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Rules out any negotiations PM asks terrorists to make 'unconditional surrender'

Says no person would be allowed to take the law into his hands, only the State had the legitimate right to use armed power through its security forces

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday warned terrorist groups in the country to make an "unconditional surrender", saying the State would not negotiate with them.

"The State will not show any leniency towards the terrorists who committed violence and killed innocent citizens," he said in an interaction with the families of martyrs here at the Interior Ministry, where he earlier launched the country's new visa policy.

PM Kakar categorically said that no person would be allowed to take the law into his hands, adding that only the State had the legitimate right to use armed power through its security forces.

"No one should have any doubt about the stance of the State against terrorists," he said. "All organs of the State have the clarity to remain persistent against militancy."

He said any damage incurred in the past by giving a lenient space to the militants would be mitigated.

The prime minister said if someone wanted to denounce terrorism must seek forgiveness from the families of the martyrs, who had paid the ultimate price.

"We cannot compensate those who lost their loved ones, but can make a gesture to acknowledge and honour their invaluable sacrifices," he added.

PM Kakar said the reward for the martyrs' souls rested with Allah Almighty, however, it was the responsibility of the society to honour them with a distinguished status.

"I pay tribute to all the martyrs - an unending list of heroes from all segments of the society, including police, politicians, journal-

ists, soldiers, and even children," he said.

Earlier, at the launch of the new visa policy, the prime minister congratulated the Ministry of Interior on the achievement of a "good milestone".

He said the country needed to further rationalize its visa policy with the target of attracting investment.

"Unless we open up to the world, we cannot attract investment and develop connectivity," he said, adding that a country's visa policy was the cornerstone



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar while inaugurating the Martyrs' Wall in the Ministry of Interior, placing a portrait of Shaheed AIG Safwat Ghayur.



QUETTA: A delegation comprising members of committee formed resolve complaints about distribution of laptops in the University of Balochistan meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Governor Balochistan emphasizes: Political leadership ought to keep close & effective rapport with masses every time & situation

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has emphasized that the political leadership should keep close and effective coordination with the masses every time and every situation so that they are well aware of the issues and hardships being faced by them, and thus resolve the same timely.

The Governor was speaking to different delegations who called on him here at the Governor House on Monday.

The Governor said that political philosophy deals with the service and welfare of the people without discrimination so as to protect their basic rights and dignity.

He was of the view that we get thoughtful guidance along with practical politics for bringing real development and prosperity in the society and country.

He said that we have learnt from our political elders that the public service is the guarantor of dignity of political leadership.

If we our politics is based on the increase of rights and empowerment of the people then the democratic values, behaviour and public democracy can be strengthened, the Governor believed.

Customs authorities get smuggle, seize vehicles themselves: Supreme Court

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa has remarked Customs Authorities get smuggle the vehicles themselves and then get them seize themselves.

He further remarked this truck is not a match box that Customs authorities are ignorant of it came from what way.

He gave these remarks while hearing the case of seizing of smuggled truck by KP customs authorities here Monday.

The CJP while rejecting customs appeal reprimanded counsel for customs.

The CJP remarked you are neither giving arguments in the court nor are talking of law. The vehicle was seized inside 400 kilometers away from Peshawar border without the knowledge of customs authorities. He observed customs authorities get smuggle the vehicles by taking money and then they get seize them by themselves.

The CJP remarked as to why the inquiry should not be got conducted against customs department. Truck was manufactured in 1996 and was seized in 2016. Where it kept on running for 22 years.



QUETTA: Balochistan Caretaker Information Minister Jan Achakzai, FPCCT's Ex, President Dawood Khan Achakzai and Eyes Organization's Executive Director Sami Shark signs a MoU regarding border trader.

Land of Afghanistan being used for terrorism against Pakistan: Jan Achakzai

Caretaker Minister Information terms COAS's visit to USA very important at critical juncture; says Ministry of Information sign MoUs with two NGOs for promotion of E-education & E-commerce

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has pointed out that the land of Afghanistan is being used for terrorism against Pakistan, and it (Pakistan) is also confronting this critical situation too.

However, the brave armed forces of Pakistan would defend every inch of the country and the terrorism would be rooted out.

The caretaker Minister Information was addressing a hurriedly called press conference at Quetta press club on Monday.

Jan Achakzai spoke about the Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir's visit to United States of America, besides terrorism from Afghanistan, protest rally of the Baloch Yekjehti committee from Turbat, besides the Memorandum of Understanding reached between Ministry of Information, Government of Balochistan and Educational and Youth Empowerment Society.

The Minister Information said that the Army Chief has embarked on US visit, and he is a first COAS who has been visiting US

after a long time.

He said that the Army chief's visit to US has come at an important juncture when the war is continued in Ukraine and Gaza. On the other hand, Afghanistan under Taliban failed to fulfil its commitments with the international community and has been source of terrorism in Pakistan.

While it is also important to mention that elections are about to be conducted in Pakistan and India, adding he mentioned further.

President Alvi says Indian judiciary succumbed to fascist Hindutva ideology

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday strongly rejected the Indian Supreme Court's (ISC) decision to uphold the revocation of the special status of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

He expressed dismay over the decision, saying the Indian judiciary had succumbed to the fascist Hindutva ideology giving decisions suited to the Indian government.

He added that such decisions could not legitimize the occupation of IIOJK by India as the Jammu and Kashmir issue was an internationally recognized dispute that remained on the agenda of the UN Security Council for over seven decades.

While condemning the decision, the president said that it was unfortunate that Indian courts had a history of giving decisions against Muslims as in the cases of Babri Masjid, Samjhuta Express, Hyderabad Mecca Masjid blast and Naroda Gam massacre during the 2002 Gujarat riots etc. He added that the verdict of the ISC could not change the status of the IIOJK.

He said the Judgement would further strengthen the resolve of the people of IIOJK in their just struggle against Indian illegal occupation.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari along with Caretaker Minister of Interior Sarfaraz Bugti talking to media persons during press conference after inaugurating Martyrs Wall at Ministry of Interior in Federal Capital.

Bilawal Bhutto says Wall of Martyrs - a good initiative to remember sacrifices of martyred heroes

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Monday visited 'Wall of Martyrs' at the Interior Ministry and commended the step to remember the sacrifices of the martyred heroes.

Talking to the media after hoisting the picture of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto at 'The Wall of Martyrs', Bilawal said he was grateful to Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfaraz Bugti for the initiative.

"The 'Wall of Martyrs' is an initiative we appreciate, as it has immortalised the sacrifices of the martyrs," he added.

The martyrs of the country, he said, included politicians, policemen, lawyers, judges, and the army soldiers, who had been a target of terrorism and they all rendered great sacrifices.

As a result of their struggle, peace was achieved and terrorism was eradicated from the country, he added. Unfortunately, a decision was later taken which undermined the efforts of the martyrs.

Nawaz Sharif vows to put country on road to progress

LAHORE (INP): Former prime minister Nawaz Sharif has said time has come to put Pakistan on the road to progress.

He expressed these views while addressing a PML-N meeting in Lahore on Monday.

Sharif highlighted the need for national unity and emphasised the responsibility of overcoming self-interest for the greater good.

Addressing the PML-N's ticket contenders, Sharif recounted the past achievements and expressed concerns over the halted journey of development. He called for merit-based ticket allocations and stressed the importance of serving the nation above personal interests.

Sharif acknowledged current challenges, including the soaring cost of electricity, meat, flour, and sugar.

'Travesty of justice': Pakistan rejects Indian SC's verdict on Kashmir

India has no right to make unilateral decisions on the status of this disputed territory against the will of the Kashmiri people and Pakistan: FM Gilani

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Monday categorically rejected the judgement, announced by the Supreme Court of India on the status of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), terming it "another manifestation of the pliant judiciary under India's ruling dispensation."

Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Gilani, during a press

India's top court upholds end of special status for IIOJK

NEW DELHI: (APP) Illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir state by September 30 next year, says a report reaching here on Monday from across the line of control (LoC).

"The Indian apex court also directed that statehood to the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, and said steps should be taken to conduct "elections" to the assembly in the Indian

Continued on page 2

Zubair Jamali calls on Health Minister Dr. Amir Jogeza

QUETTA (APP): Provincial Caretaker Home Minister Mir Zubair Jamali on Monday met with Caretaker Provincial Health Minister Dr. Amir Muhammad Jogaizai.

In the meeting, security, health sector including organization of health card in province and issues of mutual interest were discussed.

The Provincial Home Minister while appreciating the organization and initiative of health card said that the steps taken by the caretaker provincial government for the welfare of the people are commendable.

Dr. Amir Muhammad Jogaizai said that integrated measures are being taken to improve the supply of medicines on a regular basis across the province.

Bail granted to Imran in 3 cases, Qureshi in 2 cases

ISLAMABAD (Online): Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) Islamabad has approved bail of former chairman PTI Imran Khan in three cases and bail of Shah Mehmood Qureshi in two cases.

Judge Abul Hasanat Zulqarnain approved bail pleas of founder of PTI and Shah Mehmood Qureshi.

Prosecutor Raja Navid and PTI counsels Sardar Masroof and Khalid Yousuf appeared in the court.

Prosecutor Raja Navid took the plea PTI leaders staged protest deliberately. PTI founder tried to provoke people. Unnecessary leniency is being shown to PTI leaders. The bail pleas of Imran Khan and Shah Mehmood Qureshi are dismissed.

The court inquired were Imran Khan and Shah Mehmood Qureshi present on the occasion.

No hurdle in holding elections in-time: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Murtaza Solangi on Monday said that there was no hurdle in holding the general elections in the country in accordance with the schedule issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

Speaking in a private news channel talk show, he said that the announcement for the election date should end all the speculations.

He also ruled out any change in the polling date and said that the elections would take place on February 8, 2024.

The environment for holding the polls was conducive, he said, recalling different sort of situations during various general elections including 2008, 2013 and 2018. Solangi said it was responsibility of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to hold the general elections and the government would provide all-out assistance in that regard.

He said the government had been releasing the required funds to the ECP for holding the polls. Security would also be ensured for conducting the general elections in a free, fair and transparent manner. All political parties were fully allowed to carry out their political activities in all the four provinces, the minister noted.



KARACHI: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf interacts with the troops and officers during his visit onboard PN Fleet Units, at PN Dockyard in Karachi.

Naval Chief visits Coastal & Creeks areas, PN Ships to review operational preparedness

KARACHI (INP): Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf on Monday visited Creeks and Coastal Areas and PN Ships to review operational preparedness and combat readiness of the units.

Upon arrival at Creeks Brigade Sujawal, a comprehensive operational brief was presented to CNS on prevailing threat environment and defences of Creeks Area. During the visit at forward posts, CNS interacted with officers and men and appreciated their readiness to respond any misadventure by the adversary.

On the second leg of his visit, Chief of the Naval Staff arrived at PNS AKRAM at Gwadar and interacted with the troops deployed for the security of Gwadar Port. He also visited Jinnah Naval Base,

Pakistan Navy Hospital Dar Maanjah and Cadet College at Ormara.

Later on, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf arrived on PN Ships at PN Dockyard Karachi to review the operational preparedness and combat readiness of PN surface ships.

During interactions with troops at Creeks and Coastal Areas and onboard ships, Chief of the Naval Staff expressed satisfaction on operational readiness of deployed elements. He also appreciated the professional prowess and dedication of officers and men in ensuring impregnable defence of the motherland in challenging harsh environment of Creeks and Coastal Areas and amidst prevailing regional challenges in maritime domain.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over meeting of Provincial Steering Committee regarding implementation on Gwadar Safe City Project

Mainstreaming of deprived segments, fast decision-making vital for Pakistan's progress: President

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday said the mainstreaming of the deprived segments including women and differently-abled women, leveraging artificial intelligence and fast decision-making were inevitable for the progress and prosperity of the country.



