regard. Yundong said that the General Parks and Horti-

culture Junaidullah Khan, citizens of Karachi will get Deputy Commissioner better facilities in their East Altaf Sheikh and daily life, the Chinese govheads of various departernment will continue to coments of KMC were also operate with KMC in this regard.



Wahab and Consul General of China Mr. Yang Yundong exchanging the documents after signing MoU between KMC and Chinese Consulate.

President promulgates ordinance to declare

power theft a

cognizable offence ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday promulgated an ordinance to declare the theft of electricity a cognizable offence.

Speaking at a press conference alongside the Caretaker Federal Minister Through the Criminal Law Amendment Ordifor Information and Broadnance 2023, the president casting Murtaza Solangi amended the Section 462 and the Caretaker Federal (O) of the Pakistan Penal Minister for Health, he ex-Code, 1860. plained that the approved

According to a President House statement, the electricity distribution companies were earlier facing difficulties in the registration of FIRs of power theft incidents.

However, under the new ordinance, the incidents of electricity theft will be a cognizable offence.

After the Ordinance, theft of electricity will be a cognizable offense on the complaint of not only by officers of grade 17 or above but also the nominees of CEOs of electricity distribution companies.

The president issued the Ordinance under Article 89-1 of the Constitution

The said ordinance will help curb power theft in the energy sector worth around Rs 590 billion.

Govt seeks Rs.1.72 per unit increase in

Karachi

electricity tariff ISLAMABAD (INP) Karachi residents could soon face another financial burden as the federal government has submitted a request to the National Electric Power Regulatory Au-thority (NEPRA) to increase electricity prices by PKR 1.72 per unit.

This increase, if ap-proved, would be applied retroactively to the second and third quarters of the previous fiscal year. Specifically, the government seeks an additional PKR 0.25 per unit for the January-March 2023 quarter and PKR 0.47 per unit for the October-December 2022 quarter. Sources indicate that the government's primary motivation for this price hike is to achieve a uniform electricity tariff across the country

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister hanced communication capabilities through advanced satellite technology. of Information Technology and Telecommunication

The approval of the National Space Policy is ex-pected to facilitate im-(MOITT) Dr. Umar Saif on Wednesday said that the proved telecommunications proved the country's first-ever "National Space Policy." services, fostering advancements in connectivity and information dissemination across the country.

He mentioned that the policy had been prepared in consultation with all stakeholders over three months, ensuring a balanced approach to facilitate private companies.

The minister disclosed that the federal cabinet has also approved the establishment of the National Cybercrime Investigation Authority (NCIA).

This agency is dedicated to investigating nificant milestone in the cybercrime, taking over the mandate that was previously with the FIA. The gradual transition of cybercrime investigation responsibilities from the ment for Pakistan's space FIA to the NCIA is program, as it enables en- planned.



KARACHI: Caretaker Sindh Information Minister, Ahmad Shah along with others addresses to media persons during press conference held at Sindh Ássembly building in Karachi.

Fazlur Rehman says JUI-F ready to form coalition govt with PML-N

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief of his own faction of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F), Maulana Fazlur Rehman has said that his party was ready to form a coalition government with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).

Talking to media per-sons on Wednesday, he said that JUI-F has not held talks with the Pakistan

People's Party (PPP) regarding seat adjustment and electoral alliance. Fazlur Maulana Rehman said that common

citizens and law enforcers were being martyred in Dera Ismail Khan, Tank and South Waziristan daily. The Bajaur incident death toll has reached 80, he added.

demanding the timely organisation of fair and free general elections despite the deteriorated law and order situation, said Fazl.

Fazlur Rehman said that Asif Ali Zardari raised objections to flaws in vote registration in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

The JUI-F was still

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Thursday December 14, 2023

OPINION

Daily **Independent**

Daily A oice of Masse Independent **Maintainability of ZAB** reference

At the outset of hearing of presidential reference seeking revisiting the PPP founder and former prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto (ZAB) murder case, a senior judge of the Supreme Court, Mr. Justice Mansoor Ali Shah has questioned the PPP counsel over the maintainability of the reference. SC's senior judge Justice Syed Masoor observed that matter pertaining to trial of ZAB had attained finality as a review petition had been dismissed earlier, so how can the apex court re-open the case that has already been concluded. It may be mentioned here that a nine-member bench of the apex court headed by CJP Justice Qazi Faez Isa heard the presidential reference seeking revisiting the ZAB murder case.

The apex court heard the attorney general and PPP counsel Farooq H Naek, and adjourned the hearing till second week of January, 2024. The court also appointed amicus curiae (friends of court) having expertise on criminal and constitutional fields for its assistance in the presidential reference. The proceedings were broadcasted live at the Supreme Court website. The CJP, while dictating the order of the court proceedings, noted that the application of Naek had become infructuous as the SC committee has already decided in that regard.

Justice Syed Mansoor observed that matter pertaining to trial of ZAB had already attained finality as a review petition had also been dismissed; therefore, the apex court had no jurisdiction to hear a second review petition. The judge asked Naek as to what decision the court could give, and asked him to assist the court on the question of maintainability. Meanwhile, the court after the hearing the matter, dictating its order and noted that Attorney General Mansoor Usman read out the presidential reference as well as the order of the court given on April 21, 2011, containing the questions to be addressed. The court noted down in its order that the reference was filed in 2011 and the last hearing was held in 2012.

It noted that in the same order a number of amicus curies who were appointed among them some have passed away while some are alive. Ali Ahmed Kurd advocate, who was also among those amicus curies has consented to assist the court, while Makhdom Ali Khan is also willing to do so as well, the order noted, adding that the court consider to appoint constitutional experts, particularly on the scope of Article 186 whereby the presidential reference was filed, and the question of maintainabil ity of the reference. The order noted that it needed wisdom of criminal experts, so name of Justice (retd) Manzooi Ahmed Malik was proposed, and the parties supported it. Accordingly, subject to his assent, he is appointed as amicus curiae and he may submit a concise statement in this regard, the court noted and also appointed Khwaja Haris as amicus curiae. Haris was the Punjab advocate general when the case was earlier heard by the Supreme Court. The court also appointed Salman Safdar as amicus curiae on criminal side as well as Faisal Siddigui advocate on constitutional side to assist it. Farooq Naek raised objections on the two lawyers.

