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25 soldiers martyred, 27 terrorists killed in separate incidents in Dera Ismail Khan: ISPR

Security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country," military's media wing says; Delivers strong demarche to Afghan govt; seeks action against perpetrators of DI Khan attack: FO

ISLAMABAD (APP): The security forces on Tuesday killed twenty-seven terrorists in various intelligence-based operations, conducted to contain the increased activities of terrorists in Dera Ismail Khan District, while successfully thwarting insurgents' attacks at a military post in Daraban area.

According to Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release: "The night of 11 and 12 December 2023, witnessed heightened activities in Dera Ismail Khan District, wherein a total of twenty-seven terrorists were sent

Fight against terrorism to continue till its complete eradication: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday vowed to continue the fight against terrorism till its complete elimination from country's soil.

"We will fight back till the menace of terrorism is eliminated from our motherland," he posted on the social media platform, X.

The prime minister paid tribute to the valiant security forces for their successful operations in the Darazanda, Daraban, and Kolachi areas of district Dera Ismail Khan in which 27 terrorists were killed.

"The soldiers' dedication, sacrifice, and valour in the face of terror is unparalleled and a beacon of hope for our nation," he said.

He expressed his deepest sympathies with the families of the martyrs.

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ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi signing the Instrument of Accession to the Marrakesh Treaty for the Visually Impaired Persons in a ceremony, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Pakistan joins Marrakesh Treaty to facilitate access of visually impaired persons to published work

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Tuesday became a signatory to the Marrakesh Treaty aimed at providing access to published work for visually impaired persons.

President Dr Arif Alvi inked the instrument of accession to the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) administered Marrakesh Treaty, at a special ceremony held here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

The Marrakesh Treaty aims to help the visually impaired or otherwise

print-disabled people have access to books and literary works in accessible formats.

Signed in Morocco on June 27, 2013, and joined by a large number of countries in the world, the Treaty enables the reproduction of published materials into accessible formats, such as braille, large print, and audio editions.

By acceding to the Treaty, Pakistan has become able to provide its estimated 10 million visu-

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ISLAMABAD: Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPP) President, Asif Ali Zardari and PPP Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari attend live streaming of proceedings on a presidential reference seeking to revisit the controversial death sentence awarded to former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, at the Supreme Court building in Islamabad.

Education Dept. announces winter vacations in colleges & schools from Dec 16

Independent Report QUETTA: The Education Department, Government of Balochistan has announced winter vacations in the colleges and schools of districts fall in the winter zone of the province.

According to an official notification issued here by the Colleges Department on Tuesday, the winter vacations are due to com-

mence in the colleges and schools of winter zone from December 16, and would remain continued till February 28, 2024.

As per the notification, the educational institutions would reopen on March 1, 2024.

It may be mentioned here that almost 18 districts of the Balochistan province fall in the winter zone.

CJP calls SJC meeting on December 14

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa has called meeting of Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) on December 14 (Thursday) in connection with proceedings against Justice Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi.

As per sources meeting will take place on Thursday in Judges block conference room.

Secretary SJC has sent notice to all the five members.

It is pertinent to mention here Justice Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi had filed his reply to the notice of registrar Supreme Court.

He had taken plea in the reply that he had filed two constitutional petitions in Supreme Court.

Governor Kakar to inaugurate job fair at BUITEMS

Independent Report QUETTA: The 6th edition of job fair is scheduled to be held at Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS) here today (Wednesday).

The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar would be the chief guest at the job fair and would formally inaugurate it.

Different companies and institutions would be setting up the stalls at the job fair. The students of university would also exhibit their talent and potential in their respective fields at the fair.

US denies any role in choosing Pakistani leaders

WASHINGTON (INP): The United States (US) does not play any role in choosing the leaders of Pakistan, State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said.

In a daily briefing, Matthew Miller said, "We engage with the leadership shown by – or the leadership decided by the Pakistani people, and we will continue to engage with the Government of Pakistan on all these issues." Upon Pakistan-Afghanistan ties, Mathew Miller said the US is concerned about the situation.

"Relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan, obviously we support a diplomatic resolution to all of the various issues between those two countries. It's something that we have been engaged on," Miller said that the US has initiated a process to name former Afghanistan Parliament members to the corrupt leaders list that will bar them from entering the United States.

ATC hands over Khadija Shah to Quetta police on 3-day remand

Independent Report QUETTA: The Anti-Terrorist Court (ATC) Quetta handed over the activist of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Khadija Shah to Police on three-day remand here on Tuesday.

The ATC Judge, Mr. Saadat Khan Bazai heard the case where Khadija Shah was produced.

The investigation officer present in the court from Quetta police pleaded for 14 days remand of the PTI activist. However, her lawyer, Iqbal Shah Advocate confronted it and pleaded that there's no justification of two weeks remand of his client.

However, the court approved three days remand of the PTI activist and thus handed her over to the Quetta police on the remand.