The president, addressing the Members' Convocation of the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Pakistan (ICMA), urged the new graduates to play their role for the welfare of their employees and environmental protection besides fulfilling their responsibilities to their respective industries as well as the society. He urged the educational institutes to produce leaders as the country faced an acute shortage of leadership which should be honest to the people and the nation besides being capable of addressing the prevailing issues.

The president reiterated his condemnation of the ongoing killings in Gaza and rejected the Indian Supreme Court's decision to uphold the revocation of Article 370 in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

He questioned the conscience of the developed world over the barbarism in Gaza and said the world was in dire need of an order anchored on morality which legacy of the Muslims.

He said, unfortunately, the vested interests had overpowered the humanitarianism in world affairs.

President Alvi, who earlier awarded certificates to

the new graduates and medals to the council members, said that around 28 million Pakistani children were out of school and needed support to brighten their future.

He said the country faced a shortage of professional graduates so the approach of encouraging them to go abroad and send remittances was unjustified.

The president said after joining the practical life, they should strive to provide a secure working environment to the women in their businesses as well as their respective fields besides creating opportunities for the differently-abled women.

Earlier, in his welcome address, ICMA President Shahzad Ahmed Malik said the Institute was committed to imparting quality education as it had constantly been improving its standards by adopting the best global practices.

He said ICMA was one of the oldest institutions in the region with 8,000 qualified members and 18,000 active students. The institute is also affiliated with the world's renowned professional bodies and committed to fulfilling the emerging needs of industries and businesses, he added.

Solangi grieved over demise of poet Ahmed Salim

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Monday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the demise of well-known intellectual, poet, novelist, translator and editor Ahmed Salim.

Using his X account, formerly Twitter, the minister said that during his entire life, Ahmed Salim remained steadfast and glued to his values of serving the working class, democracy, marginalised, vulnerable, oppressed people and the wretched of the earth.

Solangi said he equally shared the grief of the bereaved family and Ahmed Salim's death was a personal loss for him.

He prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved family to bear this loss with fortitude.

India's top court... Continued from page 1

...the report said. The report continued as saying "writing the judgement for himself and Justices Gavai and Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud said Article 370 of the Constitution was a temporary provision and the president has the power to revoke it.

The apex court also upheld the validity of the decision to carve out the union territory of Ladakh from Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, 2019. On that day, the Indian government abrogated Article 370 and bifurcated the state into two union territories—Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

The erstwhile state does not have internal sovereignty different from other states of the country, the CJ said. "... all provisions of the Indian Constitution can be applied to J-K," the CJ said.

"We hold the exercise of presidential power to issue constitutional order abrogating Article 370 of Constitution as valid," the CJ said. Jammu and Kashmir became an integral part of India and this is evident from Articles 1 and 370, he said while pronouncing the judgment.

Dr. Nadeem says Thankful to WHO, other stakeholders for humanitarian aid in Gaza

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan has said that we are thankful to World Health Organization and other stakeholders for providing health services to war affected people in Gaza.

He was addressing the participants of a special meeting of the Executive Board of World Health Organization held here on Monday to discuss the health situation in Palestine.

Dr. Nadeem Jan said that the risk of infectious diseases in the war affected area was increasing.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting regarding the matters related to Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) held in Islamabad.

Sanjrani rejects Indian SC decision

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on Monday rejected the decision by the Indian Supreme Court upholding the abrogation of Article 370, diminishing the autonomy of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

The Senate chairman, in a statement, voiced serious concerns, describing the Indian Supreme Court's ruling as a "mockery of justice that runs contrary to established norms of morality and lacks historical evidence". He raised questions about the impartiality of the court, suggesting it might have been compromised by Hindutva ideology, referring to the influence of what he termed "Hindutva goons".

Sadiq Sanjrani underscored that the Kashmiris did not recognize the Indian constitution, asserting

its non-applicability to the occupied Jammu and Kashmir, recognized internationally as a disputed territory.

He reiterated the steadfast rejection by the Kashmiri people of any unilateral actions taken by India in the region, reaffirming Pakistan's unwavering support for their quest for freedom from Indian occupation.

Calling for international attention, the chairman urged the global community to consider the implications of the Indian Supreme Court's decision.

He emphasized the need for a resolution to the Kashmir issue in accordance with United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions, reiterating Pakistan's commitment to a diplomatic and internationally sanctioned resolution to the longstanding dispute.

Tetra Pak extends nutrition partnership with Islamabad United for sixth year

LAHORE (PR): Tetra Pak Pakistan announced the extension of their partnership with Islamabad United as its official nutrition partner during the upcoming season 9 of the Pakistan Super League (PSL), scheduled between February to March 2024. The agreement was signed by Mr Awais Bin Nasim, Managing Director of Tetra Pak Pakistan and Mr Ahsan Latif, CEO of Islamabad United, during a special ceremony hosted at the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) headquarters in Lahore on December 11, 2023. Since 2019, Tetra Pak has remained the official nutrition partner of Islamabad United for PSL making it the sixth time this year for this continued support. The ceremony was attended by top officials from both sides.



Through this collaboration, Tetra Pak aims to raise awareness about the nutritional benefits of consuming safe and healthy packaged milk and its importance to maintain a healthy and active lifestyle. Milk contains high-quality proteins which help to repair and rebuild muscles after strenuous exercise. However, the consumed milk has to be safe from all forms of bacteria or adulteration. Islamabad United players will certainly benefit from the nutritious power of safe and healthy packaged milk during their PSL games and practice sessions.

PM asks terrorists to make...

Continued from page 1 of its economic roadmap.

The minister was briefed that the new visa policy includes the introduction of investor visas and the revision of the existing business visa category.

The investor visa has been introduced in line with the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) initiative. The hassle-free process allows visa approval within 24 hours with a short-term (1-3 years) and long-term entry visa (5 years).

The process requires minimal documentation with the option of converting the entry business and investor visa into a long-term investor visa.

The prime minister was informed that the business visa category was revised with the introduction of SIFC Business Entry and its extension. The business visa will be issued in 24 hours for a six-month short-term entry visa and a five-year long-term visa.

The National and Da-

PM for comprehensive strategy to organize PSL-9 matches

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday directed to evolve a comprehensive strategy to organize the cricket matches of Pakistan Super League Season 9 (PSL-9) across the country.

He was chairing an important meeting regarding the affairs of Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) here.

The prime minister was informed during the briefing presented by the PCB officials, that the PSL would be held in February 2024. The League matches would be held in Karachi, Lahore, Rawalpindi and Multan.

The prime minister emphasized that the country's interest and dignity should be kept on priority while appointing trainers, support staff and other officials in the PCB.

Moreover, he directed to conduct the elections of the Cricket Board Management Committee in an efficient manner.

PM Kakar highlighted that the game of cricket played an important role in uniting the entire nation culminating national spirit.

He said only through team work, Pakistan cricket team could unite and achieve success in every field.

The prime minister

stressed the need to promote cricket in remote areas of the country as well.

"There is immense cricket talent in Sindh, Balochistan, South Punjab, Gilgit-Baltistan, newly merged districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Azad Jammu & Kashmir, that needed to be given a chance to be represented at the national level," he added.

The prime minister directed that the restoration work of Quetta's Bugti Stadium and Peshawar's Arbab-e-Niaz Stadium should be started immediately to hold international cricket matches there. Similarly, he pointed out that Gwadar Cricket Stadium and Pissan Stadium in Nagar area of Gilgit-Baltistan could also be made capable of holding cricket matches.

The prime minister also directed the Cricket Board to conduct an immediate survey of Pissan Stadium in the Nagar District, adding that work for the rehabilitation of the existing cricket stadiums be started on an emergency basis.

In addition, the prime minister directed that a plan should be prepared for the establishment of new cricket stadiums equipped with modern facilities along with international standard hotels

and shopping areas to promote the tourism as well.

He also directed to hand over the four cricket grounds in Islamabad to the PCB for the development of cricket.

The meeting was told that Pakistan would host the Cricket Champions Trophy. It was further told that the number of cricket associations in the country had been increased from six to 16 which would highlight the regional talent. Additionally, construction of cricket infrastructure is underway in Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Gujranwala, Peshawar and Bahawalpur. Gaddafi Stadium Lahore, National Stadium Karachi and Multan Stadium are being converted to solar energy.

The meeting was also apprised about the measures being taken for the promotion of women's cricket in Pakistan.

Federal Minister for Privatization Fawad Hasan Fawad, PCB Chairman Muhammad Zaka Ashraf and Chief Operating Officer Salman Naseer, Chief Selector Wahab Riaz and relevant government officials attended the meeting. PCB officials Muhammad Hafeez, Umar Gul and Saeed Ajmal participated via video link from Australia.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Information Minister Jan Achakzai in a meeting with Caretaker Health Minister Ameer Muhammad Khan Jogezeai

UoT's entry test schedule for spring 2024 admissions to undergraduate programs on Dec 16

QUETTA (APP): University of Turbat (UoT) announced on Monday the schedule of the Entry Test for the Spring 2024 Semester for various Undergraduate Programs.

The Entry Test is scheduled to be conducted at the Main Campus of the University of Turbat on Saturday, December 16, 2023 at 09:30 AM.

According to the details, the Entry Test for various Undergraduate Programs including BBA, BS (Economics), BS (Commerce), BS (Balochi), BS (English), BS (Political Science), BS (Sociology), BS (Chemistry), BS (Biochemistry), BS (Biotechnology), BS (Botany), and BS (Computer Science) will be conducted at the Main Campus of the University of Turbat on Saturday, 16th December 2023. All the candidates are directed to report at their respective centers at 09:30 AM on the given date along with their Entry Test Admission Slip, and original CNC or Form-B.

The candidates can obtain their Entry Test Admission Slip from the Admission Cell, Main Campus, or the Law Department of the University of Turbat. Additional instructions and Test Patterns are outlined on the Entry Test Admission Slip.

Land of Afghanistan being used for...

Continued from page 1

He said that the role of Army Chief has been excellent at the critical juncture of history in Pakistan, as he not only strengthened the army but also countered the internal and external challenges faced by the country.

Jan Achakzai said that General Asim Munir foiled the conspiracies of anti-Pakistan forces at every front. He also played important role in bettering the country's economy, he added. He on the occasion criticized Baloch Yekjehi Committee for taking out protest rally what he said, to declare a terrorism innocent.

He said that the BYC and other so-called human right activists didn't speak nor lodge protest when the terrorists' banned organizations kidnapped innocent people, tortured them and murdered them mercilessly.

Similarly, those mis-

leading the general public in the name of BYC now had also been adopted mum over assassination of the labourers, who were engaged in development of the province, the Minister Information said alleging that they are real enemies of the country. However, they have been exposed now, Jan Achakzai maintained.

Referring the MoU, the Minister said that Ministry of Information is signing a MoU with Educational and Youth Empowerment Society to ensure public welfare in the province.

The signing of MoU is aimed at making combined efforts for establishment of digital lab, advance E-educational system and skill centers to highlight the mental skills of youngsters, the Minister explained.

In addition to this, joint efforts would also be made to set up Kidney center in Quetta city, he added.



QUETTA: Vendors huddled around a fire due to the drop in temperature at Joint Road.

Pakistan rejects Indian SC's...

Continued from page 1

conference at the Ministry of Jammu and Kashmir, termed Jammu and Kashmir an "internationally-recognized dispute, which remained on the agenda of the UN Security Council for over seven decades."

Jilani said the final disposition of Jammu and Kashmir was to be made in accordance with relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions and as per the aspirations of Kashmiri people.

"India has no right to make unilateral decisions on the status of this disputed territory against the will of the Kashmiri people and Pakistan," he said.