The court, however, turned down the objections and held that it was its prerogative to appoint amicus curiae. The court also appointed Raza Rabani as amicus curiae on constitutional side besides appointing also former AG Khalid Javed Khan, Salahuddin Ahmed, Barrister Zahid Ibrahim and Yasir Ourashi as amicus curiae on constitutional side. Barrister Aitzaz Ahsan, however, refused to assist the court as amicus curiae



Mahir Ali

We live in a world where they say we communicate more, but the world stayed silent when slave trade to parents from Barbados was making money/ The and Jamaica, he had a diffiworld stayed silent when cult birth and health issues the Nazis started to kill pursued him into adulttrade unionists, people hood. Severe dyslexia led with disabilities, homohim to drop out of school left-handed sexuals. people and Jews/ And now in his early teens, and enter a life of petty crime that in the age of the global vilin one instance involved lage and mass communialmost being beaten to cations the world is staydeath at a police station. ing silent when Palestin-By his late teens, Zephaniah realised that an ians are being annihilated.

The outstanding British poet, novelist, broadcaster, actor and agitator Benjamin Zephaniah wrote those words several years ago but, like much of his verse, they remain polack of further education. tently relevant. And alive. That was not unrelated to Unlike, depressingly, the the fact that he had repoet himself, who died last solved at the age of eight week at the age of 65 just to go vegan, and to earn two weeks after being dihis living as a poet. His agnosed with a brain tureading woes as a dyslexic mour. To paraphrase his did not interfere with his favourite Dylan Thomas poem, he went gently into determination to express himself the good night after a life-

time spent raging against that appealed to those the dying of the light.

"When I was young," he once noted, there were two things I people ignore most poreally wanted to see: a free South Africa and a free Palestine." That wish remained only half-fulfilled. In the former instance, his contribution was recognised by none other directly to his burgeonthan Nelson Mandela. In 1982, the first single The Wailers recorded after Bob Marley's death was 'Free South Africa', with Zephaniah on vocals. Mandela heard it on prisoners. Robben Island and, a de-

cade later, sought out Zephaniah on his first visit to Britain, requesting him ost a 1996 concert in our of Mandela. There was no compato host a 1996 concert in honour of Mandela.

the

suggested

rable progress on the Pal- fairs. He lapped up the estinian front. Zephaniah adoration of the literary first visited the occupied establishment and was territories in 1990, and the willing to assist the Britartistic consequence was ish Council in disseminata travelogue interspersed ing the gospel of British with poetry, Rasta Time in multiculturalism, but drew the line at kowtowing to Palestine. Over the decades, his passion for the the political establishment. Being offered incause never wavered. Hardly any obituary has duction into the Order of acknowledged that he was the British Empire in 2003 a patron of Britain's Paleswas a recipe for indignatinian Solidarity Campaign. tion. Born in Birmingham

As he wrote in The Guardian, "I woke up on the morning of November 13 wondering how the government could be overthrown and what could replace it", when he saw a letter from the prime minister's office. He went on: "Me? I thought, OBE me? [----], I thought. I get angry when I hear that word 'empire'; it reminds me of thousands of years early death beckoned unof brutality, it reminds me less he escaped his milieu, of how my foremothers were raped and my foreso he went to London and joined a different kind of fathers brutalised ... Benjamin Zephaniah OBE gang — of poets and artists. He thrived, despite his no way Mr Blair, no way Mrs Queen. I am proabbreviated schooling and

foundly anti-empire. Unlike the Palestinian poet Refaat Alareer whom Abbas Nasir eloquently eulogised in his weekend column - Benjamin Obadiah Iqbal Zephaniah was not assassinated by an empire or its agents. He leaves behind a treasure trove of books and music or spoken

who disdained poetry word albums that will be mainly attributed to dead cherished for generations to come. But his living white males. "Most voice — with its endearing lisp and Caribbeanetry because most people ignores most people," as flavoured Brummie tones the late poet Adrian - and his limitless com-Mitchell put it. Zephaniah did not follow passion for the oppressed all across the world will be that trajectory. He spoke sorely missed.

He did so in ways

Alongside a bunch ing audiences, with little of talented contemporarpatience for abstracies and predecessors, he tions, allusions or comliberated poetry from the page and brought it to the people. "I think poetry plicated imagery. Whatever he wanted to say, he should be alive," he once said it straight, taking no said, "you should be able Early adulthood in to dance to it" - echo-Thatcherite Britain meant ing Emma Goldman's

there was no dearth of do- century-old opinion: "It's

Commerce News

Adeel Wahid Arrests; rearrests; denial

of bails; surfacing of new FIRs once bail is granted; trials behind closed doors with the die already cast. None of this is new, or even exclusive to Pa-

system remains intact: the robed honourable judges still show up in court. Lawyers still get to make a few noises, smug in their delusion that their word may carry the day.

has been an overwhelming attrition of faith in the courts. The bulk of the blame has been put on the judiciary, that the judges, with the prefix 'honourable', were sup-posed to be the custodians of the people's rights. That they were to intervene, ensure protection, and stand between the wrath of the state and the people.

Such a huge ask from the judiciary was never realistic, and not even fair. First, the past has been one where precedents of capitulation exist in huge numbers, making it the norm, rather than an aberration. Second, judges, just like ourselves, are mere mortals, driven by ambitions, desires and fears. Only one of these things needs to be capitalised on. Third, and importantly, judges come from within the society they live in, and are ideas and ideals percolating in it.

And it is not only about the judges. In fact, the law — its promulgation, interpretation and enforcement — remains contingent on the beliefs, ideas and narratives that ones they manufactured Dawn

Impotence of law

law in a particular soci- power are going to ety can bear just as much abuse it unchallenged. burden or strain as the popular, prevalent ideas in that society allow it to bear. Especially so, in the context where expectations from the law and those who dabble in it such as legislators, judges and the executive

- is to serve as a protective mechanism both from the state itself, and all those, including private segments, who wield disproportionate power.

domestic violence — an example from our ordinary lives, and not from politics. Laws may be in the books, police in the our everyday practices, field (when not lined up to provide protocol to office holders), and the our homes, in our everyhonourables in the day conversations and courts. Yet, because of our thoughts. Have we, the idea of privacy of a in our everyday lives, alhousehold, that whatever happens in a home spouses, our colleagues, belongs in the private domain, the forceful subjugation of women has continued unabated. Despite the their family background, law's existence and de- caste, and class? Have spite the existence of the machinery of the ment where our children law, instances of domes-

Similarly, the Constitution says glorious express them, despite things about fundamental freedoms. You and I, by virtue of being persons and citizens, are free to associate; free to assemble; free to think and say as we please. But then, not really. Free speech is a value we have failed to engender things that are then not divorced from the in our society. Muzzling voices at home, in schools and in universities, produces very few mavericks, and many, far

Gohar Ejaz and the

esteemed Mayor of

avenues for enhanced

economic and trade ties,

commitment to building

stronger bilateral relations.

