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Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister

Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has

stated that development of

Pakistan is linked with the

Balochistan, and we are

determined to make

The Chief Minister

said that the local people

would get quality healthcare facilities with

construction of the Pak-

China friendship hospital

Gwadar city would be available around 500,000

gallons of water daily from

With this, the long-

This and similar other

desalination water plant.

standing issue of the dwell-

ers of Gwadar would be re-

Gwadar an international

development

in Gwadar.

solved.

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CPEC journey to move forward; detractors to lose relevance very soon, says PM Kakar

Unveils Pakistan-China Friendship Hospital and Desalination Plant in Gwadar

GWADAR (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday urged the people of Balochistan, particularly, the youth to avail the historic opportunity of development in their province as the detractors of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) were about to lose their relevance very

The prime minister, addressing the inauguration

ceremony of Pak-China Friendship Hospital and Gwadar Seawater Desalination Plant here, said the journey of CPEC would surely move forward, not the backward, so joining the development course would be a prudent deci-

'Those who think to change the course (of CPEC) by force, violence or any other means are committing historic blunder

as their relevance will be over very soon. The prudent decision in the nation's fate is to joint the course of development, instead of resisting it and miss the opportunity," he remarked.

The ceremony was at-

tended by federal ministers Sami Saeed and Shahid Ashraf Tarar, Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Mardan

Continued on page 2



GWADAR: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki addressing the inauguration ceremony of Pak-China friendship hospital and desalination water plant

Will name ex-COAS Bajwa, US embassy officials as witnesses in cipher case: Imran

Monitoring Desk RAWALPINDI: Former Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan on Monday stated that he will include former army chief General (retd) Qamar Javed Bajwa and US embassy officials as witnesses in his defence in the cipher

"Will include General tober 23 but the indictment ficials as witnesses [in the case]. General Bajwa did everything on Donald Lu's directives," claimed Khan during an informal conversation with journalists in the February 8 polls, add-Adiala jail during the cipher ing that he was arrested case hearing.

A special court estab-

Naif Al-Otaibi on Monday

conveyed Saudi Arabia's

eagerness to foster in-

private broadcasters in Pa-

kistan in a bid to strengthen

Briefing the media per-

bilateral ties in the realm of

sons underscoring the sig-

nificance of this develop-ment, he said, "We aspire

to see a deepening of col-

laboration between private

media institutions in Saudi

Arabia and Pakistan. Such

cooperation holds immense

importance as both nations

share a mutual interest in

The press attaché em-

each other's content.

lished under the Official thankful to those PTI lead-Secrets Act 2023 held an ers jumping the ship. He also rejected reports open court hearing in Adiala

iail where Imran Khan and that he held negotiations in Shah Mahmood Qureshi are jail. In November, PTI incarcerated. The court is President Parvez Elahi conducting the trial afresh claimed that officials of the after the Islamabad High European Union and the Court nullified the jail trial International Monetary on November 21. Both of Fund routinely visit Imran them were indicted on Oc-Khan at Adiala.

He also shared that he d not face any difficulties

Khan also spoke about the allegations put forward against him by Khawar Maneka — the former husband of his wife Bushra Bibi. He stated that he saw his wife's face for the first time after their nikkah.

under a plan. Khan said he was Dr. Al-Otaibi says:

stood cancelled after the

person today, the former prime minister predicted

that his party would win

Speaking to the media

IHC order.

Saudi Arabia seeks closer ties

with Pakistani private media

for collaborative ventures

for polio eradication

ISLAMABAD (APP): phasized the people's de-Saudi Press Attaché Dr. sire in both countries to sire in both countries to engage with the cultural offerings, particularly dramas and films, from Pakistan creased cooperation with and Saudi Arabia. He said this collaboration aimed to meet this demand by facilitating the exchange of content between the media entities of the two nations. "We envision a future where the exchange of films and productions between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan

is increased. This will not eradication of polio had only strengthen cultural ties but also provide an opportunity for both countries to showcase their rich histories and traditions through each other's media platforms, Dr. Al-Otaibi explained.

QUETTA: Director General Civil Services Academy Dr. Hafeez Jamali meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

NAB chief confesses to slow-paced working at corruption watchdog

Accountability Bureau to people. We will tighten (NAB) Chairman Lieutenant General (retd) Nazir Ahmed has said that the perception about slowpaced working at NAB is true to some extent.

Speaking at an event here on Monday, NAB Chairman Nazir Ahmed said that 7 out of every 10 people are victims of some housing scheme fraud.

He said that the antigraft watchdog is trying that

LAHORE (INP): National no injustice would be done our noose around the opportunists, he added.

He said that the purpose of starting an organized awareness campaign among the people is that the youth who will be a part of the awareness campaign, will become the ambassadors of the NAB. Lieutenant General ® Nazir Ahmed said that the impression of slowness about NAB is true to

Dr. Nadeem Jan says: Pakistan gets \$100m support

ISLAMABAD (APP) Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan on Monday said that a support of \$100 million had been obtained from the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) for the eradication of polio. Addressing the "Reaching the last mile" forum related to Polio in COP-28 in UAE, the minister said that this was a major accomplishment. He said that the efforts towards the

achieved significant success. He expressed special gratitude to the IDB, the United Arab Emirates and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for their support in providing assistance for the eradication of polio.

Dr. Nadeem Jan pledged full determination for the eradication of polio from Pakistan. He said that the grant allocated for the eradication of polio was being efficiently utilized, ensuring effective expenditure.

general elections: Solangi

"The Cabinet had approved Rs 42 billion for the budgetary needs of the ECP. An amount of Rs 10 billion was already released," the minister wrote

on X formerly Twitter. budgeted amount.



Solangi added

addressing the inauguration ceremony of Pak-

the status of economic

Domki on the occasion

congratulated the caretaker

Prime Minister on his suc-

cessful visit to United

visit to UAE as biggest

taker Chief Minister Mir

Ali Mardan Domki pre-

sented souvenir to the care-

Information Center (TIC) at

New Gwadar International

Airport to facilitate the for-

eign and domestic tourists

about their destination.

Talking to APP, a

PTDC official said the es-

tablishment of the center

would provide complete,

accurate and comprehen-

sive information to the tour-

ists thronging to Pakistan

from different countries to

enjoy the beauty of recre-

ational sites of Balochistan

province. He said that TIC

would not only play a crucial

role in promoting tourism but

also emphasize the need for

the growing significance of

Gwadar as a tourist desti-

nation that attracting visi-

tors from across the coun-

try and around the world.

of State for Tourism, Spe-

cial Assistant to Prime Min-

ister on Youth Affairs, Wasi

Shah was committed to

construct Tourist Informa-

tion Center at Gwadar air-

port as soon as possible to

provide all kinds of infor-

mation and facilities to the

He said that Minister

The official highlighted

state-of-the-art facilities.

He termed the PM's

In the end, the care-

Arab Emirates.

economic success

He said that the invalu-

Ali Mardan

The Chief Minister also said that the CPEC China friendship hospihas progressed tremental and desalination water plant in Gwadar on Mondously because of the vastness and farsightedness of The caretaker Prime the leadership of Pakistan Minister Anwaarul Haq and China. He said that the CPEC Kakar, Ambassador of China to Pakistan, Jiang is major project which has

Zaidong, federal ministers and other high ups were game changer. also present. Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister said that able partnership between Pakistan and China would ours' full attention is on debe put on sustainable lines velopment of Balochistan

GWADAR: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar unveils the

plagues to inaugurate the completed Pak-China Friendship Hospital Project

Pakistan's development linked with development of Balochistan:

We are determined to develop

Gwadar as international city: CM

and the China-Aid Gwadar Seawater Desalination Project.

at every level. He said that we are determined to put Gwadar on The dwellers of path of development and prosperity.

He said that the local people would get ample opportunities of employment with completion of different departments projects of worth billions

of dollars in the province. Moreover, the ecoviews were expressed by nomic activities would be



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister Amjad Rasheed, Additional Chief Secretary Home Zahid Saleem and Sohailur Rehman meeting with Caretaker Interior Minister Mir Sarfaraz Khan Bugti

No crisis in meeting ECP's financial needs for holding

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Monday ruled out any "crisis on meeting the financial needs of the ECP" in order to hold free, fair and transparent general elections in the coun-

He said the Election Commission of Pakistan had approached to release Rs 17.4 billion, out of the

"Whatever budgeted amount is needed by the ECP, will be released as per



He said the caretaker government firmly stood behind the ECP in holding free and fair elections as mandated by Article 218(3) of the Constitution.

general elections amid police shortage ECP says all IGPs have informed it

Army's help sought for

about a collective shortfall of over 270,000 police personnel

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Monday organise an election, [...] it sought the help of the Pakistan Army to ensure the mitment from the executive law and order situation during the general polls, set to take place on February 8

In the lead-up to the polls, all political parties have geared up for a face-off, while the ECP has notified the final list of delimitation of constituencies of the national and four provincial assemblies.

The electoral watchdog is also expected to announce the election sched-ule, later this month — 54 days before the polls in line with the law.

During the elections, the security situation is a grave concern for the authorities concerned and to ensure that nothing goes south, law enforcers are deployed at polling stations and they are also on patrol.

also expects the same comauthorities and law enforcement agencies to maintain law and order in the area of the constituencies during the conduct of elections, the ECP's letter to the inte-

rior ministry read. In its bid to prepare for the elections, the ECP had sought a report from all inspector generals of police to determine the availability of police personnel for the polls.

Responding to the ECP's request, IGPs from all the provinces and the capital said that they did not have enough personnel. Around 4,500 were short in Islamabad, 169,110 Punjab, 56,717

Pakhtunkhwa, 33,462 Sindh, and 13,769 in Balochistan — totalling



LAHORE: Chief of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) Maulana Fazlur Rehman meeting with PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif.

Nawaz, Fazl discuss possibilities of seat adjustment

LAHORE (INP): Former ated upon the seat adjustprime minister Nawaz Sharif on Monday met Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam chief Fazlur Rehman and discussed collaborative efforts, including seat adjustments and a joint presidential candidate.

Rehman visited the central secretariat of PML-N at Model Town where he received a warm welcome from Nawaz Sharif and Shahbaz Sharif.

The participants in the meeting included PML-N chief organiser Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Senator Ishaq Dar, Ahsan Iqbal and Khawaja Saad Rafiq.

The leaders discussed the current political landscape of the country, strategising for the upcom-

ing elections. They deliber-

ment formula between JUI-F and PML-N. Saad Rafiq briefed the

participants on the status of political negotiations with the MQM in Sindh. They reached a consen-

sus on MQM's proposed nationwide local government system, agreeing to support a constitutional amendment for its implementation in the next parliament. The two parties de-

cided to form an electoral alliance with the MQM and like-minded groups. In Sindh, the three parties will collaborate on seat adjustments, entrusting the decision of candidates to provincial leader Bashir Memon, and the nominated leaders of MQM.



GWADAR: Chinese Ambassador in Pakistan Jiang Zaidong meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

Fire broke out in Musakhail-Shirani forests overcome

Caretaker CM appreciates DC, Levies force for timely response

used ensuring that the fire QUETTA: The extensive fire erupted in the forests

Independent Report

situated Musakhail-Shirani district mountainous range was overcome in wee hours of Monday.

The fire was broken out in Toi Laghara Tehsil on Sunday evening, which was extinguished with cooperation of the Levies force and local community on Monday morning, confirmed Deputy Commissioner Musakhail, Zulfigar Karrar.

According to the Deputy Commissioner Musakhail, the operation remained continued whole night to control the fire in the forests. During the opmay not spread further. Meanwhile, the caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

highly appreciated the ef-

eration, fire balls were also

forts made by Deputy Commissioner Musakhail, Levies and local community for extinguishing the fire in the forests. In an official statement issued here on Monday, Chief Minister said that

fire was overcome by having an access to the difficult mountainous range.

He recalled that the precious forests had been destroyed due to the fire broken out in the forests located in the same area last

We are determined to steer Pakistan out of all issues: More than 0.4 mln immigrants repatriated so far; desirous of early repatriation of remaining ones: Jan

Caretaker Provincial Minister Information urges Afghan government not to allow terrorists' dens use against any country

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker

Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has stated that the process of repatriation of illegal immigrants is continued at a fast pace.

Ĵan Achakzai said that more than 0.4 million immigrants out of total of 1.7 million have so far been repatriated to their country just because of the farsighted policy of the caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar and commitment of Chief of Army Staff, General Syed



Asim Munir. The Minister Information stated so while ad-

press conference at Quetta Press Club on Monday. He said that while more dressing a hurriedly called than 0.4 million immigrants

have so far been reparteed to their homeland, we are desirous of expelling remaining immigrants at the

The initiative of expulsion of the illegal immigrants to their country was also very necessary for relations of better future of both the countries, Jan Achakzai He said that every

country has freedom to take steps under its constitution and law, so Afghanistan has also complete choice to make internal and external Continued on page 2

Government High School Piralizai commemorates a century of educational excellence and success

By Idress Khan

The importance of formal education is multifaceted, extending beyond individual development to influence societal progress, economic prosperity, and the overall well-being of communities and nations. Recognizing and investing in education is fundamental for building a sustainable, inclusive, and equitable future. Understanding the importance of the foremost society building the community elders of Jungle Pir Alizai, Killa Abdullah marked a remarkable contribution in strengthening the educational institutes. Killi Piralizai- Piralizai is a village located in District Killa Abdullah of Balochistan. It is located 60 km to the north-west of provincial capital Quetta and is about 2.26 km from the main Quetta-Chaman

Government. Boys High School Piralizai District Kill Abdullah, established in 1919, holds a significant place in promotion the education in the area. This institution has not just educated generations but has sculpted the future of our district. Starting as a humble primary school, it blossomed into a thriving middle school for 33 years and later evolved into a distinguished high school, a status it has proudly held for the past 35 years.

A monumental event unfolded the last Sunday the grand celebration of Government High School Piralizai's centennial anniversary. A momentous occasion that not only marked a hundred years of educational legacy but also showcased the relentless dedication of the school's staff and the spirited participation of

ANTIGUA (INP): Shai

Hope sealed a dramatic vic-

tory for his West Indies side

over England with three

sixes in four balls off Sam

Curran in Antigua, then

called upon his players to

back up their performances

next week as they look to

off 83 balls was his 16th

ODI century and the fast-

est of his career. He brought

it up with a flurry of sixes

to take West Indies over the

line, belting a Curran full

Dominica has withdrawn

as one of the co-hosts of

citing the delay in complet-

West Indies (CWI) said.

seven countries in the

stage matches in the

showpiece tournament in

June along with the United

Roseau was scheduled to

host one group match and

the 20-team tournament

conveyed their inability to

Hope's unbeaten 109

clinch a series win.