The foreign minister said Pakistan did not acknowledge the supremacy of the Indian Constitution over Jammu and Kashmir.

"Any process, subversive to the Indian Constitution, carries no legal significance," he said.

He said India could not abdicate its international obligations on the pretext of domestic legislations and judicial verdicts.

"India's plans to annex IIOJK are bound to fail," he added.

"The judicial endorsement of India's unilateral and illegal actions of 5 August 2019 is a travesty of justice, based on distorted historical and legal arguments," he said.

PM Jilani said the Indian Supreme Court's verdict failed to recognize the internationally-recognized disputed nature of the Jammu and Kashmir.

"It further fails to cater to the aspirations of the Kashmiri people, who have already rejected India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019," he added.

He emphasized that restoration of statehood, conduct of State Assembly elections or similar steps could not serve as a substitute to the grant of the right to self-determination to Kashmiri people.

"The judgement cannot distract the international community's attention from the gross and systematic human rights violations being perpetrated in IIOJK," he said.



ISLAMABAD: General Secretary of the Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam Abdul Ghafoor Haideri talking to media persons during press conference at Parliament Lodges in Federal Capital.

Wall of Martyrs - a good...

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Bilawal Bhutto said when the transition of power was taken place in Afghanistan, a decision that was taken without the input of the Parliament or the people, allowed for engagement with the very terrorists who had been defeated by the police, army and public.

He said the terrorists imprisoned in Pakistan were released and side by side those responsible for attacking Pakistan from Afghanistan were also released there.

They then were invited by Imran Khan to settle in huge numbers in the tribal areas, the very same regions from where they had been chased out, he added. Imran Khan, while in opposition during the unity government, publicly accepted that terrorists were resettled in Pakistan which was the cause behind the country having to suffer through the same crisis again, Bilawal said.

"Our army and police are still targets of terrorism and the State should ponder upon how this can happen through a U-turn taken overnight without the permission of the Parliament and the people despite the country's continuous struggle to get rid of terrorism. Once again, our army soldiers, policemen and people will have to combat the terrorists and defeat them," he added.

Responding to questions, Bilawal said that those involved in the process and decision making should be investigated and their intentions should be made clear.

"It should also be ensured that such a decision is not taken in the future, otherwise, it shall be difficult for us to convince our people to fight if they are under the impression that a



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti in a group during swearing-in ceremony of the 39th batch of police constables at the Police Lines Islamabad.

Sarfraz Bugti says: Fight against terrorism still persists due to lack of continuity of policies

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti on Monday, reiterating the government's resolve to rid the country of the scourge of terrorism, said that Pakistan had won the battle against the menace but due to lack of continuity of policies, it was again in the state of war.

It was not a war of the Pakistan Army and the civil armed forces but that of the State, the minister said while addressing the swearing-in ceremony of the 39th batch of police constables at the Police Lines Islamabad.

The Chief Commissioner Islamabad, Inspector

General of Police Islamabad, diplomats, and former police officers attended the ceremony. The minister said that at present the government was facing two types of challenges - terrorism on the basis of religion and terrorism on the basis of nationalism although the two things had nothing to do with the menace.

He said "proxies" were out to weaken the country, but to defeat them Pakistan's armed forces and civil armed forces had set a new example by standing on the frontline with great spirit of sacrifice.

The minister said that Pakistan being the citadel of

Islam was the prime target of enemies. "Islam unites the whole nation, but the war was imposed on us to damage this unity. However, our all security forces fought the menace bravely."

He said that the memory of the martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the war against terrorism would always remain alive in the hearts of every Pakistani.

The minister made it clear that only the State had the authority to use force, and those treading the path of violence would be taken to task.

He said that a CTD inspector was martyred in

a terrorist incident in Balochistan yesterday and another one embraced martyrdom a few days ago, but unfortunately cases were also being instituted against the Counter-Terrorism Department. He regretted that some people sitting in the assemblies and media-persons were becoming the voice of anti-national elements under an organized conspiracy, who were being monitored closely.

"No force can stop us from succeeding in the war against terrorism," the minister said, adding that when the institutions became apolitical, they became stronger.

Dr Nadeem says: Sehat Card Program to remain functional

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan on Monday inaugurated the groundbreaking OPD pilot project under the Federal Sehat Sahulat Program.

Addressing the ceremony, he said that this project marks a crucial step towards universal health coverage for all Pakistani citizens.

He emphasized that Federal Sehat Sahulat Program will continue as per the Prime Minister's vision of unified universal health insurance for every citizen of the country with a simi-

lar co-payment mechanism for an affordable segment of the population to make it sustainable.

Dr Nadeem said, "We will strengthen the public health system and integrate Qaumi Sehat Card Program with primary healthcare to make it more sustainable for the government."

He expressed sincere appreciation for the SSP team's tireless efforts and the pivotal role of the Federal Sehat Sahulat Program in the research's success.

He thanked the WHO Representative in Pakistan for their invaluable partnership.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar planting a sapling in the lawn of Ministry of Interior.

Vandalism case against PTI leaders: Proceedings could not move ahead due to non completion of attendance

ISLAMABAD (Online): The proceedings in riots and vandalism case against PTI leaders could not move ahead in Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) due to non completion of attendance of the accused persons.

The case came up for hearing before judge Abual Hasnat Muhammad Zulqarnain here Monday.

The accused including former members of assembly Raja Khurram Nawaz and Amir Mehmood Kiyani appeared in the court.

PTI lawyers Sardar Masroof and Aamna Ali

also appeared in the court. The accused signed their rolls during the hearing of the case.

The lawyers took the plea the case to the extent of the accused who come should be moved ahead.

The court remarked the proceedings cannot go ahead unless the attendance of all accused is completed. The attendance of all the accused be ensured on next hearing. Action will be taken against the absent accused.

The hearing of the case was adjourned till January 18.



ISLAMABAD: Managing Director PTDC Aftab Ur Rehman Rana presenting certificate to the Mountaineer during the conference on Sustainable Mountain Tourism in Pakistan organized by Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) on the occasion of International Mountain Day 2023 at Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA).

Pakistan's wonderful global mountain tourism destination: MD PTDC

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) Managing Director Aftab ur Rehman Rana on Monday highlighted the country's potential as a global mountain tourism destination with its diverse landscapes, rich heritage, and archeological sites.

Addressing the sustainable mountain tourism conference in connection with International Mountain Day organized by PTDC in collaboration with Hashoo Group and Lakeshore City at the Pakistan National Council of Arts here, he said the day highlights the crucial role that mountains play in our lives and the need to protect them.

He further said that this year, the theme of Mountain Day is Restoring Mountain Ecosystems.

Mountains cover around 27 percent of the Earth's land surface and host about half of the world's biodiversity hotspots. As the water towers of the world, they supply freshwater to almost half of humanity.

MD PTDC emphasized the government's commitment to prioritizing tourism development in mountain areas, intending to catalyze economic growth and employment opportunities.

He stated that the fast melting of our glaciers has enhanced the Climate change threats and changed the pattern of flow of water in the country's rivers, and fast-rising temperatures are forcing mountain species and the people that depend on these ecosystems to adapt or migrate.

Focused on the theme "Restoring Mountain Eco-

Mushaal criticizes Indian SC for behaving like a 'kangaroo court'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment, Mushaal Hussein Mullick Monday strongly criticized the Indian Supreme Court, for shamelessly behaving like a 'kangaroo court' and endorsing Modi's unlawful decision on August 5, 2019.

"India should avoid pushing peaceful Kashmiri youth to resort to alternative forms of resistance", she said while addressing an event commemorating International Human Rights Day organized by Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI).

Zafar Bakhtawari, Secretary-General of UBC and former President of ICCI, along with Habib Malik Orakzai, President of the International Human Rights Commission and Vice President of Red Crescent Pakistan were also present at the event. Naveed Malik, President of the Islamabad Bar Association, and Asma Malik, a prominent social activist also attended the event, said a news release.

Mushaal appreciated the support of the Business

Community of Pakistan for the people of Jammu and Kashmir and acknowledged their consistent presence at the forefront. She commended the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry for organizing the event aimed at raising awareness about human rights.

She highlighted that India has established a grim record of the most severe human rights violations in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). Mushaal lamented the lack of visual evidence of these violations, attributing it to India's stringent information and communication blockade.

To shed light on the harsh realities faced by the people of IIOJK, she recounted leading a delegation of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) to meet refugees from IIOJK in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), providing a platform for the victims to share firsthand accounts of the brutality inflicted by India on the people of IIOJK.

She said that under the guise of revoking Article 370 and 35A, India is actively transforming the Muslim-majority region of

Jammu and Kashmir into a Hindu-majority colony.

She pointed out that through the persecution of Muslims in Jammu and Kashmir and across India, Modi, along with his associates from the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), harbours ambitions of establishing Akhand Bharat. Emphasizing the need for global vigilance, especially during Indian elections, she cautioned against potential false flag operations by India. Mushaal affirmed that the struggle for the people of Jammu and Kashmir persists. She highlighted the resilience of Kashmiris, who are courageously facing off against a force of one million Indian troops, underscoring their steadfast commitment to achieving freedom from India.

She said that the indomitable spirit of the brave Kashmiris cannot be shaken by brutal, coercive, or unlawful tactics and decisions.

According to Mushaal, their determination remains unyielding, and they will inevitably break free from the shackles of Indian oppression and subjugation, regardless of the challenges they face.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Culture Jamal Shah cuts the ribbon along with others to inaugurate an event "16 Days of Activism, titled Lighting Up Pakistan for Equality and Empowerment" at Jinnah Convention Center in Federal Capital.

PMD says: Fog/smog likely to persist in plain areas of country

ISLAMABAD (APP): Fog/smog is likely to persist in plain areas of Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and upper Sindh during morning and night hours, as per Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) forecast.

According to the synoptic situation, continental air was prevailing over most parts of the country.

Violence against women, children #KoiJawazNahi 16 days drive concluded

ISLAMABAD (Online): The capital city of Islamabad has successfully concluded the #KoiJawazNahi 16 Days Campaign, a collaborative initiative by UN Women, generously funded by the Government of Japan.

This landmark campaign not only addressed the critical issue of violence against women and children but also marked the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Constitution of Pakistan, reinforcing the commitment to fundamental rights and equality.

BISP sets up control room for redressal of complaints regarding Kafaalat payments

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has set up a special control room for the redressal of public complaints regarding disbursement of Benazir Kafaalat payments.

The disbursement of the quarterly tranche (October-December) of Benazir Kafaalat cash assistance to beneficiaries is continuing smoothly across the country.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan simultaneously. The payment of Rs 8,500 per household is being disbursed among around nine million registered beneficiary families. The beneficiaries, in case of any complaint, can approach the nearest BISP Tehsil offices or call the toll-free helpline number 080026477 of the Benazir Income Support Programme.

The special control room has been activated in the BISP headquarters to address the complaints of the beneficiaries promptly.



SAPM for Human Rights & Women Empowerment, Mushaal Hussein Mullick, is being presented shield at event organized by Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry in connection with Intl Human Rights Day in Islamabad.

Roche Pharma, PBM unite for medical support

ISLAMABAD (APP): Adriano Trio, Head of Global Pharma at Roche, met with Amir Fida, Managing Director of Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM),

Both entities committed to expanding aid and resources for underprivileged individuals seeking medical treatment support from Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM).

Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal's Managing Director engaged in discussions with Roche's Head about providing cost-effective medications, particularly for breast cancer patients, expressing contentment with Roche's dedication.

The meeting emphasized the need to enhance mutual cooperation and explored detailed discussions on providing cost-effective medications for other critical illnesses.

3 drug peddlers arrested for supplying drugs in educational institutions

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police have apprehended three notorious drug peddlers involved in supplying narcotics at educational institutions and recovered 11,900-gram drugs from their possession, a public relations officer said.