Strict security measures were adopted on occasion of production of Khadija Shah.



ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar addresses the 12th National Balochistan Workshop.

PM Kakar says Only plebiscite, not any country's court to decide future of Kashmiris

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday said that as per the United Nations Security Council's resolutions, the sole method to determine the future of Kashmir and its people was through a plebiscite and no country's high court or supreme court possessed the authority to decide on the matter.

The prime minister, in an interaction with the participants of the 12th National Balochistan Workshop, said that he would be attending the special session of the AJK Legislative Assembly the day after tomorrow from where he would lead the movement against the Indian Supreme Court's decision to uphold the revocation of Article 370.

He said the laws could not help make colonies, though they could help establish occupation for a limited period. The prime minister reiterated that Pakistan would continue extending moral, political and diplomatic support to the Kashmiris and would raise the issue at the European Union and other multilateral forums.

To a question, he said taxation was one of the biggest challenges for the country as 80% of the economy was undocumented with the informal private sector being a non-contributor but beneficiary of the government's initiatives and facilities. Besides, the formal private sector feels resentful of undue taxation, he added.

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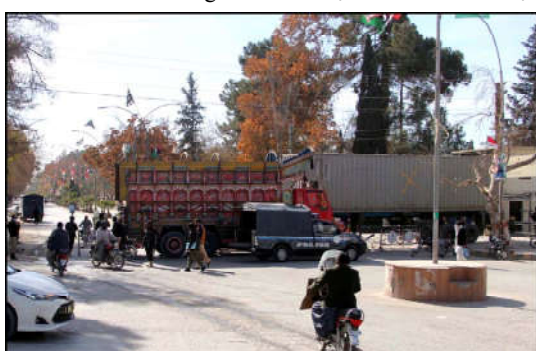
ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi, Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti and Caretaker Federal Minister for Petroleum Muhammad Ali addressing a press conference at PID Media Center.

Govt gave 24-hour deadline to hoarders to end shortage of Fertilizers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interim federal minister for interior Sarfraz Bugti on Tuesday gave twenty-four hours deadline to the cartels involved in creating artificial shortage of fertilizers to end the shortage or ready to face the music.

Addressing a press conference flanked with the minister for information and minister for petroleum, the interior minister said that all Chief Secretaries and Inspector General of Police (IGPs) were directed to take administrative measures against cartels involved in creating artificial shortages of fertilizers. He said the government observed abnormal price hike of fertilizers due to self-created shortage of fertilizers.

He said the government intends to ensure that the fertilizer is delivered to the grower/farmer at his doorstep. The minister said that the government provides subsidy to facilitate the general public or the farmer and not to encourage the middle to make money out of the subsidy.



QUETTA: Containers have been placed to closed the redzone area after the family of Balach, who was allegedly killed during the CTD operation, reached Quetta on foot from Turbat Kech for sit-in in the Red Zone area of Quetta until the arrest of the CTD officers, while demanding the formation of a judicial commission for an independent inquiry into CTD's action, in Quetta.

Clears another legal hurdle in way of elections Nawaz Sharif acquitted in Al-Azizia reference

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad High Court on Tuesday acquitted former prime minister Nawaz Sharif in the Al-Azizia reference.

A division bench, led by IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq, conducted the hearing of the case, with Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb as the other judge on the bench. The PML-N supreme appeared before the court in person.

During the proceedings, a National Accountability Bureau prosecutor presented arguments in the court.

An IHC divisional bench consisting of Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb pronounced the verdict a few minutes after it was reserved.

The court also rejected the National Accountability Bureau's plea to send the case back to the trial court and heard the case on merits.

Earlier, the IHC reserved its verdict on the appeal filed by Nawaz Sharif against his conviction in the Al-Azizia reference.

Before that, while again turning down the National Accountability Bureau's (NAB) request to send the reference back to the accountability court (AC), Chief Justice (CJ) of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) Justice Aamer Farooq said emphatically that the bench would hear the case on merit.



CM condemns terrorists' attack at DI Khan police station; pays homage to martyr cops

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has condemned the terrorists' attack at a police station in Daraban area of Dera Ismail Khan.

According to an official notification issued here on Tuesday, the Chief Minister paid homage to the police cops martyred in the terrorism act in DI Khan and expressed condolence and sympathy with the bereaved families.

He said that the morale of security forces can't be down through such cowardly terrorism acts.

Mir Ali Mardan Domki said that the sacrifices of the security forces would not be let wasted at all. Nor the sacrifices of security personnel can be forgotten at all, he maintained.

He also said that the entire nation pays homage to the martyrs rendering sacrifices of their lives.

The Chief Minister prayed for the departed souls of martyr security personnel.

He also prayed that may Allah Almighty give enough strength and patience to the bereaved families to bear the tragic loss of their dear ones.



QUETTA: Caretaker Information Minister Jan Achakzai, Zubair Jamali slam DIK PS terrorism: Whole nation standing by police against terrorism, maintain caretaker Ministers.