STER COMPETITION



former students. As an alu-

mina of this esteemed institution, I had the privilege of being part of this historic event, a memory I shall forever cherish. As we gather to honor a rich legacy of education and community, let us embark on a nostalgic journey through the annals of history, cherishing the milestones, memories, and unwavering spirit that have defined our institution over the past century. This centennial celebration is not merely a reflection of the years gone by, but a testament to the enduring commitment to excellence that has shaped generations and left an indelible mark on the fabric of our school's story. Join us in commemorating a century of knowledge, growth, and the enduring bonds that unite us as one cherished school community. Esteemed guests from all wake of life, alumni, faculty, and students in all large number attended the momentous occasion that transcends time – the grand celebrations of century-old

What set this celebration apart was its inclusivity. It wasn't just a gathering of distinguished alumni; it was a union of political leaders, tribal elders, and former and current students, together,

دعنوانی تمام برائیوں میں سب سے زیادہ نقصان دہ ہے

QUETTA: Balochistan Caretaker Education Minister Qadir Bakhsh Baloch,

Home Minister Captain (R) Muhammad Zubair Jamali & DG, NAB Zafar Iqbal

Khan distributing trophy and certificates among position holders after taking

Shai Hope sealed a dramatic victory

for West Indies over England

toss over wide long-on,

pulling a shorter ball over

deep midwicket to bring up

three figures and repeating

the shot to complete a four-

wicket win with seven balls

- their second-highest in

men's ODIs - was set up

by Alick Athanaze and

Brandon King's 104-run

opening stand. "They're

both quality players," Hope said. "Again, it's

about how you can con-

tinue from this position.

time, CWI said in a state-

ment. "While recognising

the reasons stated for the

tion," CWI chief executive

Dominica and the

Dominica Cricket Associa-

tion to host international

complete match schedule

Director Fawwaz Baksh

"expected immi-

"We look forward to

government of

West Indies' run chase

to spare.

Dominica withdraws

from hosting T20

World Cup matches

BARBADOS (INP): get the facilities ready on

next year's T20 World Cup their commitment, we note

ing upgrades of match and decision that has been made

practice venues, Cricket and understand the posi-

West Indies selected to continuing to work with

Windsor Park in matches in the future." The

two Super Eight games of nently" and Tournament

but the government has said they had contingency

was

plans ready

Dominica was one of Johnny Grave said.

part in competition speech regarding anti-corruption at Girls College.

they joined hands to pay homage to the institution that had profoundly influenced numerous lives throughout the past cen-

tury.
The impact of Government Boys High School Piralizai extends far beyond its classrooms. Its alumni, comprising the majority of teachers in District Kill Abdullah, have not only excelled in their careers but have also become the backbone of our community. Hundreds of its students- later graduated have ventured into fields like Engineering, Medical, Media, and Banking, are truly shaping the

landscape of our society. What truly sets this school apart is its remarkable journey towards coeducation, a trailblazing concept in our province. For over 15 years, this school has championed the idea of boys and girls learning side by side, defying societal norms and fostering an environment of equality and progress. This forward-thinking approach has empowered approximately 70% of our women, enabling them to receive education and actively engage in various sectors of life such as politics, education, and healthcare alongside their male counterparts.

From the very beginning, the zeal and passion of the school's teachers, headmaster particularly the loving teacher Mr. Main Zahid, and the relentless dedication of Mr. Asif, a revered teacher, were evident of the grand celebration of Government High School Piralizai centennial anniversary. Mr. Asif, in particular, undertook a monumental task – he me-

tency, not just a one-off to

show the world you can do

board, we have to chase it.

If you want to win

games, we can't only win

games when we're bowl-

ing teams out for 160 or

150: we've got to win from

any position. That's the

belief that we need to have

in the dressing room. I'm

going to be pushing that re-

gardless of what's going

More than 0.4 m....

Continued from page 1

policies in accordance with

the international rules and

tion urged Afghanistan to

take steps to recognize its

government and state at the

allow the terrorists' dens

use against any other coun-

try, and present itself as a

responsible state, he

world is witnessing the ter-

rorism activities from the

land of Afghanistan, and

(world) is concerned about

the terrorism acts occurring

in Pakistan. He once against

reiterated Pakistan's de-

mand of handing over the

terrorists like Gul Bahadur

involved in terrorism acts

to Pakistan.

He said that the whole

The Miniter Informa-

Afghanistan should not

regulations.

world level.

pleaded.

"Whatever is on the

something.

ticulously recorded the school's history in the form of a book. This book didn't merely narrate events; it was a journey through time, a tale of struggles, triumphs, and the unwavering spirit of this institution and its teachers and Alumina. This book covered many interviews with former students of GBHS-Piralizai. It told the stories of a large number of teachers and students, many of whom now hold important positions in the government and public sectors. Reading the book, I was

lives and experiences of three of our beloved teachers, which I feel compelled to highlight here -Late Master Abdul Aziz, Master Shah Wali, and Chaudhary Abdul Karim. The book also highlighted the early struggles of Malak Ayub Khan, grandfather of Malak Farid Khan, the chief of Piralizai, whose efforts laid the foundation for our school during the British era. Chaudhary Abdul Karim, in his role as the headmaster, led this institution to remarkable achievements throughout Baluchistan. Master Shah Wali, a revered science teacher, was not only an educator but also admired for his wisdom and kindness. During the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, he led the Janbaz force, a

profoundly touched by the

During the recent gathering, communities from all corners of the district are united to honor the enduring success of our school. Distinguished speakers, including Malak Farid Khan, for us.

ghanistan border from So-

Engr. Zamarak Khan (former Minister), Haji Wali Mohammad- Author & tribal leader Divisional Director (Education), DEOs, DDEOs, and other respected figures, praised the institution's rich history and its revered teachers Their unwavering dedication was acknowledged highlighting their pivotal role in shaping generations. The Piralizai tribe, credited for this educational oasis. was hailed as the most peaceful and education-lov ing community in the district, exemplifying the spirit of progress and har-

Government Boys High School Piralizai stands as a testament to the power of education, unity, and progressive thinking in district kill Abdullah. Its story is not just one of academic excellence but also a saga of breaking barriers and inspiring generations to come. In a world of possibilities, this school continues to be a guiding light, shaping dreams and transforming lives in District Kill Abdullah.

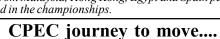
Lastly among the spirited participation in the grand celebration of Gov-ernment High School Piralizai's centennial anniversary. Everyone has acknowledged the efforts of the Head Master Mr. Attaullah, Senior teacher Mr. Main Zahid - whose hard work, coupled with the group of 900 trained tribal personnel, to safeguard the love and sincerity he poured tribal regions near the Afinto his tasks and the relentless efforts of Mr. Asif whose book amazingly showed our history. He worked really hard and made it exciting. It felt like the old times and all the intelligent things people knew back then came alive



compatriot Muhammad Asim Khan in the final to clinch the men's title of Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) -Serena Hotels International Squash Championship at Mushaf Squash Complex, Islamabad on Monday.

During championship, Noor outwitted Asim Khan by a scoreline of 11-8, 8-2, and retired hurt in 18 minutes. In the women's event's final, Amina el Rihany of Egypt beat her compatriot Nadien Elhammamy in a well-fought contest 13-15, 11-3, 11-7, 11-7 in 48 minutes to lift the

A group of 23 world-ranking men and women players from Malaysia, Hong Kong, Egypt and Spain participated in the championships.



Continued from page 1

Domki, Chinese Ambassador in Pakistan Jiang Zaidong and the Chinese and Pakistani officials attended the event.

The prime minister said the ease in the form of reduced travel durations across the province was iust due to CPEC interven-

He told the gathering that trade worth \$36 trillion was expected to take place in and around China in the near future, therefore it was a must to join the journey through skill devel-

opment and claim the share. instead of showing hostil-He said the journey of China's modernisation was significance and steering millions of people out of

poverty was unprecedented. The prime minister said that the development of China had a positive impact across the region, particularly Pakistan and its

Balochistan province. He said the clean drinking water had been an issue faced by the Gwadar people and the desalination plant project would address it to a great extent. Besides, the construction of a 150bed hospital would provide

people, he added. The prime minister also thanked the Chinese ambassador for announcing the solar power project and emergency services for Ouetta.

quality healthcare to the

Prime Minister Kakar assuring the all-out support of the federal and provincial governments on the matter of security, reiterated that the Pakistan Army, police and law enforcement agencies would safeguard the Chinese workers even at the cost of their lives.

He expressed the hope that Gwadar would complete its course of development soon to become a trade hub with the Pak-China cooperation for the benefit of future genera-

He directed the authorities concerned to connect Northern Zone with main grid to address the electricity issue.

Earlier, the prime minister, along with the Chinese ambassador and Balochistan chief minister unveiled the plaques to inaugurate the projects which followed the presentation of the souvenirs to the prime minister as well as the envoy

PM Kakar, later talking to reporters on the occasion, said the direction of progress

Balochistan was set forth and expressed confidence that the province would witness a new era of development.

He thanked the provincial government on completion of the development projects, which he said would facilitate the locals of Gwadar.

The prime minister hoped that the financial crunch would be over with the steps taken by the in-

terim government. To a question on funds allocated for flood-hit areas, he said the world was ready to dole out billions of dollars, however, it depended on how Pakistan

In his address, Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong congratulated the people of Balochistan over the inauguration of the desalination plant providing clean

drinking water.

could secure the climate fi-

He thanked the federal and provincial governments particularly the prime minister for their support to the projects which manifested their commitment to the CPEC. He said both the

projects of hospital and desalination plant would help uplift the living standard of the people of Gwadar

He expressed the hoped that the both countries would continue to strengthen their cooperation to accomplish the next phase of CPEC Chief Minister Ali

Mardan Domki said the projects were another example of Pak-China friendship as they would serve the masses by providing quality healthcare facilities and around 500,000 gallons per day of drinking



DUBAI: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar is being seen off by the Minister of State of the United Arab Emirates for Government Development and Future Her Excellency Ohood bint Khalfan Al Roumi at Al-Maktoum International Airport of Dubai.

To prevent theft of mobile phones

New mobile app "Find My Cell FMC" launched

Bv M. Ilvas

PESHAWAR: For the first time in the history of the provincial capital Peshawar, the Capital City Police Peshawar has cooperated with the KP IT Board to ensure the prevention of the purchase and sale of mobile phones stolen and taken away from citizens and to further tighten the perimeter against criminal elements.

A new mobile app called "FMC" has been introduced. While a special form has also

been issued for the registration of mobile dealers after the confirmation of the presidents of the mobile dealer association and the SHO's of the respective police stations



, will be registered, for which the procedure has also been devised. Initially, this app has been launched at the level of Peshawar, after which its scope will be extended to the

Capital City Police Officer Peshawar Syed Ashfaq Anwar, DIG IT Irfan Khan and SSP Operations Kashif Aftab at Malik Saad Shaheed Police Line Peshawar have called the introduction of this app as a good move by the citizens as well as phone dealers. A special app "FMC" was launched regularly by Capital City Police Peshawar

with the support of KP IT Board has launched an app for the convenience of citizens of Peshawar and to prevent the theft of mobile phones, and a good initiative has been taken, a new mobile app has been launched for the convenience of the citizens of Peshawar and for the businessmen dealing with mobile phones. All police stations and registered shopkeepers will have this facility, in which the IMEI of the mobile phone along with name, parentage, mobile number, identity card and photo of the seller is stored during purchase and sale, according to which the registered shopkeepers who buy and sell mobile phones will get instant data of snatched and stolen mobile phones during snatching. An alert will also be issued on the app, which will enable the elements involved in mobile theft to be dealt with.

The special mobile app will be used in police stations across the district as well as during duty snap checking and blockades, details. According to the Capital City Police, eshawar, for the first time in the history of the provincial capital Peshawar, to tighten the perimeter against criminal elements, for transparency in the purchase and sale of mobile phones and prevention of stolen mobile phones, as well as for the convenience of citizens. A new mobile app has been introduced, CCPO Peshawar Syed Ashfaq Anwar, DIG IT Irfan Khan and SSP Operations Kashif Aftab Abbasi launched this special app at Malik Saad Shaheed Police Line.



QUETTA: Provincial Secretary Finance Babar Khan presiding over a meeting regarding Finance Department

PPF to organize national level events for youth

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Padel Federation (PPF) has decided to organize national level events for youth, mens and womens for the promotion of this sport in the country.

According to press release, the general council meeting of Pakistan Padel Federation was held in which the Chairman of the federation Lt. Gen. (retd) Tougir Zia, President Dr. Farhan Essa, CEO Fazle Mateen Qureshi, Barzan Jaffar (President Coaches Commission), representatives from Pakistan Army, Air Force, Navy, Railways, Higher Education Commission, Islamabad, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Sindh. Punjab, Gilgit-Baltistan and other institutions were also participated in the meeting

During the meeting. various proposals for the game development and promotion of padel sports including talent hunting among the youth were dis-

Lost & Found

My original CNIC bearing No. 54400-1585104-4 namely Rasheeba D/o Hamid Mehmood has been lost somewhere in University of Balochistan. Finder may please contact on 0313-8160958

CTD busts auto theft gang, recovers stolen car

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) on Monday announced the dismantling of a five-member gang engaged in auto theft, accompanied by the recovery of a stolen car in their possession. The CTD apprehended the suspects within the ju-

risdiction of Sachal police station and found the vehicle registered as BCR-572, which had been reported stolen from Mubina Town, as per the CTD spokesperson.

TENDER NOTICE TSE-232412364533 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory

For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The Divisional Forest Officer Duki invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2023 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates Tender Fee Rs.1000/- Bid Security 2% Name of Work/s

1 Raising of 200 acres cluster plantation. Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work. Turn over of at least 7,000,000 PKR Amount in2 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must

accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee, Deposit a Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 18 December, 2023 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 18 December, 2023 till 09:00 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 10:00 AM Address: Divisional forest officer duki Phone no: 0333787163 Email: attataransdo@gmail.com

PRQ No.1095/04-12-2023 🐈 www.dpr.gob.pk. 💌 @dpr_gob 🙍 dpr.gob 🛨 @dgp

DUKI

ISLAMABAD: Group photo of winners holding prizes along with the organizers during CAS-Serena Hotels International Squash Championship for Men & Women-2023 organized by Pakistan Squash Federation in collaboration with PAF & Serena Hotels at Mushaf Squash Complex.

NAB distributes cheques worth Rs 600mln among Arian city victims D (APP): self-accountability in resolving the issues faced by solving the issues faced by solving in it.

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Accountability Bureau (NAB), Deputy Chairman, Sohail Nasir Monday handed over cheques worth Rs 600 million to 450 affectees of Arain City scandal.

Commencing with the recovered sum obtained through a plea bargain with the management of Arain Jang, Fateh Rawalpindi, the funds were distributed among the victims in a simple ceremony held at NAB, Rawalpindi.

This returned amount, a product of meticulous scrutiny, is being distributed among the victims.

Addressing the cheque distribution ceremony here, the deputy chairman stressed the importance of ensuring social justice and to carefully assess the le-

the society.

NAB is actively conducting an awareness campaign through the media to educate the public about precautionary measures before investing in a housing society.

It was emphasized that people should invest only in societies that are legal and registered. He committed to re-

turning every penny to the victims of fraudulent housing societies, seeking the public's support in honoring this commitment. This aligns with the

bureau's responsibility to protect the rights of investors and others. He urged individuals

FAW

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Chairman NAB Sohail Nasir addressing during cer-

emony of cheque distribution among affectees of Arain City at NAB Head-

each capacity were installed

at Tunnel 4 of the Tarbela

dam. Now, Water and Power Development Au-

thority (WAPDA) was ex-

ecuting Tarbela 5th Exten-

sion Project with the finan-

cial assistance of WB. The

project being set up at tun-

nel of 5 of Tarbela Dam

Additionally, he recommended consulting the relevant regulator to verify the authenticity of any housing society before making an investment.

"We must prioritize respecting the rights of others and honoring our commitments," he added.

He highlighted the presence of mafias in the housing sector, advising people not to purchase files without verifying their legality and authenticity.