He said that Islamabad police have intensified crackdown against the drug peddlers involved in supplying drugs at educational institutions in order to eliminate this menace from the city.

Giving further details, he said police teams arrested three notorious drug peddlers namely Mubashir, Mudasir and Afzal and recovered a total of 11,900 grams of narcotics from their possession.

CDA decides to build citywide bicycle lanes

ISLAMABAD (APP): To reduce carbon emissions and promote cycling in the federal capital, the Capital Development Authority (CDA) has decided to build citywide bicycle lanes along major routes in three phases.

A PC-I in this regard has been prepared, and the CDA board will take up this summary. Only 2.73 per cent of the population is above 65 years of age, so the majority is young enough to make use of this project," senior official CDA said while talking to APP. For everyday mobility, a large number of capital residents rely on public transport, such as metro and vans, or ride-hailing services, the official said.

Begum Alvi says: Advanced breast cancer cases declining amidst ongoing awareness campaign

ISLAMABAD (APP): First Lady Begum Samina Alvi on Monday said the ongoing breast cancer awareness campaign in the country is helping reducing the number of cases being reported at the advanced stages (third and fourth stages) of the disease but still more efforts are required in this regard.

"I feel pleasure when I see a commendable surge in first and second-stage patients seeking medical attention," she said while addressing an event after a cricket match here.

She said that the world overall had a 98 percent recovery rate from breast cancer, however, pointed out that in Pakistan, insufficient mammographic facilities led to a high mortality rate due to the detection of malignancy at a late stage.

Begum Samina Alvi said that 44,000 deaths due to breast cancer in Pakistan was an alarming situation that needed raising constant awareness about early diagnosis of the disease.

She emphasized the need for collective efforts in raising awareness about breast cancer, especially through healthy activities to adopt a healthy lifestyle. She also called for promoting awareness about mental health and well-being, as well as advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities to enable them to become productive part of society.

"These topics should be openly discussed throughout the year, whether it is breast cancer, rights of differently abled person or mental health," Begum Samina Alvi said.

"In this regard, we will need the support of not only the government but also the society as a whole," she said adding that there was a need to work to increase the existing facilities in Pakistan. The first lady said that a five-minute self-examination every month could help detect breast cancer at an early stage, thus saving thousands of the lives of women in the country.



ISLAMABAD: Italian Ambassador to Pakistan Andreas Ferraresse presents award to Artist Raja Changez Sultan during Pakistan Mountain Festival at Pakistan National Council of Arts.

HEC, CAB Int'l agree to promote access to agri, biosciences resources

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Higher Education Commission (HEC), and the CAB International have signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) to cooperate for the implementation, distribution, adoption and development of educational resources in Pakistan within the domains of agriculture and biosciences.

Executive Director HEC Dr. Zia Ul Quayyum and Senior Regional Director (Asia) CABI Dr. Babar E. Bajwa signed the LoI. Advisor HEC Global Engagement Awais Ahmed, Director General HEC Research & Innovation Division Hazrat Bilal, Director (R&I) Noshaba Awais, Managing Director National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE) Noor Anna Malik, Deputy Director Business Development Dr. Sabyan Faris Honey, and other senior officers from both sides attended the ceremony.

Under the LoI, the two sides will collaborate for the integration of CABI's knowledge resources that are made available for free in Pakistan into Pakistan's higher education institutions' curricula and library catalogues.

They will also promote CABI Academy's free digital learning courses to learners in higher education, establish connections between CABI and pertinent agriculture universities and research centres, and carry out needs assessments to identify skills and knowledge gaps in Pakistan.

The partners will jointly work on co-creation and co-funding for the development of learning resources in climate-smart agriculture (Climate Smart Agriculture Compendium) and food security, and the development of bespoke CABI Academy digital learning products.

CM forms technical body to evaluate rates of Karachi Safe City project equipment, software

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar presided over a decisive meeting on the Karachi Safe City Project here at CM house on Monday and in principle, approved the project subject to the rationalization of the rates of different equipment and software and the payment of taxes.

"I want to start work

on the much delayed and needed project, but as the custodian of public funds, it is my responsibility to ensure transparent utilization. Therefore, the NRTC must satisfy me and my team regarding the estimates," he said and constituted a technical committee under Secretary Home Iqbal Memon to evaluate equipment prices and compare them with the market price.

The committee would select its technical members from universities, and they would be empowered to delete duplications and insert missing items. However, the Chairman of P&D, Shakil Mangnejo, would continue his sessions with the NRTC team on different components of the project and their prices. The chief minister discussed every item and

its cost with the NRTC representatives, and they agreed to reduce the cost of the equipment and software and delete the items included in duplication.

"In principle, we have decided to approve the PC-I [by the P&D], but even then, a technical committee, to be selected from the universities' experts headed by the Home Secretary.



KARACHI: Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh Justice Maqbool Baqar presides over the meeting regarding Safe City Project.



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi offering Dua after unveiling the plaque of re-construction of Lady Willingdon Hospital Lahore.

Governor urges universities to focus on research & development activities

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali has highlighted the critical importance of education focused on modern technology along with mental development and training of youth.

He emphasized that educated youth need to research the proper utilization of the province's natural resources.

The governor expressed these views as the chief guest at the 16th Annual Convocation of the Sarhad University of Science and Information

Technology. During the event, degrees were awarded to 337 male and female students, with 68 outstanding students received gold medals. Governor Ghulam Ali announced 80 scholarships for students from the merged district's region to support their education. In his address, Governor Ghulam Ali stated that education must be aligned with the vision and research of students for the progress and prosperity of the province.

He urged universities to promote new research

for increased production, industrial and commercial development, and the eradication of unemployment.

He emphasized the adoption of new technology not only for farmers but also for the correct use of natural resources. The governor praised the achievements of successful students, parents, and faculty members. He encouraged students to face challenges in practical life, stating that successful nations are those who think about the future and conduct research.

Concept of book bank being introduced in schools to meet shortage of books: Rana

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Caretaker Education Minister Rana Hussain on Monday said that the concept of a book bank is being introduced in schools to meet the shortage of books.

She expressed these views while addressing a joint press conference along with the Sindh Caretaker Minister for Information, Minority Affairs, and Social Protection Muhammad Ahmad Shah at the Sindh Assembly Committee Room here.

Secretary School Education Shireen Narejo, Secretary College

Education Sadaf Anees Shaikh, Secretary Information Sindh Nadeemur Rehman Memon and others were also present.

Rana Hussain said that after the recruitment of teachers in Sindh, the problem of shortage of teachers has been solved, which has helped in the restoration of educational activities in schools in remote areas.

She said that the curriculum is being worked on in Sindh and our curriculum is better than other provinces with positive feedback from UNICEF.

Tremendous potential exists between Pak and South Korea: Dr Jamal

Independent Report
RAWALPINDI: Caretaker Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare, Punjab Dr Jamal Nasir has said that the 40th anniversary of Pakistan and South Korea's diplomatic ties was a major milestone for further strengthening cooperation between the two countries in the fields of technology and industry. The minister was talking to the visiting South Korean ambassador H.E Park Kijoon, who called on him. Dr Jamal said that a large number of

Pakistani technicians and experts were contributing to the development of South Korea, adding both countries were interested in a peaceful and prosperous South Asia.

There have been a large number of opportunities for cooperation between the two countries, including in the fields of cultural heritage. The ambassador of South Korea on the occasion said that South Korean companies were working in Pakistan in energy and other sectors.

KP Bar Council delegation calls on CM KP

PESHAWAR (APP): A 9-member delegation from the KP Bar Council met with the Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Justice @ Syed Arshad Hussain Shah here on Monday.

Led by the Vice Chairman of the KPK Bar Council, Zarbadshah, the delegation apprised the Chief Minister of ongoing issues faced by the legal fraternity.

The delegation emphasized the need for effective implementation of the Lawyers' Protection and Welfare Act. In response, the Chief Minister directed the Law Secretary to consult with relevant authorities and lawyers to propose actionable recommendations for resolving the issues faced by the legal community.

Seminar held in school

SARGODHA (APP): Violence against women is an important issue in society that needs to be stopped by educating women.

These views were expressed by the speakers at a seminar held at Government Girls High School Madi Lak here on Monday.

The chief guest of the seminar was Deputy Director Development Mehtab Yasin while Headmistress Saima Arshi and others were also present.

Punjab cabinet approves amendments to Motor Vehicles Rules

Independent Report
LAHORE: The 34th meeting of the provincial cabinet held under the chair of Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi at his office.

The cabinet approved amendments to the Motor Vehicles Rules of 1969, extending legal recognition to Qingqi rickshaws. These rickshaws will now be categorized as three-wheelers, with the regional transport authority designated as a special registration authority for the temporary registration of existing motorcycle rickshaws.

Following temporary registration, motorcycle rickshaws will undergo a four-month window for specific size and redesign modifications. Subse-

quently, they can obtain a registration number from the excise department upon the issuance of a fitness certificate. The CM emphasized the need to streamline the registration process and requested the forms to be prepared in Urdu.

The meeting also sanctioned the permanent fortification of the infrastructure for 18 major roads, allocating toll revenue for their maintenance. Additionally, a decision was made to ring-fence the toll amounts for these roads. Approval was granted to confer medical institution status upon the Dera Ghazi Khan Cardiology Institute under the Punjab Medical and Health Institutions Act of 2003.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali addresses during Annual Convocation Day ceremony of the Sarhad University of Science and Information Technology held at SUSIT in Peshawar.

Gilani says: PPP fully prepared to contest elections

MULTAN (APP): Former prime minister and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) central leader Yusuf Raza Gilani said on Monday that his party was fully prepared to contest elections.

While talking to media persons, he expressed unwavering confidence in the upcoming elections, dismissing any possibility

of postponement. Reflecting on the absence of Shah Mehmood, he asserted that with Shah Mehmood's presence, the election would have reached unprecedented heights.

He however added

that he was missing criticism by Shah Mahmood Qureshi.

To a query, he stated that Asif Ali Zardari was also jailed in past. Many cases were registered but he was acquitted through courts.

Gilani stated that the PPP was a democratic party and it would go to people court.

To another question, Gilani dismissed security concerns, highlighting his commitment to engaging with the public directly.

He underscored the responsibility of the caretaker and supervisory setup to ensure clean and transparent elections.



HYDERABAD: Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Chairperson, Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib visiting the Dynamic Registration Center in Hyderabad.

LDA demolishes properties on illegal commercial use

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Development Authority (LDA) on Monday sealed and demolished several properties during its ongoing crackdown against illegal commercial activities.

According to a spokesman for the authority, on directive of Commissioner Lahore and DG LDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa, the action was taken by under the supervision of Operation Chief Town Planner II Azhar Ali.

The LDA teams took action against multiple illegal constructions/commercial properties in Johar Town and affiliated schemes; illegal commercial construction was

demolished on Military Account Plot Number 31.

An illegal commercial shop in Military Account Society on Plot Number 16 was sealed, while plot number 227, Block Y, UET Society, was sealed for illegal commercial use.

Plot Number 111 in Al-Hamra Town was demolished for illegal commercial construction, plot number 334 and 9 in Sunny Park were sealed for illegal commercial use.

Plot number 331 in Sunny Park, plot number 413 in J-3 Johar Town had illegal commercial constructions which were demolished. Al-Burqa Pharmaceuticals in Johar Town faced sealing while plot number 13 in J-Block Johar Town.

KP govt decides to launch Khushal KP programme

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Justice (Retd) Arshad Hussain Shah has said that the government is determined for the welfare of the people of the province in its short period, saying for this purpose, a Khushal Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Programme will be launched soon.

He expressed these views while presiding over the 17th meeting of the caretaker cabinet here on Monday.

