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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 ministers; 90% of the men arrested during the crackdown have been released

ISLAMABAD (INP): The interim government announced on Thursday that all women and children detained during the police crackdown on Baloch protesters had been released.

This was announced by Privatisation Minister Fawad Hasan Fawad while addressing a press conference in Islamabad, accompanied by Information Minister Murtaza Solangi and Jamal Shah.

"At the prime minister's direction, a decision was made to release all women and children without exception. Additionally, all identified men have also been freed," stated

Fawad Hasan Fawad.

The Islamabad police had detained numerous Baloch men and women during a demonstration against enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings.

Videos circulating on social media depicted security 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 outside the National Press Club.

Following the outcry, the caretaker government

formed a negotiation team led by Solangi, Fawad, and Jamal Shah to engage with 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 present and not the instigators of the chaos.

Fawad also noted the presence of individuals who had covered their faces and seemed prepared for certain actions.



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

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

LAHORE (INP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-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."

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 also against all past governments.

PM Kakar further stated that a strong coordination existed between the caretaker government and the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for holding transparent elections.

He assured that the caretaker government would fulfill all responsibilities for fair elections in the country.

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

Welfare of youth, government's top priority: PM Kakar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday termed 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 responsibility.

He further directed that the youth of the newly merged districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa should be given special attention in PM Youth schemes.

The prime minister ordered to evolve a special strategy to achieve the desired results of the skill development schemes.

Bilawal reiterates imperative to end politics of hatred, division

HYDERABAD (INP) – Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Thursday reiterated the imperative to end the politics of hatred and division, asserting, "Unity leads to victory, not division".

Speaking at the Sheikh Ayyaz mela [a public event] here, Bilawal acknowledged the presence of individuals promoting division and hatred, and stressed collective efforts to confront all these threats.

The ex-foreign minister asserted that a united youth was the key to defeating those involved in divisive politics.

Voicing concern over prevalent oppression in Pakistan, Bilawal stated that the gravest injustice was not solely the loss of popular leaders, but also

the suppression of history, culture and language. The PPP leader called for a societal shift, encouraging a transition from a culture where youth wielded guns to one where they held pens, aiming to showcase Pakistan's rich history and culture.

Bilawal, while recognising the progress made towards curbing extremist mindsets, cautioned against political parties labelling each other as traitors or infidels. Instead, he stressed the importance of collaborative governance, urging an end to political polarisation with the assistance of the masses.

About the global challenge of climate change, Bilawal proposed a comprehensive awareness campaign to tackle environmental concerns.



HYDERABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari speaking at 9th Ayaz Melo organised by Khanabadosh Writers Cafe in collaboration with Culture & Tourism Department Sindh at Sindh Museum.

Baloch demonstrators have 'constitutional right' to protest: IHC

IHC orders Islamabad IG to submit report today of number of Baloch protesters arrested, in judicial remand

ISLAMABAD (INP): Islamabad High Court (IHC) Chief Justice Ameer Farooq Thursday warned the capital city's top cop against any hindrance in the protest staged by the Baloch marchers, saying that they have the constitutional right of demonstration.

The remark came during the hearing of a case pertaining to the "illegal" arrests of Baloch long march participants in Islamabad.

Islamabad Inspector General (IG) Akbar Nasir Khan appeared before the IHC bench upon being summoned by the CJ after the court took up a plea against the arrest of Baloch protest-

ers — earlier in the day.

The long march participants were detained by authorities during a demonstration in Islamabad against the enforced disappearances of Baloch missing persons. The march began in Turbat and was heading towards the Islamabad Press Club when the police intercepted them late Wednesday night.

An advance party of Baloch Yakejhti Council (BYC) Wednesday reached Islamabad through the Motorway, but the police intercepted it at Chungi No. 26 and barricaded all the main and artery roads, including Kashmir Avenue.



KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM-P) Senior Leader, Syed Amin-ul-Haq submits nomination papers for constituency NA-246 to Returning Officer for participate in General Election during meeting held at Election Commission Office in Karachi.

Sherry says: No possibility of seat adjustment with JUI-F

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) senior leader Sherry Rehman said on Thursday that there was "no possibility of seat adjustment with Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazal (JUI-F), as it did not want general elections to be held on time."

"The JUI-F was part of the collation government; however, this time the situation is different, but PPP doors are always open to other political opponents," she told a private news channel.

Sherry reiterated that her party would launch a vigorous electoral campaign from Garhi Khuda Bakhsh on December 27, on the death anniversary of BB Shaheed.