international cooperation,

the Commerce Minister

engaged in a highly

In a significant stride

Suzhou

Government,

Qingwen

underlining

towards

Municipal

explored

fostering

Ŵu

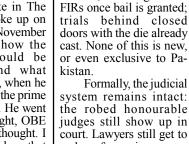
their

too many, conformists. And when those who can come after po- absence of ideals in our litical parties — even the society.

have traction in society — and put political ac-at large. One way to think tors behind bars, we, the about the law is that it stunted of society, pasremains strongly teth- sively accept it. We know ered to the mainstream no other way. For our ennotions of the populace. tire lives we have seen Put differently, the that those with relative This happens at all levels — in our villages, in the cities, in the panchayats, and in corporate boardrooms. Without the right ideals, it is hard to prop up the

law Therefore, it is not sufficient to accuse and blame the law, that it has not been promulgated right, that only if the text said something else. And it is not enough to blame robed, the the Take the example of honourables, the mere flesh and bones, with pretensions of being saviours. In fact, we have to look deeper into into the things we are taught at school and in lowed people such as our our friends and our fellow citizens, to flourish? Have we given people respect irrespective of we produced an environcan experiment with nontic violence are rampant. conventional thoughts, and, at least, harbour and our convictions of them being wrong?

Why then put the burden on the law, an artificial construct, when our lived experiences are a continuous testament and reflection of exactly the projected broadly in society? Yes, the law's impotence has to do with the deficiencies in our governance and judicial structures. But it has more do with the -- Courtesy



Nonetheless, there

Pakistan needs significant transformation in insurance industry: Dr. Shamshad

ISLAMABAD (APP): businesses, said a press Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, and SECP. strategic plan will set the SECP. strategic plan will set the tone for future policy, legal, and regulatory landscapes. Economic Affairs, Dr Shamshad Akhtar said Pakistan needs significant transformation in the number of industry insurance industry to address its fundamental challenges while catching up with global trends to present maximize the value proposition of this industry

While addressing a two-day International Insure Impact Conference 2023, organized by the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan customers' expectations, insurance industry to sustainable practices. recognize that the risks demanding adequate coverage for people and

The Minister also Incorporating gave a keynote address at the session, where a large recommendation of the insurance industry reform committee would be a step experts, professionals, and in the right direction. officials from the insurance She focusing on mainstreaming and financial sectors were

global best practices, Dr Shamshad said reducing the cost of doing that Pakistan needs to track business, digitizing the and embrace emerging operations, and making trends in the insurance effective use of technology sector adding that the generally SECP Chairman Akif global insurance industry

Saeed, in his welcome is undergoing technological advancements, evolving customers' expectations, address, informed the participants about SECP's (SECP), she asked the and a pressing need for determination to work closely with industry advised stakeholders to align a are growing, both concentrating on lifting the strategic vision, propel globally and nationally, low penetration ratio of the economic growth, and cater economic growth, and cater to rising community insurance industry. She aspirations.

> Shipping activity at Port Qasim (APP): KARACHI Shipping activity reported at the Port where five ships namely, MSC Mundra-VIII, MSC Jemima, New Asoura, Gaschem Warnow and Al-Deebal scheduled to load/ Container. offload Cement, Chemicals and LNG, berthed at Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose

Terminal, Engro Terminal and Elengy Terminal respectively on Tuesday. Meanwhile three more ships, Nadeen, Dolphin 02 and TCLC Luzhou also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port Oasim on same day to Qasim on same day to load/offload Rice, Chemicals and Coal

Respectively. A total of ten ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships, Container vessel MSC Mundra VIII and bulk cargo carrier DSI Drammen left the port on today morning and three more ships, Gaschem Warnow, Basrah and Marlin Hera are expected to sail on today afternoon.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Energy and Power Muhammad Ali called on President Dr. Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

OICCI takes lead in shaping private sector climate action at COP28

ISLAMABAD (APP): private capital for The Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI) demonstrated its commitment to driving

meaningful climate action at COP28 by hosting a pivotal high-level dialogue in collaboration with the Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC).

Nestled within the exclusive Blue Zone of the Pakistan pavilion in Expo City Dubai, the dialogue, themed 'Decarbonization and the Role of the Private Sector', tackled pressing Nassar, Lead issues such as mobilizing Decarbonization;

China

achieving Net Zero carbon emissions, evaluating carbon market efficacy, and fortifying public-private partnerships. The distinguished

panel comprised experts from various sectors, such as Dr. Karen Olsen, Carbon Market Advisor, United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), Dr. Charles Ehrhart, Global

Head Climate Risk, The Resilience; Adaptation, KPMG for International, Dr. Anis Lead

fertilizers to farmers

Director of Agriculture (Extension), Agrochemicals, FFC, Agritech.

productive meeting with the esteemed Mayor of Suzhou Circularity, Economic Forum (WEF) Fiona Duggan, Global

Sustainability Senior Manager for Climate Advocacy, Unilever, Lina Osman, Regional Head of Sustainable Finance West, Standard Chartered Bank, and Angelo Sartori Director Regional Engagement, Verra, said a news release received here on Wednesday.

panel underscored the urgency businesses to decarbonize supply chains, emphasizing affordable levers such as circularity.

two sectors. is often referred to as the backbone of its economy and employs 40-45% of its total labour force. During the meeting, Zhang mentioned that the textile and garment industry chains of China and Pakistan are highly

Gohar, Wu Qingwen explores avenues for enhances trade ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): release issued here. Commerce Minister Dr.

The meeting witnessed an exchange of ideas and discussions on the immense potential for collaboration between Pakistan and Suzhou.

The discussions were inspired by the #BRIMeeting, resonating with the Belt and Road Initiative's vision for connectivity and collaboration.

As both nations look leverage momentum, the focus remains on identifying and capitalizing on new Municipal opportunities for trade and Government, said a press economic growth.



SIALKOT: Secretary Industry and Commerce Punjab Ehsan Bhatta visits and addressing Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

China, Pakistan to tap new cooperation in textile industry

BEIJING (APP): The Vice complementary, and the two President of China countries have great potential Chamber of Commerce for for cooperation in the cotton Import and Export of industry and trade, China Textiles (CCCT) Zhang Economic Net (CEN) Xinmin held talks with reported on Wednesday. "At Minister for Commerce present, the global supply and Industry, Dr Gohar chain pattern is undergoing Ejaz here. They discussed significant changes. China and China-Pakistan textile and Pakistan can seize this garment investment and opportunity to collaborate trade, the development of on organizing professional Pakistan's textile industry, textile and garment exhibitions, trade and and the promotion of cooperation between the investment forums, business matchmaking activities, and Pakistan's textile sector entrepreneurial delegation

exchanges," added Zhang. Gohar Ejaz stated that the textile industry accounts for over 60% of Pakistan's total exports and holds great significance for the country's economic development.



