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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 Fawad Hasan Fawad. 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 rity forces using water canaddressing 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

The Islamabad police had detained numerous Baloch men and women during a demonstration against Fawad addressed the situaenforced disappearances

and extrajudicial killings. Videos circulating on social media depicted secunons and tear gas on the protesters, forcibly dragging Baloch individuals into police vans, and using batons against them.

Furthermore, the police dismantled protest tors of the chaos. camps and loudspeaker setups outside the National Press Club.

Following the outcry, and seemed prepared for the caretaker government certain actions

formed a negotiation team led by Solangi, Fawad, and Jamal Shah to engage with the protesters' families. During the briefing,

tion, 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 instiga-Fawad also noted the

presence of individuals who had covered their faces



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

Individuals involved in May 9 Welfare of youth, government's riots mustn't hold any public top priority: office, opines PM Kakar

Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar opined on Thursday that individuals involved in the violent events of May 9 should not hold pub-

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

any party is hindered, it constitutes an illegal act which must be investigated."

Prime

lic office.

Kakar clarified that there was no policy to pre-vent 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

GOVERNMENT OF

PAKISTAN

LAHORE (INP): Caretaker The PM pointed out that ISLAMABAD (APP) during electoral cam-Caretaker Prime Minister paigns, political parties often targeted each other with criticism, and allegations were not only against the caretakers, but also against all past governments. Kakar further stated

tions

try

facing the law.

ing transparent elec-

He assured that the caretaker government would fulfill all responsibilities for fair elections in the counschemes. kar also noted that the

The prime minister ordered to evolve a special individuals involved in strategy to achieve the dethe violent events of sired results of the skill de-May 9 were currently velopment schemes

Pakistan to

attend conference

on Palestine in

international efforts to bring

an end to Israel's ongoing

campaign against the Pales-

tinian people," Foreign Of-

fice Spokesperson Mumtaz

Zahra Baloch said at a

weekly press briefing.

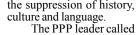
Bilawal reiterates imperative to end politics of hatred, division HYDERABAD (INP) - the suppression of history,

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



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 ex-tremist 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 & Turism 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



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

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

Chairing a meeting of Prime Minister Youth that a strong coordina-tion existed between Programme here, the prime minister directed that the the caretaker govern-ment and the Election disbursement of loans under the Prime Minister's Youth Program should be Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for holddone 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

PM Kakar

ISLAMABAD (Online): ence on Palestine which is war on hospitals and its 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 Munir is on official visit of US and he has held important meetings with the authorities therein. Pakistan

general elections.

stituencv NA-219.

Media

pacts.

stituency PS61, on Thursday.

in Tehran. Pakistan will continue to extend support to Kashmiris at political and diplomatic level, this was that crushed to death nusaid by Foreign Office (FO) merous Palestinians includ-Spokesperson Mumtaz ing women, children and Zahra Baloch, at weekly press briefing here on treatment. 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

will participate in confer- condemn Israel's ongoing

Sharjeel files nomination

papers for PS61

HYDERABAD (APP): The process of receiving and sub-

mitting nomination forms continued on the second day from

the candidates who wanted to participate in the upcoming

Inam Memon submitted his nomination papers to the RO

office to contest the election of provincial assembly con-

him on this occasion. Apart from this, former provincial

minister and People's Party leader Zahid Ali Bhurguri also

submitted nomination forms for national assembly con-

HYDERABAD: Former Minister Information and

PPP leader Sharjeel Inaam Memon filing his nomi-

nation papers in RO office for Provincial Assem-

CPEC Balochistan Forum

to equip journalists in

bly during General Election in City.

Former provincial minister and PPP leader Sharjeel

A large number of party workers also accompanied

scheduled for December 23 barbarous bulldozing of tents in the courtyard and vicinity of the Kamal Adwan Hospital in Gaza wounded patients under 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 Israel officials, rejecting the creation of a viable and independent

press conference along with Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi and Caretaker Federal Minister for National Palestinian state. Heritage & Culture Jamal Shah at PID. SHC dissatisfies with Nawaz obtains nomination papers from **NA-130 in** Lahore KARACHI (INP): Frustra-

Justice

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 elec-According to media reports, PML-N presi-dent 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 Mansehra, his son-inofficer, newly appointed to law Captain Muhammad the case, to explain the lack Safdar told reporters on Wednesday. "Nawaz of progress despite 22 JITs and 16 task force meetings.

Sharif will be our election The officer presented candidate from NA-15

Khan Jogezai meeting with Caretaker Health Minister Sindh Saad Niaz.

police answers in missing person's case Tehran on Dec 23 ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa-Ghulam Nabi, may have kistan will participate in a tion boiled over in the Sindh deliberately vanished. They consultative conference on Palestine being held in Iran's capital Tehran on December 23, the Foreign Office said Thursday. "We High Court on Thursday as claimed he was due to apfamilies of missing persons pear in court for a criminal pleaded for progress in longcase but had mysteriously stalled investigations. A disappeared. Family and two-judge bench, led by will continue to support

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Privatisation & Federal Min-

ister for Inter Provincial Coordination Fawad Hasan Fawad addressing a

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.