He commended the Arian City investigative team led by Ms Beenish Javed for successfully recovering Rs 600 million from the owners of Arian City, and rejecting incen-



ISLAMABAD (APP): Executive Director, Sustain-Change (UNFCCC) as special results. "This requires cial delegate in various plenaries, group discussions and other important deliberations taking place at the critical environmental moot of the world.

In his exclusive chat with APP, the SDPI Executive Director said that the G-77 plus China countries should revive the same spirit as it was demonstrated at the previous COP-27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.
Dr. Suleri noted that it

should be floated as a pro-Parties (COP-28) to the posal for the next or the United Nations Framework other successive COP

some sort of financing that I call DAI (Data, Action and Investment). So, when we have investment then we require data to understand investment prospects and action again not only by the development partners but also by the recipient country and the people working on it," he added. The SDPI head hoped that the COP-28 would come up with some kind of oil and gas initiatives and climate funds of

IHC seeks

record

pertaining to

appointment

of PIMS' ED

its own helping in transition as just energy transition to clean energy is important.

WWF doubles marriage, death grants of its registered workers ISLAMABAD (APP): 400,000. But now, n 400,000. But now, new re-

The Workers Welfare Fund (WWF), an attached department of Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development has doubled the marriage and death grant for the registered workers of Federal Capital territory.

counties, G-77 plus China need to establish unity for

working out indigenous solutions as just energy tran-

sition without proper finances was elusive.

Director is participating in

the 28th Conference of the

The SDPI Executive

An official source told APP here on Monday that the grants had been increased in pursuance of the decision of governing body of the WWF. The previous amount of the marriage grant was Rs 200,000 and the amount allocated as contributions by employers

vised amount of the marriage grant has been fixed at Rs 400,000 and death grant Rs 800,000 respectively. The transport amount has also been increased from Rs 1500 to Rs 6000 and ambulance services are also being provided to all newly merged districts in Khyber Pukhtunkhaw. The official said that the Finance Section of the WWF was playing a key role in providing and managing different services and activities for which funds are generated through the

ISLAMABAD (APP) The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday sought record pertaining to the appointment of Executive Director, Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) Imran Sikandar. Justice Hassan Aurangzeb heard the petition against the appointment the ED.

The court also instructed the Ministry of

Health and Establishment Division to present the list of most senior doctors to the bench in next hearing.



ISLAMABAD: Girls are taking interest in posters during Posters Exhibition regarding the 100 Years of Cinematic Artists, at Pakistan National Council of Arts in Federal Capital.

Indonesia-Pakistan collaboration: Religious diversity, youth initiatives, and economic ties take center stage

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia facilitated a panel discussion titled The Role of Youth in Religious Diplomacy and Interfaith Dialogue', fostering dialogue between the visiting delegation of prominent religious scholars and intellectuals from Pakistan, the Santri Diplomacy Academy, and the Indonesian Christian Youth Movement the other day.

In the discussion, a representative Pesantren (madrasa) highlighted the Santri Diplomacy Academy's efforts in building a peaceful world free from violence. He shared that Indonesia boasts 39,000 madrasas promoting interfaith dialogue through diverse 'Youth Exchange Programs' across various nations.

The representative from the Indonesian Christian Youth Movement provided insights to the delegaoutlining the movement's objectives of fostering spirituality, nationalism, and a sense of national identity among

Shedding light on the strength of Indonesia's cultural and religious diversity the movement successfully addresses conflicts by adhering to the principles of Pancasila, he added.

He, acknowledging

their collaborative role, mentioned active participation in government consultations, with a designated representative conveying the priorities and concerns of the youth to the government. The Pakistani delegation, consisting of Ulema and scholars, conveyed their appreciation for the invaluable opportunity of mutual learning. Emphasizing that Pakistan, with 65 percent of its population under 35 years, is a youthful nation, they underscored the pivotal role played by the country's youth in advancing peace

In a similar vein, they expressed their commitment to drawing inspiration from the Indonesian experience and the model of religious moderation, acknowledging the significance of such practices in fostering harmony.

WIPO high level delegation to visit Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Intellectual Property Organization (IPO) Pakistan will organize a series of events from tomorrow on Tuesday in connection with the closing ceremony of WIPO's project on 'Intellectual Property and Women Entrepreneurs in Embroidery' and related crafts business.

The closing ceremony of the events will be held on December 7, in which Caretaker Minister for Commerce Dr Gohar Ejaz will be the chief guest, said a press release issued here on Monday. A three-member WIPO delegation is visiting Pakistan to attend the events. The delegation comprises of Hasan Kleib Deputy Director General WÎPO, Ms. Yaning Zhang and Dr David Simmons Counsellors Division for Asia and the Pacific Regional and National Development Sector WIPO.

On the first day of the visit on December 5, the WIPO delegation will visit Foreign Service Academy and Pakistan Institute for Trade and Development (PITAD). On the second day, the delegation will visit the Foreign Office.

USAID launches strategic planning at Pakistani universities

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), through the Higher Education System Strengthening Activity, organized a five-day workshop to launch strategic planning at Pakistani public sector universities. University administrators and faculty learned how to develop and implement strategic plans to improve their universities' management, market-relevance, and student support services. These strategic plans will support universities to increase students' employability after graduation.

USAID Mission Di-rector Kate Somvongsiri addressed the university leaders, saying, "Higher education institutions are central to Pakistan's development. Your universities shape future leaders, said a press release issued here on Monday. Your degree programs give youth the skills Pakistan's

ISLAMABAD (APP): growth." She also commended the partnership between the University of Utah and the Pakistani universities for collaborating, exchanging ideas, and thinking strategically to solve shared challenges. In his address, Higher

Education Commission Chairman Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed appreciated the collaboration with USAID to support higher education in Pakistan. He said, "Strategic planning is essential for universities to achieve excellence in teaching, research, and service." urged the participants to apply the knowledge and skills gained from the workshop to their institutions and contribute to the na-

tional development agenda. USAID's Higher Education System Strengthening Activity, implemented by the University of Utah. partners with the Higher Education Commission and 16 Pakistani universities. It to benefit from and drive strengthens higher educaeconomic tion management



drea Wicke calling on Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue.

BISP-UNICEF collaboration takes center stage to uplift Pak vulnerable communities

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and UNICEF Monday pledged to continue collaborative efforts to provide financial relief to vulnerable segments of the society, making them self-reliant.

This was expressed during a meeting held between Secretary BISP, Amer Ali Ahmad and UNICEF Regional Director for South Asia, Sanjay Wijesekera, here at the BIŠP Headquarters.

strengthen the ongoing collaboration between BISP communities in Pakistan.

from BISP included Additional Secretary BISP, Dr. Muhammad Tahir Noor, and DG NSER, Naveed Akbar whereas Country Representative, Abdullah Fadil, and Chief Social Policy, Sadaf Zulfigar from UNICEF were also present in the meeting. In his opening remarks, the secretary BISP highlighted the pivotal role of BISP in making a significant impact on the lives of the beneficiaries.

He emphasized the collaborative efforts that The meeting aimed to have evolved over the 15 years, resulting in BISP currently serving 9.3 million and UNICEF in their col- deserving families, identilective mission to uplift the fied through the advanced lives of most vulnerable Proxy Means Test (PMT) munities in Pakistan.
Other participants
Other participants
Other participants
Other participants
Other participants

PBM to highlight antipoverty initiatives with children's performances

(SLAMABAD (APP): PBM's event 'Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal at a Glance' is set to showcase anti-poverty initiatives, featuring children's performances and diverse guest participation, while emphasizing thorough preparations and open involvement. Pakistan Baitul-Mal (PBM) is organizing the special event, on December 6 at Fatima

Jinnah Park here. The event is designed to spotlight Pakistan Baitul-Mal's endeavors and initiatives in the fight against poverty, featuring various cial invitations

stalls. The main proceedings will unfold at Aiwan-

e-Ouaid Hall. The agenda features presentations by children from Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal Sweet Homes and Child Labor Rehabilitation Centers, showcasing various tableaus, dramas, and musical performances.

Notable guests, including media figures, diplomats, parliamentarians, multinational companies, and representatives of na-NGOs, have received spe-

Punctuality of trains reached 93 percent in last three months

ISLAMABAD (APP): The overall punctuality ratio of trains has improved from 76 to 93 per cent in three months owing to close monitoring and stern measures taken by Pakistan Railways at the divisional and ministry levels.

"With the punctuality of trains and concrete measures taken by the department in last three months, the number of passengers has increased by over 20 million, which is ample proof of the department's achievement," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP. He said that Pakistan

Railways is also set to introduce the 'Train Driver promised.

Assistant System' (TDAS) to help train drivers a clear view of the railway tracks up to an impressive distance of 700 meters.

"The technology aims to enhance the safety, punctuality and efficiency of train operations during adverse weather conditions, particularly in the presence of dense smog and fog," he The system, he said

the TDAS is set to revolutionize the way trains navigate through foggy landscapes. It promised not only to avert potential accidents but also to facilitate smooth train travel when visibility is severely com-



ISLAMABAD: Senator Irfan-Ul-Haque Siddiqui, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Federal Education & Professional Training presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.

completed in 2018 with fiwould further add 1530 nancial assistance of the MW to the existing 4,888 World Bank. Before com-MW, they said. They said the project missioning of 4th Extension project the total hydel genwould complete in 2025 and eration capacity of Tarbela the total hydel generation power house was 3,478 MW, they said. capacity of Tarbela power house would jump to 6418 They said that three MW.

Tarbela 4th Extension

Project delivered 22.56b

to national grid so far

ISLAMABAD (APP): turbines having 470 MW

Tarbela 4th Extension

Project has contributed

22.56 billion low cost hydel

units to the national grid

system since its commis-

APP here that 1410 MW-

Tarbela 4th Extension

Hydel Power Station was

Official sources told

sioning in 2018.

ICP launch special drive against menace of narcotics; educate youth on drug prevention

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police have initiated a special awareness campaign to eradicate use of narcotics from the federal capital and ensure the safety of the youth from the curse of drugs. Police

teams have conducted spe-

police teams have delivered lectures in various educational institutes in the

Sihala, Humak, Lohi Bher, Koral, Khanna, Kirpa, Shahzad Town, Bani Gala, Nilore, Bhara Kahu, Phulgran, Industrial Area, Sabzi Mandi, Noon, Shams Colony, Shalimar and Ramna police stations ju-



cational institutions to educate students about the harms of drugs and preventive measures

The Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan highlighted that Islamabad Capital Police has launched a special awareness campaign to rid the federal capital of narcotics and safeguard the young generation from the

risdiction about the harms of drugs and preventive measures, emphasizing that drug abuse is detrimental to the health and future of stu-

Students are urged to protect themselves and contribute to saving their surroundings from the curse

of drugs.
Parents and teachers are encouraged to collaborate in preventing youth from falling victim to

During this campaign, drugs.

CDA introduces state-of-the-art fast-track services

ISLAMABAD (APP): Building Control Directorate of Capital Development Authority (CDA) has introduced state-of-the-art fast-track service by modernizing the system of providing amenities to the citizens. In this context, on Monday, CDA started to ensure the approval of the building plan in the facilita-

tion centre on the fast track. Under this modern and fastest system, residential buildings of 356 yards will now be approved with an additional fee of Rs 20,000 thousand with required documents within two days, while residential buildings larger than 356 yards will be approved with relevant desk

sand. Additionally, commercial buildings up to 10000 square yards will also be approved within three days. A separate desk has also been established for all these matters. It should be noted that the citizens coming to this place will not have to wait in the line of one window separately. Similarly, arrangements have been made to set a good environment for the citizens who will visit here. After receiving the token, the citizens who come to the fast track service will be able to go to the relevant desk on their number and will get their case processed by the

FGEHA says: No plot in G-14/1 sector canceled

ISLAMABAD (APP) The Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) Monday on clarified that no plot in Sector G-14/1 of the federal capital has been can-

According to information available with the APP there were circulating rumors on social media in recent days suggesting that FGEHA had canceled eleven hundred plots in the mentioned sector, causing concerns among

Regarding the alleged cancellation of plots, the FGEHA said that there is no truth to the rumors. The facts are that the layout plan for the sector was prepared by the Capital Development Authority (CDA), excluding five small graveyards within the sector. Subsequently, a land possession issue arose, leading to a review of the plot acquisition

process In response to the plot acquisition situation, the FGEHA has revised the layout plan and renumbered the plots accordingly.

The authority emphasized that no plots have been canceled; rather, a renumbering process has been

CTD Islamabad conduct mock exercise near **Diplomatic Enclave**

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) conducted a mock exercise at an under construction building near the diplomatic enclave with a purpose to deal with any possible emergency situa tion and to ensure the safety of life and property of the citizens, a police public re-lation officer said.

According to detail, following the special direc-tions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the mock exercises by the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) are being conducted in different areas of the city in order to prepare the force to deal with any untoward situa-

Officials from counter terrorism department (CTD) and Bomb Disposa squad of Islamabad capital police participated under the supervision of SP CTD

Daily soice of Masse Independent

Tuesday December 05, 2023

One crucial year of extraordinary achievements

Undoubtedly it was an extraordinary year of extraordinary achievements made by an extraordinary person. He is no other but the Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir who completed one year as the COAS recently.

General Syed Asim Munir had taken command as COAS on November 29, 2022 at the times when Pakistan was really facing numbers of challenges, economic crisis, poor law and order condition and also the political un-stability. When we talk about the achievements during a period of just one year as Army Chief there are some of the most important goals and success which Pakistan achieve due to the efforts of General Asim Munir. During this year, under his leadership, the Pakistani armed forces and affiliated institutions tirelessly worked to make the country successful on every front. When General Asim Munir assumed command, the country was politically and economically vulnerable. There were fears that it might default in few days, leading to upheaval in the military. Things got to a point where rumors began to circulate about Pakistan's nuclear assets falling into the wrong hands. All in all, the entire country was gripped by a strong grip of panic and uncertainty. It was during those days that General Asim Munir stepped to the front with a determined resolve. The tenacity with which he steered the military towards pulling the country out of these challenges should be appreciated. He initiated steps to improve the economic and military aspects of Pakistan all the while focusing on a vision that aimed at the betterment of the nation. Taking command during a crucial

time, he recognized the necessity of the IMF program for the country. General Asim Munir engaged with strategic allies like Saudi Arabia and the UAE, ensuring them of credible progress during their diplomatic visits and managed to secure a \$3 billion deposit. This Saudi and Emirati injection of confidence, in turn, paved the way for Pakistan to enter the IMF program. Following this, a than at other times. So, it is special Investment Council was established, based on General Asim Munir's vision, aiming to provide protection for investments within the country. As per the vision, this could only be achieved if charged from those who all obstacles hindering economic stability were removed and steps taken to control inflation. General Asim Munir's personal efforts within the business community instilled confidence in the nation's progress. The Investment Council's long-term program for foreign investment includes the significant involvement of the COAS. Saudi Arabia acknowledged the success of General Asim Munir's efforts, pledging a \$25 billion fund solely for Pakistan. The UAE is also working on a \$20 to \$22 billion investment program. Meanwhile, chatter on the street celebrated that China's investment in Pakistan is evident. After General Asim Munir took charge, he revived projects under the CPEC. Some questioned the inclusion of the Army Chief in the Investment Council, but it should be remembered that going beyond its traditional role, the Pakistani military has played a crucial hand in bringing foreign investment, especially in projects requiring security clearance.