She said that the PPP was the only party that stresses the need for holding timely elections in the

country. The other political parties in the country are seemingly running away from the polls.

She deplored that different tactics were used in the past to create rifts in her party; their all attempts went in vein, and the PPP raised the slogan 'Pakistan Khappay' (Long live Pakistan). "We would never let anyone break Sindh," said Sherry. The PPP leader urged the politicians to abstain from politics of division as the country is going through tough conditions. She emphasized that the national interest must be above everything else.

Sherry Rehman was optimistic to form next government, saying that the PPP would contest elections from all constituencies across the country, and results in Punjab would be different.



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

Pakistan is deeply concerned 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.

"Blasphemy law is not discriminatory law against any one. Pakistan does not use this law against any minority. Action is taken indiscriminately as per law. All the minorities enjoy equal rights in the country. Army Chief Gen Asim Muneer is on official visit of US and he has held important meetings with the authorities therein. Pakistan will participate in confer-

ence on Palestine which is scheduled for December 23 in Tehran. Pakistan will continue to extend support to Kashmiris at political and diplomatic level, this was said by Foreign Office (FO) Spokesperson Murtaza Zahra Baloch, at weekly press briefing here on Thursday.

Pakistan has called for holding Israel accountable for its actions and urged the United Nations Security Council to take immediate effective action to impose a ceasefire and lift the inhumane siege against Gaza.

She said we strongly condemn Israel's ongoing

war on hospitals and its barbarous bulldozing of tents in the courtyard and vicinity of the Kamal Adwan Hospital in Gaza that crushed to death numerous Palestinians including women, children and wounded patients under treatment.

She said the crimes against humanity in occupied Palestine are a haunting stain on the conscience of humanity. The Spokesperson said Pakistan is also deeply concerned over the recent statements made by senior Israeli officials, rejecting the creation of a viable and independent Palestinian state.

Sharjeel files nomination papers for PS61

HYDERABAD (APP): The process of receiving and submitting nomination forms continued on the second day from the candidates who wanted to participate in the upcoming general elections.

Former provincial minister and PPP leader Sharjeel Inam Memon submitted his nomination papers to the RO office to contest the election of provincial assembly constituency PS61, on Thursday.

A large number of party workers also accompanied him on this occasion. Apart from this, former provincial minister and People's Party leader Zahid Ali Bhurqari also submitted nomination forms for national assembly constituency NA-219.



HYDERABAD: Former Minister Information and PPP leader Sharjeel Inam Memon filing his nomination papers in RO office for Provincial Assembly during General Election in City.

CPEC Balochistan Forum to equip journalists in under-developed areas

ISLAMABAD (INP): The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Media Forum Balochistan Initiative was launched on to equip the journalists in underdeveloped areas of Balochistan with information of the Chinese investment in the region and its positive impacts.

In an exclusive interview with Gwadar Pro, Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi said that the CPEC Media Forum Balochistan Initiative will equip the local journalists of Balochistan with the right information about CPEC projects.

Nawaz obtains nomination papers from NA-130 in Lahore

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) leader Nawaz Sharif has received nomination papers from NA-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 added. It stated that Maryam Nawaz Sharif will also contest the election 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 Manshra, his son-in-law Captain Muhammad Safdar told reporters on Wednesday. "Nawaz Sharif will be our election candidate from NA-15 (Manshra-II).



KARACHI: Caretaker Health Minister Balochistan Dr. Amir Muhammad Khan Jogejai meeting with Caretaker Health Minister Sindh Saad Niaz.

SHC dissatisfied with police answers in missing person's case

KARACHI (INP): Frustration boiled over in the Sindh High Court on Thursday as families of missing persons pleaded for progress in long-stalled investigations. A two-judge bench, led by Justice Nimatullah Phalphoto, expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of answers despite multiple Joint Investigation Teams (JITs) and provincial task force meetings. The case focused on numerous petitions seeking the recovery of loved ones who have disappeared over years, some as far back as 2013. One petitioner, the father of a missing man named Bilal, recounted a harrowing 11-year journey of tirelessly searching for his son with no answers from authorities. Justice Phalphoto bluntly stated, "We are not happy with the action of the police."

He pressed the investigating officer, newly appointed to the case, to explain the lack of progress despite 22 JITs and 16 task force meetings. The officer presented a JIT report suggesting that another missing person,

Ghulam Nabi, may have deliberately vanished. They claimed he was due to appear in court for a criminal case but had mysteriously disappeared. Family and friends allegedly reported him missing weeks later, and subsequent investigation revealed contact with them as late as December 9th. Additionally, the report raised suspicions about Ghulam Nabi incurring significant debt, potentially motivating him to hide.