The FO spokesperson said Pakistan remained However, these expladeeply concerned over the nations failed to appease ongoing campaign of brutalthe court or the families ity and large-scale massacre present. Justice Phalphoto unleashed upon the Palestinian people. "We strongly condemn Israel's ongoing demanded further investigation, requesting letters to relevant departments war on hospitals and its barand a renewed effort to barous bulldozing of tents in locate Ghulam Nabi. The the courtyard and vicinity of the Kamal Adwan Hospital hearing concluded with the court adjourning unin Gaza. til January 25th, once

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 ob Shaheed tained nomination papers was the only party that stresses the need for holdfor contesting elections of national and provincial asing timely elections in the sembly

protesters arrested, in judicial remand

Islamabad High Court (IHĆ)

Thursday warned the capi-

hindrance in the protest

staged by the Baloch march-

constitutional right of dem-

rests of Baloch long march

participants in Islamabad.

General (IG) Akbar Nasir

Khan appeared before the

IHC bench upon being sum-

Islamabad Inspector

onstration.

ers — earlier in the day.

ISLAMABAD (INP): The long march par-Chief Justice Aamer Farooq ticipants were detained by authorities during a demon tal city's top cop against any stration in Islamabad against the enforced disappearances of Baloch missers, saying that they have the ing persons. The march began in Turbat and was heading towards the Islamabad The remark came dur-Press Club when the police ing the hearing of a case perintercepted them late taining to the "illegal" ar-Wednesday night.

An advance party of Baloch Yakjehti Council (BYC) Wednesday reached Ìslamabad through the Motorway, but the police intercepted it at Chungi No. moned by the CJ after the 26 and barricaded all the court took up a plea against main and artery roads, including Kashmir Avenue.

She deplored that differ-

Sherry Rehman was



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): Pa- country. The other politikistan Peoples Party (PPP) cal parties in the country senior leader Sherry are seemingly running away Rehman said on Thursday from the polls. that there was 'no possibility of seat adjustment ent tactics were used in the with Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam past to create rifts in her Fazal (JUI-F), as it did not party; their all attempts went want general elections to be in vein, and the PPP raised

the slogan 'Pakistan Khappay' (Long live Pakiheld on time. "The JUI-F was part of the collation government; stan). "We would never let anyone break Sindh," said however, this time the situation is different, but PPP doors Sherry. The PPP leader urged are always open to other pothe politicians to abstain from litical opponents," she told a politics of division as the country is going through tough private news channel.

Sherry reiterated that conditions. She emphasized her party would launch a that the national interest must vigorous electoral campaign be above everything else. from Garhi Khuda Bakhsh on December 27, on the death anniversary of BB

optimistic to form next government, saying that the PPP would contest elec-She said that the PPP tions from all constituencies across the country, and results in Punjab would be different.

under-developed areas ISLAMABAD (INP): The China-Pakistan Ecowith information of the region and its positive im-

In an exclusive interview with Gwadar Pro, nomic Corridor (CPEC) Caretaker Federal Minis-Forum ter for Information and Balochistan Initiative was launched on to equip the journalists in underdevel-oped areas of Balochistan Balochistan Initiative will equip the local journalists Chinese investment in the of Balochistan with the right information about CPEC projects.



counted a harrowing 11year 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 again demanding a progress report from the

Nimatullah

Phalphoto, expressed dissat-

isfaction with the lack of

answers despite multiple

Joint Investigation Teams

(JITs) and provincial task

force meetings. The case fo-

cused on numerous petitions

seeking the recovery of

loved ones who have disap-

peared over years, some as

far back as 2013. One peti-

tioner, the father of a miss-

ing man named Bilal, re-

SP investigation. For the families of missing persons, this delay signified vet another agonizing pause in their quest for an-

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OPINION

Daily **Independent**

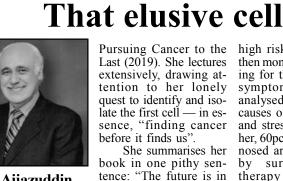
Daily A oice of Masse, Independent

Multiple candidacies

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

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

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



F.S. Aijazuddin

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

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

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

1977, the survival rate of joined the Roswell Park cancer patients was 26pc. Over 40 years later. de-Cancer Institute in Bufspite the billions of dolfalo (New York) in 1977. Its motto, composed by lars spent on research, it has improved only mar-Dr Grace, gripped her: 'If I had a choice beginally to 28.5pc. Having seen death