The military's support is vital for investment, and General Asim Munir's inclusion in this forum has provided credibility. Pakistan's deep-rooted relations with these countries and past experiences demonstrate that the military has played a significant role in enhancing ties when civilian leadership fell short. Recognizing Pakistan as an agrarian country and how only a green revolution could substantially tilt the scales in our favour, General Asim Munir initiated a Green Agriculture project in collaboration with the government to bring about an agricultural revolution. In terms of security, the last year posed challenges with hidden terrorist elements in Afghanistan aiming to inflict irreparable harm on Pakistan. However, under General Asim Munir's leadership, the Pakistani military effectively countered these threats, demonstrating resilience and dedication. The military's role in identifying and addressing the presence of illegal foreign residents in the country is commendable. Matter of fact remains that the year under General Asim Munir's leadership has been marked by notable achievements in both military and economic realms. The COAS also gained widespread approval from the public for his strategic initiatives and decisive actions in combating terrorism and ensuring national security. The conscious segments of the society have commended the General for his resolute efforts in combating terrorism, resulting in enhanced national security. We pray that may Allah keep the Chief of Army Staff under His protection, and may he continue to contribute to Pakistan's prosperity during his tenure.

A precarious world in 2024



Maleeha Lodhi

Looking ahead to what can be expected in 2024, the world will continue to be in an unsettled state with geopolitical tensions escalating and driving volatility in global markets.

The international landscape has fragmented even more by the wars in Gaza and Ukraine and the US-China confrontation. Strong headwinds unleashed by multiple crises and unmet challenges make the future outlook a troubled one. Adding to uncertainty is a record number of elections next year in countries across the world including the US. The shift to a more

multipolar world will gather increasing momentum but with multilateral institutions under persisting stress. Global power shifts will continue while middle role in shaping geopolitics.

powers will play a growing Unpredictability will remain an overarching reality among key geopolitical tive pushback by China, trends, risks and challenges will keep relations on a in 2024 The Economist's tense World Ahead 2024' report predicts "multipolar disorder" due to conflicts and intensifying geopolitical rivalries. For sure, the numflashpoint. ber of cascading crises rag-ing in the world today will keep it unstable and un-

Control Risks, the London-based consultancy firm, believes the coming year will witness "a high-water mark in crisis complexity and disruptiveness", which could create a "risk management overload". Others, including the World Economic Forum, point to the onset of the "age of polycrisis".

strategic dynamic in the year ahead will be the course of relations between the US and China. Although both global powers see the danger of unmanaged confrontation and have sought in recent months to stabilise ties, their differences on issues ranging from Taiwan to trade and technology curbs — as well as their clash of geopolitical interests — will expose relations to continuing turbulence.

The most significant

Washington's policy of containing China, reaffirmed in the Biden administration's national security strategy, and asser-

track. decoupling will accelerate, military competition will escalate and Taiwan will remain a dangerous

Control Risks, however, sees relations entering a "holding pattern" as both countries deal with pressing domestic challenges – presidential elections in the US and economic problems in China. Conflict is ruled out in most assessments by international think tanks and investment advisory companies such as Black Rock. But countries across the world still worry about an accidental clash in the fraught Asia-Pacific region the strategic theatre of the US-China stand-off.

East-West tensions will intensify in 2024 with the war in Ukraine continuing but settling perhaps into a stalemate. Lack of serious efforts to find a negotiated end to the war means that a protracted conflict will continue to strain East-West relations. with obvious fallout on the global economy and supply

Global attention, however, has been diverted from Ukraine to Israel's war on Gaza. The conflict has driven the Middle East into the vortex of violence and

instability and what some Arab experts describe as a activism and for them to wield influence. As these "generation-defining moment" for the Middle East.

On the back-burner for decades, the Palestinian issue has shot to the top of the international agenda. It also underlined that the US policy of normalising relations between Arab states and Israel by ignoring Palestine was deeply flawed and unsustainable, with the Abraham Accords strategy now upended by the war. 2024 will challenge and test the ability of Arab governments and major powers to establish lasting peace and security in the region by finding a just solution to the Palestinian issue and pressing Israel to return to a two-

state solution. In this polarised and fractured international landscape, middle powers will acquire more importance in influencing geopolitics in 2024. The US-China standoff has offered opportunities and leeway to countries to increase their leverage by playing off that rivalry and pursuing an 'independent

Moreover, structural changes and dispersal of power in the international system — the very currency of power having changed — has created an enabling environment for

trends continue, they will create more space for middle powers strengthen their bargaining power. This will oblige the two global superpowers to spend more diplomatic capital in engaging middle

power countries. Most international risk assessments consider scores of elections due next year to have significant regional and international implications. Over four billion people are expected to cast their ballot in more than six dozen elections across the world. None is more conse-

quential than the US presidential election. If former president Donald Trump returns to power this would have far-reaching consequences for the world. As he will likely pursue the same unilateralist, disruptive foreign policy that characterised his past administration this will negatively impact relations with China, war in Ukraine, ties with alliance partners and US commitments on climate change among other

A key question in trend witnessed in recent years of democratic regresmiddle power diplomatic to a halt. Democratic back-

sliding has been pervasive as many democracies across the world face challenges from polarisation, intolerance, and toxic politics. They have also witnessed an erosion of civil liberties and media freedom and suppression of dissent. This is happening against a backdrop of economic stress and rising, unmet public expectations.

How to respond to the disruptive effects and new vulnerabilities created by advance technology often dubbed as weapons of mass disruption — will continue to be a challenge in the coming year. A digitalised world faces vexing issues of cybersecurity as threats rise across the world.

Data theft and fraud, cyberattacks and breaches of critical systems, electricity networks and financial markets are all part of rising risks. Artificial intelligence, especially its military uses, also presents many dangers. Despite this there is no international effort aimed at managing or mitigating the destabilising effects of new technolo-

Challenges there will 2024 will be whether the be aplenty in 2024, but in a world where both global leadership and solidarity sion will persist or come will be in short supply. -Courtesy Dawn

How is politics funded in



Ahmed Bilal Mehboob

The promised poll of Feb 8 is two months away. It is around this time that the collection and spending of funds by election candidates and political parties hits its highest level. A political party spends many times more during an election year natural for parties to tap into many more sources of funds closer to the poll date.

seek party tickets. The PML-N has fixed Rs200,000 and Rs100,000 as the non-refundable application fee for party tick-

bly and provincial assem- only about Rs95m, but it blies, respectively, for the coming election.

It is anticipated that the fee will form a substantial part of the kitty of at least the three largest political parties, ie, PML-N, PTI and PPP. Earlier, income earned through the ticket application fee formed a substantial part of political parties' income, as analyses of political parties' statements of accounts, made public by the ECP every year, bear out. The PTI, for example,

earned about Rs478 million through the application fee during the 2018 polls and subsequent by-elections. This amount was about 45 per cent of the PTI's total income in financial years that the PTI election ticket 2017-18 and 2018-19. Although the PML-N's than the PML-N's during Rs140m was much less than the 2018 election, whereas the PTI's collection under this head, the party apparently depended more on the figures are based on what application fee, as it was the source of over 95pc of its political parties to the ECP. total income during election year 2017-18. The PPP and cates that political parties

ets for the National Assem- PPP-P together could collect and their leaders receive far constituted around 89pc of their income during 2017-18. Even from a long-term perspective, the application fee is a significant part of the funds collected by political parties. Over the past 13 years, the share of this fee in the parties' total income constituted about 19pc, 33pc and 64pc for the PTI, PML-N and PPP.

The PML-N was able to collect Rs596m through application fees at the time of the 2013 election, compared to about Rs124m earned by the PTI. This equation was reversed in the 2018 general election, when the PTI received Rs335m compared to only Rs125m by the PML-N, indicating the situation had been just the opposite in 2013. The larger sums from the candidates as unaccounted for 'donations', also for awarding tickets. This may explain why the number of rich and super-rich candidates has been increasing in almost all The dependence on the

ticket application fee by political parties may also explain the disproportionately small number of young candidates. Young people, unless they come from the rich land-owning or industrial class, are in a relatively weaker position to make large donations to parties. Although young (35 years and below) registered voters constitute about 45pc of the total number of registered voters, their overall representation in candidates fielded by the top 10 political parties was merely 19pc. The PTI, which is gen-

erally perceived to be a party of the youth, fielded only 129, or a little over 16pc, Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, the total income and Rs18m year 2024. -- Courtesy who has been criticising the or 4pc, respectively. Al-

'aged' leadership of various political parties and demanding that the youth be given a chance to replace it, could offer only 122 — less than 17pc — young candidates out of a total of 727 in 2018. The PML-N's performance was even more dismal, as it tributors

fielded only 86, or just 13pc, young candidates out of 646 in 2018. Political parties' dependence on the party membership fee is almost negligible. The PTI has reported that its membership fee over the past 13 years amounted to Rs21m, or a miniscule 0.6pc of its total income, compared to the PML-N, which showed Rs11m, or 0.9pc, of its total income, and the PPP doing slightly better by collecting Rs41m or 9pc of its total income. Donations from non-members, however, seem to be another for political parties. The PTI topped the list by receiving donations worth Rs2.5 billion in the past 13 years, young candidates in the past while the PML-N and PPP

though Article 17(3) of the Constitution requires political parties to account for their sources of funding, the statements of accounts submitted by political parties generally do not disclose the identity of donors and refer to them as 'donors' or 'con-

Funding of politics is considered a very sensitive subject in almost all developed societies. Politicians and political parties compile and submit political finance documents very carefully and watchdog agencies, like the ECP in Pakistan, scrutinise these documents equally seriously. In the past, the ECP had neither the capacity nor perhaps the will to undertake this responsibility seriously. In the last two years, however, it seems to have reorganised. significant source of income staffed and equipped its political finance wing and established links to institutions such as the FBR It remains to be seen what level of scrutiny political election. PPP chairman collected Rs641m or 33pc of finance will face in election

Hell's architects

Arnon Soffer is considered

to be the originator of the



Zarrar Khuhro

Gaza wasn't always what it is today. Gaza wasn't always a giant prison that has now been transformed into a death camp; a hellscape of broken bodies and buildings and butchered babies.

Before 1948, Gaza was a wealthy territory in Mandatory Palestine. Located on the coast, it benefited from trade and fishing and was also blessed with fertile land, which led to a strong agricultural economy. Then came the Nakba, with Zionist terror militias — which later coalesced into the Israeli army — killing, looting and raping across the territory. The first Arab-Israeli war saw Egypt occupy the territory, which remained in Egyptian control even after Israel prevailed in the conflict as part of the treaty that ended the war.

For a brief period during the Suez crisis, when Israel, France and the United Kingdom jointly attacked Egypt, and Israel occupied both the Sinai and the Strip, Egyptian military rule continued till the 1967 war which saw the comprehensive defeat of the Arab armies and the military occupation of the Strip by Israel.

The usual formula of apartheid and Jewish settlements — under the guard of the Israeli army — began, and continued until 2005, when Israel's then prime minister Ariel Sharon withdrew its forces and dismantled the settlements. This is presented by pro-Zionist circles as a magnanimous step towards peace that

is instructive to see what at the border will be awthe actual architects of ful. It's going to be a terthat move had in mind Israeli geo-strategist

separation and withdrawal plan, and he is clear that Israel underwent this process not out of a desire for me is how to ensure that peace — a word he says the boys and men who he despises — but because are going to have to do the alternative would be the end of Israel as a Zionist state with Jewish supremacy as its cornerstone, because — if Gaza were to be integrated into Israel proper — the Jews would eventually be outnumbered.

And so, it was considered better to fence Gaza off from the world, with that fence eventually becoming a wall and with everything going in and the Israeli authorities. The minimum daily caloric intake for a human being to survive on was calculated so that the average Gazan permanently remained on the brink of starvation. This too was by de-

sign, because as Soffer himself says in a 2004 interview with Jerusalem Post titled 'It's the demography, stupid': "It's a fence that we will be guarding on either side. Instead of entering Gaza, the way we did last week. we will tell the Palestinians that if a single missile is fired over the fence, we will fire 10 in response. And women and children will be killed, and houses the fifth such incident. Palestinian mothers won't

waiting for them." Soffer knew the consequences, and welcomed them. He continues: "When 2.5 million people live in a closedoff Gaza, it's going to be a human catastrophe. Those people will become even bigger animals than they are today, with was 'typically' spurned the aid of ... fundamenis one step closer to frui-by the Palestinians, but it talist Islam. The pressure tion. -- Courtesy Dawn

they will know what's

rible war. So, if we want to remain alive, we will have to kill and kill and kill. All day, every day

If we don't kill we will cease to exist. The only thing that concerns the killing will be able to return home to their families and be normal human beings."
When asked what

the end result of all this killing would be, Soffer "The Palestinians will be forced to realise that demography is no lon-ger significant, becau--se we're here and they're there. And then they will begin to ask for 'conflict management' out being at the whim of talks — not that dirty word 'peace'. Peace is a word for believers, and I have no tolerance for believers — neither those who wear yarmulkes nor those who pray to the God of peace.

For Soffer and those who agree with him the majority of Israelis one would presume Gaza is just the start.

He continues to say. a full 19 years before today's ongoing atrocity: 'The population increase of Israeli Arabs is going to present a major problem. But, if we no longer include the Palestinians, and we begin embracing immigrants, foreign workers, Druze, and will be destroyed. After Christians — who are now on our side, because they see what ... radical allow their husbands to Islam is — then there shoot Kassams, because won't be an Israeli Arab problem.

While we're on the subject, you tell me what you need East Jerusalem for. Why do you need 300,000 Arabs as Israeli citizens? What's holy there? Anything that is holy we should annex.'

This has always been the plan and now it

Parvez Rahim

Prominent labour leaders in Sindh recently complained to the caretaker chief minister of the province about non-compliance with labour laws by some employers. In response, the CM asked the secretary labour to carry out inspections of all factories in Sindh and prosecute the violators. The labour leaders' concern was more focused on the contracting out of most jobs, non-compliance with the law on minimum wages, and termination of employment without notice.

It is an arduous exercise to keep track of the status of compliance stipulated in some 200 labour laws and rules. However, one can concentrate on those areas which are critical to the economic welfare of workers and workplace safety. The Employers' Federation of Pakistan recently developed a labour inspection questionnaire, covering questions regarding the maintenance of records, payment of wages, occupational safety, health and environment, work timings, overtime benefits, the right to organise, collective bargaining, disciplinary action, etc.

The questionnaire, taken by labour inspectors to factories, primarily comprises questions relating to record-keeping in pursuance of the rules framed under the Factories Act, 1934, Shops and Establishments Ordinance, 1969, and the Minimum Wages for Unskilled

Workers Ordinance, 1969. Rules relating to record-keeping, such as

Labour inspection the display of notices, the corridor outside. maintenance of various registers, etc. were legislated decades before the advent of IT, when such work was done manually. However, despite electronic advancement, no effort has been made by successive governments to simplify the requirements or digitise them. In fact, the government, with the involvement of workers and employers' representatives, should review whether such record-keeping is required when lifestyles and technology have drastically changed over the last half century.

The following are some administrative requirements besides the maintenance of certain records and display of notices on factory premises, which might have been relevant decades ago, but are now obsolete, even absurd. A rule under the Factories Act, 1934, provides: 'A well for the supply of drinking water to a factory or for the purpose of humidification in a factory, shall not be constructed or located within 50 feet of any latrine, drain or other source liable to pollute the water in the well". Similarly, the Factories Canteen Rules, 1959, provides that "The canteen building shall be situated not less than 50 feet from any latrine...