8 injured in gas leakage explosion

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Ministers, Jan Achakzai, Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali and Sardar Ejaz Ahmed Khan Jaffar have strongly condemned the terrorism attack at the Police Station in Dera Ismail Khan districts.

In their separate condemnation statements issued here on Tuesday, the interim Ministers for Home and Information and PHE expressed condolence over the martyrdom of police cops in the terrorists' attack and prayed for the departed souls and bereaved families.

Mir Zubair Jamali said that the incident of terrorism is sorrowful, and added that the sacrifices of martyrs would not be wasted at all.

He said that our police force countered and retaliated the terrorism act bravely and courageously.

He said that the whole nation is standing by the security forces. He said that we share the grief and sorrow with the bereaved families in the critical time. He also paid homage to the martyred police cops.

He prayed for the departed souls of martyrs besides for early recovery of those injured in the terrorists' attack.

Similarly, the Minister Information the security forces can't be demoralized by carrying such cowardly acts of terrorism.

He also paid rich tributes to those embraced martyrdom in the terrorists' attack.

Pakistan outclass Afghanistan in one-sided U19 Asia Cup fixture

Ubaid Shah took three wickets and helped Pakistan get on a dominating seat

DUBAI: Pakistan U19 on Tuesday thumped Afghanistan by a whopping 83 runs in a one-sided encounter of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) Under19s Asia Cup at the ICC Academy Ground in Dubai. Ubaid Shah was Pakistan's most valuable player (MVP) with the ball as the 17-year-old picked up three important wickets and helped his side get on a dominating seat. Afghanistan were never in the game, they were met with early blows, losing four wickets for just 60 runs in 13 overs. Numan Shah top-scored for the struggling Afghan side with 54 runs but he, too, became the victim of Ubaid's magic. Afghanistan got the much-needed contribution at the lower order as skipper Naseer Khan Maroofkhalid and Faridoon Dawoodzai scored 26 and - runs respectively but their contributions weren't enough to win the game. Afghanistan were all out for 220 runs in 48.4 overs. Batting first, Pakistan posted a colossal 303-run total on the scoreboard as three players — Shamyul Hussain, Shahzaib Khan, and Riaz Ullah — delivered with the bat greatly. Shamyul and Shahzaib came as openers and provided Pakistan with a dream start as both batters combined for 115 runs before the former lost his wicket in the 17th over. Shamyul played an electrifying knock of 75 runs off just 54 balls with seven fours and five sixes at an astounding 138.88 strike rate. The 19-year-old's rapid innings helped Shahzaib on the other as he took his time to settle on the pitch. Shahzaib took charge of Pakistan's batting after Shamyul's dismissal and played a responsible knock of 79 runs with 10 boundaries. He lost his wicket to Faridoon Dawoodzai in the 34th over. Pakistan's batting struggled as only four batters managed to score in double figures. The way wickets kept falling, it looked like the Boys in Green would have to settle for somewhere under 250 runs but Riaz stayed on the pitch and played a crucial innings of 73 runs. Azaan Awais, the hero of the match against India, could only score 20 runs. Playing XIs Pakistan: Saad Baig (c & wk), Shahzaib Khan, Azaan Awais, Mohammad Zeeshan, Mohammad Riazullah, Tayyab Arif, Arafat Minhas, Shamyul Hussain, Amir Hassan, Ubaid Shah, Khubaib Khalil Afghanistan: Numan Shah (wk), Khalid Taniwal, Sohail Khan Zurmatai, Wafullah Tarakhil, Naseer Khan Maroofkhalid, Jamsheed Zadran, Rahimullah Zurmatai, Bashir Ahmad, Faridoon Dawoodzai, Khaleel Ahmad, Allah Ghazanfar



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Ch. Anwaar-ul-Haq calls on the caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Kakar.

Pakistan envoy emphasizes stronger linkages with Europe through Science Diplomacy

BRUSSELS (APP): Ambassador of Pakistan to Belgium, Luxembourg, and the European Union Anna Baloch on Tuesday emphasized the stronger linkages between Pakistan and Europe by enhancing collaboration in science and research through the Science Diplomacy initiative. The embassy, in this connection, hosted a networking session on Science Diplomacy which was attended by key innovation stakeholders in Brussels including science attachés, researchers, university representatives and knowledge brokers. The event showcased Pakistan's vibrant Science Diplomacy landscape including opportunities for collaborative research. In her remarks, Ambassador Anna Baloch said the Science Diplomacy was a new initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 2018 and the networking session was in pursuance of that initiative. She said that for last two years, the number of Pakistani students was the highest among the beneficiaries of the Erasmus Mundus Scholarship. Moreover, the country had also established collaboration with Horizon Europe, a scientific research initiative of the European Union. The ambassador said that the objective of the Science Diplomacy was to effectively highlight in Europe what was happening in Pakistan in the field of science and link European research with Pakistan for the benefit of the two regions and nations.