Synthesizing her ex-

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

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

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

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

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

diagnosed but are at too

In her inimitable, often bilingual presentations, Dr Azra leavens science with poetry, in English and in Urdu. She does not need to search for the appropriate quotation: Rainer Maria Rilke, Auden,

mainstreaming of climate She change in development planning involves myriad intricacies. Prioritising the most promising investments in the public sector Ghalib: Epistemologies of with a strategic focus on Elegance (2009). addressing climate con-At a small gathering cerns requires a wise apin Lahore on Dec 11, Dr proach. This entails de-Azra discussed how the velopment planning and life span of humans has financial allocations to lengthened. Whereas pre-empt climate woes previous generations through diligently dehad a life expectancy of signed adaptation and

mitigation projects. 50-60 years, then 70-80 years, now 80-90, our el-Last year's floods inders reaching 100 or flicted losses and damage more, she suggested, to the tune of \$30 billion should no longer come on Pakistan. A deeper as a surprise. "Will a huscrutiny of the factors man being live up to 150 years?" she was asked. that triggered this devastation reveal climate-in-"Why not?" she replied. "In sensitive planning and fact, I suspect that the first misplaced priorities. The person likely to live 150 logical cure to perpetual years has already been disasters is removing the born." Dr Azra should herbugs from the developself have been born more rement process that worsen cently. She would have had the impact of extreme cliat least a century of vital lifematic factors. The latter saving research ahead of can convert hazards into

Climate resilience

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

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

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

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

Once the development process is made clicalamities, and removing mate-proof, setting the nities. -- Courtesy Dawn

goalpost. Water conservation, disaster mitigation, resilient agriculture, efficient irrigation systems, reducing emissions in brown sectors, renewable energy sources, pre-

ventive public health systems, sanitation, storm drainage, and afforestation are some of the key priority areas of the investment portfolio. These sectors need integrated strategies to create synergies, with adaptation agendas in line with the Pakistan National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Plan 2023-2030.

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

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

the lens of climate resilience requires a paradigm shift in development planning and budgeting. The International Monetary Fund wants Pakistan to introduce this shift through the FY2024-25 budget. Prodding the ministries of finance and planning, the IMF has prescribed making budget documents

Naseer Memon

The screening of devel-

opment projects through

overall

The

more explicit on the nexus between the budget and climate-related action. It has put emphasis on advancing green budgeting, including budget tracking, publishing information on climate-related spending and aligning the next budget with climate change adaptation.

W.H. Shakespeare, Allama Iqbal, Faiz and Ghalib wait impatiently to be summoned. honoured Ghalib particularly by co-authoring a book on him with Sara Suleri Goodyear titled

FTO can take action against FBR, President Arif Alvi

country doesn't?)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

and



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



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

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

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

National its active role to trim

Addressing a 16- down its import bill.

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

PSX turns

around to

bullish trend,

gains 245 points

valuing Rs. 26.038 billion.

Seminar held on development journey of Bangladesh

Commerce News

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

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

Commissioner directs authorities to ensure supply of fertilizers at govt rates

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

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

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

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

ЕХІМ' operationalization is a

meets FBR chairman

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

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

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

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

Hayatabad

Peshawar, ASP Nayab Moiz

improve security situation in

business community through

Peshawar, ASP Nayab

PAL on priority basis.

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

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

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

Committee and Divisional Agriculture Task Force. Crop Reporting Service

sufficiency and private

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

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

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

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

(SDPO)

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

EXIM Pakistan launched

proud moment and a major export investments. regulatory framework.

Independent

National News

Page 03

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 University of Sargodha University of Sargodha 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 Rehman. Balighur accompanied by Chairman Higher Education Commission Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Vice Chancellor UoS Prof Dr unique Qaisar Abbas and deans of capabilities. eight faculties at the convocation venue.

As many as 81 PhD

degrees, 1098 MS/ MPhil/ teachers, and the value of MSc (Hons)/ LLM, 12,713 degrees earned." MA/MSc, 4741 BS/ BSc 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 iniversity of Sargodha in skill development of the stating, "Today is a day of students. He appreciated joy and success for the efforts of the Vice students." He expressed Chancellor Prof Dr Qaiser hope that the graduating Abbas to promote Chancellor Prof Dr Qaiser

students, through their academic culture with research emphasis would contribute significantly to ideas generated the dignity of institutions,

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.

> on commercialization of the by students



the special meeting to review progress on Roads Projects.

May 9 cases: **Czech Republic envoy ATC** issues non visits city, explores bialable arrest cultural heritage warrants of **51 PTI leaders** LAHORE (Online): Anti

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 in immersing themselves in the city allowed them to the rich history and explore various historical visit to Masjid Mahabat and cultural landmarks, Khan included a warm encompassing significant sites such as Masjid reception by the Son of Mahabat Khan, the famed Maulana Tayyab Qureshi. arrest.