An entrepreneur, who has invested in establishing a factory, will discard such a primitive system and switch over to modern living standards. A labour inspector from Sukkur used to frequently visit an American MNC's state-of-the-art fertiliser plant in Daharki, where I worked in the 1970s. Mostly, he would be accompanied by his family and stay in our guest house for a few days. Taking advantage of the legal provision cited here, he would object to the distance of just a wall between the urinal in the not bother to learn about washroom and the electric the labour laws. -- Courdrinking water cooler in tesy Dawn

During the inspection

of factories or establishments, inspectors ask employers to produce registers for employment, remuneration and leave and the inspection book. They also check whether the employers have displayed the following notices near the main entrance: abstracts from the Factories Act, the Shops and Establishments Act, and a few other laws and rules, the day of wage payment, and a list of holidays.

Now that it has become more economical for employers to maintain electronic records, instead of age-old manual re--cordkeeping, there will hardly be anyone still maintaining registers as required under the prevailing laws.

According to the laws, the notices to be displayed at or near the main entrance of the factory should contain abstracts of the laws and rules in English and Urdu. The purpose was to make workers aware of their rights and benefits, so that they were not kept in the dark. As most employers have adopted electronic recordkeeping, the traditional time offices at the main entrance to the factories no longer exist. Such offices now cater only to the security staff, or to control the entry and exit of visitors and employees.

Now that most people have access to Google and WhatsApp, who will be interested in reading abstracts from the acts displayed on the noticeboard? There is a dire need to simplify the requirements of inspection, besides converting them to electronic form. The level of inspectors should also be raised, and their performance consistently monitored by superiors to ensure that they also start inspecting the establishments of those employers who do

Governor Punjab says:

Development of the country related to the promotion of education and research

Delegation of students and teachers of Balochistan Residential College Zhob called on Governor

LAHORE (Online): A Sardar Ali, Mirza Saeed Punjab said that the delegation of students and Ahmed, Mudassar Hasan students should adopt teachers of Balochistan Residential College Zhob and Cadet College Hasan Abdal called on Governor Punjab welcomed the and research. students and teachers to the Governor House.

Bukhari, Prof. Akbar, Prof.

and others.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Punjab Muhammad Rahman said that the Balighur Rahman at development of the Governor House Lahore, country is related to the here today. Governor promotion of education

He said that in today's modern era, The delegation learning new research and included Prof. Khurshid technology is very is very Governor important.

positive thinking and play their role in the development of the

He said that Cadet College Hasan Abdal is an institution of high traditions. He said that seats and scholarships are recovered for attradets of reserved for students of Balochistan in universities and medical colleges of Punjab. Governor Punjab said that the students of

Three killed,

four injured

Balochistan were also included in the laptop scheme so that the students of Balochistan can be brought at par with other provinces of the country in the field of education. He said that the country can progress only with the supremacy of merit. Governor Punjab said that continuity of policies is very important for development in other sectors



ent in other including

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rahman in a group photo with delegation of students and teachers of Balochistan Residential College Zhob and Cadet College Hasan Abdal called on at

PESHAWAR: VC SBBWU Prof. Dr. Safia Ahmed, SRSP CEO Masaud ul Mulk and UNHCR KP Head Kofi Ohenenana Dwomo giving shield to Governor KP Haji Ghulam Ali during 1st International Women Conference on Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges, Uniting Women's Voice for a Better World at Local hotel.

Governor says: Women empowerment must for country's development

PESHAWAR Governor Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali on Monday emphasized that Islam has bestowed upon women dignity, protection, and all rights and the status given to them by Islam is unparalleled.

He said this in a twoconference organized by social autonomy to Shaheed Benazir Women women, stating that the University Peshawar under progress of society is the supervision of the Border Rural Support empowering women. Program aimed empowering women.

In the inaugural session of the conference, held on the first day, female students and highlighted the importance of technology in women's education.He also inspected the products crafted by Pakistani and Afghan women and lauded their creative abilities and business interests.

Speaking on this asion, Governor occasion, Governor Ghulam Ali urged the participants not to view degrees solely as a means to employment, emphasizing the need to create opportunities for

He advocated for international providing economic and

The governor underscored importance of changing societal perspectives towards women, urging for Governor Haji Ghulam Ali distributed electronic tablets among Afghan encouraged women to actively participate in businesses alongside their husbands, parents, and brothers, stressing the need for collaboration and support. Governor Ali expressed the need for training women in the jewellery industry.



HYDERABAD: Former MPA, Jabbar Khan talking to media persons after inaugurating the Awami Family Festival, at Badin Stop in Hyderabad.

Minister desires elected representatives to serve people

Karachi Press Club had

been his first place of training and he had been

associated with it almost

resolution to issues of

journalists community

would be among his

training workshop would

be held for the working

caretaker information

minister said that the

ongoing projects must not

be stopped in the province.

the way to make the

country stronger could

only be achieved by

working at the cultural

worked so much in that

had always stood for the

truth and it was the oldest

Press Club in the country,

He said that they had

He said that the KPC

He said that the

He further said that a

To a question, the

Ahmed Shah said that

for 45 years.

journalists.

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Caretaker Information, Minorities Affairs and Social Protection Minister Mohammed Ahmed Shah while desiring the elected representatives to serve the people, said that the general elections would

Talking to media persons during his visit to the Karachi Press Club (KPC), the minister said that his meeting with the caretaker Sindh chief minister was scheduled, in which he would raise journalists' issues for timely resolution.

Ahmed Shah said, 'I am focused on working journalists' and the issue of murdered journalists including Jan Mohammed Mahar would be taken up with the Inspector General

of Police (IGP) Sindh. The minister said that the issue of journalists' dues would also be discussed with the quarters concerned.

in accident SARGODHA Three people, including a woman, were killed and four others sustained

injuries in a head-on collision between two cars near 85-Jhal on Monday. Police said scholar Muhammad Bashir ud Din Sialvi of Zafarabad Colony with his wife Shamim Akhtar, daughter Urwah 16, and Abu Bakar was both men and women in traveling by a car towards business and trade. Sillanwali from Sargodha city when another car coming from the opposite direction collided with it

> As a result, Bashir ud Din Silavi, Shamim Akhtar and Hasnain Nawaz, 20, died on the spot while Abu Bakar, Ehtisham and Osama received injuries. On information, the Rescue 1122 with police reached the spot and shifted the injured to Dr Faisal Masood Teaching Hospital Sargodha.

Yousafzai declared absconder

near Grand Saphir marriage

PESHAWAR (APP): A local court of Shangla has declared PTI leader, Shaukat Yousafzai as absconder for avoiding his appearance in cases registered against him under Sections 188, 186 147, 109, 506 and 149.

Shangla police said an FIR was registered against former provincial minister, Shaukat Yousafzai and police were conducting raids for his arrest but the accused had gone underground to avoid his

Police said some extra sections have been included in the FIR against Shaukat Yousafzai and due to his non-appearance, the court has declared him as

Earlier, the Shangla police reached Peshawar to arrest Shaukat Yousafzai participation in intra party election of PTI.

Ban imposed on plying vehicles with tinted

glasses

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): The district administration Tank has imposed a ban on plying vehicles with tinted glasses by enforcing Section 144 across the district. According

notification, the order would remain enforced for seven days until Dec 07 or unless withdrawn or modified, imposing a ban on displaying or brandishing of arms, ammunition, plying of vehicles with tinted glasses and unlawful assembly of more than five people.

Under one roof, 20 sought plans for a 10-day timeline for overseas Pakistanis and foreign provincial and federal departments now facilitate a swift system, issuing 106 investors. Key departments including LDA, TEPA, NOCs within a remarkable 15 days. The inauguration WASA, among others, will issue NOCs, registrations,

Independent Report

Caretaker Chief Minister

Mohsin Naqvi inaugurated

the first-ever one-window

operation to streaming the

services of investors here

on Monday.

ceremony, attended by the CM, Provincial cabinet, and Consul Generals of



CM launches one-window

operation, unveils

business facilitation center

Punjab

of the Business Facilitation Center, also launching its

online system. Chief

Minister Naqvi, during the

inspection of the center,

emphasized the need for expediting NOC issuance to

15 days, down from 30, and

and certificates, providing

KARACHI: Caretaker Sindh Information, Minorities Affairs Minister Ahmed Shah talking to media persons during KPC visit.

Universal Health Insurance Program to help improving healthcare: Minister

Insurance Program will help improving the condition of hospitals and the quality of healthcare facilities in the province.

chairing a meeting regarding the Universal Health Insurance Program said that the health insurance initiative under consideration by the Sindh government would not only benefit the citizens of the province but it would also facilitate people from across the country, said a statement issued here.

The minister, while

He said that grading the health facilities under program

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Caretaker Health Minister Dr Saad Khalid Niaz, Monday, said that the Universal Health Providing quality to the condition of hospitals in Sindh and help the government in providing quality to the condition of hospitals in Sindh and help the government in providing quality to the condition of hospitals in Sindh ameliorate the condition of hospitals in Sindh and help the government in providing quality to the condition of hospitals in Sindh and help the government in providing quality to the condition of hospitals in Sindh and help the government in providing quality to the condition of hospitals in Sindh and help the government in providing quality to the condition of hospitals in Sindh and help the government in providing quality to the government in providing quality to the government in the government in providing quality to the government in patients.

The funds received from the insurance company could be utilized for the improvement of hospitals and providing legitimate benefits to the medical staff providing excellent services in the hospitals.

Dr. Saad Khalid Niaz said that a detailed briefing will be presented to the Sindh chief minister and the cabinet after finalizing the program and the Universal Health Insurance Program will be rading rolled out across the under province with the final will approval of the cabinet.

KP CM gives fee waiver to disable candidates in ETEA tests This, he decided ® Irshad Qaiser for while chairing the 31st

here on Monday. Provincial

PESHAWAR (APP): As an important relief to special persons, the caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice ® Syed Arshad Hussain Shah has decided to give waiver in test fee to the disable candidates appearing in all kinds of screening tests under Educational Testing and Evaluation Agency (ETEA). Now onward, disabled candidates appearing in such screening tests will be exempted from

2 drug dealers

held with over

2.4 kg drugs

DERA ISMAIL KHAN

(APP): The Dera police arrested two alleged drug

dealers recovering over

1806 grams hashish and 634

grams Ice drug from them

during a search operation

conducted in the limits of

Kirri Khaisour Police

Station on Monday.

According to police

spokesman, a team of Kirri

Khaisour Police Station led

by SDPO Paharpur Circle

Kashif Sattar along with

SHO Malik Imran

following the directions of

District Police Officer

Abdul Rauf Babar Qaisrani.

Gas cylinder

shop gutted

FAISALABAD (APP): A gas cylinder shop was

reduced to ashes in the area

of Sandal Bar police

station, here on Monday.

Rescue 1122 spokesman

said that gas leaked from a

cylinder at gas cylinder

shop situated at Narwala

Road near Aminpur Bungalow and it caught

fire. The fire engulfed the

entire surroundings and

burnt the material present

in the shop.Receiving

information, fire fighters of

Rescue 1122 rushed to the

spot and brought the fire

under control after hectic

efforts of many hours.

Mehmood Aslam and other

members of the Board

evolving a mechanism to meeting of the Board of dispose off the cellular Governors of KP, ETEA phones confiscated from candidates during screening Caretaker Minister for tests. The committee will Higher Education, Dr. Qasim Jan, Secretary come up with final proposals to this end after Higher Education, Arshad Khan, Secretary Health, looking into all the legal and technical aspects of the matter. Various matters related to curb the menace attended the meeting.

It was decided in the of cheating in examinations and screening tests came meeting to constitute a under discussion in the committee headed by meeting and it was decided

Provincial Minister Justice to put in place.

ANF seizes 31 kg drugs in eight operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force 558 grams heroin were (ANF) while conducting recovered from a eight operations across the passenger's trolley bag at country managed to recover 31 kg drugs and arrested eight accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday. He informed a foreign

arrived from Bahrain by flight number GF-791 was Rawalpindi. International Airport. from a vehicle intercepted conducted a search operation in different areas operation in different are

1343 grams Ice and Jinnah International Airport. The accused was leaving for Jeddah by flight number PA-170. 240 intoxicated

tablets (ecstasy) were recovered from two passenger (Nigerian) who suspects arrested in the Rawalpindi. 3600 grams arrested at Faisalabad hashish was recovered were recovered from his also arrested during the operation



KARACHI: Heavy machinery busy in cleaning the road during campaign under the supervision of Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB), at Malir Saudabad area in Karachi.

CPWB rescues 109 beggars children in November

Child Protection and Welfare Bureau (CPWB) rescued over 109 beggar children in the provincial capital during the last month of November.

In a press statement issued here on Monday, CPWP Chairperson, Sarah Ahmed said that child rescue operations were on a daily basis due to which decrease in child beggars was observed at

The chairperson said

major thoroughfares.

LAHORE (APP): The during the same period. These children would be produced in the Child Protection Court for legal custody of destitute and neglected children.

The chairperson said rescue operations were under way in the limits of all district offices of the CPWB in Punjab, adding that practical measures being carried out in the city were being taken to end the menace of child beggary. The CPWB was lodging various cases against people involved in beggary, she said and added that the a total of 488 beggars were citizens could report child

beggary on the helpline 1121 of the CPWB.

PESHAWAR: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Chief, Siraj-ul-Haq addresses to his taken into custody from various districts of Punjab supporters during party meeting held in Peshawar. **Election 2023: Great enthusiasm witnesses among female voters**

PESHAWAR (APP): Great enthusiasm is being witnessed among female voters of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa ahead of General Election 2023. Sidra Sheraz and her sister

Samina Qaiser, the young female voters of Wapda Town Nowshera district were excited to exercise their right to vote for the first time in the February 8, 2024 General Election after their names were enrolled by ECP.

"We are eagerly awaiting the February 8 general election and would cast our first vote and electoral process viz a viz decision making for setting of future Govt," said Sidra who associated with the were registered in Punjab,

teaching profession, adding that women were about half population and their votes would play key role in deciding fates of political

"I would cast my first vote based on political parties' past performance record and manifestos," she said, adding votes of young voters, especially females would be a deciding factor in February 8 General

According to ECP's data, approximately 127 million registered voters would exercise their right become part of the of franchise in the upcoming general election. About 72.31 million (56.9pc) of total voters

26.65 million voters are in Sindh (21pc), 21.69 million voters (17.1pc) in KP while 5.28 million (4.2pc) of all registered voters in Balochistan were exercise their right of votes in 2024 general election.

The total number of registered voters was recorded in 2018 as 106 million which had increased to 127 million this year. The gender gap among

voters slashed with an addition of 11.74 million female voters compared to 9.28m male voters, to the electoral rolls since the 2018 general election raised the total number of registered voters to 127 million in 2023.

The total number of registered voters in the million voters were added contribute.

country in 2018 was nearly 106 million including 59.22m men and 46.73m women voters with 12.49 million deferences in all provinces of Pakistan. This difference of

12.49 million was further increased to an all-time high of 12.72m next year when 62.55 million men and 49.83 million women were found eligible to cast a vote.

A significant drop in the gender gap was witnessed last year when the total number of registered male voters slashed from 66.50 million to 66.40 million, while the number of women jumped from 54.69 million to 55.78million.

Similarly, over 21

to the electoral rolls since 2018 elections in Pakistan where the number of women had swelled from 46.73 million in the last polls to 58.47 million in

Alaike, the number of male voters jumped from 59.22 million in 2018 to 68.50 million by July 25, 2023. "My father has cooperated with me a lot while registering my vote with ECP that would help me to poll my first vote on February 8, 2023," said Sidra Qasier, another young voter of Wapda Town, Peshawar.