Karachi Kings appoint Phil Simmons as Head Coach for HBL PSL 9

KARACHI (INP): Karachi Kings, Pakistan's biggest city's HBL Pakistan Super League (PSL) franchise, has made a groundbreaking announcement as they named Phil Simmons as their head coach for the upcoming HBL PSL 9. The franchise proudly welcomes the esteemed Phil Simmons as their Head Coach, marking a significant step in their ongoing revitalization and restructuring process. Phil Simmons, renowned for his dual role as a star player and as the triumphant coach of the West Indies during the 2016 T20 World Cup, brings a wealth of experience and strategic prowess to the Karachi Kings' camp. During his cricket career, Phil Simmons has scored 4,677 runs and picked up 87 wickets. He had a reputation for being an expert limited-over format player.

Imran, Qureshi indictment postpones for a day

Cipher case: RAWALPINDI (Online): Judge Abul Hasanat Zul-Qarnain of the Special Court set up under the Official Secrets Act has postponed till today (Wednesday) the indictment proceedings against former Chairman of Tehreek-e-Insaf and former Foreign Minister Shaukat Qureshi in the cipher case. On the occasion of the hearing yesterday, both the accused, their families and lawyers were present in the court room. The former chairman of Tehreek-e-Insaf and the lawyers of Shaukat Qureshi submitted 3 different applications in the court, while the lawyers filed on behalf of defence. The petitions were disposed of by the court. On the objection of the lawyers for not allowing the media to cover the case, the court remarked that although this is an administrative matter, I will talk to the jail administration about the issue of the media on the open trial in the jail. He also was told that the media is not being given access to the jail trial. Former PTI chief took a stand that the objectives of open trial are not being fulfilled. The court further said that you have no idea how much relief has been given to you and will be given in the future and whatever happens will be according to the requirements of justice, don't be afraid. On this occasion, Barrister Sulaiman Safdar took the position that the proceedings of the cipher case are being carried forward in a hurry. Court inquired that in total hear till now how much hurry was made. The court made it clear that I do not speak ahead of time on merit and right. The court remarked that I don't know what the verdict will be tomorrow. The court inquired to tell us how much more the court should adjourn. The court is running balanced and neutral. On this occasion, Shah Mahmood Qureshi said when the decision of the open court is there, why is the media being stopped? The judge remarked that I will talk to jail administration. Media people also talk loudly. The court has a decorum and the decorum of the court should be maintained. At the last hearing, a journalist went out and said, "I don't know what, he lost his job." Meanwhile, Usman Gul, the lawyer of the accused, said that we have not been given the complete copies of the challan, on which the court remarked that you have been given two copies of the challan, but you have not submitted any objection within seven days during the hearing of the motion. The former PTI chairman requested that I be allowed to sit in the sun. Meanwhile, Barrister Salmaan Safdar, the lawyer of the former chairman, while talking to the media outside the jail, said that the open trial is not happening.



BEIJING: Ambassador of Pakistan to China H.E. Khalil Hashmi speaking at launch of Micro Video Series II on Great Wall of China.

Pakistan joins Marrakesh....

Continued from page 1 ally impaired persons easy access to published work. The facility otherwise has been restricted due to the Copyright Ordinance of 1962 which does not provide necessary provisions for compulsory printing and reproduction of braille and audio versions. President Alvi termed the accession to the Marrakesh Treaty a "great moment of pride" and said Pakistan had embarked upon a new pathway to empower its visually impaired people. He said the Marrakesh Treaty would act as an equalizer of opportunity to provide visually challenged persons equitable access. "The Treaty will create an environment of learning and equal opportunity for educating the neglected class of the society," he said. He said it was the responsibility of the State to accommodate its differently-abled citizens by providing them equal opportunities in all fields of life, particularly education and employment. The president said access to published work would open new vistas of opportunities for visually impaired persons and dispel the impression that disability should be a hurdle in personal empowerment. The positive flow-on effects, he said, include improved access to education and employment, and also better well-being of the visually impaired persons. President Alvi stressed the need to shun the taboo about persons with disabilities and ensure their inclusion in the mainstream life system. "Accommodating such people does not tantamount to any favour, but it is their due right which is society owes to them," he said. Pakistan, he said, made "tremendous success" in recent times by stepping up efforts to shun taboos about

Only plebiscite, not any....