She

LAHORE: People of Christen Community are buying different decorating stuff from shop during the celebrations of Christmas.

PPIB announces financial close of mega Thar coal power project

ISLAMABAD (Online): Private Power and Infrastructure Board (PPIB) today announced Financial Closing of country's largest Thar coalfired Power Project by M/s Shanghai Electric Corporation, China. The signing ceremony was held in the office of PPIB which was graced by Mr. Shah Jahan Mirza, Managing Director, PPIB, Mr. Meng Donghai, Chief Executive of the Project Company i.e.

Thar Coal Block-1 Power Generation Company and Mr. Zhou Bo, Chief Executive Officer of Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), Karachi Branch. Other highlevel officials of PPIB and Project Company Sponsors were also present.

Having the generation capacity of 1320 MW, Shanghai project has been implemented under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Consul General of Turkiye visits **PCJCCI** Secretariat

Partner,

LAHORE (APP): Consul PCJCCI President General of the Republic of Moazzam Ghurki said that Turkiye Durmus Bastug Pakistan, Turkiye and China are three brotherly visited Pakistan-China Joint Chambers of countries and they could Commerce and Industry to complement each other's discuss trilateral relations economy in many fields, among Turkiye, Pakistan therefore, they should and China, here at PCJCCI focus on promoting trade Secretariat on Wednesday. and economic ties to

achieve mutually beneficial The meeting was attended by the executive outcomes. He added that committee members of Pakistan has gained market PCJCCI and many top access in traditional notch business leaders sectors such as leather, rice, from both Pakistan and dates, mangoes, cutlery, and sports goods

Commissioner for providing at fixed rates SARGODHA (APP):

Commissioner Sargodha Muhammad Ajmal Bhatti has issued instructions to deputy commissioners to meet the demand of fertilizer at fixed rates across the division. The commissioner chaired a meeting in which steps taken to provide fertilizers at fixed rates to farmers were reviewed. Deputy Commissioners,

ndependent

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National News

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CM Naqvi visits civil hospital, reviews various development projects in Sialkot

SIALKOT Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi paid a detailed visit to Government Sardar Begum Civil Hospital Sialkot and Allama İqbal Medical Teaching Hospital here on Wednesday and also reviewed various development projects. The chief minister

came to know during the visit that Sardar Begum Hospital lacked medical facilities; beds were damaged and walls were dilapidating. Due to the sewerage passing through the hospital, there was a smell of sewerage water everywhere and students classrooms were in poor condition.

The attendants of the patients were forced to sit on the floor. Taking notice

of the situation, Mohsin deputy commissioner to announced solve them. The chief Naqvi upgradation and redesign of the hospital and said Sardar Begum Civil Teaching Hospital and Hospital would be reviewed progress on upgraded soon. It would upgradation project of the cost Rs 210 million, and 21,000 square feet area of ongoing construction the hospital would be activities in the hospital and upgraded.

CM Mohsin Naqvi visited various wards, met patients and inquired about the treatment facilities in hospital. He inspected the cent of upgradation work basement, ground and first floor and expressed his displeasure over the bad condition of classrooms. The CM listened to problems of

and gave instructions to the second phase.



Iqbal Teaching Hospital.

Govt. spending hefty amount on health sector to benefit people: Governor

PESHAWAR Governor **K**hyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ghulam Ali Wednesday said the government was spending a hefty amount to improve the healthcare system for the facilitation

and benefit of the masses. He was addressing the convocation of Rehman Medical College as a Chief Guest. The ceremony was also attended by Caretaker Health Minister, Qasim Jan,

(APP): Dr Zia-ul-Haq, Chairman doctors is of supreme Khyber RMI, Dr Muhammad importance for patients Haji Rehman, faculty members, and their recovery. and students. He said that a maximum portion of the he budget was being spent on health as the government

must ensure the provision of health facilities to people. children.

He advised doctors to more polite and cooperative and listen to the ordeal of their patients with patience. He also urged doctors to venture into the field of research and innovation for the benefit of patients. He also distributed degrees and commendation certificates among students and congratulated parents for the success of their

DC launches 5-day anti polio campaign

PESHAWAR (APP): Deputy Commissioner Culture and tourism authority (KPCTA), Tourism Department and Lakki Marwat Rehmat Ali alongside District Health Officer Dr. Abdu Gul and other health department Frontier Corps North officials, officially kicked jointly organized the 'Chitral off a five-day anti-polio Symposium" to emphasize campaign on Wednesday.

He started the campaign the importance of by administering anti-polio drops to a child here at DC promoting cultural heritage and the tourism potential of Chitral. office. The anti-polio drive will continue till December 18, and information Barrister which aims to vaccinate all children under the age of five. Syed Feroze Jamal Shah Kakahel, Chief Secretary Commissioner Deputy Rehmat Ali appealed to the Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry parents to ensure the and Inspector General administration.

Japan PM to

axe ministers

over fundraising

scandal

Monitoring Desk

TOKYO: Japanese Prime

Minister Fumio Kishida on

Wednesday announced he

would make changes to his

cabinet as he seeks to stem

the fallout from a

fundraising scandal that has further dented public sup-

port for his embattled ad-

press conference he would

make the changes on Thurs-

day, just three months af-

ter a previous cabinet over

fighting to rebuild the ways of the Liberal Democratic

Party to restore trust in

US intelligence

assesses Ukraine

war has cost

Russia 315,000

casualties

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: A declas-

sified U.S. intelligence report

assessed that the Ukraine

war has cost Russia 315,000

dead and injured troops, or

nearly 80 percent of the per-

sonnel it had when the con-

flict began, a source familiar

with the intelligence said on

Tuesday. The report also

assessed that Moscow's

losses in personnel and ar-

mored vehicles to Ukraine's

military have set back

Russia's military modern-

ization by 18 years.

The premier told a

"I will take the lead in

ministration.

haul

politics.

Minister emphasizes pivotal role of research in societal impact

LAHORE (APP): In a plant in the country compelling address at the Lahore Garrison University's two-dav conference on Frontiers in Biological Applied Sciences on Wednesday, Caretaker Punjab Health Minister Professor Dr. Javed Akram emphasized the pivotal role of research in societal impact.

He underscored the

Akram

importance of collaboration

between academia and

industry, particularly in

the vast field of biological

highlighted the urgency for

Pakistan to focus on

biotechnology, expressing

concern over the absence of

sciences

compared to China's 3,000 facilities. Propelled by the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi, Dr. Akram revealed plans to establish biotechnology parks in Pakistan

Anticipating Pakistan becoming the world's thirdlargest country in population within two decades, Dr. Akram emphasized the need for progress in gene editing and improving lab skills. He announced comprehensive screening program, making Thalassemia screening mandatory for every class 10 student across the a single biotechnology province.



