Simultaneously published from Quetta, Gwadar, Hub, Karachi, Islamabad

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Member APNS & CPNE

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

www.dailyindependent.com.pk

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vd: XXV No. 113, Jamadi-ul-Awwal 28,1445 AH Wednesday December 13, 2023 Pages 12, Price Rs. 15

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

The security forces on Tuesday killed twentyseven 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 twentyseven terrorists were sent

Continued on page 2

at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Marrakesh Treaty aimed at

providing access to pub-

lished work for visually

inked the instrument of ac-

cession to the World Intel-

lectual Property Organization's (WIPO) ad-

ministered Marrakesh

Treaty, at a special ceremony held here at the

aims to help the visually

impaired or otherwise

The Marrakesh Treaty

President Dr Arif Alvi

impaired persons.

Aiwan-e-Sadr.

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi signing the

Instrument of Accession to the Marrakesh Treaty

for the Visually Impaired Persons in a ceremony,

Pakistan joins Marrakesh

Treaty to facilitate access

of visually impaired

persons to published work

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa- print-disabled people have

kistan on Tuesday became a signatory to the access to books and liter-ary works in accessible for-

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.

Governor Kakar to inaugurate job fair at BUITEMS

Independent Report QUETTA: The 6th edition ojob fair is scheduled to be neld at Balochistan Univer sity of Information Tech nology, Engineering and Management Sciences

(BUITEMS) here today

Wednesday). The Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar would be the chief guest at the job fair and would formally inaugu

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

US denies any role in choosing Pakistani leaders

Signed in Morocco on June 27, 2013, and joined WASHINGTON (INP) by a large number of coun-The United States (US) does not play any role in tries in the world, the Treaty enables the reprochoosing the leaders of Pakistan, State Department spokesperson Matthew duction of published materials into accessible formats, such as braille, large print, Miller said.

In a daily briefing, Mat-thew Miller said, "We en-gage with the leadership and audio editions. By acceding to the Treaty. Pakistan has beshown by – or the leader ship decided by the Paki come able to provide its estimated 10 million visustani people, and we wil Continued on page 2 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 situ-

> "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

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 re mand 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 re-

Strict security measures were adopted on occasion of production of



PM Kakar says

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

He said the laws could

not help make colonies, though they could help es-

tablish occupation for a limited period. The prime min-

ister reiterated that Paki-stan would continue extend-

ing moral, political and dip-

lomatic support to the

Kashmiris and would raise

the issue at the European

Union and other multilat-

To a question, he said taxation was one of the big-

gest challenges for the coun-

try as 80% of the economy

was undocumented with

the informal private sector

being a non-contributor but

government's initiatives and

eral forums.

beneficiary

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



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

terim federal minister for interior Sarfaz 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 (ÎGPs) 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 in the market upon which the Prime Minister Anwarul-Kakar took notice.

He said the government took strict measures against

ISLAMABAD (APP): In- illegal hoardings in August/ September but the mafia once again united to and started hoarding of fertilizer and created artificial shortage in the market which caused price hike.

He said that the govern ment decided to initiate a ruthless crackdown against the mafia upon the clear directions of Prime Minister. He said the no one would be spared and they

will be arrested under 16 MPO or 13 MPO to ensure to end the artificial shortage of fertilizer. He said that the govern-

ment 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 Ouetta until the arrest of the CTD officials, 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

the National Accountabil-

ity Bureau's plea to send

the case back to the trial

Earlier, the IHC reserved its verdict on the

appeal filed by Nawaz

Sharif against his convic-

tion in the Al-Azizia refer-

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

A division bench, led by IHC Chief Justice Aamer Justice Miangul Hassan PML-N supremo appeared before the court in person

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

Zulfigar Ali Bhutto presidential reference: SC appoints

9 amici-curiae ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has appointed 9 amici curiae in presidential reference regarding former Prime Minister (PM) Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto besides adjourning the hearing of the case till second week of January

It has been said in court's order notice will be issued to amici curiae and reply will be sought from them. If any heir of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto wants he can join the court's proceedings.

The Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa remarked every legal heir has right to be heard. Hearing of the case is being broadcast through live link. The question is this if it is a presidential reference then can government want to run

The CJP inquired will any one tell why the mention of repentance was made in court's order.

A 9-member larger bench of SC presided over by CJP Qazi Faez Isa took up the presidential reference for hearing Tuesday. Attorney General (AG) said Zulfiqar Ali

Bhutto execution case was heard in 2012 last time. Chairman PPP Bilawal

Bhutto Zardari filed application for becoming respondent in the case.

8 injured in gas leakage **explosion**QUETTA (APP): At least

eight persons including women and children got injured in an explosion presumably caused by a gas leakage in Sabzal Road Quetta, Balochistan on early Tuesday morning.

According to a Rescue source, the incident took place due to a gas leakage at a house, as a result, eight people sustained injuries.

Police said the incident occurred after the gas cylinders blasted into a house. Soon after the incident, rescue teams reached the scene and shifted the injured to Burns ward of Quetta Hospital for treatment, a private news channel reported.

The blast caused massive damage to the building. However, the authorities are investigating to ascertain the cause of gas leak-

Before that, while The court also rejected

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 it emphatically

that the bench would hear

the case on merit.

court and heard the case on

Farooq, conducted the hearing of the case, with Aurangzeb as the other judge on the bench. The

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

CM condemns terrorists² attack at DI Khan police station; pays homage to martyr cops

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

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 con-

dolence 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 main-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.



Achakzai in a meeting with Caretaker Home Minister Captain (retd) Mir Zubair Ahmed Jamali Jan Achakzai, Zubair Jamali slam DIK PS terrorism:

QUETTA: Caretaker Information Minister Jan

Whole nation standing by police against terrorism, maintain caretaker Ministers

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

lice force countered and retaliated the terrorism act bravely and courageously. He said that the whole nation is standing by the se-

He said that our po-

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 be-

curity forces. He said that

sides 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

CJP calls SJC meeting on December 14

ISLAMABAD: Peoples Party Parliamentarians

(PPPP) President, Asif Ali Zardari and PPP Chair-

man, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari attend live streaming

of proceedings on a presidential reference seek-

ing 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

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

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Education

Department, Government

of Balochistan has an-

nounced winter vacations in

the colleges and schools of

districts fall in the winter

notification issued here by

the Colleges Department

on Tuesday, the winter vac-

cinations are due to com-

According to an official

zone of the province.

Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi. As per sources meeting will take place on Thursday in Judges block conference room

notice to all the five mem-

mence in the colleges and

schools of winter zone from

December 16, and would

remain continued till Feb-

the educational institutions

would reopen on March 1,

here that almost 18 districts

of the Balochistan province

fall in the winter zone.

As per the notification,

It may be mentioned

ruary 28, 2024.

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

Secretary SJC has sent

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

Khadija Shah

Pakistan outclass Afghanistan in one-sided U19 Asia Cup fixture

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

Sports Desk

DUBAI: Pakistan U19 on Tuesday thumped Afghanistan by a whooping 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 topscored 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 skip-Naseer Khan Maroofkhil and Faridoon Dawoodzai scored 26 and runs respectively but

enough to win the game.
Afghanistan were all out for 220 runs in 48.4

Batting first, Pakistan posted a colossal 303-run total on the scoreboard as three players — Shamyl Hussain, Shahzaib Khan, and Riaz Ullah — delivered with the bat greatly.