Continued from page 1 The prime minister said the government was trying its best to pursue the privatization spree without being scandalized by ensuring meritocracy and leaving behind a blueprint for the elected government. Calling the energy sector losses a nightmare, he said the PIA had a debt of Rs900 billion and called for choosing between running the country and the PIA. Responding to another query, he said the government was looking for financing for the Khuzdar-Karachi road and expected the same from any GCC countries through BOT basis. He told a questioner that some agriculture-related projects were under consideration for Balochistan under the Special Investment Facilitation Council. He said some projects under climate finance had been identified. Regarding a question about the joint ventures with Iran in the field of film production, the prime minister said the government would facilitate it, if they received any such proposal. He said China had immense potential for such productions and that he had also raised the matter at the highest level which followed the interaction between the two sides. To a question, Prime Minister Kakar said this was high time for an evaluation of spending of the NFC funding following the 18th amendment as accountability was essential to make the country a functional democracy. To a question, he said women's empowerment was inevitable for the country which should be ensured at all levels including homes by changing attitudes towards women. The prime minister said that before thinking about the number of graduates, the country needed to review its education quality. In another intelligence-based operation in the general area Kulachi, the Army troops effectively engaged terrorists' location as a result of which four terrorists were sent to hell. However, after the intense exchange of fire, two brave sons of the soil, having fought gallantly, embraced Shahadat (martyrdom). The killed terrorists were actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against security forces as well as the killing of innocent civilians. The forces recovered weapons, ammunition and explosives during the operations. However, in the early hours of December 12, a group of six terrorists at-

PTCL Group, Peshawar Zalmi team up for PSL 9 to fortify Pakistan's sports landscape

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's leading telecommunications and integrated ICT services provider, PTCL Group (PTCL & Ufone 4G) has signed a strategic partnership with prominent Pakistani cricket franchise, Peshawar Zalmi for the 9th installment of Pakistan Super League (PSL) to strengthen the country's sports landscape. The partnership was officially launched at a dazzling ceremony in Lahore, with senior management from both sides, cricketers and notable media and showbiz personalities said a news release. The partnership signifies a resounding start of a long-term alliance between two dynamic entities, each embodying excellence in their respective fields. Their missions intersect at their shared commitment to helping engender a robust sports culture in the country to channel the talent and constructive energies of young boys and girls. The two organizations have significantly supplemented Pakistan's sports landscape with new talent by providing opportunities and platforms to promising players. PTCL Group leverages sports as a potent enabler of socioeconomic and digital inclusion. The Group has a robust nationwide CSR program that continues to uplift the most underprivileged segments. On the other hand, Peshawar Zalmi is a formidable contender of the annual HBL Pakistan Super League and boasts a worldwide die-hard fan following and immense brand value. Lovingly referred to as the 'Yellow Storm', the franchise continues to create a huge social impact through its CSR portfolio, including facilitating participation of communities as remote as the former FATA and Gilgit-Baltistan regions. The brands will collaborate to usher in an exciting and memorable cricketing experience to the fans, besides using cricket as a force of good in society. Some of the worthy initiatives under this partnership include a player development and talent hunt tournaments, the construction of pitches and facilities at school level in remote districts of Kyber Pakhtunkhwa and providing opportunities for women cricketers to develop and refine their cricketing skills. Speaking about the partnership, Syed Atif Raza, Group Chief Marketing Officer, PTCL & Ufone 4G said, "We are pleased to partner with Peshawar Zalmi, a beloved cricketing brand in Pakistan as well as worldwide. The partnership will help us jointly pursue our shared mission of youth empowerment through sports. Pakistan has immense talent in sports that if explored can firmly position Pakistan as a prominent force in all international sporting arenas."

25 soldiers martyred, 27 terrorists...

Continued from page 1 to hell during various operations. The Security Forces conducted an intelligence-based operation in the general area Darazinda on the reported presence of terrorists. During the conduct of operation, terrorists' hideout was busted and seven terrorists were sent to hell. The resulting blasts led to the collapse of the building, causing multiple casualties; twenty three brave soldiers embraced Shahadat, while all six terrorists were effectively engaged and sent to hell. "Sanitization operations are being conducted to eliminate any other terrorist present in the area, as security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve," the ISPR said. Meanwhile Following the deadly attack that took place in Dera Ismail Khan on Tuesday and claimed by a terrorist group affiliated with the TTP, Pakistan delivered a strong demarche to the Afghan Interim Government calling for the investigation and strict action against the perpetrators. In this connection, the foreign secretary called in the Chargé d'Affaires (Cd'A) of the Afghan Interim Government (AIG) to deliver Pakistan's strong demarche in the context of Tuesday's deadly terrorist attack on Pakistan's security forces' post in Daraban, Dera Ismail Khan. The attack, whose responsibility has been claimed by Tehreek-e-Jihad Pakistan, a terrorist group affiliated with the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), resulted in multiple casualties, including the martyrdom of 23 security personnel, a Foreign Office statement said. The Afghan diplomat was asked to immediately convey to the Afghan Interim Government to fully investigate and take stern action against the perpetrators of the recent attack. The Afghan government was also asked to publicly condemn the terrorist incident at the highest level and take immediate verifiable actions against all terrorist groups including their leadership and their sanctuaries.



QUETTA: Pakistan Cricket Team's renowned player Kamran Akmal presenting trophy to winner team at Government Girls Postgraduate College Quetta cantt.