PESHAWAR (APP): The antiques market at Asamai Gate adjacent to Sarafa Bazar, Qissa Khwani Bazar, Tehsil Gor Gathri, and Sethi House. As guests of the

51 leaders of PTI including Murad Saeed, Hammad Honorary Consulate of the Azhar, Farrukh Habib and Czech Republic for Ali Amin Gandapore in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, His May 9 cases. The court has issued Excellency Ladislav Steinhübel and his wife

arrest warrants in attack on expressed immense delight Guiranwala cantt and May 9 siege and arsons cases or the request of police. heritage of Peshawar. Their

The police told the court that the accused are nominated in case and are absconding to avert

Terrorism Court (ATC)

Lahore has issued non-

bailable arrest warrants of

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

(APP): PESHAWAR 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 foundations.

firm 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

that the center is affiliated abilities and skills and play role to improve status of with University of London and the students of CLLB country among world nations. Youngsters are would be issued degree assets of the country and from the University. Addressing the ceremony, the Governor they must work in cohesion with a purpose for country's development, he expressed.

Governor was informed to further polish their

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

> **Police seized** smuggled petrol, diesel PĒSHAWAR (APP)

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

high-level committee form on the Saddar Police Station special orders of the Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan has effectively cracked down on the smuggling of Iranian diesel and petrol. Zeb gave a detailed briefing, address challenges face shedding light on the artists in the province.

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

Independent Report AHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has given approval to the building and reparing 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 the 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. construction, The expansion and maintenance projects of 104 roads of the province will cost around Rs150 billion



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

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

progress of Integrated PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Minister for Tourism Zones and the Information, Culture, identification Tourism, Archeology and development of new tourist Museum, Barrister Firoze Jamal Shah Kakakhel destinations within the province. He emphasized ongoing efforts to enhance chaired a review meeting at the office Secretary infrastructure, ensuring Tourism here Thursday. improved tourism facilities for visitors. He highlighted

The meeting focused on evaluating the the commitment to the performance of the Tourism Department, ongoing projects and the road map for future endeavors. During the meeting,

media reports.

Twelve people re-

dated two villages, the re-

ports said. Search teams

were using excavators to dig

out a thick sea of mud that

covered roads and encased

and blocked entry to build-

India. 358 new cases have

been reported in last 24

hours, out of which 21 are

related to the new type.

Act Rules. He stressed on more effectively on proposed amendments to Secretary Tourism, Mutahir Zeb gave a detailed briefing, address challenges faced by

welfare of artists, announcing

plans to revise the Artist

Welfare Endowment Fund

and

He was addressing a eremony 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. Ón the occasion, the

Provincial Minister for

Law and Parliamentary

Affairs, Syed Sohail Abbas

to enact comprehensive

legislation on the pattern of

other provinces to protect Haji Gulbar Khan.

International News

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

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

connection.

The

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 camp. 66% of Palestinians

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 in-

telligence chief Abbas Kamil and others are sched-It should be noted that Ismail Haniyeh also met Iran's Foreign Minister supplies. 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

Meanwhile, Ismail for the third time. Voting on Haniyeh, the head of the 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

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.

India's debt may exceed Narendra Modi has said 100pc of GDP:

UN Office.

ning.

war

IMF warns EW DELHI (INP): The nternational 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 in-Gaza children getting just vestment 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 fi nancing 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 finan-20,000 Palestinians and incial channels.

Modi says India is 'ready to look into' plot to kill Sikh leader in US NEW DELHI (INP): In any information, we would definitely look into what seems to be the acceptance of India's init," Modi said in a Finanvolvement in international cial Times interview pubterrorism, Prime Minister lished Wednesday, in his

first comments on the isthat India will investigate "If a citizen of ours any evidence provided regarding the plot to kill a has done anything good or Sikh leader in the US. bad, we are ready to look The US Justice Deinto it. Our commitment is

partment last month to the rule of law.' charged an Indian citizen Modi's comments come after the White House with plotting to assassinate a Sikh leader on the US said it was treating an alsoil, maintaining an Indian leged plot to assassinate a government official was Sikh leader in the US with also involved in the plan-"utmost seriousness," and had raised the issue with

"If someone gives us the Indian government.

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

Monitoring Desk DONETSK ŘEGION: Psychotherapist Oleh Hukovskyi stands beside a white board in a makeshift classroom in eastern Ukraine and addresses a

gade in the direction of the ruined town of Lyman.

basic psychological theory and coping tech-niques including breathgroup of soldiers attending a session on how to cope with the stress of ing exercises.

soldiers attending are re-The former psychiatrist joined the armed sponsive to questions and forces about six months Hukovskyi is aware he after Russia launched a can only do so much in full-scale invasion in Febthe time provided ruary 2022, and now runs

a psychological support group attached to the 67th Separate Mechanised Bri-

> The classes cover While the dozen

suggestions, the White House

of UN's WFP suspended in CCTV showed footage of parts of Sudan temporarily

Food assistance

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 de-liveries on hold in some locations in Gezira, said Eddie Rowe, WFP's representative and country director in Sudan.