However, these explanations failed to appease the court or the families present. Justice Phalphoto demanded further investigation, requesting letters to relevant departments and a renewed effort to locate Ghulam Nabi. The hearing concluded with the court adjourning until January 25th, once again demanding a progress report from the SP investigation. For the families of missing persons, this delay signified yet another agonizing pause in their quest for answers and justice.

Pakistan to attend conference on Palestine in Tehran on Dec 23

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan will participate in a consultative conference on Palestine being held in Iran's capital Tehran on December 23, the Foreign Office said Thursday. "We will continue to support international efforts to bring an end to Israel's ongoing campaign against the Palestinian people," Foreign Office Spokesperson Murtaza Zahra Baloch said at a weekly press briefing.

The FO spokesperson said Pakistan remained deeply concerned over the ongoing campaign of brutality and large-scale massacre unleashed upon the Palestinian people. "We strongly condemn Israel's ongoing war on hospitals and its barbarous bulldozing of tents in the courtyard and vicinity of the Kamal Adwan Hospital in Gaza."

Sanjrani announces to participate in Elections

ISLAMABAD (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 provincial assembly.

Punjab governor awards 29,456 degrees at Sargodha University convocation

Independent Report
SARGODHA: Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman conferred degrees upon 29,456 students at the 10th convocation of the 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 student population. The ceremony was presided over by Chancellor Muhammad Balighur Rehman, accompanied by Chairman Higher Education Commission Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Vice Chancellor UoS Prof. Dr. Qaisar Abbas and deans of eight faculties at the convocation venue. As many as 81 PhD

degrees, 1098 MS/ MPhil/ MSc (Hons)/ LLM, 12,713 MA/MSc, 4741 BS/ BSc (Hons)/ BBA and 10,823 BA/BSc/ADP degrees were awarded to students from the faculties of Agriculture, Arts and Humanities, Computing and Information Technology, Engineering and Technology, Medical and Health Sciences, Pharmacy, Science and Social Sciences. Moreover, 277 students with distinctions were honoured with medals. Governor Balighur Rehman extended heartfelt congratulations to the graduates and scholars, stating, "Today is a day of joy and success for the students." He expressed hope that the graduating students, through their unique research capabilities, would contribute significantly to the dignity of institutions, teachers, and the value of degrees earned." He emphasised the fortune of Pakistan, boasting a large youth population, stating that the youth are the most valuable asset for any nation. Furthermore, the governor highlighted the imperative use of fact checking in era of disinformation to counter the exposure of youth with false narratives across digital platforms. He applauded the efforts of University of Sargodha in skill development of the students. He appreciated efforts of the Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Qaisar Abbas to promote academic culture with emphasis on commercialization of the ideas generated by students.



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 (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali Thursday said that supremacy of rule of law was prerequisite for economic development of a country and establishing society on firm foundations. He was addressing a ceremony in Centre for Learning Law and Business (CLLB). The ceremony was also attended by Advocate General, Amir Javaid, Secretary Higher Education Regulatory Authority, Sajid Inam, lawyers, students and faculty members. On the occasion, the

Governor was informed that the center is affiliated with University of London and the students of CLLB would be issued degree from the University. Addressing the ceremony, the Governor highlighted the significance of rule of law and said that it was the prerequisite for social and economic development. He said that the role of lawyers community in our judicial system could not be undermined and added that law students should also be informed about their role in existing judicial system. He urged the students

to further polish their abilities and skills and play role to improve status of country among world nations. Youngsters are assets of the country and they must work in cohesion with a purpose for country's development, he expressed. 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.



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi presides over the special meeting to review progress on Roads Projects.

Czech Republic envoy visits city, explores cultural heritage

PESHAWAR (APP): The 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 rich cultural heritage of Peshawar. Their sojourn in the city allowed them to explore various historical and cultural landmarks, encompassing significant sites such as Masjid 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 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, His Excellency Ladislav Steinhübel and his wife expressed immense delight in immersing themselves in the rich history and heritage of Peshawar. Their visit to Masjid Mahabat Khan included a warm reception by the Son of Maulana Taryab Qureshi.

May 9 cases: ATC issues non bialable arrest warrants of 51 PTI leaders

LAHORE (Online): Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) Lahore has issued non-bailable arrest warrants of 51 leaders of PTI including Murad Saeed, Hammad Azhar, Farrukh Habib and Ali Amin Gandapore in May 9 cases. The court has issued arrest warrants in attack on 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 to avert arrest.