TENDER NOTICE: The Assistant Director Police invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, it is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA. G.O.B. TSE-232412366351 Tender Fee Rs. 1000/-

25 soldiers martyred, 27 terrorists... (Continued from page 1) In this connection, the foreign secretary called in the Chargé d'Affaires (Cd'A) of the Afghan Interim Government (AIG) to deliver Pakistan's strong demarche in the context of Tuesday's deadly terrorist attack on Pakistan's security forces' post in Daraban, Dera Ismail Khan. The attack, whose responsibility has been claimed by Tehreek-e-Jihad Pakistan, a terrorist group affiliated with the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), resulted in multiple casualties, including the martyrdom of 23 security personnel, a Foreign Office statement said. The Afghan diplomat was asked to immediately convey to the Afghan Interim Government to fully investigate and take stern action against the perpetrators of the recent attack. The Afghan government was also asked to publicly condemn the terrorist incident at the highest level and take immediate verifiable actions against all terrorist groups including their leadership and their sanctuaries.



QUETTA: Members of Pakistan Pharmacists Association Balochistan are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Quetta press club.

CM Naqvi visits PIC, reviews upgradation project

Urges everyone, including himself, to fulfill their duty hours

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the Punjab Institute of Cardiology (PIC) here on Tuesday and assessed the ongoing construction activities.

He reviewed the quality of work in the emergency block, which is currently under completion. He directed the authorities to finish the emergency block upgrade project by the end of December and instructed the upgrade of the Punjab Institute of Cardiology's OPD. He stated that the PIC OPD upgrade project would commence next week.

Present at the visit were Provincial Ministers Amir Mir, Dr Javed Akram, Secretary Communication and

Works, Secretary Health, CCPO, Commissioner Lahore Division, and other relevant officials.

Talking to the media, the CM mentioned that the PIC's design, developed through consultation, is scheduled for completion by December 30. Addressing the shortage of beds, he announced the addition of 108 more beds post-upgrade. To alleviate patient waiting times for tests, satellite clinics have been initiated in Kot Khawaja Saeed and Shahdara, with consideration for a clinic at Mian Munshi Hospital.

The chief minister highlighted that the renovation of the OPD would commence next week. He commended the dedicated team working tirelessly on the ongoing hospital upgrades, including the progress on PIC Third Floor, Ground Floor, and Irfan Block. Additionally, heart clinics are under development in Sahiwal, and work on the incomplete Heart Hospital in Dera Ghazi Khan is underway.

The focus on cardiology facilities extends to Multan and Sialkot as well.

Clarifying his earlier statement, Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi emphasized that his remarks were not exclusive to doctors but applied to all departments. He urged everyone, including himself, to fulfill their duty hours.

He acknowledged the dedication of many doctors working beyond their scheduled hours and encouraged protesting doctors to channel their passion positively.



KARACHI: Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh Justice (ret) Maqbool Baqar presides over the joint session of Industrialists of various Associations.

KP govt provides mobile hospitals to remote tribal areas

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has provided facilities of mobile hospitals for the basic health facilities in the needed remote areas of the merged districts.

Ten vehicles were provided to the health department officials in the merged districts for use as mobile hospitals in areas where basic health facilities are not available.

As a result of this facility, minor operations, laboratory examinations, X-rays, dental treatment and maternity needs can be fulfilled.

The said vehicles were donated by the German Development Bank KfW under the Mobile Hospital Centralized Programme for Tribal Areas in 2013 but were lying dysfunctional due to required repairs.

Similarly, seventeen more vehicles will be repaired and provided to these districts for health facilities.

In this regard, a

ceremony was held at Civil Secretariat Peshawar on Tuesday wherein the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Newly Merged Districts Affairs, Industries Commerce and Technical Education Dr. Aamer Abdullah, Advisor to Caretaker Chief Minister on Health Dr Riaz Anwar, Secretary Health Mahmood Aslam Wazir, Special Secretary Health Habibullah, Senior Planning Officer of the Department, District Health Officers of the merged districts and other relevant officials participated.

In the ceremony, the caretaker minister, Advisor to CM and Secretary Health handed over the keys of the said vehicles to the DHOs of merged districts.

Speaking on the occasion, caretaker minister Dr. Aamer Abdullah said that the said vehicles were national assets which were standing without any use.



KARACHI: DIG Special Security Unit Irfan Baloch meeting with Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori.

UNDP commemorates Intl human rights day with local community

FAISALABAD (Online): Christian and Muslim community members, Faisalabad Catholic Church, National Commission for Human Rights, Government of Punjab's Human Rights & Minority Affairs Department, civil society organisations along with local businesses, and UNDP Pakistan, jointly marked the International Human Rights Day voicing a shared message of solidarity, respect, equality, peace, non-discrimination, dignity for all and a core commitment to building a strong, inclusive and rights-based society in Pakistan.