Besides, members of the caretaker cabinet, Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretary

(P&D), Additional Chief Secretary (Home & Tribal Affairs) and administrative secretaries, other concerned authorities also attended the meeting.

Under the proposed programme, steps would be taken for the resolution of financial problems, bringing improvement in the law and order situation, service delivery system, guaranteeing of good governance, generation of employment opportunities for youth and provision of maximum facilities to the people.

The chief minister said that short-term measures would be

implemented with immediate effect while long-term steps would be proposed for the upcoming elected government. A roadmap would be provided to the upcoming elected government, so it could keep public welfare-oriented steps continuing. He appreciated the efforts of the Chief Secretary and administrative secretaries in the preparation of Khushal Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Programme. He said that the Chief Secretary and his team had prepared a good and feasible programme within a short time.

Relief for Qingqi rickshaws till January 2

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Transport department has provided relief to ensure fitness of 'Qingqi' and rickshaws till January 2. According to official sources here on Monday it was a golden opportunity for rickshaw owners to get fitness of their rickshaws done and get immunity from fine. Immunity from fine had been given till January 2 and fine would be applicable once the relaxation date would end. Sources said that fitness of three wheelers should be obtained from vehicle inspection and certification system station.

Minister reviews proposals to provide electric bikes to students

Independent Report
LAHORE: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Planning and Development Bilal Afzal, along with Chairman P&D Board Ifkhar Ali Sahu, presided over a meeting to review proposals from the committee established by the Punjab government to provide electric motorcycles to students, here on Monday.

The meeting was attended by Secretary P&D Board Muzaffar Khan Sial, Secretary Transport, Chairman PITB, Members P&D Board, and other officials.

Transport Secretary Ahmed Javed Qazi provided a comprehensive briefing during the meeting, covering various manufacturers, prices, and market analysis of electric bikes. He elucidated the proposed entry conditions for applicants, details of the computerized draw, and the online application process facilitated by PITB. Additionally, the Bank of Punjab presented a briefing on a 'Post-Purchase Reimbursement Model' for the supply of electric motorcycles, offering different proposals for credit value and discount.



GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan in a meeting with the delegation of Para Medical staff Association, Minister Health Gilgit-Baltistan Syed Sohail Abbud also present in meeting at CM Secretariat.

Three killed in clash over land dispute

KARACHI (APP): Three individuals lost their lives in a confrontation between two factions sparked by a land dispute. The clash erupted near the Umar Bin Khattab Mosque in Machar Colony, with a property disagreement fueling the conflict. During the encounter, a man identified as Siraj, also known as Siraji, and his two associates were killed.

Law enforcement swiftly responded to the situation after receiving the report. The Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) from the Kemari Division and the Station House Officer (SHO) from Docks arrived at the scene accompanied by personnel, securing the area.

ANF seizes 1416 kg drugs in 12 operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 12 operations across the country managed to recover 1416 kg of drugs and arrested 12 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday.

He informed that 500 grams of hashish and three kg of opium were recovered from the possession of three suspects arrested from a bus at Chongi number 26, Islamabad.

18 kg hashish was recovered from three suspects coming from Quetta to Karachi on a bus intercepted on RCD Road Hub.

hashish was recovered from two accused going in a vehicle and a rickshaw, netted from Ring Road Peshawar.

Three kg of heroin, 1370 grams Ice and 7 kg of 200 grams of hashish were recovered from a house in Rawat.

950 kg hashish was recovered from a vehicle intercepted near Yaro Chowk Pishin while an accused was also arrested during the operation. 55 kg hashish was recovered from a vehicle near Jamshoro Toll Plaza Sukkur and two accused were arrested. ANF also recovered 54 kg of hashish from the possession of an accused rounded up near Sher Shah Karachi.

A total of 48 kg



MUZAFFERABAD: People of AJK holds placards and shouting slogans during protest against the verdict of Indian Supreme Court about IIOK.

Chairman BISP orders strict measures against individuals involved in fund deductions

HYDERABAD (APP): The Chairperson Benazir Income Support Program Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib on Monday said that strict actions against officials will be taken if complaints about deductions from the beneficiary's funds are reported.

He expressed these views while talking to the media during his visit to the office of Benazir

Dynamic Survey in Hyderabad and during a meeting with representatives of all talukas, districts and divisions of BISP Sindh and other relevant officials at Jamia Madina Masjid.

He said that through the BISP every possible support is being given to the deserving, poor, needy and families living below the poverty line.

He said that a budget

of Rs. 471 billion has been allocated for supporting 9.3 million deserving households under BISP.

He shared that under the educational support program, 8.3 million children are acquiring education in schools, over 1.5 million students are taking benefit from undergraduate scholarship programs and more than 1.3 million families are availing Nashonuma program.

PM directs to ensure supply of urea fertilizer on controlled rates

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday directed the departments concerned to prepare and submit an action plan immediately for uninterrupted supply of urea fertilizer on priority basis.

He also ordered to ensure its availability to the farmers at government controlled rate and submit a report in this regard by tomorrow (Tuesday).

"To ensure uninterrupted supply of urea fertilizer during crop sowing, a comprehensive

framework should be prepared and presented in consultation with the provinces and the relevant industry," he said while chairing an emergency review meeting regarding demand and supply, and price of urea fertilizer in the country.

During the meeting, the prime minister asked the district administrations to take immediate action against the hoarders of the fertilizer, and identify and punish those responsible.

He said the government subsidy on urea fertilizer must reach

the deserving farmers.

The prime minister directed the Ministry of Industry and the Ministry of Food Security to provide the production and supply statistics of urea fertilizer to the provincial governments, and ensure coordination in operations against its hoarders.

He said the transportation of fertilizer should be monitored at all provincial borders, while ensuring that no hurdle was made in its supply to meet the provincial requirements.

He said all the

provinces should bear the burden of subsidy on urea fertilizer in proportion to their consumption.

Earlier, a detailed briefing was given in the meeting on the recent production, demand and supply of urea fertilizer to farmers in the country. The meeting was told that the production and stock of urea in the country was sufficient for the wheat crop, whereas 220,000 metric tons was being imported for buffer stock, and its first consignment would reach Pakistan by next week.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting regarding uninterrupted supply of Urea fertilizer to the farmers on Government control rate.



BEIJING: Commerce Minister Dr. Gohar Ejaz meeting Zhang Xinmin, Chairman of the China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Textiles (CCCT).

UAE Ambassador calls on Privatization Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Pakistan Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabani on Monday called on the Caretaker Minister for Privatization, Fawad Hasan Fawad.

Issues of mutual interest and cooperation came under discussion at length, said a press release.

The Ambassador recalled the recent visit to UAE by Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar as an outstandingly successful visit and conveyed the desire of His Royal Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to extend full support and cooperation for the development of Pakistan.

The envoy apprised that his government wants to move towards the

implementation of recently signed MoUs on a fast track in order to enable Pakistan to meet its economic challenges.

The Ambassador also complimented the current government's policy initiatives for supporting economy and investment.

The minister thanked the ambassador and the UAE government for their longstanding and continuous support for Pakistan and observed that both countries have a long history of cordial and brotherly relations.

Fawad Hasan Fawad also apprised the Ambassador of the ongoing privatisation process in Pakistan and the opportunities of investment that may arise in the near future which can provide a very good return on investment.

PSX loses 211 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Monday, losing 211.31 points, a negative change of 0.32 percent, closing at 66,012.33 points against 66,223.63 points the previous trading day.

A total of 1,215,932,469 shares valuing Rs.33,423 billion were traded during the day as compared to 1,329,550,091 shares valuing Rs.33,377 billion the last day.

Some 386 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 159 of them recorded gains and 224 sustained losses, whereas the share prices of 03 remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were K-Electric with 164,643,140 shares at Rs.4.49 per share, WorldCall Telecom with 93,320,115 shares at Rs.1.71 per share and Kohinoor Spinning with 65,314,000 shares at Rs.4.74 per share.

Mari Petroleum Company Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.101.41 per share price, closing at Rs2,168.82.

ADB approves \$155m to help boost Pakistan women's access to finance

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved \$155.5 million in financing for Pakistan that will support policy reforms enhancing women's access to finance and provide credit to women-led micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises. The financing comprises a \$100 million policy-based loan that supports legal and regulatory reforms that will help women to better access finance; a \$50 million financial intermediation loan that will enable participating financial institutions to

lend to women entrepreneurs; and a \$5.5 million grant that will finance related activities.

"Inclusive, resilient and sustainable development cannot be achieved if women do not have equal economic opportunities and benefits," said ADB Director General for Central and West Asia Yevgeniy Zhukov.

"ADB's new program will help transform Pakistan's current financing ecosystem to help women to access much-needed finance and empower them to boost

their livelihoods while contributing significantly to the economy," Zhukov added. According to ADB press statement received here Monday, female labor force participation in Pakistan currently stands at about 23%. The country also has among the lowest rates of women's entrepreneurship in the world at 4% of female working age adults. While Pakistan's financial inclusion has been improving, women are increasingly left behind with a large gender finance gap which currently stands at 34%.

Gohar Ejaz holds meetings with Chinese businessman to boost trade ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of Commerce Dr. Gohar Ejaz, who is leading a 20-member delegation to China, on Monday held meetings with Chinese businessman and exporters to boost trade and remove trade imbalances.

The minister met Chairman of the China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Textiles (CCCT) Zhang Xinmin, and President of the COFCO Group Luan Richeng - a key player in China's food processing sector, a Commerce Ministry press release said.

and trader," it added.

The delegation already held series of Business-to-Business (B2B) meetings, providing a platform for Pakistani and Chinese businessmen to engage in discussions that would fortify trade relations between the two nations, the press release said.

Gohar Ejaz, in the meetings, underscored the importance of private sector collaboration, particularly Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), which could bring prosperity in Pakistan.

"This visit comes after the successful trip of Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar to China in October, highlighting the commitment to further enhance the economic ties between Pakistan and China," the press release said.

"The meetings denote the pivotal part of Pakistan's strategy to augment non-textile exports, leveraging the strength of COFCO Group's position as China's largest food processor, manufacturer,

Energy Minister, Azerbaijan envoy discuss bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Energy Power and Petroleum Ali Muhammad and Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Khazar Farhadov on Monday discussed bilateral ties to explore new avenues for economic cooperation.

During a meeting with the Azerbaijani envoy, the minister emphasized the importance of partnership between Azerbaijan and Pakistan in the field of energy.

The minister said that Pakistan had recently purchased liquefied natural

gas (LNG) from Azerbaijan for the month of December to meet country's energy requirements.

He appreciated Azerbaijan's pavilion established at COP 28 (the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change).

The Azerbaijani envoy said that both countries shared a strong bond as brotherly nations.

He expressed a strong commitment to transform their fraternal relationship into enhanced economic collaboration.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan H.E. Khazar Farhadov called on Federal Minister for Energy Muhammad Ali.

SCCI, CG agree to further improve Pak-US bilateral economic ties

PESHAWAR (INP): President of the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Fuad Ishaq and Shante Moore, U.S. Consul General in Peshawar on Monday agreed on further improving Pak-US bilateral trade and economic relations, besides development of young entrepreneurs, enhancing their abilities and promotion of exports.

Fuad Ishaq invited U.S. companies and investors to invest in potential sectors in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa through joint ventures to further cement mutual trade ties between the two friendly countries.

According to a press release issued here, a meeting was held between the U.S. Consul General in Peshawar Mr Shante Moore and prominent members of the business community in residence of Mr Ahammad Rasheed, Honorary Consul General, Republic of Tunisia.

Peshawar, Dean - Honorary Counselor Corps Peshawar KP chapter and former senior vice president of the SCCI said in a press release issued here on Monday.