HYDERABAD: Journalists of Hyderabad Press Club are gathered and wait for their turn to get their driving license during Computerized Driving License Camp at press club premises in Hyderabad.

Symposium held to promote the Tourism and Cultural heritage of Chitral

Tourism

Minister for tourism

PESHAWAR (Online): Wali Khan were the Chief The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa guest.

Secretary Tourism Mutahir Zaib, DG Tourism Barkatullah Marwat, GM planning and Marketing Ali Syed, GM Culture and Tourism Sajjad Hameed and Manager Events Haseena Shaukat also graced the event. Tourism and information Minister Feroz Jamal Shah Kakakhel, addressing the ceremony, emphasized the need to promote tourism. He stated that the event was arranged to showcase Frontier Corps North Noor the rich culture of Chitral.

LAHORE: Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi and Dr Arshad Muhammad are giving a briefing to the media about the performance of the department at Ombudsman office. **Minister for NMDs**

chairs steering committee meeting

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Newly Merged Districts, Industries, Commerce and Technical Education Dr. Aamir Abdullah chaired a meeting of the Special Steering Committee formed regarding Newly Merged Districts at Civil Secretariat here on Wednesday.

During the meeting, Industry, the committee reviewed Communications.

minister also visited Allama Iqbal Medical hospital. He inspected the said that the upgradation project of Allama Iqbal Teaching Hospital will would cost Rs. 700 million. He said that the 65 per

Emergency, ICU, at Allama Iqbal Teaching Gynecology, Lab and other Hospital had been wards. He also went to the completed.Naqvi said that 100,000 square feet area of e bad Hospital would be the revamped while the remaining 50,000 square feet area of the hospital elderly woman in hospital would be upgraded in the

Five SHOs

reshuffled in DI Khan DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Station House Officers (SHOs) of five police stations in Dera

İsmail Khan were reshuffled Wednesday. According to the

olice spokesman, District Police Officer Dera, Abdul Rauf Babar Qaisrani issued transfer and posting orders of five SHOs.

Two bodies found in **Ghazi Brotha** water channel ATTOCK (APP): Police

have found two bodies in the Ghazi Brotha water channel in an unrecognizable, mutilated condition on Wednesday.

According to Police, the Attock Saddar Police Station reported two dead bodies found in the Ghazi Brotha water channel in a mutilated condition within the limits of Attock.

LAHORE (APP): The against young doctors

agan strike. The Lahore High Court (LHC) petitioner's on Wednesday sought a reply from the Punjab counsel argued before the government and other court that the patients respondents on a petition

were facing problems due against young doctors' to continuous strike of the strike in government hospitals till December 18. young doctors in the government hospitals. He The court also sought submitted that the health reports from medical sector fell in compulsory service category and there

superintendents of the hospitals concerned in was no provision of strike. connection with the matter. He submitted that the Justice Ali Baqar doctors' strike was in Najafi heard the petition violation of various filed by a citizen, Zeeshan, and the court orders. violation of various laws International News

Governor lauded the position of RMI in the medical field and said that the medical profession is being given due respect by society and doctors must Health Advisor, Dr Riaz Anwar, Vice Chancellor Khyber Medical University,

LHC seeks reply from govt, others on plea against doctors' strike

Nations reach deal at **COP28** to transition away from fossil fuels

progress on various tasks

assigned to relevant

departments by the Special

Task Force and Steering

Committee in previous

decisions. Additional Chief

Secretary Planning and

Development Department

Syed Imtiaz Hussain Shah,

officers of the Pakistan

Army, secretaries of the

Department of Health,

Irrigation

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: Representatives from nearly 200 countries agreed at the COP28 climate summit on Wednesday to begin reducing global consumption of fossil fuels to avert the worst of climate change, a first-ofits-kind deal signaling the eventual end of the oil age.

The deal struck in Dubai after two weeks of hard-fought negotiations was meant to send a powerful signal to investors and policy-makers that the world is united in its desire to break with fossil fuels, something scientists say is the last best hope tion away from fossil fu-

to stave off climate catas- els," said Norway Ministrophe. COP28 President ter of Foreign Affairs Espen Barth Eide.

Sultan Al Jaber called the More than 100 coundeal "historic" but added tries had lobbied hard for that its true success would strong language in the be in its implementation. COP28 agreement to 'We are what we do, not "phase out" oil, gas and what we say," he told the coal use, but came up crowded plenary at the against powerful opposi-summit. "We must take tion from the Saud tion from the Saudi the steps necessary to Arabia-led oil producer turn this agreement into group OPEC, which artangible actions." Several gued that the world can countries cheered the deal slash emissions without for accomplishing someshunning specific fuels.

thing elusive in decades of That battle pushed climate talks. "It is the the summit a full day into first time that the world overtime on Wednesday, unites around such a clear and had some observers text on the need to transiworried the negotiations would end at an impasse.

Indian SC's

disputed territory on

Council's agenda for

the last over seven de-

cades. According to

Kashmir Media Service,

the political experts

and analysts in their

interviews and state-

UN Security

after that.

verdict cannot change India's status as occupier in J&K SRINAGAR (INP): Political experts and analysts based in Srinagar have said that Jammu and Kashmir is not Mahsa Amini's representative, Iranian lawyer India's internal matter but has been an internationally-recognized

Saleh Nikbakht, European Parliament President Roberta Metsola, Afsoon Najafi and Mersedeh Shahinkar from the "Women, Life, Freedom" movement in Iran pose during the 2023 European Parliament's Sakharov Prize ceremony at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, eastern France.

Hunger rises in Gaza as UN prepares to vote on ceasefire resolution

Monitoring Desk CAIRO: Hunger was worsening among Palestinians in the besieged Gaza strip, aid agencies said, as the United Nations General Assembly prepared to vote on Tuesday on an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in the two-month-old conflict between Israel and Hamas.

Hundreds more civilians have died in Israel's assault on Gaza since the body responsible for Pal-U.S. on Friday vetoed a

calling for a ceasefire. Most of Gaza's 2.3 million people have been driven from their homes and residents say it is impossible to find refuge or food in the densely populated coastal enclave. The U.N. World Food Programme has said half of the population is starving.

apex court has no right "Hunger stalks everyto decide the legal staone," UNRWA, the U.N. tus of the internationally-recognized disestinian refugees, said on X. puted territory



HANOI: President Xi Jinping and Nguyen Phu Trong, Vietnam Communist Party's General Secretary, attend a welcome ceremony at the Presidential Palace.