The event organized by UNDP with the support of the Embassy of Norway in Pakistan, aimed at emphasizing and reinforcing the values of

inter-faith harmony, equality, inclusion, the right to work, and to reiterate participants' commitment to these values, also distributed goodwill food packages to 125 Christian and Muslim community members from Jaranwala neighbourhood.

Recognising Pakistan's constitutional provisions, specifically Article 25 (1) guaranteeing equality before the law for all citizens and Article 5 ensuring freedom of religious practice and cultural development for minorities, speakers spotlighted the need to translate these constitutional safeguards into tangible realities for all faith communities. The violence in Jaranwala on the 16th of August 2023 that damaged Christian places of worship.

ANF seizes over 320 kg drugs in three operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting three operations across the country managed to recover 320 kg of drugs and arrested three accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday.

He informed that in an operation conducted in Gali Jalal Khak of the Qila Abdullah area and recovered over 271 kg of hashish hidden in a house was recovered.

48 kg hashish was recovered from a vehicle intercepted near Motorway Toll Plaza Charsadda while two accused were arrested during the operation.

1.2 kg hashish was recovered from a vehicle near Chungi No. 26, Islamabad and an accused was arrested.

Cases under the Anti-Narcotics Act were registered against the arrested accused while further investigations are under process and companies, providing valuable opportunities for students while meeting the talent needs of companies.

Four shops sealed during ongoing drive against profiteers

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): The district administration has sealed four butchers' shops and imposed fine on them for overcharging during ongoing crackdown against profiteers.

According to the administration, the action was taken by Assistant Commissioner Muhammad Faseeh Abbasi-led team in line with the directives of deputy commissioner to ensure implementation of the officially prescribed rates of daily-use commodities in the market for extending relief to citizens.

The assistant commissioner along with field staff paid a surprise visit to markets on Multan Road and its adjoining areas and checked prices of various commodities at grocery shops and the butchers'.

During inspection, four butchers were found involved in charging citizens for more than the officially notified rates and imposed fines on them while sealing their shops.

He also issued a warning to several other shopkeepers and directed them to ensure compliance with relevant rules, otherwise action would be taken against them as per the law.



FAISALABAD: Chief Minister Punjab, Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi is visiting the Allied Hospital Faisalabad to inspect ongoing upgradation projects of Surgical Emergency and OPD Wards.

India's apex court has no legal standing in matters of Kashmir: AJK minister

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Azad Jammu Kashmir Finance Minister and spokesman of the State government Majid Khan said that the Supreme Court of India has no legal standing in the matters of Kashmir as New Delhi had occupied the territory illegally against the will of the Kashmiri people.

Terming the court order as unfair and politically motivated, Khan said in a statement issued on Tuesday that the verdict was tantamount to deprive Kashmiris of their basic political and human rights guaranteed to them under the UNSC resolutions and other rights treaties.

Describing Kashmiris

as masters of their destiny, Khan made it clear that neither the Indian Parliament nor the Supreme Court of India has any right or authority to determine the political future of Kashmir. Referring to the UNSC resolutions, he said, that under these covenants only Kashmiris have the right to decide their future.

"Jammu and Kashmir stretched over eighty-four thousand square miles is an indivisible entity", he said.

The state of Jammu and Kashmir, he said, has never been a part of the Indian Union. "Kashmir has had a distinct identity even at the time when the entire subcontinent was divided into more than five hundred small states known as Rajwads", the minister added.

While rejecting the Indian Supreme Court's decision, he said that the government and people of Azad Kashmir don't accept or acknowledge the supremacy of the Indian Constitution over Jammu and Kashmir.

"Any piece of legislation by the Indian parliament or any ruling by India's pliant judiciary carries no legal significance", the minister said, adding that Kashmiris have outrightly rejected the Indian government's 5th August 2019 unilateral move and other measures it had taken to erode Kashmiri's identity as a Muslim majority state.

Minister urges collaborative investment in robust health systems on UHC Day

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information, Minority Affairs, and Social Protection, Muhammad Ahmad Shah, underscored the necessity of investing in the health sector, urging all stakeholders to collaborate and commit to prioritizing investments for the establishment of robust and resilient health systems.

In his address on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Day, observed annually on December 12, he emphasized the imperative components required to fortify health systems: equity, trust, conducive environments, financial investments, and accountability.

Highlighting the persistent issues plaguing the health system, he pointed out the lack of accountability, inadequate management of health resources, and imbalanced decision-making powers in healthcare.



KARACHI: Caretaker Sindh Information Minister Ahmed Shah, Caretaker Law Minister Umar Soomro addressing a press conference at Sindh Assembly Committee Room.

Smoke emitting, unregistered vehicles identified as major cause of pollution

PESHAWAR (APP): Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has identified smoke emitting and unregistered vehicles as major cause of air pollution while divisional administration has decided the impounding of smoke emitting and unregistered vehicles.

Furthermore, it also decided the closure of brick-kiln and crush plants for a period of two months and completion of cleanliness before sunrise to bring improvement in the situation and washing of important spots and streets.