Mr Ayub Zakori, President of the Industrialists Association Peshawar, Nawabzada Fazal Karim Khan, Honorary Consul General of Japan in Peshawar, representatives and members of the business community were present during the meeting.

Shante Moore on the occasion said they have committed to enhance bilateral U.S-Pak trade relations.

He said close liaison has been established with the business community to resolve issues with mutual consultation. The US diplomat assured that further steps would be taken to improve the bilateral trade and economic ties between the two friendly countries.

Fuad Ishaq in his remarks,

Rupee sheds 02 paise against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Monday weakened by 02 paise against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs283.89 against the previous day's closing at Rs283.87.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs284 and Rs286.5 respectively.

The price of the Euro decreased by 63 paise to close at Rs305.36 against the last day's closing of Rs305.99, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen went down by 03 paise and closed at Rs1.93; whereas a decrease of 84 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs355.83 compared to the last closing of Rs356.67.



BEIJING: B2B meetings between Pakistani business delegates and Chinese counterparts.

NBFC posts 35.9% growth in FY23

ISLAMABAD (APP): The collective base sector of the Non-Banking Financial Sector (NBFC) stood at Rs 2.87 trillion during the fiscal year 2022-23 as compared to Rs 2.11 trillion during the same period of last year, showing a promising annual growth of 35.9%.

According to the annual report issued by the Security and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), within the NBFC sector, the Fund Management segment of the mutual fund industry emerges as a key player.

As of June 30, 2023, the Assets under Management (AUM) of the Mutual fund industry stood at Rs 1,675 billion, showing substantial growth from Rs 1,281 billion in June 2022, marking a remarkable 30.8% increase.

The report said that the surge in AUMs can be attributed to the prevailing monetary policy situation, the major thrust of

investment remained vectored towards with its flexible product structure and robust ability to incorporate dynamic shared compliant solution both for retail and corporate segments.

In essence, the NBFCs serve as a conduit, seamlessly connecting the supply and demand side of innovative investment and savings solutions, the report said. Money Market funds dominated the AUMs of the mutual fund industry with the largest share of 55%, followed by Income Funds having a share of 23%. The assets under investment advisory portfolio management also showed a positive trajectory by posting 34% growth year on year basis and amounts to Rs.476 billion as of June 30, 2023. The report said that as of June 30, 2023, the total assets under management of 24 pension funds managed by 13 Pension Fund Managers (Voluntary Pension.

PoG directs provision of urea at certified rate

LAHORE (APP): Commissioner Lahore Muhammad Ali Randhawa has said that there is a clear direction of Punjab government to ensure provision of urea to farmers at certified rate.

He presided over a meeting on availability of urea, desilting of canal and anti water theft measures here on Monday.

Dealers would declare supply of urea fertilizer and would sale on government rate, he added.

He directed to launch crackdown on report of special branch against urea hoarding and illegal profiteering. Regarding canal desilting, the commissioner said that in first phase desilting of canal in Lahore would be carried out from December 16 to January 13.

Gold rates decline by Rs.200

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.200 and was sold at Rs.215,400 on Monday compared to its sale at Rs. 215,600 on last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.171 to Rs.184,671 from Rs.184,842 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs.169,282 from Rs.169,439, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained stagnant at Rs.2,600 and 2,229.08 respectively.



FAISALABAD: Workers are busy in textile factory on Sargodha road to earn daily wages for the livelihood of their families.

OGRA conducts public hearing at Lahore

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority holds public hearing at Lahore to hear the Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL's) petition for Review of its Estimated Revenue Requirement / Prescribed Prices for FY 2023-24.

The petitioner has projected a shortfall in its revenue requirement at Rs. 179,160 million, including Rs. 697 million on account of LPG Air-mix project for FY 2023-24 seeking increase in its average

prescribed price by Rs. 506.35 per MMBTU effective July 01, 2023 including the cost of RLNG diverted molecules to domestic consumers, as part of cost of gas in the light of the decision of Federal Cabinet dated 30-10-2023. The petitioner has also included Rs 427,830 million against previous years shortfall, thereby seeking total average prescribed Rs.2,961.98/MMBTU with effect from 1st July, 2023 to compensate for increase in cost of gas/RLNG.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Two ships namely, Basrah and Chem-road Quest scheduled to load/offload Rice and Chemicals, berthed at Multi-Purpose Terminal and Engro Vopak Terminal respectively on Sunday.

Meanwhile four more ships, Stamina SW, Gaschem Warnow, DSI Drammen and El-Giznur CEBI scheduled to load/offload Rice, Cement, Chemicals and Coal also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port during last 24 hours.

A total of six ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them a bulk cargo carrier 'Amونيا GR' left the Port on today morning and another ship Egre Bulk is expected to sail on today afternoon.

Cargo volume of 54,456 tonnes, comprising 30,940 tonnes imports cargo and 23,516 tonnes export cargo carried in 1,087 Containers (164 TEUs Imports and 923 TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

Wheat sowing completed over 92% areas, crop sown over 20.62 mln acres: Intiaz

ISLAMABAD (APP): The wheat crop has been sown across more than 20.62 million acres of land in various crop-growing regions during the current Rabi season in order to meet staple food requirements as well as to maintain strategic reserves throughout the year.

The crop sowing targets for the current season (2023-24) were fixed at 22.23 million acres as the cultivation targets achieved by 92.77 per cent, said Food Security Commissioner Intiaz Ali Gopang.

Talking to APP here on Monday, he said that the crop sowing was in full swing across the wheat-producing areas in the country as Punjab Province has surpassed its wheat sowing targets and completed cultivation of over 101 per cent areas against the set targets.

The Punjab, which is the largest wheat-producing province of the country has completed

crop sowing over 16.16 million acres as compared to the fixed targets of 16.00 million acres during the current season, he said adding that more areas to come under crop cultivation during the days to come.

Meanwhile, Sindh Province has achieved 87.54 per cent of its targets as wheat cultivation in different divisions of the province was completed over 2.60 million acres as against the set targets of 2.97 million acres, he added.

So far the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has achieved wheat sowing over 96.87 per cent of its set targets and crop cultivation was completed over 1.86 million acres as compared to the set targets of 1.93 million acres during the current sowing season, he added. He informed the wheat cultivation data from the Balochistan Province was still awaited, adding that the province was assigned a task to grow wheat over 1.33 million.



LAHORE: Farmers holds placards and shouting slogans during protest outside press club in Provincial Capital.

France, Germany, Italy back EU sanctions to target Hamas

Monitoring Desk
BRUSSELS: France, Germany and Italy called for the European Union to set up a special sanctions scheme to target Hamas as EU foreign ministers met on Monday to consider possible next steps in response to the Middle East crisis.

Among the possible measures up for discussion at the meeting are a crackdown on Hamas' finances and travel bans for Israeli settlers responsible for violence in the West Bank.

In a letter to EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, the foreign ministers of the bloc's three biggest countries said it was important the EU take "all

necessary measures against the terrorist group Hamas and its supporters."

"This implies a stronger European commitment both to combating Hamas' infrastructure and financial support, and to isolating and delegitimising Hamas internationally, which in no way represents the Palestinians or their legitimate aspirations," said the letter, seen by Reuters. Hamas is already listed by the European Union as a terrorist organisation, meaning any funds or assets that it has in the EU should be frozen.

It was not immediately clear from the brief letter the details of how sanctions would be broadened or

tightened. If EU members agreed in principle, the next step would be for experts to draw up the legal framework to figure out which individuals or entities would be targeted. The EU said on Friday it had added Mohammed Deif, Commander General of the military wing of Hamas, and his deputy, Marwan Issa, to its list of terrorists under sanction. It is also considering adding Hamas Gaza chief Yahya Sinwar to the list, according to diplomats.

The letter said a separate sanctions scheme targeting Hamas would send a "strong political message" about the EU's commitment against Hamas.



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy speaks with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban during the inauguration of newly-elected President Javier Milei, in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Ukraine allies provide ships to ward off Russia in the Black Sea

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: The U.K. and Norway will lead a coalition aimed at helping Ukraine secure its maritime export routes against Russian interference, the U.K.'s Ministry of Defence said on Dec. 11.

The long-term goal is to help Ukraine transform its navy to become more compatible with Western allies, and to bolster security in the Black Sea, the ministry said. The U.K. is transferring two minehunter ships to Ukraine as a first step.

"The rebuilding of the Ukrainian Navy has begun," U.K. Secretary for Defence Grant Shapps said in a post on X. "The U.K. will bring together our allies in a new coalition to give Ukraine the power to rule the waves."

The UN says commodity shipments in the Black Sea continue to face "significant risks" from air strikes and sea mines, and several cargo and grain ships reportedly hit mines in the area in recent months.

Russia's Black Sea blockade has "significantly" reduced Ukraine's ability to move exports by sea, and bolstering the country's ability to counter the sea-mine threat will help restore maritime trade, according to the U.K.

Israeli tanks blast their way into Khan Yunis

Monitoring Desk
GAZA: Israeli tanks blasted their way into the heart of Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip — the refuge for hundreds of thousands of civilians who fled other parts of the enclave on Tel Aviv's orders — as Hamas said Israeli forces were mounting "very violent raids".

At the opposite end of the Gaza Strip, residents also described some of the most intense fighting of the war so far.

Intense fighting was reported in Jabalia and Gaza City's Shejaiya district, while the Israeli army

Gazans say hunger is growing, fuelling fears of exodus into Egypt

Monitoring Desk
GAZA: Fighting between Israel and Hamas intensified across Gaza on Monday, fuelling fears flagged by the United Nations at the weekend of a breakdown in public order and a mass exodus of Palestinians into Egypt.

The narrow coastal strip has been under a full Israeli blockade since the start of the conflict more than two months ago and the border with Egypt is the only other way out. Most of Gaza's 2.3 million people have been driven from their homes.

China's actions in S. China Sea undermine regional stability, US says

Monitoring Desk
MANILA: The United States has called out China for interfering in the Philippines' maritime operations and undermining regional stability, urging Beijing to stop "its dangerous and destabilising conduct" in the South China Sea.

The Philippines and China have traded accusations over a ramming incident during the weekend while Manila's vessels were on a resupply mission to Second Thomas Shoal.

Nobel Peace Prize winner says Iranian people will prevail against rulers

Monitoring Desk
OSLO: The Iranian people will ultimately overcome authoritarianism imposed by a government that has lost legitimacy and public support, Nobel Peace Prize winner Narges Mohammadi said from prison in a speech read by her children on Sunday. The Norwegian Nobel committee in October awarded the prize to Mohammadi, 51, for her non-violent fight "against oppression of women in Iran" and the promotion of human rights for all, in a rebuke to Tehran's theocratic leaders. Her 17-year-old twins Kiana and Ali Rahmani collected the prize, a gold medal and diploma, at a ceremony in Oslo's City Hall attended by several hundred guests. The prize includes a cheque for 11 million Swedish crowns (about \$1 million).

In her speech, sent from Iran's notorious Evin prison, Mohammadi said continued resistance and non-violence.



Licypriya Kangujam, an Indigenous climate activist from India, holds a banner during the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Russia calls for int'l monitoring mission in Gaza strip

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russia on Sunday called for an international monitoring mission to go to Gaza to assess the humanitarian situation, and said it was unacceptable for Israel to use Hamas' Oct 7 raid as justification for punishing the Palestinian people.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov condemned the Oct 7 raid, however, at the same time "we do not believe it is acceptable to use this event

Big US donors rally around Nikki Haley

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: A growing number of US business leaders are rallying behind former South Carolina governor Nikki Haley as the Republican Party's presidential hopeful, seeing her as more stable than rival Donald Trump, and more favorable to business interests than incumbent Joe Biden.