Biden backs Ukraine, warns against allowing Putin to win

Monitoring Desk where will be emboldened.' WASHINGTON: Presi-

Zelensky, who spent the morning talking to Redent Joe Biden told Presipublicans and Democrats dent Volodymyr Zelensky on Tuesday that the United in Congress, signaled cautious optimism that the stalled US aid flow will re-States will not abandon Ukraine in its desperate fight against Russia, even as start. "I got the signals. Republicans signaled oppo-They were more than posisition to extending US war tive. But we know that we funding. Standing alongside have to separate words and particular results. Therefore the Ukrainian leader at a White House press conferwe will count on particular ence, Biden vowed: "I will results," Zelensky said. not walk away from But the united front Ukraine and neither will the at the White House con-

American people." trasted with growing divi-And he said that alsion up on Capitol Hill, lowing a Ukrainian defeat where leading Republicans would mean Russian Presiare insisting that renewing dent Vladimir Putin "and Ukraine aid will depend on would-be aggressors every- Democrats.

Dozens injured in missile strikes on Kyiv **Monitoring Desk**

Mayor Vitali Klitschko KYIV: Russian missile posted on social media. strikes damaged a hospital Eighteen of the in-

and residential building in the jured, including two chil-Ukrainian capital on dren, were hospitalized. He said "a missile fell Wednesday, injuring at least

45 people, the city's mayor on the territory of one of the capital's hospitals" dursaid. Several explosions ing the night attack, resultwere heard in the city, with ing in windows being air raid sirens sounded soon 'blown out in several build-"In total, 45 people ings of the facility."

were injured in Dniprovsky One person was indistrict as a result of the jured at the hospital, according to the mayor. enemy attack. 18 of them Police at the scene were hospitalized, includ-

ing 2 children. 27 received were "inspecting the crater medical help on the spot, including three children," on the territory of the medical facility," he added.

Human Rights Watch call on UK to halt arms exports to Israel

Monitoring Desk ONDON: Human Rights Watch and other civil society groups have called on the UK government to stop transfers of arms to Israel, amid concerns that they might be used to commit "war crimes" against Palestinians. It comes as Israel continues its two-month-long campaign of airstrikes and ground assaults in Gaza, during which more than 17,000 Palestinians, many of them women and children, have been killed, according to Palestinian officials. In a detailed letter on

thorities have authorized sales of military equipment to Israel worth at least £474 million (\$595 million), including components for combat aircraft, missiles and tanks, other technology, and small arms and ammunition. "The UK provides approximately 15 percent of the components in the F-35 stealth bomber aircraft currently being used in Gaza, including the rear fuselage and active interceptor system, ejector seats, aircraft tires, refueling probe, laser-targeting system, and the fan propul-

Tuesday, the groups said system, and the fan pr that since 2015, UK au-sion system," it said.



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, Finance Minister Christian Lindner, and Economy and Climate Minister Robert Habeck present the 2024 budget in Berlin, Germany.

Security breach in Indian parliament, man jumps into lawmakers' area

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: A man jumped into the lawmakers' area of the lower house of India's parliament on Wednesday, in a major security breach on the 22^{nd} anniversary of a deadly at-

tack on the complex. TV channels showed a man wearing a black jacket jump from the visitors' area into the lawmakers' seating area, climbing over tables of lawmakers.

White and yellow coloured smoke could be seen in the chambers in a photograph posted on social media by a lawmaker and shown on India Today TV channel.

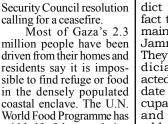
Lawmakers told TV channels that the intruder

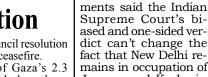
shouted some slogans they could not make out and there was a sound and some smoke Prime Minister Narendra Modi was not in

parliament at the time. India Today said the intruder had smoke cans hidden in his shoes and lawmakers fled the chambers as the cans released smoke.

TV channels showed the man jumping over two rows of lawmakers and trying to enter the aisles by evading security personnel. The man was later shown being taken away by police outside the building. The lower house stopped proceedings soon after the incident but resumed business

about an hour later.





the

Jammu and Kashmir. They said the Indian judiciary has always acted as a tool to validate India's illegal occupation over Jammu and Kashmir. They added that the Indian

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Daily Independent, Karachi



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi addressing the concluding ceremony of the Conference on Sustainable Mountain Sports Tourism, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Govt framing National Maritime Policy for dev. of sector: SAPM

KARACHI (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Maritime Affairs, Vice Admiral ® Iftikhar Ahmed Rao, Wednesday, said that government was framing National Maritime Policy to develop the sector for realizing the growth potential and reap benefits

of blue economy. He was addressing as chief guest at Passing out Parade of 60th batch of Pakistan Marine Academy (PMA). As many as 94 cadets graduated in disciplines of Nautical Sciences (48) and Marine Engineering (46).

The SAPM appreci-

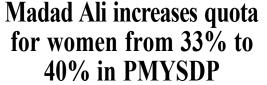


most economical and environment friendly medium Vice Admiral (retd) occupied significance in glo-Iftikhar Ahmad Rao apprebal trade and nations who ciated the positive role Parealized its importance bekistan Marine Academy is came great powers. playing in the country's

Seafarers are backshipping industry and also bone on this industry that felicitated the graduating offers opportunities of bright future to youth as it cadets who were ready to induce themselves into was expected that global requirement of seafarer ofmuch desired process of ficers in the industry would Terming cadets as the be around 90000 by 2026.

Maritime

ated professional services of backbone of the blue he noted



ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Edu-

cation and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi National Vocational and has increased the quota for Technical Training Comwomen from 33% to 40% mission (NAVTTČ) to arin the Prime Minister's range accommodation for Youth Skills Development them in major cities to fa-Programme (PMYSDP). cilitate them. He made these direc-

that technical training can ions while chairing the 1st Meeting of the Steering become the backbone of the Committee of the Prime economy of Pakistan. He Minister's Youth Skills said that it is imperative Development Programme that we harness the full po-(PMYSDP) by NAVTTC tential of the youth of Pa-

He said that women's empowerment is a crucial milestone that needs to be prioritised if we want Pakistan to overcome the existing social challenges. Similarly, he ordered

that all differently abled students to be given seats tremely positive results.

irrespective of any quotas

He also ordered the Madad Ali Sindhi said

He appreciated the sheer scale of the Prime Minister's Youth Skills Development Programme (PMYSDP) and said that effective and practical implementation of this programme can yield ex-

Pak expects raising \$4.5bln this year: Shamshad Akhtar

World Bank, and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, adding the inflows comprise both projectbased and program-based funds.

for some program loans disbursements are expected.