Biden looks to secure Black support in visit to Wisconsin **Monitoring Desk**

According to the na-WASHINGTON: US tional news agency, 3000 President Joe Biden will new cases of corona virus announce a Black-owned have been reported across business coalition could win the country so far. funding to revive downtown In view of the increas-Milwaukee on a visit to ing gravity of the situation, Wisconsin on Wednesday, states have been directed to as he looks to shore up supbe vigilant. port in a state that may In a statement issued prove pivotal to his re-elec-

by the Indian Ministry of tion chances in 2024. Biden Health, it has been said that will visit the Milwaukee the first case of the new Black Chamber of Comtype of corona virus, JN1, merce to discuss what was reported in the southern state of Kerala. Three

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

cranes lifting white, box-like BEIJING: Hundreds of housing units and lining temporary one-room housthem up in an open field in ing units were being set up Meipo, a village in Gansu province. About 260 had Thursday in northwest been erected, and the total China for survivors of an earthquake that destroyed in the village was expected more than 14,000 homes to reach 500 across nine and killed at least 135 sites by Friday morning. people, according to state The arrival of the pre-

fabricated units was a sign that many of the more than mained missing in an area hit by mudslides that inun-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 out-State broadcaster side 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):

deaths have been reported New type of corona virus in Kerala. JN1 has spread panic in

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.

requirement: UNICEF warned in a statement on Wednesday.

"Children and their families are having to use water from unsafe sources that are highly salinated or polluted. Without safe water, many more children will die from deprivation

and disease in the coming days. The humanitarian alert came after more than 10 weeks of Israel's nearconstant bombardment of the enclave that has re-

juries to over 50,000.

sulted in the killing of



uled.

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

10 percent of daily water

NATIONS

(APP): With UN Security

Council members still un-

able 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-bat-

tered Gaza will soon die

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

"Access to sufficient

from the disease.

UNITED





NEW YORK: A view of meting of Security Council regarding Afghanistan at

Daily Independent, Karachi

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi has reiterated that the government is fully committed to ensure peace, tranquility and equal rights to all citizens irrespective of caste, creed and religion as enunciated in the Islamic teaching, pronounced by Quaide-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and laid down by the Constitution of Pakistan.

He said that being an Islamic welfare state, it was their duty to safeguard the basic rights of all religious minorities and reassured that their all rights would be completely protected at all costs as the successive governments had been making strenuous efforts in this regard.

Addressing a cer-emony held here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr in connection with the celebrations of Christmas, the president said Prophet Isa (AS) was an embodiment of peace and affection and these values were much needed in today's world shaken by strife, conflicts and wars.

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

added The ceremony was arranged by the ministry of religious affairs and interfaith harmony was attended by parliamentarians, religious leaders and members from different faiths, members of diplomatic corps and issue.

a large number of Christian families. The president referring to atrocities in Gaza, said contrary to the religious teaching of peace and tolerance, the scenes in the world were topsy-turvy. About 19,000 precious human lives in Gaza had been lost but the human hearts dent involving religious mihad not melted, he added. He opined that de-

spite the United Nations' by the Pope himself, the ensuring their rights.

cluding Christians continued where churches be-The enlightened world advocating the tenets of democratic values was so oblivious to the humanitarian woes in the conflict, he

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

The president said in Pakistan, all communities were enjoying equal rights and living with peace which was 'a beautiful banquet' of interfaith harmony and unity. Recollecting the tragic Jaranwala incident, he said whenever an incinorities surfaced, the governments had immediately responded and also comcalling for immediate mended the judiciary for ceasefire and a denunciation playing a significant role in



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi chairing a meeting on role of Mosques in Education. at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Palestine crisis worries global community: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): tween Palestine and Israel, Caretaker Federal Minister coming elections in Pakifor Information, Broadstan and Jordan, regional casting and Parliamentary security situation, coopera-Affairs Murtaza Solangi tion in the media sectors and said on Thursday that the other important issues were current situation of Palestine was a cause of concern not only for the Muslim minister and Ambassador Ummah but also for the expressed concern over the tense situation in Palestine. civilized nations of the world. During a meeting

with Jordanian Ambassador Dr. Maen Khreasat who met with him here, the minister said that peace in Palestine was the responsibility of the whole world. "International com-

munity should play a role for an immediate ceasefire in Palestine," Murtaza Solangi said.