"Vote casting is a national obligation and it is our moral duty to cast votes in large numbers and

German Dev. Bank boosts support for Pakistan's Power Transmission & Health Sectors

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Ministry of Economic Affairs and KfW, the German Development Bank, solidified their partnership with the signing of agreements aimed at enhancing the capacity of Pakistan's power transmission sector and supporting the health sector, particularly in areas affected by floods on

In a ceremony held in Islamabad, Mr. Sebastian Jacobi, Country Director of KfW and Dr. Kazim Niaz, Secretary of the Ministry of Economic Affairs inked agreements that signify Germany's commitment to furthering the development goals of Pakistan. Managing Director NTDC, Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan was also

Under Accompanying Measures support to the "Promotion of Renewable Energies and Energy representing the German Government, will provide an additional grant of Euro 2.5 million to the National Transmission Despatch Company (NTDC). This funding will assist NTDC in ensuring

maintenance installations, incorporating robust environmental and management systems. The initiative is poised to enhance the integration of needs-based renewable energy into the transmission system, thereby contributing to sustainable economic growth and climate

the effective operation and



ISTANBUL: Caretaker Minister of Commerce and Industries, Dr. Gohar Ejaz meeting the Turkish Trade Minister H.E. Dr. Ömer Bolat on the sidelines of the 39th Ministerial of COMCEC.

Minister, CCIs presidents visit Business **Facilitation Center**

Provincial Minister of Industries and Commerce SM Tanveer along with presidents of various chambers of commerce and industry (CCIs) visited Business Facilitation Center (BFC), where the business community's representatives were briefed about the center's

operations and facilities. Department Secretary Ehsan Bhutta, Punjab mentioned that the center Small Industries houses officers from 17 to Corporation (PSIC) 20 departments of both Monday. The opportunities

officers were also present. On this occasion, Provincial Minister SM

(APP): Business Facilitation Center as a revolutionary initiative by the caretaker provincial government to bolster investment. Completed within a month under the efficient leadership of Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, the center is poised to significantly benefit the business community and rations and facilities. accelerate the pace of Punjab Industries industrialization, he added.

Managing Director Asim federal and provincial Javed and other relevant governments, ensuring a comprehensive streamlined service to the investors and business Tanveer highlighted the community.



KARACHI: Chairman Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers and Exporters Association, Javed Balwani addresses to media persons during press conference held at SITE Association office.

NEPRA savs: DISCOs, KE deliberately committed malpractices to coverup inefficiencies

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Electric Power Regulatory Authority per tariff terms and (NEPRA) while issuing an inquiry report into the over-billing matter of all power distribution companies (DISCOs) including K-Electric on Monday said that distribution companies have been deliberately committing malpractices to up inefficiencies, which has led to wrong and excessive billing to thousands of consumers, especially

DISCOs also failed to collect electricity bills as conditions approved by the authority, according to the report issued by NEPRA here. The report said that the companies sent false detection bills to the customers in violation of provisions of the consumer

The NEPRA had constituted investigation comprising three senior officers after receiving a large number of complaints from the consumers.

Services' exports increase by 3.34% to \$2,416 mln

ISLAMABAD (APP): increased by 19.57 percent The exports of services by going up from \$2,729 increased by 3.34 percent million last year to \$3,263 during the first four million during the first four months of the current months of current fiscal fiscal year as compared to corresponding period of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. The services exports during July-October (2023-24) were recorded at \$2,416 million as compared to the exports of \$2,338 million during

July- October (2022-23).

year.Based on the figures. the services' trade deficit increased by 116.66 percent during the period under review by going up from \$390 million last year to \$847 million this year. Meanwhile, on year on year (YoY) basis, the services' exports from the country increased by 5.63 percent The services' imports by going up from \$621.07 into the country also million in October.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Gwadar Chamber of Commerce and Industries (GCCI) calling on

Sanjrani recognizes role of business community in driving economic progress

Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on Monday recognized the pivotal role of the business community in driving economic progress and affirmed the Senate's dedication to creating an enabling environment for collaboration sustainable economic addressing key economic

During meeting with delegation from the Gwadar Chamber of Commerce and Industries trade dynamics, said a (GCCI) who called on him, he expressed unwavering commitment to supporting

Alliance (GRA) between

the government of Pakistan

and Renewable Energy Investors at the United

Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 28).

led the Pakistan delegation

to discuss the investment

potential for Renewable Energy in Pakistan,

regarding solar, wind, hydel,

geothermal and green

hydrogen were presented

The Investors shared their

deep interest in investing

in Pakistan in several

Baba Fareed

Hotel's owner

again pilfers

electricity

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Electric Supply Company

(LESCO) inspection team

caught Baba Fareed Hotel's

owner once again stealing

electricity in Dholanwal

The company s spokesman said here Monday that SDO Dholanwal along with his

staff found that the owner

of a locally well-known

Baba Fareed Hotel at

Yateem Khana Chowk

was once again pilfering electricity. The accused

was not only using the

stolen electricity but also

supplying it to residential

quarters.

company's

Sub-Division.

The

projects.

Minister for Energy

interest in understanding the challenges and opportunities facing the business community in Gwadar. The discussions focused on fostering issues, providing a platform for GCCI officials to share insights on regional economic development and

press release. economic policies, infrastructure of

(APP): the chamber's endeavors in development, promoting economic strategies to boost trade growth and displayed keen and investment in the Gwadar region were also discussed in detail.

He highlighted the significance of China-Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Gwadar Port as driving forces behind future economic initiatives in Pakistan. He emphasized that Gwadar Port is not only important for Pakistan but for the entire

The Gwadar Chamber Commerce

its officials, expressed gratitude to Chairman Senate for his time and attention to the economic concerns of Gwadar.

They underscored the importance of collaboration with the government to promote prosperity, investments, and facilitate a conducive business environment in the region. Senator Palwasha

Muhammadzai Khan and Senator Prince Ahmed Omer Ahmedzai were also

KPTMA delegation calls on KP CM

Pakhtunkhwa Textile Mills Association (KPTMA) led by Ex-Senator, Salim Saifullah Khan called on the Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Justice ® Syed Arshad Hussain Shah here Monday.

delegation The apprised the chief minister of the problems faced by the textile Industries of the province with special focus on the exorbitant price hike of gas for industrial sector.

Caretaker Provincial Minister for Industries, Aamir Abdullah, Secretary Industries, Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah, Secretary Energy and Power Nisar Ahmad and other relevant authorities were also present on the occasion.

The delegation

expressed decision of Economic industries in the province.

PESHAWAR (APP): A Coordination Committee delegation of Khyber with regard to increase the price of gas for industrial sector and appealed to the chief minister to take up the issue with the federal government on urgent basis.

The ECC had taken a decision to enhance the price of industrial gas from Rs. 1238/MMBTU to Rs. 2400/MMBTU and that it had also taken a decision to supply blended gas to the industries of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa under which 80 percent natural gas and 20 percent RLNG will be supplied to the industries of the province which will further increase the price of industrial gas to Rs. 3100/MMBTU.

The remarked that if the decision was not reverted. delegation then they would be left serious with no other option but reservations on the recent to close down the



ISLAMABAD: Ms. Florence Rolle, Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Pakistan called on Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik, Caretaker Federal Minister for National Food present during the meeting. | Security & Research at Minister Office.

Energy minister participates **GRA** session at COP 28 ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of Energy Mr Muhammad Ali participated in a session organized by the Renewable Energy

HYDERABAD: Labourers women busy in packing fresh tomatoes in the wooden boxes at Vegetable

Blue Carbon, PNG Govt unite for Paris agreement projects at COP28

ISLAMABAD (APP): Royal family and chairman with the government of Papua New Guinea (PNG), is actively engaged in projects aligning with the implementation of New Guinea, enabling a Article 6 of the Paris

Agreement. During COP28 in Dubai, Blue Carbon, a UAE-based environmental asset developer, and PNG marked a significant milestone by signing a Memorandum Understanding (MoU). The MoU reflects their dedication to advancing cooperative climate a cooperative approach solutions at the across diverse sectors of

conference. Environment, Conservation, and Climate Change in PNG, along with

Josiane Sadaka, Blue provisions of Article 6. Carbon's CEO. witnessed the presence of evaluating Papua New James Marape, the Prime Guinea's Minister of PNG, and mangrove a Sheikh Ahmed Dalmouk Al Maktoum, a distinguished delivering essential services member of the Dubai to local communities.

The updated and refined MoU strengthens the collaboration between Blue Carbon and Papua more in-depth exploration of projects, especially associated with the implementation Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.Th MoU represents a noteworthy achievement in global collaboration, establishing a foundation for bilatera

the economy. The signing ceremony in Dubai featured Minister application of best practice This includes the Simo Kilepa, responsible methodologies for the removal and reduction of GHG emissions, aligning with the evolving

discussions that promote

across diverse sectors of

A significant facet of This notable event this initiative involves mangrove areas, pivotal for sequestering CO2 and

Pakistan emerging as hub of ICT, digital innovation in the region: Dr.Saif

of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MOITT), Dr. Umar Saif, has said that Pakistan is emerging as the hub of information communication technology (ICT) and digital innovation in the region.

During his address at the Pak-Qatar IT Conference in Doha, Qatar, he highlighted Pakistan's abundance of talent and success stories in companies of both innovation

He said Qatar is home to abundant Pakistani knowledge workers, urging Pakistani IT companies to leverage this resourceful Qatar diaspora to establish a foothold in the Qatari

Earlier, Dr. Umar Saif inaugurated the Pak-Qatar

collaborative effort mainly involving the Ministry of IT and Telecom (MOITT), the Embassy of Pakistan in Qatar, and Pakistan Business Council Qatar with support from the Qatar Financial Centre (QFC), said a news release received here on Monday.

This conference featured esteemed speakers from the public and private sectors, along with representatives from IT and countries, showcasing their expertise and strengths.

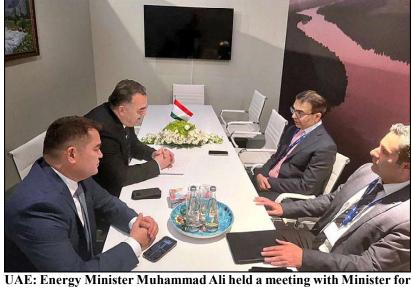
Dr. Saif also shared Qatar's forward-looking vision in expanding its knowledge economy, underscoring the potential for Pakistani businesses to not only offer tech solutions but also

ventures.

big leap in establishing data centres, bringing Microsoft Azure Cloud here, and Pakistan has a lot of capability in cloud management, data center operations, and cloud applications.

Dr. Saif encouraged investments in Pakistani startups, expressing confidence that the country is poised to produce the next billion-dollar unicorn.

The Pakistani IT delegation to Qatar, led by IT Minister Dr. Umar Saif. comprising representatives from the Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), Officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Pakistan Software Association (P@SHA), collaborate in global and 30 leading IT companies.



Energy of Tajikistan H.E Daler Juma Shofair on the sidelines of COP28.

Senate body discusses strategy to resolve issues of debt payment

ISLAMABAD: Senator Zeeshan Khanzada, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Commerce

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate Standing Committee on Commerce Monday discussed a the issues of debt payment the

Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) to various government entities, including the payment of commercial bank loans and their markup.

status of debts and urging them to submit liabilities, with a principal amounts of Rs 105,512.73 million and Rs 153,744.06 million in markup, totaling Rs 259,256.78 million in 2013-2024.

Senator Zeeshan Khanzada in the chair. The TCP Chairman strategy devised to resolve briefed the committee on the efforts for recovery,

stating that third-party audits on subsidy payments had been conducted, and regular reminders to recipient agencies were being issued. It was explained that

The committee was directives had been sent to informed of the current the concerned ministries, summaries to the Finance Division reflecting the payables to TCP in their financial demands for FY The committee was

The meeting of the apprised that ongoing committee was held at efforts include holding

presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.

Parliament House with repetitive meetings with the Finance Divisions and the concerned federal and provincial recipients. The matter was

deferred for further reporting and the speedy resolution of the dilemma. committee

decided that matter would be discussed until its resolved. The Senate Committee discussed a Private Member's Bill titled the "Imports and Exports (Control) Amendment Bill, 2023. [Amendment of section 3 of Import and Export (Control) Act, 1950 XXXIX of 1950)] introduced by Senators Zeeshan Khanzada, Faisal Saleem Rehman, and

Muhammad Abdul Qadir. presented that amendment in the act imposes a bar on the export of raw salt and directs the government to

The ministry argued that Imports and Exports (Control) Act, 1950, was primary legal instrument providing basis for regulating international trade in Pakistan.

impose conditions upon its

Moreover, imports and exports of all goods are regulated through export orders (EPO) and import policy orders (IPO), respectively, issued under these act after seeking approval of the Federal Government.

indicating

that Pakistan had once surpassed 14 million bales mark but its potential goes far beyond this level. And this potential, he said can be realized provided farmers' interests are protected to the maximum and steps like procurement

Chairman PCGA says: TCP intervention will boost farmers' confidence (APP): by TCP and availability of MULTAN

Ginners Association Chaudhry Waheed Arshad has called for intervention by Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) to procure one million bales of cotton saying that it would spread positivity across the entire cotton belt and encourage farmers do more to reach a bigger cotton production figure next year. Talking to APP on

Chairman, Pakistan Cotton

Monday by phone, the PCGA chairman said that cotton arrival figures of over 7.7 million bales released Sunday last in PCGA's fortnightly report showed over 81 percent increase in arrivals production expected in 2023 compared to last year.

He, however, added

agriculture inputs like quality seed and fertilizers at low price become a regular feature in cotton season every year.

The Chairman PCGA said that cotton production this year was going to be far better than previous year and it could do wonders next year if TCP intervenes the market and continues to make it's presence felt in the years

Meanwhile, the recent PCGA fortnightly report put the total arrival figure at 7.753 million bales including over four (4) million bales from Sindh and 3.736 million bales from Punjab, he expressed. Out of total, he said

7.53 million bales have been pressed into bales. He said the exporters have bought 290626 bales, adding that textile mills continued to maintain its position as the major buyer with procurement figure of

over 6.755 million bales. Punjab showed a percentage increase of over 48 percent while in Sindh.

Turkey's Erdogan says Israel's Netanyahu 'will be tried as war criminal'

Monitoring Desk

ISTANBUL: Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said on Monday that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would eventually be tried as a war criminal over Israel's ongoing offensive in the Gaza Strip, while slamming Western countries supporting Israel. Turkey, which sup-ports a two-state solution

to the decades-old conflict, has sharply criticised Israel over its campaign in Gaza, launched in response to Hamas' rampage on Oct. 7. More than 15,500 people have been killed in the Israeli air and ground attacks, according to Gaza's health

In a speech to an Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) com-

mittee meeting in Istanbul, Erdogan said the Western nations supporting Israel tional support to kill babies" and were complicit in

'Beyond being a war criminal, Netanyahu, who is the butcher of Gaza right now, will be tried as the butcher of Gaza, just as Milosevic was tried," Erdogan said, in reference to Yugoslav ex-President Slobodan Milosevic who was tried for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes at a tribunal in The Hague.