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

of the match against India

& wk), Shahzaib Khan,

Azan Awais, Mohammad

Zeeshan, Mohammad Riazullah, Tayyab Arif,

Arafat Minhas, Shamyl

Hussain, Amir Hassan

Ubaid Shah, Khubaib Khalil

Shah (wk), Khalid Taniwal

Sohil Khan Zurmatai

Wafiullah Tarakhil, Naseer

Khan Maroofkhil ©

Rahimullah Zurmati, Bashir

Dawoodzai, Khalel Ahmad

Only plebiscite,

not any....

Continued from page 1

said the government was trying its best to pursue the

privatization spree without

being scandalized by ensur-

ing meritocracy and leaving

behind a blueprint for the

tor losses a nightmare, he

said the PIA had a debt of

Rs900 billion and called for

choosing between running

query, he said the govern-

ment was looking for fi-

nancing for the Khuzdar-

Karachi road and expected

the same from any GCC

countries through BOT ba-

that some agriculture-re-

lated projects were under

Balochistan under the Spe-

cial Investment Facilitation

Council. He said some

projects under climate fi-

nance had been identified.

about the joint ventures

with Iran in the field of film

production, the prime min-

ister said the government

would facilitate it, if they

received any such proposal

He said China had immense

potential for such produc-

tions and that he had also

est 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 ac-

countability was essential

to make the country a func-

women's empowerment

was inevitable for the coun-

try which should be en-

homes by changing atti-

tudes towards women. The

prime minister said that

before thinking about the

number of graduates, the

country needed to review

sured at all levels including

To a question, he said

tional democracy.

raised the matter at the high-

Regarding a question

consideration

He told a questioner

for

Responding to another

the country and the PIA.

Calling the energy sec-

elected government.

The prime minister

Jamshid

Ahmad,

Afghanistan: Numan

Zadran,

Faridoon

could only score 20 runs.

Playing XIs

Azan Awais, the hero

Pakistan: Saad Baig (c

innings of 73 runs.

Shamyl 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.

Shamyl 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

Shahzaib took charge of Pakistan's batting after Shamyl's dismissal and played a responsible knock of 79 runs with 10 boundaries. He lost his wicket to Faridoon Allah Ghazanfar

Launching Ceremony of the Micro Video Series (Part-II) - "Foreign Heads

BEIJING: Ambassador of Pakistan to China H.E. Khalil Hashmi speaking at

He mentioned that the

country was adhering to the

guidelines of the World

Health Organization regard-

ing identifying the needs of

differently-abled persons

and providing them with

opportunities for health,

that Pakistan's visually im-

Saleem made the entire na-

tion proud by giving a

speech at the platform of

dence that with the intro-

duction of artificial intelli-

gence-based technology in

assistive gadgets and smart

devices, the future was

bright for visually impaired

persons to live an improved

the efforts of his wife

Samina Alvi for leading the

cause of differently-abled

people and the Ministry of

Human Rights for under-

taking the initiative of ac-

cession to the Marrakesh

Treaty for visually im-

Property Organization of

Pakistan Ambassador (retd)

Farukh Amil said the

Marrakesh Treaty was an

important step forward on

the global stage underlining

the government's commit-

ment to empower the visu-

would create lasting effects

for visually challenged

people and place the coun-

try amongst the caring na-

Muhammad Šualeh Ahmad

Faruqi said education was

a fundamental right under

the UN Charter and the

Constitution of Paki-

stan, adding that the

Marrakesh Treaty would

provide an enabling envi-

ronment for the visually

impaired community to

fulfill their desire for

education and thus bring

themselves into the main-

Secretary Commerce

tions of the world.

He said the Treaty

ally impaired persons.

Chairman Intellectual

paired persons.

The president lauded

He expressed confi-

The president recalled

education, and jobs.

the United Nations.

launch of Micro Video Series II on Great Wall of China.

Pakistan joins Marrakesh....

Continued from page 1 the differently-abled per-

Marrakesh Treaty a "great paired diplomat Saima

ally impaired persons easy

access to published work.