Talking about IMF programme, the minister said, as the first review of the Standby Agreement was successfully con-She said the major cluded, a Staff Level Agree-

Pakistan's huge scope of sports tourism needs regulation, infrastructure facilities: President

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday said Pakistan trekkers He mentioned that the

had immense potential for country's scenic Malam sports and adventure tourism, however stressed ef-Jabba and Naltar areas offective regulation and imfered amazing skiing faciliproved infrastructure to ties and had huge potential for adventure sports. Also, explore the untapped secthe Hunza Valley has the

Addressing the conworld's best treks amidst cluding ceremony of the third Sustainable Mountain the gigantic mountains of Karakoram, he added. Sports Tourism Conference, he said the provision ever, stressed the need to of facilities was the top facput in place a tourist regulatory mechanism to protor in the development of domestic and sports tourmote domestic tourism.

ing facilities for tourists The event themed Revival of Mountain such as easy access to des-Glory' was organized by tinations, better roads, clean the Alpine Club of Pakistan hotels and guest rooms, and and gathered the country's trained human resources. renowned mountaineers including Samina Baig, Naila Kiani, and Sajid Sadpara the unregulated influx of tourists caused nuisance of among others who won titles by scaling the highest traffic jams and disruption of the civic system. In this peaks of the world. President Alvi said regard, he proposed proper

management and develop-Pakistan was blessed with ment of new tourist destiincredibly serene natural nations to shift the quanbeauty, particularly its tum of visitors. northern areas where the mountains and snowy

peaks were a big source of attraction for tourists and lic to be kind towards the environment while exploring tourist places.

He termed security and a peaceful environment significant factors in promoting tourist activities in the country

Patron Alpine Club of Pakistan Air Vice Marshal (retd) Ijaz Malik said Pakistan being the home of the The president, howhighest mountain peaks and glaciers outside the Arctic region had great scope for adventure and mountain tourism.

He outlined the outcome of the sports tourism conference which stressed the need for formulating a policy on domestic tourism to accrue economic benefits, introducing tourism as a subject in the national curriculum, and training human resources with contemporary skills. President Alpine Club of Pakistan Abu Zafar Sadiq said the organization was playing its role in promoting sports tourism in the country through rock and sport climbing, hiking, and trekking.

The president also called for raising conscious-

He emphasized ensur-

He pointed out that



KARACHI: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf being briefed during his visit to Headquarters of Pakistan Maritime Security Agency.

Abbasi declares not to participate

in elections KARACHI (INP): Pakistan: Former Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, speaking outside the NAB court in Karachi on Wednesday, announced his decision not to participate in the upcoming general elections. He expressed frustration with the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and called for a justice system based on

Abbasi questioned the

Foreigners repatriation case sent to SC judges committee

matter of repatriation of The Supreme Court (SĆ) on Wednesday sent the case pertaining to the repatriation of foreigners to the judges committee for the formation of a larger bench. The three-member

Pakistan Telecommunica-

Cyber Security strategy for

Pakistan's telecom sector,

2021 and marks a monu-

mental stride towards bol-

stering digital security in the

country's rapidly evolving

telecom sector.

This strategy is a sig-

foreigners, the interpretation of articles 9, 10 and 24 was required, and it was sending it to the judges committee under the SC (Practice & Procedure) Act for the formation a larger bench.

It said that in the

During hearing, the Federal Government and the Foreign Office submit-

obligation of Election Commission (EC) and care taker government. It is binding on assist EC in elections. It is not job of caretaker governnotified prices. ment to influence the elec-

tion or to make such bid missioner Muhammad Rapput, the campaign

minister calls on PM Kakar SLAMABAD (APP) Minister for Maritime Affairs, Communications and Railways Shahid Ashraf Tarar called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar here on Wednesday, the

It has been said in the

court's decision holding

election is constitutional

national building.

KARACHI: Caretaker Minister Balochistan for PM's Office said. Law, Parliamentary Affairs and Prosecution Amanullah Kanrani meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar.

Level playing field be given to all political parties including PTI: PHC

PESHAWAR (Online): Peshawar High Court (PHC) has ordered level playing field be given to all political parties including

The court further or- care taker government to dered that chief secretary should take action against those behind giving discriminatory treatment.

PHC has issued writ- which influences transpardecision regarding the ent election. The decision

cussed various issues of importance. Administration imposes Rs0.345m fine on 58 illegal

profiteers ARACHI (INP): The city administration on Wednesday imposed fines of Rs.344500 on 58 illegal profiteers during ongoing campaign for ensuring sell of essential commodities at

The meeting dis-

On directives of Com-

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister

for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar said Pakistan anticipates raising approximately \$4.5 billion from multilateral and bilat-

eral sources, excluding the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the current fiscal year (2023-24). In an interview with

the official flagship Journal of ICMA International, the minister said for the second quarter (Q2), the government expects to receive over \$1.6 billion from these sources.

on Wednesday.

creditors include the Asian ment (SLA) has been Karachi. Saleem Development Bank, the reached.

She said, negotiations

have been completed, and The country is currently meeting its debt obligations in a timely manner and intends to continue doing so in the future.

motives behind his five-

ISLAMABAD (APP):

SC bench headed by Justice Sardar Tariq Masood, fairness and transparency. while hearing the case, observed that the petition-

case in connection with permission for PTI workers given to all political parties convention. Justice Ijaz Anwar has written this 5page decision.

said level playing field be against illegal profiteers and hoarders has been further including PTI. EC should accelerated to ensure implesummon report from DOs mentation on rates of eson daily basis.

Non Shariah Nikkah case: **Court issues order on** maintainability of Non-Shariah nikkah

ISLAMABAD (Online): District and Sessions Court Islamabad has issued written order regarding maintainability of non shariah Nikkah case.

The order said according to Khawar Manika illicit relations between former chairman PTI and Bushra Bibi were established with the passage of time.

Senior civil judge of Peeri, Mureedi.

Qudrat Ullah issued 4-page written order.

It said that according to record Khawar Manika former husband of Bushra Bibi lodged a complaint in the court.

According to order Khawar Manika alleged former chairman PTI established contact with Bushra Bibi in the guise

sential items of daily use notified by the administration, said a statement issued here. Assistant commissioners of different towns and sub-divisions of Karachi visited various markets to check prices of items of daily use and inspected retail and whole-

sell shops of grocery, meat, milk, poultry, vegetables and fruits. According to the district-wide reports submit-

ted to the commissioner's office, fines of Rs.175,500 were imposed on 32 illegal profiteers in district South.

Vice Admiral Ovais

Ahmed Bilgrami appointed Vice Chief of Naval Staff SLAMABAD (INP): The Ministry of Defence on Wednesday appointed Vice Admiral Ovais Ahmed Bilgrami as Vice Chief of the Naval Staff with immediate effect.