GB gov't forms committee to address the issues of journalists

GILGIT (APP): The government of Gilgit Baltistan has formed a high-level committee under the chairmanship of Provincial Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Syed Sohail Abbas to enact comprehensive legislation on the pattern of other provinces to protect

the rights of journalists and solve their main grievances. A notification has been issued in this connection. The high-level committee form on the special orders of the Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan.

Police seized smuggled petrol, diesel

PESHAWAR (APP): Sadder 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. Sadder Police Station has effectively cracked down on the smuggling of Iranian diesel and petrol.

Punjab CM gives approval to construction, repairing of 2600km roads

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has given approval to the building and repairing of 2,600-kilometre roads in Punjab. More than 105 roads of best quality will be constructed, repaired and expanded in different districts. A report on road's rehabilitation project was presented in special meeting, presided over by Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi. Addressing the meeting, Chief Minister said that construction of roads, rehabilitation and completion of expansion projects are indispensable

needs of the people. He said that the construction, repair and maintenance of roads will not only ease the traffic but also flow in the traffic. In the meeting, Secretary C&W Sohail Anwar gave a briefing on the progress on road construction and rehabilitation. It was briefed that about 104 road construction, repair and maintenance projects were pending. In less than a year, 104 roads projects will be completed with excellence. The construction, expansion and maintenance projects of 104 roads of the province will cost around Rs150 billion.



PESHAWAR: Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Pakistan, Ladislav Steinhübel 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 on 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

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 artists in the province.

International News

Israeli aggression, martyrs cross 20,000, all northern Gaza hospitals inactive

GAZA/New York (Online): The number of Palestinian martyrs has reached 20,000 in the brutal attacks of Israel on Gaza since October 7. All hospitals in northern Gaza became inactive. According to the officials of the Palestinian Ministry of Health, 20,000 Palestinians, including 8,000 children and 6,200 women, have been martyred by Israel's continuous bombing of Gaza. According to foreign media, Israel's attacks continue on Gaza. 46 people were martyred in one day due to the Israeli bombardment on the Jabalia refugee camp. 66% of Palestinians have also lost their jobs due to Israeli brutality.

Meanwhile, Ismail Haniyeh, the head of the political office of Hamas based in Qatar, arrived in Cairo, the capital of Egypt, for negotiations on a new ceasefire in Gaza, where his talks with the Egyptian intelligence chief Abbas Kamel and others are scheduled. It should be noted that Ismail Haniyeh also met Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian in Doha before arriving in Cairo, in which the situation in Gaza and the West Bank was discussed. On the other hand, voting on the resolution submitted to the United Nations (UN) regarding the provision of humanitarian aid to Gaza was postponed

for the third time. Voting on the resolution was postponed due to the fear of the US vetoing the resolution in favor of Israel. On the other hand, the World Health Organization (WHO) has confirmed that all hospitals in northern Gaza have become inactive due to continuous Israeli bombardment, cut off of fuel supply, lack of staff and supplies. Palestinian Red Crescent said that Israeli forces are continuously seizing charity ambulances in the Jabalia refugee camp in northern Gaza. According to the Red Crescent, intense shelling and sniper firing by the Israeli army is also ongoing in the area.



NEW YORK: A view of meeting of Security Council regarding Afghanistan at UN Office.

Modi says India is 'ready to look into' plot to kill Sikh leader in US

NEW DELHI (INP): In what seems to be the acceptance of India's involvement in international terrorism, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that India will investigate any evidence provided regarding the plot to kill a Sikh leader in the US. The US Justice Department last month charged an Indian citizen with plotting to assassinate a Sikh leader on the US soil, maintaining an Indian government official was also involved in the planning. "If someone gives us

any information, we would definitely look into it," Modi said in a Financial Times interview published Wednesday, in his first comments on the issue. "If a citizen of ours has done anything good or bad, we are ready to look into it. Our commitment is to the rule of law." Modi's comments come after the White House said it was treating an alleged plot to assassinate a Sikh leader in the US with "utmost seriousness," and had raised the issue with the Indian government.

Food assistance of UN's WFP suspended in parts of Sudan temporarily

SUDAN (INP): The food assistance of the United Nations' World Food Programme (WFP) has been suspended in temporarily in some parts of Sudan's state of Gezira as fighting spreads south and east of Sudan's capital Khartoum. The statement issued by WFP said that around 300,000 people have fled Gezira in a matter of days, since clashes erupted last week on Friday. WFP has put food deliveries on hold in some locations in Gezira, said Eddie Rowe, WFP's representative and country director in Sudan.