The facility otherwise has

been restricted due to the

Copyright Ordinance of

1962 which does not pro-

vide necessary provisions

for compulsory printing and reproduction of braille

President Alvi termed

the accession to the

moment of pride" and said

Pakistan had embarked

upon a new pathway to

empower its visually im-

Treaty would act as an

equalizer of opportunity to

provide visually challenged

persons equitable access.

ate an environment of learn-

ing and equal opportunity

for educating the neglected

class of the society," he

sponsibility of the State to

accommodate its differ-

ently-abled citizens by

providing them equal op-portunities in all fields of

life, particularly education

cess to published work

would open new vistas of

opportunities for visually

impaired persons and dis-

pel the impression that dis-

ability should be a hurdle

in personal empowerment.

effects, he said, include im-

proved access to education

and employment, and also

better well-being of the vi-

the need to shun the taboo

about persons with disabili-

ties and ensure their inclu-

sion in the mainstream life

people does not tanta-

mount to any favour, but it

is their due right which the

society owes to them," he

"tremendous success" in

Pakistan, he said, made

"Accommodating such

President Alvi stressed

sually impaired persons.

The positive flow-on

The president said ac-

and employment.

He said it was the re-

He said the Marrakesh

"The Treaty will cre-

and audio versions.

paired people.



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

Pakistan envoy emphasizes stronger linkages with Europe through Science Diplomacy

bassador of Pakistan to ence Diplomacy was a Belgium, Luxembourg, and the European Union Amna 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 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 show-

In her remarks, efit of the two regions

BRUSSELS (APP): Am- Baloch said the Scinew initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 2018 and the networking session was in pursuance that 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 ben-

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

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 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.

Cipher case:

Imran, Qureshi indictment postpones for a day

RAWALPINDI (Online): Judge Abul Hasanat Zul-Oarnain 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 Shah Mehmood

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 Shah Mehmood Qureshi submitted 3 different applications in the court, while the lawyers filed on behalf of defence. The petitions were disposed of by the

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 fulfiled.

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 pro-

ceedings 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 that when the decision of the open court is there, why is the media being stopped? The judge remarked that I will talk to iail 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 Salman Safdar, the lawyer of the former chairman, while talking to the media outside the jail, said that the open trial is not happening.



QUETTA: Pakistan Cricket Team's renowned player Kamran Akmal presenting trophy to winner team at Government Girls Postgraduate Col-

lege 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 GOB. TSE-232412366351 Tender Fee Rs.1000/-

Class of Object 1 Stationary (Total Item(s) Count: 8)

2% Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: 3 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity 3,000,000 in Previous5 Turn over of at least 3,000,000 PKR in 3 Subsequent Previous Years Presence in Active Tax Payer List. Sales Tax Certificate. The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. JV is not permissible. Submission of the required Bid Security In case Bid Security is not found as required during financial evaluation the bidding firm shall be declared as in- eligible and non-responsive Submission of the required Bidding document Fee Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the undersigned from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 02 January, 2024 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 02 January, 2024 till 11:00 AM . Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 11:30 AM Address: Central Police Office, Gulistar

Email: aiggen123@gmail.com PRQ No.1148/12-12-2023

Road Quetta Cantt Phone no: 0819203479

POLICE www.dpr.gob.pk. @dpr_gob @dpr.gob f @dgpr.bal



رالت عاليه بلوچتان ، كوئزكو (PJDF), Provincial Judicial Development Fund نت سواستم برائے مندرجہ ذیل جوڈیشل مملیکسز کی فراہمی کیلیے خواہشندا کو میس اسپڑ عیس ابلوچستان سپڑ حیس اور اکتان اُجینر کلے کوٹسل (Specialization Code: EE-11) رجنرؤ و طرز جن کے تام FBR کی ATL کسٹ میں شامل موں سے سر بمبر شینڈر مطلوب ہیں۔ جو کہ زیر چھنگی کومود 28.12.2023 کو نِ12:00 بِجَ تِك لِ جانے جاہے اور ٹینڈرای دن 12:30 بِج ٹینڈر دہندگان کی موجودگی میں کھولے ا کے تخینہ لاگت /620,000روپے۔