The Vice Admiral was commissioned in Operations Branch of Pakistan Navy in 1989. He carried out his initial training from Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth (UK) and won the coveted Sword of

scandal

Honour

Culprits in 'police uniform' loot tea shop in Karachi

KARACHI: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi Chief,

Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman addresses to media per-

sons during press conference, at Idara-e-Noor-ul-

KARACHI (INP): A robbery incident was reported from Karachi's Korangi area, where the accused dressed in police uniforms held the workers hostage and robbed the local tea hotel on Wednesday.

Haq in Karachi.

In his statement, the tion here that in the past hotel employee claimed that last night, the culprits posing as police officials wearing bullet-proof jackets and armed with automatic weapons - entered the hotel located in Karachi's Korangi no.2 area. "The accused were wearing bulletproof jackets, boots, and had walkie-talkies similar to those used by the police," the hotel employee added.

tered the house and took The culprits held all away all the valuables inthe workers hostage for an cluding gold, jewelry, mohour, cut the electricity of bile phones, and cash.

the hotel, and fled the scene **Kasur Video** in a silver car with Rs 200,000 loot.

"In the past 36 hours, this was the third incident High Court (LHC) has acto occur in the same hotel, quitted three major convicts the tea shop worker stated. in Kasur video scandal. It is pertinent to men-

looted multiple houses in

the Gulshan-e-Maymar

victim's family statement,

the robbers dressed as

Sindh police officers along

with plain cloth men en-

According to the

area of Karachi.

A two members bench of LHC presided over by two robbery incidents, the Justice Shehram Sarwar culprits looted the citizens Chaudhry took up appeal sitting outside the hotel. pleas of the three convicts Earlier this month, the against life imprisonment culprits in 'police uniform'

for hearing Wednesday. The convicts are Aleem Asif, Haseeb Aamir and Wasim Sindhi.

Abid Hussain Khichi and Sohail Asghar advocate appeared on behalf of the convicts.

The court while accepting the appeal pleas of the three convicts against life imprisonment acquitted them



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP Women's Wing) President, Faryal Talpur presides over a meeting of the Sindh Parliamentary Board, held at Bilawal House in Karachi.

Operation against robbers will be started soon: IGP

By Tanveer Ahmed Soomro

MIRPUR MATHELO: A vigorous operation against robbers will be started soon, in which Rangers will also be helped, Punjab Police will also participate in this operation, IGP Sindh Rafat Mukhtar Raja expressed these views. On the occasion of his visit to district Ghotki and attending a high-level meeting,



He said that robbers and criminals should have mercv on their children and surrender. otherwise a decisive operation will be conducted against them with modern weapons. Daco criminals and their facilitators whether kachha or Pakka should not be forgiven in any case.

Anwar Khetran SSP Ghotki, gave a briefing regard-ing the law and order situation of Ghotki district. DIG Sukkur Abdul Hameed Khoso, DIĞ Larkana Nasir Aftab, SSP Ghotki Mohammad Anwar Khetran, SSP Sukkur Irfan Samu, SSP Kashmore Ruhal Khoso, SSP Shikarpur *Dr. Imran Khan participated in the meeting.*



against corruption organized by Cadet College Karampur in connection of the International Anti-Corruption Day, held in Sukkur.

vear legal case, which culminated in his acquittal by the High Court earlier today. He demanded accountability for former NAB Chairman Javed Iqbal, who he accused of fabricating charges against him and other political figures.

Army soldier laid to rest with military honours

a comprehensive and ambi-HYDERABAD (APP) tious plan set to span from The martyred army soldier 2023 to 2028. Ghulam Murtaza Dahri was laid to rest at the annificant step in the imple-mentation of the National cestral graveyard in Pir Shahmir on Wednesday. Cyber Security Policy –

Ghulam Murtaza Dahri (35) was among one of the Pak Army Jawans who were martyred in a terrorist attack in Dera Ghazi on Tuesday. He belonged to Village Khair Muhammad Dahri, Tehsil Qazi Ahmed District Shaheed Benazirabad. Ghulam Murtaza was buried at the graveyard of Dargah Pir Shahmir graveyard where the army contingent presented a salute.

ECP enforces countrywide ban on DCs', ADCs' transfer, posting ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has enforced a countrywide ban on the transfer and posting of Deputy Commissioners and Additional Deputy Commissioners and others assigned to supervise the

upcoming elections. The ECP in a letter addressed to the Secretary Establishment and the four Chief Secretaries, emphasized the strict enforcement of the ban, citing the pivotal roles assigned to DCs and ADCs in the upcoming general elections.

"I am directed to state that the Commission has appointed DROs, ROs and AROs on 11th December 2023 for the conduct of General Elections 2024.

To this end Commission has imposed complete ban on the posting/ transfer and leaves of DROs, ROs, AROs and Data Entry Operator DEOs (EMS Óperators) engaged in Election process forthwith and till the culmination of election prosays the letter. cess.

ers had objected on the ted their comments. powers of caretaker government under Article 224 of the Constitution.

The case was then adjourned till after the winter vacations

PTA unveils Cyber Security strategy

ISLAMABAD (INP): The cyber security, such as legal framework, cyber resiltion Authority (PTA) on ience, proactive monitoring and incident response, ca-Wednesday unveiled its pacity building, cooperafion and collaboration, and public awareness.

The strategy emphasizes a multi-stakeholder approach, fostering active collaboration between public and private sectors, regulatory bodies, telecom operators, private security firms, academia, and civil society

This initiative is not just a step forward in cyber According to PTA, the security but it is also a leap strategy is built on six fountowards a more digitally dational pillars, each targetsecure and resilient Pakiing a specific aspect of stan



HYDERABAD: Sindh Taraqi Pasand Party (STP) Chairman, Dr. Qadir Magsi addresses during death anniversary of Shaheed Muhammad Hussain Magsi, in Hyderabad.

EU, AFD sign MoU to spearhead new climate initiative in Punjab's urban centers

ISLAMABAD (INP): A memorandum of understanding was signed between the EU and the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) here on Wednesday to spearhead a new climate initiative in the urban centers of Puniab.

EU Ambassador Dr. Riina Kionka and Deputy Director AFD Eastern Europe, Middle East and Asia, Ms. Julie Marsaudon signed the agreement. The project aims to

improve access to drinking water and sanitation services by installing 200 kilometers of new water sup-

ply pipes and providing 000 new connections. It focuses on enhancing capacities, increasing

water treatment capacity by 135,000 cubic meters per day and bolstering urban water governance. The initiative will improve the access of 400,000 individuals to drinking water.

Speaking on the occasion, the EU Ambassador underscored the commitment to supporting Pakistan in improving resilience to climate change and the EU's readiness to redouble efforts to support the country's green inclusive growth

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