"Those who try to skip over the deaths of all those innocent people by using the excuse of Hamas have nothing left to say to humanity," he added, refer-

US President Joe Biden and Jill Biden attend the 46th Kennedy Center Hon-

day. The Cypriot plan is

ity for humanitarian relief

directly to the coastal Gaza

Strip beyond limited deliv-

eries being made through

the Rafah crossing between

Egypt and the Palestinian

faces logistical, political and

security challenges - Gaza

has no port and its waters

tonnes of Gaza-destined

aid in the form of mostly

blankets and tents to

Cyprus last week, has of-

fered watercraft able to ac-

cess the coastline without

the need for special infra-

structure if the corridor

ever materialises, a source

with knowledge of the mat-

ter told Reuters

Indonesia's Marapi volcano

erupts for the second day as

12 climbers remain missing

are shallow.

Such an aid corridor

Britain, which sent 80

ors at The Kennedy Center in Washington, DC.

Cyprus pushes Gaza

corridor idea; leader

to visit Egypt, Jordan

NICOSIA: Cyprus Presi- aimed at expanding capac-

Monitoring Desk

dent Nikos Christodoulides

will visit Egypt and Jordan

on Tuesday as part of an

initiative to establish a hu-

manitarian aid corridor to

European Union member

state to the Middle East,

has offered to host and op-erate facilities for sustained

aid directly into the Gaza

Strip once hostilities be-

tween Israel and the Pales-

planned to meet Egyptian

President Abdel Fattah al-

Sisi and King Abdullah of

Jordan. There were "tech-

nical discussions" on the

matter between Cypriot

and Israeli officials on Sun-

Monitoring Desk

thorities halted Monday

the search for 12 climbers

after Mount Marapi vol-

cano erupted again, unleash-

ing a new burst of hot ash

feet) into the air, officials

climbers were recovered

earlier in the day — while

searching for those missing

The bodies of 11

Christodoulides

Cyprus, the closest

Israeli-besieged Gaza.

ring to Western powers, which he said were "blind and deaf'.

Unlike most of its Western allies and some Gulf states, NATO member Turkey does not view Hamas as a terrorist group and hosts some of its members. Erdogan, whose ruling party has Islamist roots, said a socalled contact group of Muslim countries, which was formed by the OIC and Arab League last month to hold talks on Gaza with Western countries and others, would continue discussions until the fighting in Gaza stopped, but added more must be done.

'We must absolutely evaluate the United Nations Human Rights Council and the International Criminal Court (ICC) within this framework," he said.

Four killed in

Philippines

bomb attack

Monitoring Desk

MARAWI: At least four people died and several

others were wounded on

Sunday in a bomb attack on

a Catholic mass in the in-

surgency-plagued southern Philippines.
The blast, claimed by

the militant Islamic State

group, happened during a

University's gymnasium in

Marawi, the country's larg-

est Muslim city, which was

besieged by militant groups

General Emmanuel Peralta

said four people were killed

and around 50 wounded in

the blast from an impro-

Lanao del Sur provincial

government's Facebook

page showed several over-

turned plastic chairs, shat-

tered glass and debris

around a black patch on the

Chris Jurado, said that the

explosion happened during

the first Bible reading of the

morning mass at 7am.

University student

floor of the gymnasium.

vised explosive device.

Police Lieutenant

Photos posted on the

morning

in 2017.

Mindanao

service at o State



shock as she sits amid the rubble of her bombed-out building in the south-

Nowhere safe as Israeli army overruns Gaza

Monitoring Desk

GAZA: Israeli forces overran nearly all parts of the Gaza Strip on Sunday, as more than 700 Palestinians were reported to have been killed after Tel Aviv ended a week-long truce.

A statement from Israeli Chief of General Staff Herzi Halevi said that his forces were operating across north and south Gaza, with tanks and soldiers seen moving through the besieged territory over the weekend.

The death toll from Israel's relentless bombing has climbed above 15,500, including 280 medical staff, in more than eight weeks of Israeli aggression.

Monitoring Desk

KYIV: Ukraine launched

an inquiry on Sunday into

what it said was an "ex-

ecution" by Russia forces

of two unarmed Ukrainian

soldiers who had signalled

their intention to surren-

condemned the reported in-

cident as a "war crime".

There was no official reac-

Ukrainian officials

Ukraine accuses

Russia of killing

Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk voiced alarm that hundreds of thousands of Gazans "are being confined into ever smaller areas" in the southern of the

"There is no safe place in Gaza," he said. UN-OCHA said at

least 160 Palestinian deaths were reported in two incidents in northern Gaza on Saturday: the bombing of a six-storey building in Jabalia refugee camp, and of an entire block in Gaza City.

In a new estimate, OCHA said around 1.8 million people in Gaza, roughly 75 per cent of the population, had been displaced, many to over-United Nations High crowded and unsanitary

a shelter, one with his hands

above his head, before ly-

ing on the ground in front

of another group of sol-

This is followed by what appears to be gunfire,

and rising smoke, before the video cuts off abruptly.

The public prosecutor's office in the eastern Ukrainian region

of Donetsk said that ac-

Jumana Murad said her son Mohammad, 19, was killed as he tried to help women and children out of a tent inside a school.

"A piece of shrapnel hit him in the head," she told AFP before bursting into tears. Nasser hospital in the southern Gaza city of Khan Yunis overflowed with both the wounded and the dead.

Hospitals in the southern Gaza Strip have descended into chaos since the resumption of hostilities, and WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that some patients there were being treated on the floor, in conditions "unimaginable for the provision of health care'

surrendering soldiers **Monitoring Desk**

WASHINGTON: One of the three college students of Palestinian descent who were shot in Vermont last month is paralysed from the chest down after a bullet lodged in his spine, the student's family said.

Palestinian student shot in US is paralysed, says family

Hisham Awartani, a 20-year-old student at Brown University who grew up in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, was walking with two friends near the University of Vermont campus in Burlington on Nov 25 when police say



People move in a boat past partially submerged vehicles in a residential area following heavy rains ahead of Cyclone Michaung in Chennai, India.

The attacker was a

Frenchman in his mid-20s

born to a non-reon ligious

Iranian family but who had

already done prison time for

planning an attack and was

known to the authorities as

a radical with mental

troubles. "There was clearly

a failure, not from the point

of view of his monitoring by

the intelligence services, but

a psychiatric failure," Inte-

rior Minister Gerald Darmanin told BFM TV,

rocket amid

as high as 800 meters (2,620

- but attempts to relocate them were hindered by the renewed activity, West Sumatra's Search and Rescue Agency head Abdul Malik said. The search operation would resume once isfaction to climb further." conditions improved, he A video released by

the agency showed rescuers evacuating an injured climber on a stretcher off the mountain and into a waiting ambulance to be taken to hospital. Marapi initially erupted on Sunday spew-

ing clouds of hot ash. Eruption

Indonesia's Mount Marapi strands and injures climbers and blankets villages stayed at the third highest of four alert levels since 2011, a level indicating above-normal volcanic activity, prohibiting climbers and villagers within 3 kilometers (1.8 miles) of the peak, said Hendra Gunawan, the head of the Center for Volcanology and Geological Disaster Mitiga-

"This means that there should be no climbing to the peak," Gunawan said, adding that climbers were only allowed below the danger zone, "but sometimes many of them broke the rules to fulfill their sat-

About 75 climbers had started their way up the nearly 2,900-meter (9,480-foot) mountain on Saturday and became stranded. Auhtorities rescued 52, including three on Monday. Eight of those rescued Sunday were rushed to hospital with burns and one suffered a broken limb, said Hari Agustian, an official at the local Search and Rescue Agency in Padang, the West Sumatra provincial capital.

South Korea flies solid-fuel space race with North Korea

Monitoring Desk SEOUL: South Korea on

Monday successfully conducted a flight of a solidfuel rocket carrying a satellite over the sea near Jeju Island, the defence ministry said, amid a growing space race with neighbouring North Korea.

It was the third successful test of the rocket's technology after two others in March and December 2022

The launch on Monday involved technology developed at the state-run Agency for Defense Development and a booster and satellite produced by South Korea's Hanwha Systems, the ministry said in a statement. Hanwha Systems said the satellite, which will be used for civilian purposes including environmental monitoring.

capital now barely half a year away from hosting the adding the attacker had an 2024 summer Olympic "acute mental illness". Karabakh refugees in Armenia face uncertainty and poverty in exile

'Failure' in psychiatric

care of Paris attacker:

French interior minister

Monitoring Desk

PARIS: There was a clear

failure in the psychiatric

care of the radicalised indi-

vidual suffering from men-

tal troubles who stabbed a

German tourist to death in

central Paris at the week-

end, France's interior min-

Eiffel Tower has increased

concerns in France over the

risk of extremist attacks,

particularly with the French

The attack close to the

ister said on Monday.

Monitoring Desk

MASIS: For the third time in her life, Elada Sargsyan is a refugee. Born in the Azerbaijani capital Baku, Sargsyan fled her hometown in 1988, aged 19, as the Soviet Union began to

The city's once-large Armenian minority were driven out in violence triggered by the outbreak of ethnic conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, an autonomous, primarily Armenian Christian territory within the mostly Muslim Soviet republic of Azerbaijan, which was soon to become an in-

dependent country. Sargsyan and her family fled to Soviet Armenia, then set up home in the village of Aknaghbyur in Nagorno-Karabakh, known as Agbulaq in Azerbaijani, despite the fact that the mountain region was in Azerbaijan and at war with the government in Baku.

In 2020, they lost another home, when Azerbaijan - by now closely allied with Armenians' bête noire, Turkiye - reconquered much of Karabakh including their village in a second war. In September 2023, after Azerbaijan retook the remainder of Karabakh in a lightning offensive, prompting an almost total exodus, Sargsyan, by now 54, fled her home for a third time.

Afghan women protest against sectarian attacks **Monitoring Desk**

HERAT: Several women demonstrated in western Afghanistan on Sunday against sectarian attacks at the funeral of members of their community killed

days before. The women shouted, "Death to the murderers" and "We need security" during the funeral in Herat city's Jebrael area, Hussain Azimi, a member of the ulma, or council of religious scholars, said.

They were among several hundred people gathered to mourn six victims of the attack in Herat on Friday.

Tens of thousands march for climate in Brussels

Monitoring Desk

BRUSSELS: Tens of thousands of protesters marched in Brussels on Sunday to demand urgent action against climate change as world leaders gathered for crunch COP28 talks in the United Arab Emirates. "No to climate change, yes to system change" and "We want a liveable and healthy planet" were among the slogans on posters and placards.

The crowd braved low temperatures in the Belgian capital to the sound of drums and other musical entertainment following a call by the Climate Coalition, which brings together civil organisations.

China says a US Navy ship 'illegally intruded' into waters in the South China Sea

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: The Chinese military said that an American naval ship had "illegally intruded" on Monday into waters near the Second Thomas Shoal, the site of a hot territorial dispute between China and the Philippines in the South China Sea. A Chinese naval force was mobilized to track the USS Gabrielle Giffords during the operation, according to a statement from the People's Liberation Army Southern Theater. The U.S. Navy's 7th Fleet said the ship "was conducting routine operations in international waters ... consistent with international law." Chinese and Philippine naval and coast guard month.

ships have confronted each other repeatedly around the shoal in the Spratly Islands in recent months as China tries to prevent the Philippines from resupplying and repairing a rusting warship that it intentionally ran aground in 1999 to serve as a military outpost.

Dwarfed by China's military might, the Philippines has sought America's help in its multiple territorial disputes with China in the South China Sea. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. agreed to an expansion of the U.S. military presence in the country early this year and launched joint sea and air patrols with the United States late last

agencies, the ministry of

health and other relevant

bodies to put in all efforts

into ongoing search and res-

cue efforts to prevent more

The more than 20 people were killed in Katesh

village in the Hanang district

of Manyara, the president

said. The heavy rain on Sat-

urday night caused land-

slides in some areas of

Mount Hanang, domestic

media outlets reported, add-

ing that the waters also

swept away livestock.

Floods kill more than 20 people in northern Tanzania

Monitoring Desk

DAR ES SALAAM: At least 20 people have been killed by floods after heavy rain in the Manyara region of northern Tanzania, the ministry of health said on Sunday.

Severe flooding caused by the El Nino weather phenomenon has killed hundreds of people in Kenya and Somalia in recent weeks. The rains have also left a trail of destruction, ruining infrastructure like roads and submerging towns in East Africa, displacing hundreds of thousands of people.

"We are very shocked by this event," President Samia Suluhu Hassan said in a video message posted online by the Tanzanian ministry of health.

Climate change is causing more intense and more frequent extreme weather events, scientists say.

In response, African leaders are pushing for new global taxes and changes to international financial institutions to help fund climate She directed security change action.

Turkey's Erdogan says Israel's Netanyahu 'will be tried as war criminal'

Monitoring Desk ISTANBUL: Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan

said on Monday that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would eventuoffensive in the Gaza Strip,

while slamming Western countries supporting Israel. Turkey, which supports a two-state solution to the decades-old conflict, has sharply criticised Israel over its campaign in Gaza, launched in response to Hamas' rampage on Oct. 7. More than 15,500 people have been killed in the Israeli air and ground attacks, according to Gaza's health ministry. In a speech to an Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) committee meeting in Istanbul, Erdogan said the Western nations supporting Israel were giving it "unconditional support to kill babies" and were complicit in

its crimes. "Beyond being a war criminal, Netanyahu, who is the butcher of Gaza right now, will be tried as the butcher of Gaza, just as Milosevic was tried," Erdogan said, in reference to Yugoslav ex-President Slobodan Milosevic who was tried for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes at a tribunal in The Hague. "Those who try to skip over the deaths

of all those innocent people

say to humanity," he added, referring to Western powers, which he said were "blind and deaf".

Unlike most of its Western allies and some ally be tried as a war crimi- Gulf states, NATO memnal over Israel's ongoing ber Turkey does not view Hamas as a terrorist group and hosts some of its members. Erdogan, whose ruling party has Islamist roots, said a so-called contact group of Muslim countries, which was formed by the OIC and Arab League last month to hold talks on Gaza with Western countries and others, would continue discussions until the fighting in Gaza stopped, but added

more must be done. "We must absolutely evaluate the United Nations Human Rights Council and the International Criminal Court (ICC) within this framework," he said, adding Israel's nuclear arsenal must not be forgotten.

Erdogan, who has long called for the United Nations Security Council to be reformed to be more inclusive, also said that the U.N had failed the test in Gaza and called for an urgent reform, repeating that the Security Council's five permanent members - the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France did not represent the world.

"The sincere efforts of Secretary General (Antonio) Guterres were saboby using the excuse of Hamas have nothing left to cil members," he said. taged by the Security Coun-

Eleven climbers killed as Indonesia volcano erupts, search on hold

Monitoring Desk JAKARTA: Eleven climb-

ers were found dead in Indonesia on Monday following the eruption of the Marapi volcano in West Sumatra, a rescue official said, as a search to find 12 more missing was temporarily halted over safety concerns.

Three survivors were found on Monday along with the bodies of the 11 climbers, among 75 in the area at the time of Sunday's eruption, said Jodi Haryawan, spokesperson for the search and rescue team.

The 2,891 metre (9,485 ft) high volcano spewed ash as high as 3 km into the sky on Sunday.

Authorities raised the alert to the second-highest level and prohibited residents from going within 3 km of the crater.

Video footage showed a huge cloud of volcanic ash

spread widely across the sky and cars and roads covered with ash. A small eruption on

Monday prompted the search to be suspended, Jodi said. "It's too dangerous if

we continue searching now," he said.

There were 49 climbers evacuated from the area earlier Monday and many were being treated for burns. he said.