Besides, ceasefire be- Jordan as the two countries

had deep ties based on religion, common values and culture. The caretaker minister briefed the Jordanian Ambassador about the progress towards the general elections in Pakistan. Elecdiscussed during the meeting. In the meeting, both the tions would be held across the country on February 8 next year in Pakistan, Murtaza Solangi adding the Expressing complete Election Commission of Pasolidarity with the Palestinkistan had already released ian people, Murtaza Solangi said that Jordan's

the election schedule. He said all registered political role in aid activities in Palparties were provided 54 estine was commendable. days for election campaign. The Caretaker Gov-The Jordanian Ambassador said that a humanitarian criernment, he said was prosis was brewing in Gaza

viding all possible support and facilities to the ECP to Solangi said that Pakiensure the conduct of free, stan valued its relations with transparent and impartial elections.

SHC suspends

gas tariff hike

for textile

industry

KARACHI (INP): Sindh High Court (SHC) on

Thursday suspended the gas tariff hike notification

latory Authority (OGRA)

issued a notification for the

raise in gas tariff for the tex-

tile industry. The SHC order granted relief to the plain-

tiffs (textile manufacturers)

by temporarily suspending

the implementation of the

contentious notification for

the plaintiffs only, pro-

vided they deposited a spe-

cific differential amount

with the court's Nazir

within seven days. Accordingly, SSGC is

visions.

The Oil and Gas Regu

for the textile industry.

Committee proposes amendments in Judicial **Commission's rules**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Committee constituted to Review Judicial Commission of Pakistan rules 2010, has proposed amend-

The meeting of the Committee was held on 16th December, 2023, under the co-chairmanship of Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice (Retired) Manzoor Ahmed Malik with mandate to propose such rules of procedure for the Commission in making appointments of the Judges of the Constitutional Courts of the country, that comply with the collegial and inclusive decision-making process enshrined in Article

tiation of nomination(s) in the High Courts, adequate representation of the District Judiciary and the Bar for elevation, diversity, criteria for selection for appointment of Judges to the Supreme Court and the

High Courts, confirmation of Additional Judges in the High Courts and establishment of a Secretariat of the Commission, appointment of the Secretary and other staff thereto.

asked to issue monthly gas bills to plaintiffs (textile manufacturers) at the rate

Religious Ministry to provide Abaya to women pilgrims this year

Friday December 22, 2023

ISLAMABAD (APP): University's Dawah Center Minister of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed has said that this year women try. He discussed the memopilgrims will be given Abaya by the Ministry that the importance of Muslim will have Pakistan's flag embossed on it.

Federal Minister for Reli-He expressed these gious Affairs said that it is views while addressing the closing ceremony of the Hajj Master Trainers training program for women organized by the Dawah Center for Women of the International Islamic University (IIUI). Federal Minister Aneeq Ahmed said on the occasion, that Hajj is a journey from oneself to God. He said women protect religious values and

transfer religion to future generations. He further said that the role of women as mothers and sisters in Islamic society is vital.

ternational

He said trainers of In- for the Hajj training pro-Islamic gram are commendable



HYDERABAD: Chairman Pakistan People's Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari cutting the ribbon during opening ceremony of Ayaz Mela at Sindh Museum.

Hand grenade attack on former Chief Justice Saqib house, case registered

LAHORE (Online): In the 2 vehicles were broken in FIR of the hand grenade atthe attack. A hand grenade tack on the house of former was thrown at a vehicle parked between the garage Chief Justice Saqib Nisar, the Lahore Police has susand the yard. pected a banned organiza-The text of the FIR tion. CTD has registered a states that the attackers case of hand grenade attack on former Chief Justice seem to belong to a banned organization. Saqib Nisar's house in Gar-It is pertinent to say den Town area of Lahore that the former Chief Juson the complaint of Con-

tice of Pakistan Sagib stable Sajjad Hussain. The Nisar's residence was at-FIR has been registered un-der terrorism and other protacked yesterday with a hand grenade, as a result of which 3 people were in-In the registered FIR, iured.

According to the po-lice, a cracker thrown by it has been stated that 3 persons Constable Amir unknown motorcycle-Ali, Khurram Shahzad and Sajjad Hussain were injured riding accused fell in the garage of the former chief in the hand grenade attack. iustice and damaged the ve-According to the text

Ms. Amy Pope. IHC rejects plea for immediate stopping cipher case trial

ISLAMABAD (Online): prise over giving deadline of Islamabad High Court four weeks by Chief Jus-(IHC) has issued notice to Attorney General (AG) and FIA on the petition filed by PTI founder Imran Khan against in-camera trial in cipher case.

The court rejected the the court announced the plea for immediate stopping he trial of cipher case.