"Even if you're a very liberal Democrat, I urge you: help Nikki Haley too. Get a choice on the Republican side that might be better than Trump," said Jamie Dimon, who as head of JPMorgan Chase bank is often seen as one of the country's most powerful CEOs. For the last month or so, a growing list of entrepreneurs and business leaders have been lining up behind Trump's former UN ambassador, stumping for her, swelling her campaign coffers or considering doing so as her standing in polls strengthens.

North Korea condemns US veto of Gaza ceasefire call at UN

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: A North Korean senior official criticised the United States for blocking a UN resolution calling for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza, claiming the veto showed Washington's "double standards", North Korean state media KCNA said on Sunday.

The United States vetoed a resolution calling for a ceasefire in the war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza at the United Nations Security Council on Friday. The ceasefire resolution at the UN failed to pass after the United States vetoed the proposal and Britain abstained.

"The United States' abuse of its veto power to protect an ally that massacred tens of thousands of civilians is not only a manifestation of illegal and unreasonable double standards, but also the height of inhumane evil," Kim Son Gyeong.



Boys hold containers while they line up, as displaced Palestinians, who fled their houses due to Israeli strikes, shelter in a tent camp near the border with Egypt, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip.

Hong Kong seeks to boost turnout in 'patriots only' election

Monitoring Desk
HONG KONG: Hong Kong holds its first "patriots only" district elections on Sunday as a national security crackdown imposed by Beijing further marginalises formerly popular opposition figures in the China-ruled city.

The pro-China government has been seeking to boost turnout, as some observers see large numbers spurning the polls, in contrast to the last council elections in 2019, during Hong Kong's mass pro-democracy protests, which drew a record 71% turnout and a landslide victory for the democratic camp. Amendments introduced in July slashed the directly elected district council seats by nearly 80% from four years ago.

All candidates must now undergo national security background checks and secure nominations from pro-government committees, effectively barring democrats, including moderates and even some pro-Beijing figures.

Myanmar military meets rebel groups with China's help-junta spokesperson

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: Representatives from Myanmar's ruling military have held talks, facilitated by China, with three armed rebel groups leading an anti-junta offensive, state media reported a junta spokesperson as saying on Monday.

Myanmar's military is battling armed opponents on several fronts, in the fiercest challenge to its grip on the Southeast Asian country since it seized power from an elected government in a 2021 coup.

Rohingya face rejection in Indonesia after surge of boat arrivals

Monitoring Desk
PIDIE: Myanmar's Rohingya face a wave of hostility and rejection in Indonesia, where regional communities say they are fed up of a spike in the numbers of boats carrying the persecuted ethnic minority to their shores.

More than 1,200 Rohingya have landed in Indonesia since November, data from the United Nations' refugee agency (UNHCR) shows, with at least 300 more arriving last weekend. "There are still many poor people here," said Ella Saptia, 27, a resident of Pidie in the province of Aceh, where people have been sympathetic to the men, women and children among the Rohingya refugees brought by dilapidated boats for years.

"Why should we take care of thousands of Rohingya who cause many problems?" she added. "They have a bad influence. Some of them escape, and engage in sex outside of marriage and drugs."

A spokesperson for the Aceh government did not immediately respond to a request for comment. This year the refugees have encountered animosity and threats that their boats will be turned back around.

Last week, protesters on Aceh's island of Sabang removed tents set up as temporary shelters for the Rohingya.

Thousands march in Europe in the latest rallies against antisemitism stoked by the war in Gaza

Monitoring Desk
BRUSSELS: Thousands of people marched in the Belgian and German capitals on Sunday to protest soaring antisemitism since the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza.

The demonstrations in Brussels and Berlin were the latest in a series of rallies in European capitals that have expressed support for Jewish communities. Previous marches in Paris and London drew tens of thousands of people. There have also been many pro-Palestinian rallies, often drawing large crowds.

Navalny camp sets strategy to disrupt Putin's path to new term

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: With his hands on all the levers of power in Russia, Vladimir Putin appears unbeatable in a presidential election but opposition activists scent a chance to show he is vulnerable.

Putin declared his candidacy for another six-year term on Friday and there is no serious rival to challenge him, with opposition leader Alexei Navalny serving more than 30 years in prison and other critics also jailed or in exile.

With the Kremlin in full control of state media

and able to decide who can and cannot run, the Navalny camp says this is not a real election. But it sees the 100-day campaign window as a rare opportunity to draw Russians into a political conversation and convince them that the Ukraine war and the economic strains it has brought are problems of Putin's making.

"Of course it's impossible to beat Putin in the 'elections'," top Navalny aide Leonid Volkov told Reuters. "The aim of our campaign is to change the political agenda in Russia."

Chennai flooded as heavy rains from cyclone Michaung batter south India

Monitoring Desk
CHENNAI: Rescuers used boats to reach people stranded in their homes amid widespread flooding in the India's Chennai on Wednesday after cyclone Michaung barreled into the southern coast, bringing in heavy rain and winds that uprooted trees and damaged roads.

An estimated 13 people, most of them in the manufacturing hub of Tamil Nadu, have died in the flooding that was triggered by the torrential rains that preceded the cyclone, which made land-

fall in Andhra Pradesh state on Tuesday afternoon.

Rescuers used inflatable rafts and ropes to pluck people out of their homes in Chennai, a city of more than 6 million people and a major automobile and technology manufacturing hub.

Local media showed images of rescue workers wading through waist-deep water and of submerged vehicles. Air force helicopters also dropped food rations to people stranded in flooded homes.



Egyptians arrive at a polling station to cast their ballots in the presidential election in Cairo.

China's leaders meet to discuss growth targets for 2024, say sources

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China's leaders started a closed-door meeting on Monday to discuss economic targets and map out stimulus plans for 2024, four sources familiar with the matter said.

The annual Central Economic Work Conference, during which President Xi Jinping and other top officials chart the course for the world's second-largest economy next year, is likely to end on Tuesday, the sources said.

Investors are closely watching for clues on next year's policy and reform agenda as China's economy has struggled to mount a strong post-pandemic recovery amid the deepening housing crisis, local government debt

concerns, slowing global growth and geopolitical tensions. The Politburo, a top decision-making body of the ruling Communist Party, said on Friday that fiscal policy would be moderately strengthened and will be "flexible, moderate, precise, and effective", to help spur the economic recovery.

A flurry of policy support measures have proven only modestly beneficial, raising pressure on authorities to roll out more stimulus.

China's government advisers have told Reuters that they would recommend economic growth targets for 2024 ranging from 4.5% to 5.5%, with the majority favouring a target of around 5% - the same as this year.

Egyptians vote in election likely to give Sisi third term

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: Egyptians went to the polls on Sunday in a presidential election with little doubt the incumbent Abdel Fattah el-Sisi would secure a third term. In a country gripped by the most severe financial crisis in its recent history — inflation has hovered near 40 per cent after the currency lost half its value and drove up the cost of imports — the economy is at the centre of Egyptians' concerns.

Even before the current crisis, about two-thirds of the country's nearly 106 million people were living on or below the poverty line. Voting will take place until Tuesday, between 9:00am and 09:00pm (local time) each day, with the official results announced on December 18. In front of one Cairo polling station, posters bore messages to "get out and participate" while a DJ played nationalist songs.

Some 67 million people are eligible to vote, five million of whom had cast their ballots by 4:30pm (local time) on Sunday.

Seeking better life, Ethiopians 'trapped' between life and death

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: Ethiopian migrants who crossed the sea in pursuit of a better life have one goal in mind as they hide in the Saudi mountains: avoid border guards, and their deadly shots. Only when night falls on this part of southern Saudi Arabia do the undocumented migrants dare venture into nearby villages to scavenge for food, returning with scraps they hope will keep them alive until smugglers can find them a job.

"Every day we are scared of dying. We beg people in the village to give us flour and bread, and then we go back into the mountains," said Mohammed, 30. "People here are very scared to help us find job opportunities since it's illegal, so we consider ourselves trapped between life and death." Hundreds of thousands of African migrants each year brave the perilous "Eastern Route" across the Red Sea and through war-scarred Yemen to reach Saudi Arabia.

Canada's surging cost of living fuels reverse immigration

Monitoring Desk
TORONTO: The dream of making it big in Canada is turning into a battle for survival for many immigrants due to the high cost of living and rental shortages, as rising emigration numbers hint at newcomers being forced to turn their back on a country that they chose to make their adopted home.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has made immigration his main weapon to blunt Canada's big challenge of an aging and slowing population, and it has also helped fuel economic growth. That drove Canada's population up at its fastest clip in more than six decades this year, Statistics Canada said.

But now a reversal of that trend is gradually taking hold.

In the first six months of 2023 some 42,000 individuals departed Canada, adding to 93,818 people who left in 2022 and 85,927 exits in 2021, official data show.

The rate of immigrants leaving Canada hit a two-decade high in 2019, according to a recent report from the Institute for Canadian Citizenship (ICC), an immigration advocacy group. While the numbers went down during pandemic lockdowns, Statistics Canada data shows it is once again rising.

While that is a fraction of the 263,000 who came to the country over the same period, a steady rise in emigration is making some observers wary.

For a nation built on immigration, a rising trend of people leaving Canada risks undermining one of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau government's signature policies, which granted permanent residency to a record 2.5 million people in just eight years.

Reuters spoke with a half a dozen people who have either left the country or are preparing to do so, because of the high cost of living.

Senate body unanimously passes resolution condemning Israeli atrocities against Palestinians

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate Standing Committee on Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony on Monday unanimously passed a resolution condemning the Israeli atrocities against the innocent Palestinians including the children.

The committee met under the Chairmanship of Senator Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri here at the Parliament Lodges.

The committee strongly condemned the United States' veto against the United Nations Security Council Resolution passed by the majority of

the world nations for a ceasefire in Gaza.

The resolution also called for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire. The committee strongly condemned the Israeli atrocities and aggressive actions against the innocent Palestinians including elderly people, children, and patients in hospitals and urged the government to take immediate action for the same.

The committee directed the ministry to investigate the non-registered company, Fifth Pillar Takaful Ltd, involved in the illegal booking of Hajj and

Umrah.

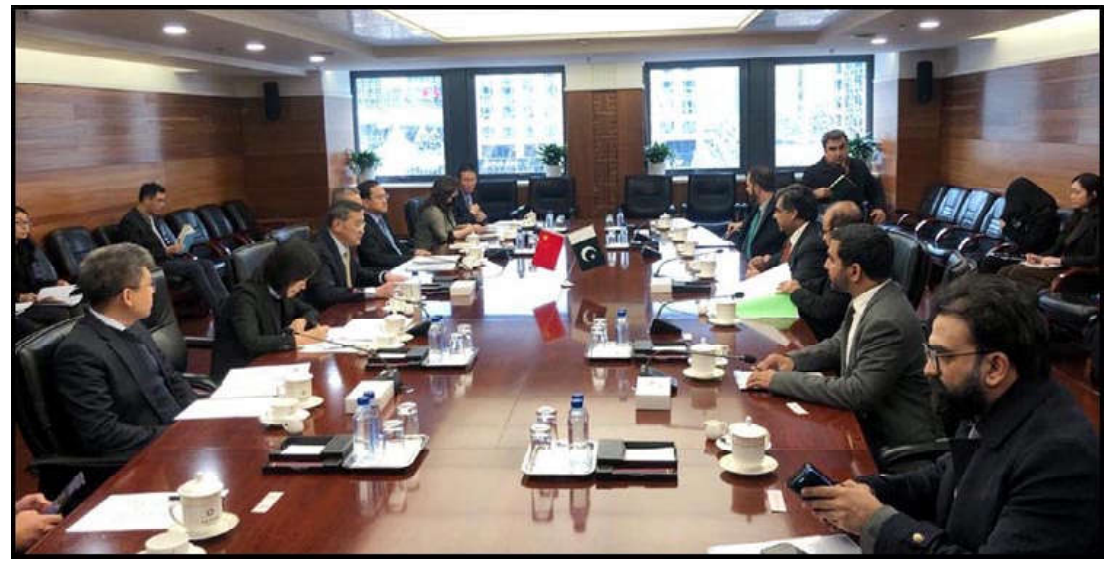
Haji Organizers Association of Pakistan (HOAP) Chairman informed that the company was, falsely claiming affiliation with HOAP, and deceiving the public by promoting installment-based Hajj, potentially contributing to a broader fraud scheme.