Video footage showed a huge cloud of volcanic ash spread widely across the sky and cars and roads covered with ash. A small eruption on

Monday prompted the search to be suspended, Jodi said. "It's too dangerous if we continue searching now," he said.

There were 49 climbers evacuated from the area earlier Monday and many were being treated for burns.



Delegates walk at the Dubai's Expo City during the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

President stresses upon

attitudinal change as key to



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Education Qadir Bakhsh Baloch, DGNAB Zafar Iqbal Khan and other participants addressing at ceremony of speech competition about anti-corruption

PM invites Emarati investors to explore Pakistan's conducive business market

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has said the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is Pakistan's largest trading partner in the Middle East North Africa region with an average annual trade of \$9 billion and urged the UAE investors to explore Pakistani market for new av-

In an interview with Gulf Today, he said Pakistan is planning a comprehensive investment promotion strategy in major countries including the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

PM Kakar said Pakistan's exports to the UAE include agriculture products, textiles and manpower, while the UAE exports petroleum, petrochemical products and hi-

The two countries also exchange services with each other. Information Technology, Artificial Intelligence and Financial-technology are new areas of collaboration with much greater potential

Pakistan-UAE bilateral trade during 2022-23 amounted to \$9 billion, he

He expressed satisfaction that Pakistan's exports to UAE surged to \$1.4 billion in fiscal year 2022-23, highest in the last five years.

On prospects UAE's investment in Pakistan, he said attracting foreign investment in all sectors of Pakistan's economy was the government's top

"Pakistan's Investment Policy has been designed to provide a compre-

GWADAR: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan

Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki presenting souvenir

to Caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar.

Nutrition Directorate set up to

tackle food related issues in

Balochistan: Security Health

QUETTA (APP): Secre- Shaukat Baloch. Provincial

tary Health Balochistan Head World Food Program

Abdullah Khan here on Dr. Faria Ehsan gave a com-

Ghulam Haider and Staff nutrition in Balochistan.

QUETTA: Writer Arbab Usman Khan Kasi

presenting his book to Governor Balochistan

completion of projects

in Balochistan: Dashti

QUETTA (APP): Provin- Works regarding the

projects.

progress of the ongoing

Kamber Dashti said that

the development projects

of Quetta city have been

stalled due to various rea-

sons, saying that projects

are in the final stages of

people of the entire prov-

ince would get the fruits of

the ongoing projects after

celerate works of ongoing

projects to complete them

structed that all the finan-

cial and technical problems

related to the ongoing de-

velopment projects should

be resolved as soon as pos-

He also directed to ac-

The Secretary also in-

their completion.

with standard soon.

continuous monitoring.

Secretary

. Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

cial Secretary Communica-

tions and Works (C &W)

Kamber Dashti on Monday

said that people of the

province would get benefits

soon after the completion

of ongoing projects in

views while presiding over

the meeting held regarding

reviewing the progress of ongoing development

projects in Quetta District

tended by Chief Engineer

Building Quetta Zone Ayub

Khan Deputy Secretary

Technical Nimatullah, and

Engineer Officers of Quetta

Engineer Officers of Quetta

District gave a detailed

briefing to the Secretary,

In the meeting, the

District Building Zone.

The meeting was at-

Building Sector.

He expressed these

Quetta and other areas.

prehensive briefing to

Health Secretary on the

ongoing projects in Balochistan and told that

the WFP was focusing on

strengthening health sys-

tems through community

midwives through unique

development programs and

nutrition (Preventive and

supplementation). The

WFP is expanding its

unique development pro-

gram from the existing 72

state-of-the-art facilities

across Balochistan by 31

March 2024, she said. The

Secretary Health said that

there was a need to inte-

grate the initiatives of vari-

ous UN agencies related to

said that

Balochistan was the first

province where a nutrition

directorate has been estab-

lished to handle nutrition

related issues. He expressed

these views while chairing

the meeting regarding World

Food Program (WFP). The

meeting was attended by

Additional Secretary Health

Arif Khan, Provincial Head

World Food Program Dr.

Faria Ehsan, Program

Policy Officer World Food

Program Dr. Shahik Riaz

Baloch, Mazhar Baloch,

Planning Officer Dr. Shako,

Program Associate Ahsan,

World Food Program Secu-

rity and Liaison Officer

Officer Secretary Health

Monday

of Foreign Direct Investment from all parts of the world including the UAE,'

their franchise Foreign companies individuals, multinational corporations can own 100 per cent shares in locally

Stressing enhanced investment cooperation, the prime minister said the two countries could explore the areas such as agriculture, energy, mining, information technology, logistics and

MQM delegation meeting with **CEC**

SLAMABAD (Online) Muttahida Qaumi Movément (MQM) expressed concerns on constituencies and level playing field before Election Commission (EC). A delegation of MQM met the Chief Election Commissioner here in Islamabad and expressed their concerns. The visiting delegation included Faroog Sattar, Khalid Maqbool Javed Hanif and Abdul Hafeez. Speaking to the media after the meeting, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui said that under the supervison of Sikandar Sultan Raja.

Currently, he said there are over 1,000 multi-

national companies profitably operating in Pakistan, and for many, Pakistan is the most profitable part of

incorporated or unincorpo rated firms, he added.

across the globe and Islam is also talking about animal Amans, in Pakistan. **Member CMIT Umeed** visits ongoing development projects in Naseerabad

Report on the state of

women's shelters

launched in Quetta

He said the Ministry

of Human Rights would ini-

tiate training programs for staff deputed in Dar ul

Amans to protect the rights of residents. Min-

ister Khalil George said

that women's shelters are

an essential component of

a comprehensive re-

sponse to violence against

on Dar ul Amans has re-

vealed some very urgent is-

sues. The availability and

accessibility of women's

shelters is an urgent mat-

ter," he added while stress-

address these issues

ing collaborative efforts to

mission for Human Rights

(NCHR) and UN Women,

launched "More than Shel-

ters, Needs Assessment of

Dar ul Amans and Shelters

in Pakistan" - a comprehen-

sive report on the state of

women's shelters, in Dar ul

The National Com-

The NCHR report

Independent Report

QUETTA: Federal Minis-

ter for Human Rights Khalil

George said that in every

report published on the

situation of human rights,

Pakistan is far better than

our neighbour country.

He said that violence

against women, violation

of minorities' rights and

child abuse in India are

worse than any other coun-

stan no country exists in the

world where women's

rights have been ensured

and also provided equal

opportunities in every

should learn from these re-

ports and work jointly to

move the country forward.

He said that further efforts

should be taken to provide

an environment like home

in Dar ul Amans. He said

that women's right is equal

The minister said we

Khalil said like Paki-

Independent Report QUETTA: The Member Chief Minister Inspection Team, Umeed Ali Khokhar visited several ongoing development projects in Naseerabad district on

inspected Mir Hasan road, new hospital, Public Health Engineering scheme of Goth Kora Khan, Dera Murad Jamali Eastern bypass road, tough tiles, street lights, on farm water management and

Executive Engineers Abdul Rehman Kakar, Chakar Khan Khatak Muhammad Kazim Luni Assistant Director Local Government Nawaz Jatak and Sub-Engineer Syed Haider Shah briefed the member CMIT about details of the projects of their respective departments. The Member CMIT directed them to complete the projects ensuring quality of work.

other schemes in the area.



QUETTA: Adelegation of Attached Department Officer Welfare Association meeting with Director General Public Relations Balochistan Muhammad Noor Khetran.

Rana says: PML-N ready for seat adjustment with JUI-F, other parties

LAHORE (ÂPP): Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Punjab President Rana Sanaullah Khan has said that his party is fully prepared to contest upcoming general elections as its workers, voters and supporters are excited to ac-

tively participate. Talking to media here on Monday, he said "We are ready to fulfil the promise of country's development made by Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on Oct 21".

Justice Mazahar Akbar Naqvi submitted reply to Registrar's notice

ISLAMABAD (Online): two constitutional petitice of Registrar Supreme Court on the matter of complaint in the Supreme Judicial Council.

Justice Mazahar Naqvi also sent the copy of the reply to the 3-member committee of the Supreme Court, in which it has been said that the registrar should not have the authority to follow the case or not. Registrar's notice has no constitutional or legal sta-

He said that I had filed fixed for hearing.

Supreme Court Justice tions in the Supreme Court Mazahar Akbar Naqvi has on November 20 and 30 but submitted a reply to the no- my petitions have not been

numbered so far. Justice Mazahar Naqvi said that a miscellaneous application was also filed to set the constitutional petitions early but the case was not filed. Not setting the constitutional petitions is a violation of the Practice and Procedure Law. These constitutional petitions should be placed before a 3-member committee and both my constitutional petitions should be

ANP informs CEC about political transfers and postings, code of conduct violations

completion due to strict He said that the

which also saw the MQM presenting their case about alleged injustices in the new Election Commissioner delimitations and the support being extending to the PPP by the caretaker gov-

> Hussain said his party had especially pointed to the transfer and posting of district administration of-Khyber

The deputy commissioners were pressing politicians for joining the particular parties to get favourable transfers and postings, he mentioned.

Demanding posting of impartial officials, he said the ANP wanted free and fair polls according the schedule announced by the

President Dr Arif Alvi on economy," he added. Monday emphasized that The president said attitudinal change in any that with proper scientific sector of the economy tools and knowledge, Pakicould lead to its growth and stan could attain food development including the autarky and cited Netherproduction and export of lands that was 19 percent smaller than Pakistan in size world famed Pakistani inbut had become the second The president, elabolargest food exporter in the rating his viewpoint, said world owing to usage of lat-

that technological and sciest technology and reentific research and inputs Appreciating the role of REAP in boosting would pave way for the latest innovations in the agriculture sector and the rice country's exports and the exporters should utilize all national economy, the available tools to enhance president said that with ortheir yield by supplementganizing of festivals and ing the country's exports. road shows in different He was addressing the countries, they were pro-Biryani Festival and previding huge business opsenting of REAP journal portunities to the local Basmati rice growers and

organized by the Rice Exporters Association of Paexporters kistan (REAP) at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. The event exploring the organic cultivation of rice crop as the was attended by the REAP office bearers, members of world including Pakistan the diplomatic corps, exwere facing water scarcity. traders and world resources were propmediapersons.

digenous Basmati rice.

The president underlined the need for inclusion and encouragement of women in the agriculture sector as the country was looking towards such initiatives, leading towards further women empowerment. "With such changes in atti-

He said that hoarding tude, they can stimulate of food stuff was also a rea-

He also suggested for

He opined that if the

erly utilized, about 7 billion

world's population could be

fed properly and regretted

that along with the global

growth of any sector in economy changes in the country's son which led to food crises and it could be ended if priorities across the globe were set, adding that only \$1 trillion could be suffice to address the food scarcity

in the world. Contrary to it, the Islamic teachings had made the wealth a source for channeling the uplift of entire community, leading to well being of the human beings, he added.

The president also stressed upon measures to water conservation in the agri-sector, particularly during the rice cultivation as it was a water intensive crop. Besides, value addition products based upon rice crop, the exporters could increase Basmati outreach to different parts of the world, he said, and lauded REAP for projecting the soft image of Pakistan and promoting their culture, industry and livelihood. He said that certain things in the agriculture sector were possible and doable and expressed the optimism that the country would soon rise economi-

Earlier, Chairman trade, the exploitation of REAP, Chela Ram Kelwani, population and accumulation of wealth also continin his address, highlighted the contribution of the association in the country's



NCHR Rabia Jaweria Agha showing report on conditions of shelter homes for women from National Commission for Human Rights and UN Women to Caretaker Federal Minister Khalil George.

Customs Quetta seizes smuggled goods worth Rs 10 bln

QUETTA (APP): Pakistan Customs recovered goods ու smuggiing lion rupees after foiling bids of smuggling during the last 5 months in respective areas of Balochistan.

Spokesperson of Pa-Customs kistan Balochistan Superintendent Dr. Atta Bareach on Monday said that the value of the goods seized during the entire period was 10 billion rupees, never before has such a large amount of contraband been recovered in such a short period.

He said that about Rs 2.22 billion worth of goods were seized in October, seizure of smuggling goods worth Rs 3.40 billion were recovered in November by respective areas Balochistan.

These seized smuggling goods including Chalia, Panprag, cloth, tires, cigarettes, non-customs paid vehicles, sugar, urea, auto parts, medicine and other things, he said.

Senate committee approves student union bill

ISLAMABAD (INP) Senate Committee for Education on Monday approved the bill for the restoration of student organizations in the federal educational institutions. Ifran Siddiqui presided over the Senate Committee for Education and approved the bill for the restoration of student organizations at the federal universities and colleges. The meeting members considered a bill for the legislation on the student union in the education institutions in the federal. The chairman committee expressed displeasure over tĥe absence of the education secretary and education minister and warned them to attend.

Masood calls Pak, American physicians 'valuable asset'

WASHINGTON (APP): of Pakistan and the United Pakistan's Ambassador to States. the United States, Masood Khan, has lauded the immense contributions made by the Association of Physicians of Pakistani Descent North America (APPNA) towards

strengthening Pakistan's healthcare system as well as in dealing with other challenges, including floods. "Our doctors have

succeeded in the United States beyond imagination—it is a matter of pride for Pakistan and the diaspora community, "he said at the 10th annual banquet of APPNA's Delaware Valley Chapter, which represents Pakistani doctors' of Eastern Pennsylvania, Upper Delaware and South

New Jersey. The ambassador said Pakistani-American physicians were a valuable asset

Pakistan, he said, has problems, but they will be just a blip in the country's long history. "We will negotiate a transition. We have the wherewithal to do

While Pakistan had lagged behind in some areas, it had also progressed in many walks of life, Masood Khan pointed out.

"Our human capital is increasing," he said, adding this was not the time for the Pakistani community to be polarized. This, he added, was a moment to consolidate gains and to be part of the United States' mainstream. "You should not be on

the fringes. You should be in the mainstream because you have the requisite competencies to do that," he told the gathering.



QUETTA: Balochistan Civil Secretariat Officers Welfare Association President, Abdul Malik Kakar addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club.

Shehbaz promises equitable development, argues for **Charter of Economy**

LAHORE (INP): Shehbaz that the entire had reached Sharif – the PML-N presian agreement on the offer. dent and a former prime minister – on Monday promised an equitable development across Pakistan and again presented the proposal of signing a Charter of Economy – an idea that is based upon the Charter of Democracy (CoD) inked for two political rivals Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif back in 2006

supremacy in Pakistan. Only a consensusbased national manifesto can rescue Pakistan from the prevailing quagmire, he said about the suggestion he introduced as the leader of

to jointly fight for civilian

an agreement on the offer.
The former prime

minister asked the people to give a clear mandate [majority] in the February 8 elections and said they would work under the leader of Nawaz after a successful campaign as he had always delivered on the economic front. Shehbaz mentioned

that economy would be vitalised through policy actions, not political and emotional statements, as he promised that the marginalised segments of the society – workers, daily-wage labourers, women and others – were opposition during the PTI to be the PML-N focus, if government while noting voted into power.

People get benefits after ISLAMABAD (INP): Seather the chief election commissioned politician and ANP sioner (CEC) on a day carried out under a special

poll rigging. He was talking to re-

leader Mian Iftikhar Hussain on Monday said they had informed Chief Sikander Sultan Raja about the repeated code of conduct violations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, saying any continuation of the ongoing practices would be considered as pre-

ernment in Sindh.

ficers

Pakhtunkhwa, which, ac- ECP (Election Commission



QUETTA: Secretary Health Balochistan Abdullah Khan presiding over a meeting regarding World