سيشن ويژن/ جودُ يشل كورش مقدار (کلوداك)

سوافتط (1) ئينڈر الج چتان پيک پروکيومندر يکو ليئري اقدار (BPPRA) دُارُ 2014 کے مطابق اوگا۔(2) قابلیت: فرم/ کنٹر یکٹر کاانگی کیس اسپاز قیس ڈیپارٹمنٹ ادر پاکتان انجیئر مگ کونسل(EE 11) کے ماتھر جنر ڈ ہونالازی ہےاوران کے ام FBRکے ATL میں شامل ہونا ضروری ہے۔(3) طویقه کار: بمبر ٹینڈرایک لفانے میں (Single Stage-Two Envelop Procedure) بند ہونے جا ہیں۔ ی قتم کا مشروط نینڈرنا قابل قبول ہوگا۔(4) نینڈر فارم اشتہارشائع ہونے سے مقررہ تاریخ کے جاری کئے بالعظم فيذر فارم بوس من -500 روي (ناقائل واليي) اوالي يدفتر زير خطى سے ماصل ك جاسكة یں۔(5) مندرجہ بالاشرائلہ میں ردوبدل کا اعتبارا فیسرمیاز از پر پختلی کو حاصل ہوگا۔(6) نئینڈر کے ہمراہ گل قیت كافي فيصد بطور كال ذيبياز ث منسلك كرنا موكار بينك ذيبيازث يايذ باعثرنا قائل قبول موكار (7) القريكس البريكس اور سرے بیکس زواز کے مطابق مل سے منہا کیے جا تھیگا۔ (8) بڑکا تھین معیار اور قیت پر بنی طریقہ کار کے تحت ہوگا۔(9) زخوں میں اوڈ نگ اان اوڈ نگ اور تمام تم کے مقای اغیر مقامی فیکس شامل ہونے جاہئیں۔(10) مشروط يندر يا آلين A/B نا قائل قبول موكار (11) غاوره بالامات اشياء كيلة مخص قيت بيان كرده Specification کے ساتھ آفر کئے جا کی اوراشیاء کی تعداد کی مزید درجہ بندی (Splitting) نا قابل قبول وگی۔(12) مٹیڈر کی کانی عدالت عالیہ بلوچتان، کوئید کی ویب سائٹ www.bhc.gov.pk" اور BPPRA کی ویب سائٹ ہے بھی حاصل کی جاسکتی ہے۔ (Bidding Document(13) اور مزید معلومات كيلي رجر اراض، عدالت عاليه بلوچتان، عالى روؤ كوئد بدونترى اوقات من فون نمبر 9202077 اوراى

PRQ No 1167/12-12-2023 🕶 @dpr_gob 🧕 dpr.gob 🚹 @dgpr.balochistan

يل الدرايل bhc@bhc.gov.pk" يردابط كياجا سكتاب

cased Pakistan's vibrant Science Diplomacy landscape including opportunities for collaborative re-

Ambassador Amna and nations.

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 person-

alities 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 HBI 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...

to hell during various operations

The Security Forces conducted an intelligencebased operation in the general area Darazinda on the reported presence of terror-During the conduct of

operation, terrorists' hideout was busted and seventeen terrorists were sent to

In another intelligencebased 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 (martyr-

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-

Continued from page 1 tacked a security forces' post in the general area

> The attempt to enter the post was effectively thwarted which forced the terrorists to ram an explosive-laden vehicle into the ost, followed by a suicide bombing attack.

> to the collapse of the building, causing multiple causalities; twenty three brave embraced Shahadat, while all six terrorists were effectively engaged and sent to hell.