China starts erecting temporary housing units after earthquake destroyed 14,000 homes

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: Hundreds of temporary one-room housing units were being set up Thursday in northwest China for survivors of an earthquake that destroyed more than 14,000 homes and killed at least 135 people, according to state media reports. Twelve people remained missing in an area hit by mudslides that inundated two villages, the reports said. Search teams were using excavators to dig out a thick sea of mud that covered roads and encased and blocked entry to buildings. State broadcaster CCTV showed footage of

cranes lifting white, box-like housing units and lining them up in an open field in Meipo, a village in Gansu province. About 260 had been erected, and the total in the village was expected to reach 500 across nine sites by Friday morning. The arrival of the prefabricated units was a sign that many of the more than 87,000 people resettled after the Monday night earthquake may be homeless for some time. Many have been enduring temperatures well below freezing in flimsier tent-like units with blue plastic sheeting on the outside and a quilted cotton lining inside.



GAZA: People busy in relief activities after air strike by Israeli forces in Rafah.

New version of COVID rapidly spread in India, hundreds new cases emerged

NEW DELHI (Online): New type of corona virus JN1 has spread panic in India. 358 new cases have been reported in last 24 hours, out of which 21 are related to the new type. According to the national news agency, 3000 new cases of corona virus have been reported across the country so far. In view of the increasing gravity of the situation, states have been directed to be vigilant. In a statement issued by the Indian Ministry of Health, it has been said that the first case of the new type of corona virus, JN1, was reported in the southern state of Kerala. Three

deaths have been reported in Kerala. Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra are among the states that have reported cases of JN1. Statement further said that the number of deaths due to corona virus in India is 5 lacs 33 thousand, 327. Number of Indian citizens affected by different types of corona virus has now reached more than 4 crore 44 lacs 70 thousand. The recovery rate is 98.81 percent. The statement said that all states were urged to remain alert so that the new type of corona virus does not take a dangerous form.



MEXICO: A view of damaged buildings due to Hurricane Otis made landfall near Acapulco.

Gaza children getting just 10 percent of daily water requirement: UNICEF

UNITED NATIONS (APP): With UN Security Council members still unable to agree on a ceasefire resolution, mainly over U.S. objections, the head of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) warned that without safe water, "many more children" in war-battered Gaza will soon die from the disease. "Access to sufficient amounts of clean water is a matter of life and death... children in Gaza have barely a drop to drink," UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell

warned in a statement on Wednesday. "Children and their families are having to use water from unsafe sources that are highly salted or polluted. Without safe water, many more children will die from dehydration and disease in the coming days." The humanitarian alert came after more than 10 weeks of Israel's near-constant bombardment of the enclave that has resulted in the killing of 20,000 Palestinians and injuries to over 50,000.

India's debt may exceed 100pc of GDP: IMF warns

NEW DELHI (INP): The International Monetary Fund has warned India that its government debt may exceed 100% of its gross domestic product, or GDP, in the medium term. The IMF also cautioned that long-term debt sustainability risks are high due to the significant investment required to meet India's climate change mitigation targets, Indian media reported. The IMF in its annual Article IV consultation report said, long-term risks are high because considerable investment is required to reach India's climate change mitigation targets and improve resilience to climate stresses and natural disasters. This suggests that new and preferably concessional sources of financing are needed, as well as greater private sector investment and carbon pricing or equivalent mechanism, it said. "A sharp global growth slowdown in the near term would affect India through trade and financial channels.

Ukraine's citizen army struggles with a hidden enemy: combat stress

Monitoring Desk
DONETSK REGION: Psychotherapist Oleh Hukovskiy stands beside a white board in a makeshift classroom in eastern Ukraine and addresses a group of soldiers attending a session on how to cope with the stress of war. The former psychiatrist joined the armed forces about six months after Russia launched a full-scale invasion in February 2022, and now runs

a psychological support group attached to the 67th Separate Mechanised Brigade in the direction of the ruined town of Lyman. The classes cover basic psychological theory and coping techniques including breathing exercises. While the dozen soldiers attending are responsive to questions and suggestions, Hukovskiy is aware he can only do so much in the time provided.

Biden looks to secure Black support in visit to Wisconsin

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden will announce a Black-owned business coalition could win funding to revive downtown Milwaukee on a visit to Wisconsin on Wednesday, as he looks to shore up support in a state that may prove pivotal to his re-election chances in 2024. Biden will visit the Milwaukee Black Chamber of Commerce to discuss what the White House.