The case came up for hearing before single bench

meeting, they discussed tice (CJ) IHC for complevarious aspects of Paki-stan-Canada bilateral relation of trial of cipher case remarked we don't give four tions and facilitation by the weeks time in general cases. Pakistani government for Suleman Akram Raja the resettlement process of counsel for petitioner said

Afghan nationals to Canada. decision of holding in-cam-The Canadian High era trial on the request of prosecution. It wrote in the decision there will be ban Commissioner thanked the foreign minister for accistance

ISLAMABAD: Federal Secretary for Interior Aftab Akbar Durrani in a meeting with the Director General of International Organisation of Migration **Canadian HC** calls on Jalil ments in various areas. SLAMABAD (APP) High Commissioner of Canada Leslie Scanlon called on Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani on Thursday. During the

175-A of the Constitution,

on Thursday.

of consideration for pro-

the

posing amendments in the 2010 Rules includes, process for convening meetings of the Commission and making decisions therein, initiation of nomination(s) in the Supreme Court, ini-

due to lack of food.

The co-chairs emsaid a press release issued powered "co-opt any person to the Committee" de-

December 2023.

The important areas cided in the meeting on 16th

LAHORE: Rear Admiral Javed Iqbal hands over

Command Scroll of Commander Central Punjab to

Rear Admiral Azhar Mahmood during Change of

Command ceremony held at PN War College Lahore.

ECP rules out KPBC's

statement about reduction

our responsibility to pass on religion to our generations. Addressing the participants, Aneeq Ahmed said that there is a need to strengthen the relationship with Allah and Prophet (PBUH). He said there is a need to form a society in the light of religious principles. He said that the Ministry and the University will jointly work for Hajj training.

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

for Women will be utilized in

training programs for Hajj to

be organized by the Minis-

ries of Hajj and highlighted

men and women in society.

of IHC led by Justice on coverage of cipher case Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb too because relations with here Thursday.

Justice Miangul affected due to reporting of Hassan Aurangzeb remarked we want to hear AG has been imposed on media

on this matter. Expressing his sur- proceedings of cipher case.

Maryam Nawaz decides to contest elections on NA-119 in Lahore

Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senior Vice-President Maryam Nawaz decided to contest elections from NA-119, a constituency in Lahore.

The move placed Maryam Nawaz at the forefront of a politically significant battleground as previously PTI activist social figures actively se-Sanam Javed challenged her to contest election against her on a provincial seat of PP-150. Captain

Regional Offices in Provincial Capital.

dropped amidst the expul-

sion of illegal immigrants in-cluding Afghanis from the

port city, claimed Additional

IG Karachi Khadim Hussain

foreign nationals including

Afghans to their homeland

is continuing in a dignified

and safe manner. So far,

441,893 illegal Afghans

have left Pakistan. AIG

Karachi Khadim Hussain

said illegal Afghanis were

involved in dacoities, rape

and other heinous crimes in

Karachi and after the op-

Repatriation of illegal

Rind on Thursday.

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan retired Safdar Awan, the husband of Maryam Nawaz, confirmed the development

friendly countries can be

court's proceedings. Ban

and social media to publish

She received her nomination papers. The initiation of the nomination paper collection process marked a pivotal moment

in the prelude to the eleccuring their candidacy forms from the Election Commission offices across the country.

extended LAHORE (Online): Judicial remand of former Chief Minister Punjab Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi in case of illegal recruitment in Punjab Assembly

resettlement process.

Illegal recruitment case:

Parvez Elahi's

judicial remand

was further extended. Judicial Magistrate of Lahore Local Court Imran Abid heard the case of illegal recruitment in Punjab Assembly against Ch Pervaiz

Elahi. Ch Pervaiz Elahi was not produced in the Lahore court in district Kutcheri after completion of Judicial remand, however the jail authorities submitted the warrant of the ac-

cused in the court. Court extended the judicial remand of Pervaiz Elahi till January 4, 2023 and adjourned the hearing of the case.

> **CTD** arrests six suspects in

KARACHI: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Senator Saleem Mandviwalla submit nomination papers to contest for the upcoming general elections at rested six suspects during search operations in different ar-eas of the metropolis

Karachi crime rate drops on Thursday. According to CTD after expulsion of spokesperson, search operations were con-ducted at Cantt Station, Guru Mandir, Sabzi Mandi and sur-

rounding areas by installing pickets at entrance and exits.

During opera-tions, six suspects were arrested besides recovery of arms and other stolen valuables. CNICs of 35 people were checked through the app during operation.