The ministry enlisted the Federal Investigation Agency to probe the matter and submit a report.

The committee's directive to involve the Pakistani Ambassador in Riyadh to implement the decision on reducing private Hajj Group Organizers from

905 to 46 was accepted. It was briefed that there would be a gradual reduction in the number of pilgrims, with each organizer allowed a minimum of 500 for Hajj 2024, 1,000 for 2025, and 2,000 for 2026.

The discussion also covered approaching Saudi authorities to expand the Road to Makkah Project to other Pakistani airports, including Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, and Quetta. Saudi approval had been granted for including Karachi airport, with ongoing efforts to extend the project to Lahore airport for enhanced facilitation.



Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce and Industry, Dr. Gohar Ejaz had useful discussion today with Chinese MOFCOM Vice Minister Mr. Li Fei in Beijing.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq chairing a meeting at the Ministry of Interior to inaugurate Pakistan's New Visa Policy.

Balochistan to take support from FBISE in modernizing its exam system: Qadir

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Education Balochistan Dr Qadir Bakhs has expressed his interest to take advantage of the experiences of Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE) Islamabad in modernizing the examination system of Balochistan province.

He was visiting the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE) the other day to see the new changes and the modern examination system in the Federal Board.

"It will also be considered to adopt such kind of education system in the province, with joint initiatives and cooperation of the Balochistan government and the Federal Education Board", the minister added.

Chairman FBISE

Qaiser Alam gave a comprehensive briefing to the provincial minister on the Federal Board's examination system and facilities for students, especially, the technical education.

Dr. Qadir Bakhs praised the innovative initiatives of the Federal Board in the education and examination system and hoped that the Board would cooperate with Balochistan in bringing innovation in the examination system of the province.

Controllor of Examinations Aqeel Imran, Technical Controllor Shafaq Jabeen, heads of technical institutes and others were present on the occasion.

Chairman FBISE thanked the Balochistan Education Minister and presented him appreciation shields and gifts.

Steps being taken to improve provision of medicines all over Balochistan, says Dr. Jogejai

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Health, Dr. Ameer Muhammad Khan Jogejai has stated that steps are being taken to improve provision of medicines on permanent basis in the province.

The caretaker Minister Health was speaking to the Minister for Home, Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali who called on him here on Monday.

They discussed the matters about law and or-

der, healthcare and other mutual interests.

In addition to this, the matters about Health Card Programme were also discussed.

Mir Zubair Jamali appreciated the initiative of Health Card and said that steps taken for welfare of the masses are commendable.

Dr Ameer Muhammad Khan Jogejai said that the steps are being taken for improving the supply of medicines on permanent basis.



KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM-P) Convener, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui along with others addresses to media persons during press conference, held at MQM-P Central Election Office located on Shahrah-e-Faisal road in Karachi.

MQM doubts 'transparency, fairness' of elections

KARACHI (INP): MQM-Pakistan chief Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui on Monday raised doubt about "fairness and transparency" of general elections on February 8.

Addressing a press conference with Mustafa Kamal, Aminul Haq and other leaders at Pakistan House, Siddiqui said everyone knows how the results of the 2018 general elections were compiled. He claimed that Karachi has been deprived of its real representation. "Those who represented the city, did not belong to it," he added.

The MQM (Muttahida Qaumi Movement) leader said that the city needed elections at the earliest as "the caretaker government in Sindh is a continuation of the 15-year [PPP] government."

Siddiqui said elections should be held in such a way that the whole process looked transparent. "At this time, it seems, the elections will not be fair and transparent," he continued.

He warned the caretaker government of protest if the mandate was not to its liking. "We will come to the streets to get [real] mandate." He addressed the caretaker prime minister that "it is your job to conduct transparent elections."

He revealed that commission member Nisar Durrani has been an official of People's Party. He warned that the MQM-P would reject the result until Ijaz Anwar Chauhan and Nisar Durrani are members of the Election Commission. Siddiqui alleged that pre-poll rigging has been done. "If it is not fixed, people will do the job themselves."

PM orders competitive electricity rates for industries to promote trade activity

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday directed to introduce competitive electricity rates for industries to benefit the common man and promote trade activity in the country.

In a meeting with a delegation of industrialists and businessmen from Karachi, he said the government was taking every possible step to boost trade in the country.

The prime minister also ordered the finance minister and power minister to devise a strategy for the gas prices in consultation with industrialists.

He said the government was taking steps to expand tax-net and empha-

sized the role of the business community in that regard. PM Kakar mentioned that the government was working on bringing institutional reforms for the welfare of the masses and restoration of economy. The delegation comprised Chairman Businessmen Group Zubair Motiwala, Chief Coordinator Industrial Forum Muhammad Javed Balwani, Patron-in-chief Lasbela Chamber of Commerce and Industries Maqsood Ismail, former Chairman All Pakistan Textile Processing Mills Association Saleem Parekh, Patron-in-chief Bin Qasim Association of Trade and Industries Mian Muhammad Ahmed, and President North Karachi Association of Trade.

Balochistan, Henan to strengthen sister province friendship

BEIJING (INP): Balochistan, Henan have decided to strengthen sister province friendship to promote cooperation in agriculture, tourism and industrial fields. A delegation of tribal leaders from Balochistan Province recently visited Luoyang city in central China's Henan Province. The delegation aims to promote sister province friendship between Henan and Balochistan and strengthen practical cooperation in agriculture, tourism, and industrial fields.

Bai Shengbin, Deputy Secretary General of Luoyang municipal government, met with the delegation. He mentioned that Luoyang is a renowned tourist city and one of the oldest cities in China.

"It is also a treasure

trove for investment, with flourishing industries and advanced science and innovation," Bai said as he briefed the visitors about the trade and investment opportunities in Luoyang.

Henan and Balochistan have established a sister province relationship in July 2023, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Monday. This partnership will help inject more vitality into the promotion of common prosperity and progress in both provinces.

Currently, Henan Province is deeply involved in the construction of Gwadar Free Zone in Pakistan.

Under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative and the construction of China-Pakistan Economic

Corridor, Luoyang aims to establish friendly relations with cities in Balochistan that are compatible in terms of their status, complement each other in industry, and learn from each other in culture, Bai said. Mir Maqsood, the leader of the delegation, expressed that during his visit of several days, he was deeply impressed by the rich historical and cultural heritage of Luoyang. He had an immersive experience of Luoyang's unique cultural tourism projects, such as "Hanfu Tour in Luoyang".

The delegation also visited key parks and enterprises, such as Luoyang National University Science Park, Luoyang Northern Ek Chor Motorcycle Company, and YTO Group.

Governor Balochistan directs to ensure process of laptop distribution transparent

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has directed to the concerned authorities to ensure transparency in the process of distribution of laptops.

He also directed to ensure that every eligible person gets due right.

The Governor was speaking to the members of committee formed to resolve complaints about distribution of laptops in the University of Balochistan here on Monday.

The members of committee also apprised the Governor about lists of laptops distribution.

The Governor asked the students to contact the concerned authorities regarding their complaints within three days.

The students may also register their complaints on mobile number 0333 3886430 or via email: dit@um.uob.edu.pk & marshad@um.uob.edu.pk

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ISLAMABAD: A signing ceremony for Settlement Agreement was held at Ministry of Law and Justice led by Secretary Law Raja Naem Akbar and Nizamettin KOCAMEAZE country head Ozpak.

Caretaker PM launches new visa regime

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar launched new Visa Regime in Islamabad today to attract the foreign investors.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister emphasized the need to further rationalize and liberalize the visa policy. He noted that until and unless we do not open up to the world, it will be challenging to attract investment and develop trade and economic relationship. The Prime Minister said visa is the cornerstone of economic relationship. He expressed the confidence that the interior ministry will come up with more suggestions to further improve the visa policy.

Under Health Card Program Free treatment of cardiac patients continues at SPHH Quetta

Independent Report
QUETTA: The treatment of the patients suffering from cardiac problems is continued totally free of cost under the Health Card Programme at the Sandeman Provincial Headquarter Hospital (SPHH) Quetta.

According to Medical Superintendent of SPHH Quetta, Dr. Muhammad Ishaq Panezai, the 100 percent free angiography, angioplasty, open heart and valve surgery of the cardiac patients is being done in the Hospital under the Health Card Programme.

The MS recalled that

the free treatment of the heart patients had been started on November 15, 2023 under the Health Card in the hospital.

He said that as the Health Card programme is a new one, therefore, some issues are being faced in its execution, still free medical services are being extended to the heart patients.

He informed that angioplasty of 77 cardiac patients was performed with angiography of 78 patients and bypass surgery of 17 patients was done free of cost in the SPHH Quetta, Dr. Panezai informed.



ISLAMABAD: Activists of All Parties Hurriyat Conference holds protest in the favor of their demands outside Shams Gate in Federal Capital.

Punjab govt releases Khadija Shah, Quetta police arrest her

LAHORE (Online): Quetta police have arrested PTI social activist Khadija Shah from Lahore jail following the withdrawal of her detention order by Punjab government.

Case against detention of Khadija Shah came up for hearing in Lahore High Court (LHC).

Punjab government withdrew the detention order of Khadija Shah therein. The state counsel will present written order in the court in this respect.

It is said that Jahanzeb Amin husband of Khadija Shah has resorted to LHC against her detention.

Indian apex court failed in upholding the merit and demands of justice: Anwar

MIRPUR (AJK): (APP): Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, while condemning the Indian Supreme Court's verdict upholding the presidential order regarding the revocation of Kashmir's special status, has stated that the Indian apex court has miserably failed in upholding the merit and demands of justice.

In a special statement issued here on Monday, the AJK prime minister termed the court verdict as tantamount to murdering justice and robbing Kashmiris of their constitutional and human rights. Terming the abrogation of 370 and 35A by the Indian government as illegal and unconstitutional, the PM said Kashmiris had no hope from the Supreme Court of India.

"I was pretty sure that the Supreme Court of India will go the extra mile to defend the Indian government's decision", he

said, adding that Kashmiris had no faith in the Indian state apparatus, not even in its pliant judiciary. "All Indian institutions including the judiciary have been equally responsible for the current mess and worsening political and human rights situation in the occupied Kashmir", he said.

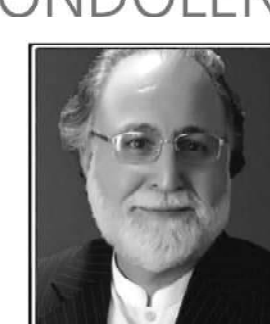
He, however, maintained that the Kashmiris' ongoing struggle for right to self determination would continue despite the Indian government's policies of deceit and deception.

"The Indian judiciary has a history of being biased towards Kashmiris. It has never given any relief to the Kashmiri people", he said, adding that the Supreme Court through its recent verdict has proved it beyond any doubt that it was acting on the whims and fancies of the Indian establishment.



QUETTA: Balochistan Shuhada Forum Leader, Atiq Sajidi addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club.

CONDOLENCE



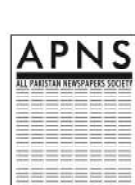
APNS expresses profound grief over the sad demise of veteran publisher and senior colleague

Mr. Rehmat Shah Afridi

Founder of

Daily Frontier Post.

May Allah the Almighty rest his soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the family to bear the loss.



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