The resulting blasts led

'Sanitization opera-

tions 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 Ďera 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 re-

sponsibility has been claimed by Tehreek-e-Jihad Pakistan, a terrorist group affiliated with the Tehreeki-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), resulted in multiple causalities, 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.



holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Quetta press club.

SAPM Malik urges CWAs to boost overseas employment opportunities for Pakistanis

Prime Minister (SAPM) on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OP&HRD), Jawad Sohrab Malik held a pivotal meeting with the Community Welfare Attaches (CWAs) stationed abroad to strategically enhance job opportunities for Pakistanis on the international stage. Currently, there are 21

CWAs posted abroad by the Government of Pakistan, according to a press release issued here.

The primary focus of the meeting was to evaluate and improve the progress of CWAs in identifying and exploring targeted demand for employment prospects for Pakistani nationals through engagements with foreign employers. This involved the formulation, signing and execution of Letters of Intent

in amplifying the export of Pakistani manpower.

The SAPM emphasized the crucial need for close collaboration between CWAs and the Ministry of Overseas Pakistani and Human Resource Development, particularly in sharing information related to employment demands abroad and the necessary skills required for those jobs. This step will facilitate the design of training programs specifically tailored to the skills demanded by foreign companies, ensuring that Pakistani workers are well-equipped and aligned with global stan-

Jawad Sohrab Malik, while underscoring the significance of this initiative, highlighted its dual impact, not only in enhancing employment opportunities for Pakistanis abroad but also

Furthermore, he stressed the essential role of CWAs in catering to the needs and resolving issues faced by overseas Paki-

stanis during their stay

This comprehensive approach is designed to ensure the well-being and seamless integration of Pakistani expatriates in their respective host countries.

'The Ministry o Overseas Pakistani and Human Resource Development reiterates its commitment to spearheading initiatives that fortify global employment prospects for Pakistanis. This strategic meeting signifies a significant stride towards realizing this vision and under scores the Ministry's dedication to the welfare and prosperity of overseas Pakistanis," remarked SAPM Jawad Sohrab Malik after



Special Representative to the Prime Minister for Religious Harmony & Islamic Countries and Chairman Pakistan Ullema Council Hafiz Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi addressing a press conference with the representatives of Hajj Operative Association of Pakistan (HOAP) at Islamabad.

Cybersecurity, AI and 5G advancement Huawei, COMSTECH forms strategic partnership

The Ministerial Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the OIC (Organization of Islamic Cooperation) and Huawei Technologies Pakistan signed a Memorandum of Understanding to raise awareness of national takes a significant step forcybersecurity and build the states in cybersecurity.

Prof Dr M Inhal Choudhary, Coordinator General of COMSTECH, signed the MoU on behalf of the Ministerial Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation of

OIC can extend its support to Huawei to reach out to universities not just in Pakistan but in all OIC member countries, by using the OIC platform Huawei can be introduced to all the OIC member countries including African countries where there is a fast pace of technological advancements with great po-

As the ink dries on the signed MoU, the journey toward a future defined by robust cybersecurity, cutting-edge AI applications, and the seamless integration of 5G technologies ward. This collaboration power of partnerships in shaping the trajectory of technological progress and ensuring a brighter, digitally empowered future for all. Huawei and COMSTECH will cooperate on ICT talent. Young people in OIC member countries can get new ICT technology training and enhance their skills

for the future. With the rapid transformation of industries and sectors into online or digital solutions providers, cybersecurity is integral to the continuity, stability, and growth of the economy. Cybersecurity expertise is

most urgently in government, financial services, and health care said a news re-

COMSTECH and Huawei would concentrate on the enhancement of OIC's cybersecurity professional capability, such as security management, secucapabilities of OIC member stands as a testament to the rity incident response, vulnerability management, and insight into external new security technologies and oversight security requirements; Huawei is a leader in digital transformation, networking, and communication technologies in Pakistan and across the world.