The spokesman said that CTD has accelerated operations against suspects in the wake of prevailing law and order situation.

of NA seats in KP ISLAMABAD (INP): The eral seats were increased in Election Commission of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly after which the Pakistan on Thursday ruled number of seats surged out the statement of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar from 99 to 115. Council (KPBC) regarding The Election Com-

reduction of National Asmission made it clear that sembly seats in the provincreasing or decreasing ince. Terming the statement seats of national and proas baseless and contrary to vincial assemblies is not possible without amending facts, the ECP said it was meant to create confusion the Constitution, which is a sole prerogative of the The erstwhile FATA Parliament

It said the ECP is performing its duties according to the constitution and law without any pressure. Commission said adding

Regarding another matter, the ECP also made that 12 National Assembly it clear that it takes all deciseats of FATA were abolished and instead six seats sions with mutual consulof the Lower House were tation and as per law. It said all the four members of the The ECP said those commission has reposed

six seats were added to their unwavering trust in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's the Chief Election Comquota, raising the province's missioner and reiterated representation from 39 to that all the decisions, taken 45 seats in the National so far, by the commission were made with mutual Similarly, sixteen genconsultation.



HYDERABAD: Workers of All Hyderabad Traders Action Committee hold a protest rally against Sui Gas price hike and prolong load shading, in City.

prevailing before the issuance of the impugned notification. Additionally, the order outlined that failure to make payments for two consecutive months would result in the suspension of the interim order for the plaintiff failing to comply.

Two killed, another injured in Karachi firing KARACHI (INP): Two people were killed and another injured in separate incidents of violence in different localities of the metropolis, police said on Thursday.

According to details, two robbers barged into a shop in shop in Mochko area of Karachi, asked the shopkeeper to handover cash and cell phones.

Over resistance, the robbers started firing killing the shopkeeper on the spot and fled the scene.

One person was shot dead in Ôld Haji Camp Timber Market while another shot injured in Orangi Town 13 No.

The bodies and injured were shifted to different hospitals and police after registering separate cases at concerned police stations started investigations.

Political parties urged to avoid making elections

controversial HYDERABAD (INP) Pakistan People's Party' Senior leader Sharmila Farooqi Thursday urged all the political parties to avoid making the election process controversial as economic stability is not possible without political stability in the country

"Holding of transparent and timely elections is the need of the hour", she said that while talking to ptv news

"Political stability tacks in the country. can only be brought placed by Pakistan's through a reconciliation Permanent Represenapproach as opposed to tative to the United Nations, Munir Akram confrontation," she added. She criticized that some to UN Security Counpolitical leaders are trying to create chaos and anarcil during a debate on chy in the country to take the situation in Afpolitical benefit, however, ghanistan. in the larger interest of the

He said TTP and country such attitudes should be shunned. its affiliates have carried out a series of or- retrieving them.

of the FIR, the windows of hicle parked there

essary amendments in elec-

on Thursday sought a two-

nomination papers for the

general elections scheduled

Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl

(JUIF) and Muttahida

Qaumi Movement-Paki-

stan (MQM-P) also wrote

to the Election Commission

of Pakistan (ECP), seeking

ISLAMABAD (Online):

Pakistan has de-

manded a probe to de-

termine how the

banned

banned out-fit Tehreek-e-Taliban Pa-

kistan acquired ad-

vanced weapons, used

in recent terrorist at-

The demand was

A day earlier, the

for February 8 next year.

tion schedule

After JUI-F and MQM-P **PML-N also seeks** extension in nomination papers filing deadline

ISLAMABAD (INP): ing nomination papers by Senator Ishaq Dar says ECP ree days. enjoys power to make nec-

In a letter written to the electoral authority, PML-N Senator Ishaq Dar The Pakistan Muslim said the commission enjoys League-Nawaz (PML-N) the power to make necessary amendments to the day extension in the Deelection schedule without cember 22 deadline to file affecting or changing the polling date which for the present election is Feb 8, 2024.

"That perusal of schedule reveals that only 03 days have been allocated for filing of nomination papers whereas 07 days have been allocated for the scrutiny of the same," the letter added.



KARACHI: Participants are holding awareness walk in connection of Polio Eradication Campaign organized by Health Department District West, held at Orangi Town area in Karachi.

Pakistan demands probe into banned TTP acquiring advanced weapons

ganized cross-border terrorist attacks on Pakistan's soil. He further said

the terrorist group has access to weapons originating in the stock left behind by foreign forces.

Munir Akram said Islamabad has clear evidence that the TTP receives support from Pakistan main adversary. He called on United Nations to conduct a thorough investigation to elicit how these weapons got into the hands of the TTP and to identify ways of

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provincial capital.

fied, working to reduce the crime rate further." Earlier this month. the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) of Sindh police claimed to have foiled a terror bid by arresting two hardcore 'Afghan-

trained' militants from the According to In-charge CTD Khurram Waris, the arrested terrorists were planning to attack the Karachi-Rohri train.



KARACHI (INP): The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) ar-

in the minds of the people. was merged in Khyber Karachi Pakhtunkhwa in 2018 in light of the 25th Constitutional Amendment, the

reserved for that area.

Assembly.