The decision was taken in a meeting held on the special directives of the Caretaker Chief Minister Justice (Retd) Syed Arshad Hussain Shah with Divisional Commissioner, Peshawar, Muhammad Zubair in the chair here on Tuesday.

Besides, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Peshawar, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Traffic, representatives of EPA, local government, Water Supply & Sanitation Programme (WSSP) and administrative officers of the local bodies also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the environment department gave detailed information to the participants about the factors that cause air pollution, according to which the main cause of air pollution is 58% of smoke-emitting and unregistered vehicles, in addition to garbage lying on the side of the roads.

Factories, brick kilns, marble factories, open fires were also declared as the main cause of air pollution, in the context of which decisions were taken to impound smoke emitting and unregistered vehicles.



KARACHI: Chairman Saylani Welfare International Trust, Maulana Bashir Ahmad Farooqui addressing during the inauguration ceremony of Rehabilitation Center.

Pakistani forces capable of destroying enemy: CM Baqar

KARACHI (APP): The Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar while strongly condemning a terrorist attack in Dera Ismail Khan, has said that the Pakistani forces are capable of destroying enemy.

According to a CM House Spokesman here on Tuesday, the Chief Minister had expressed his grief and sorrow over the martyrdom of soldiers in the terrorist attack.

He also expressed his condolences to the martyrs and their families. While praying for the speedy recovery of injured persons, he said that the nation was united to eradicate terrorism from the motherland.

He further said that Pakistani forces were the protectors of the country's borders and trying to provide complete security to the people.

Eradication of terrorism was essential for the prosperity and development of country, he said adding that 27 terrorists were sent to hell with the successful action of the forces in DI Khan. He said that Pakistani forces had full capacity to destroy the evil intentions of the enemy.



GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan, Haji Gulbar Khan addressing during the 5th sitting of the 27th session of Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly under the chair of Speaker Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly Nazir Ahmad Advocate.

BISP chairman vows Zero tolerance for illegal deductions in Benazir Kafalat program

KARACHI (APP): The Benazir Income Support Programme Chairperson Dr Muhammad Amjad Saqib on Tuesday said that any unlawful deduction from the stipends given to beneficiaries of the Benazir Kafalat program would not be accepted.

He said this while chairing a meeting subsequent to his visit to the Kafalat Funds Disbursement Center and the BISP Center in Karachi. The meeting was attended by BISP board members Dr. Qaiser Bengali, Haris Ghazdar, DG NSER Naveed Akbar,

DG Sindh Riaz Soomro, DG (MCO) Zulfiqar Sheikh, and other officials. The meeting centered on contemplating various suggestions for the future direction of BISP.

Dr. Saqib emphasized that forthcoming discussions would delve into enhancing the payment system's transparency for registered beneficiaries, aiming to curb any deductions.

The new proposed model intends to involve more than 15 banks in the Benazir Kafalat program to ensure transparent transactions.

WDD launches gender parity report

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Women Development Department has launched the "Punjab Gender Parity Report 2022," a comprehensive annual publication aimed at fostering gender equality and women empowerment here on Tuesday.

Compiled by the Punjab Commission on the Status of Women, a dedicated institute under the Women Development Department, with collaboration of UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund), the report provides a detailed analysis of gender-disaggregated data across seven thematic areas, including demographics, governance, education, health, economic participation and opportunities, justice, and special initiatives.

The unveiling ceremony was attended by Javed Akram, Provincial Caretaker Minister for Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education, Social Welfare, and Baitul-Mal, who served as the chief guest.

This annual report serves as a vital information document for policymakers, researchers, and justice providers.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali cutting Christmas cake along with Christians Community at Governor House.

Speakers call for consistent role of education institutions to eradicate corruption

PESHAWAR (APP): Speakers at a seminar here on Tuesday said that corruption was a social evil and proactive role of educational institutions was imperative to eradicate it completely from the society.

The speakers were including Director, National Accountability Bureau, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Mian Muhammad Waqar and Joint Director, Institute of Management Sciences (IMS) Hayatabad Peshawar, Ata-ur-Rehman.

The awareness seminar was held at IMS in connection with anti corruption week jointly organized by the NAB-KP and IMS. Besides others, the seminar was attended by a large number of students, academicians, researchers and faculty members. In his keynote address, Mian Muhammad Waqar, Director NAB KP said that corruption was like a cancer and its eradication was inevitable for sustainable economic growth, supremacy of merit and fostering prosperity of Pakistan.

In addition to weakening the social fabric of the society, he said corruption leads to poverty, unemployment and undermined merit. He said there were different types of corruption in developing countries including Pakistan and cooperation of all stakeholders including educational institutions and civil society was imperative for its complete eradication vital four our bright future.

Terming corruption as the mother of all evils, Waqar said that misuse of authority, violation of merit and deviation from rules and regulations were also forms of corruption.