The digital economy globally is the engine of economic growth and a driver for sustainable develop-

As more and more essential services make use of digital transformation, science and technology will determine the economic future of countries.

AIOU conducts 'Cooperative Learning' training for teachers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Vice Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood has focused on faculty development to promote The Head Office of Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal in teaching and research cul-Islamabad, in collaboration with the Paraplegic ture in the university, said center Peshawar, conducted specialized training Dean, Faculty of Educaon customized and standard wheelchairs. The Mantion, Prof. Dr. Tanzila aging Director of Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal, Amir Fida Nabeel while addressing the opening session of two-day Cooperative Learning Training Workshop'. She said that as per the instructions of the Vice Chancellor, Faculty of Education conducts training workshop regularly to equip teachers with contemporary requirements, increase their technical and professional skills. This training workshop was organized by the Department of Distance, Non-Formal and Continuing Education (Faculty of Education). Dr. Zaheer Ahmed was the trainer

while Dr. Tahira Bibi was

the coordinator of this

workshop. Chairman, De-

partment of Early Child

Education and Elementary

Teacher Education, Prof. Dr

Fazal-Ur-Rahman presided

over both the sessions.

The hazardous air pollutant particulate matter of 2.5 microns (PM2.5), which was a hazardous atmospheric contaminant, re-

and Privileges presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.

ISLAMABAD: Senator Muhammad Tahir Bizinjo, Chairman Senate Committee on Rules of Procedure

mained microgrammes per cubic meter on average which was higher than the national environmental quality standards (NEQS) of 35 micprograms per cubic meter and denoted the air quality

unhealthily.
PM2.5 is generated through the combustion of an engine, industrial emissions, burning garbage or inflammable material, and dust blown up by fastmoving cars plying on noncemented patches of the

dioxide and sulfur dioxide (NO2&SO2 respectively) also remained below the NEQS that were mostly produced during the industrial emissions from the factories involving complex and extraordinary chemicals' use in production processes. The NO2 remained 5.73 microgrammes per cubic meter and SO2 was 14.96 microgrammes per

Int'l moot on **Arabic Novel**

starts today ISLAMABAD (APP): A two-day international conference on "Modern Trends in The Arabic Novel in the 2nd Half of the 20th Century" will kick-off on Wednesday (Today) in connection with the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU).

According to AIOU. the conference will take place on December 13 and 14, and more than 50 international scholars have submitted their papers to participate.

Out of these, 13 papers have been selected for presentation.

The opening session of the conference will commence at 10:00 a.m. on December 13, and it will be presided over by the Vice Chancellor of AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood.

Dean, Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Prof. Dr. Mohyuddin Hashmi, will explain the aims and objectives of the conference

Malik urges world forums to stop India over demographic changes in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Human Rights and Women's Em-Mashaal nowerment Hussain Malik on Tuesday urged the international community, including the United Nations, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and human rights organizations, to address new "demographic changes" in the IIOJK.

Indian government must be stopped from any further illegal activity in the occupied territory, she appealed while talking to a private news channel.

India was changing the population ratio in the HOJK and Kashmiris were being robbed of their land to make them financially weak, she added.

Mushaal said to occupy the lands of Kashmiris India was issuing millions of domiciles to Indian in Kashmir valley.

Mushaal said India was going to commit the biggest robbery of the century in Kashmir by displac-ing Kashmiris from their own homes and throwing into the streets.

Indian hegemonic policies are posing serious threats to South Asia, she said, adding, that India is repeatedly using negative tactics to gain political mileage because elections are due in India next year, she added.

The international community should stop appeasing India and should contain India's fundamentalism and extremism because it will affect the peace and stability of the entire world, she urged. Pakistan is continuing

to expose India at international forums to refrain India from state-sponsored terrorism, particularly in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, he



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister of State for Tourism and Chairman of PTDC, Wasi Shah, addressing media during MoU signing ceremony between PTDC and University of Baltistan, Skardu to Establish Center of Excellence for Mountain Tourism at Skardu at Trail-5 Margalla Hills Park.

Court extends interim bail of former chairman PTI till Dec 19, Bushra till Jan 02

ISLAMABAD (Online): Judge district and sessions court Islamabad has said while giving remarks on the bail plea of former chairman PTI and Bushra Bibi that wherever you are the court appears therein.

The judge further remarked this tradition has been set by you.

Yousuf Chaudhry said "we ppear in the court. Presence of the accused in court is must in bail before arrest

The judge remarked "I call the report and settle till next date where the hearing will take place.

6 bail applications of former chairman PTI and one of Bushra Bibi came up for hearing in district and sessions court Islamabad Additional Sessions

Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra

neard the bail pleas. Bushra Bibi appeared n the court along with her egal team. Khaldi Yousuf Chaudhry counsel for fomer chairman PTI also

appeared in the court. The defence counsel said Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) has accepted bail January 02

plea of former chairman PTI. Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra inquired the bail plea has been accepted on what

The counsel said former chairman PTI was not present on the scene, The counsel said the

court has called report in connection with appearance The counsel Khalid of former chairman PTI. Judge Tahir Abbas

ora inquired where are report and prosecutor. The counsel said they

are not presenting former chairman PTI in the court deliberately. Khalid

Chaudhry said it is requested former chairman PTI be presented in the The judge remarked

wherever you are the court appears therein. This tradîtîon was set by you.

The counsel Khalid Yousuf Chaudhry said we appear in the courts. The presence of the accused is must in the court in bail before arrest plea.

The court extended the interim bail of former chairman PTI till December 19 and of Bushra Bibi till



SLAMABAD: Former PTI founding member Akbar S Babar talking to media persons outside Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) after challenging the party's intra-party elections, which were 'rigged and fraudulent" according to him.

Police Welfare Markaz working effectively for official's welfare

Independent Report SLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police

has initiated a dedicated effort to swiftly address and improve the administrative issues faced by its officers and officials, through the effective operations of the Police Welfare Center. Following the special directives of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Police Welfare Center at the Central Police Office Islamabad is actively engaged in resolving the administrative concerns of officers and officials in an expedited and efficient

Unlike traditional methods of addressing administrative issues across various departments, officers and officials are now

channeling their requests through the Police Welfare Center. This streamlined approach ensures prompt delivery of their requests to the relevant offices.

As part of this initiative, officers and officials can now access various services such as loans for education, construction of homes, purchase of vehicles, including cars and motorcycles, through the Welfare Center. Moreover, provisions for passports, education, employment, and multiple other essential services are also being efficiently facilitated. ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan emphasized, "Our focus remains on enhancing the welfare and facilities for police personnel, enabling prompt actions to improve morale.

detrimental to the health and future of students Students are urged to protect themselves and contribute to saving their surroundings from the curse of drugs. Parents and teachers are encouraged to collaborate in preventing youth from falling victim to

ventive measures, empha-

sizing that drug abuse is

Paracha, and the CEO of Paraplegic center,

Anti drug awareness

campaign on full

swing in Islamabad

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad

Capital Police have initiated

a special awareness cam-

paign to eradicate use of

narcotics from the federal

capital and ensure the

safety of the youth from

the curse of drugs. Police

teams have conducted spe-

cial lectures in various edu-

cational institutions to edu-

cate students about the

harms of drugs and preven-

tal City Police Officer

(ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir

Khan highlighted that

Islamabad Capital Police

has launched a special

awareness campaign to rid

curse of drugs.

The Islamabad Capi-

Muhammad Alias are present in the picture.

The police teams have appealed to the public to immediately inform the police about any drug-related activities in their vi-

The cooperation of the public is deemed crucial for the successful eradication of this menace.

the federal capital of nar-Islamabad Capital Pocotics and safeguard the young generation from the lice and Anti-Narcotics Force are jointly working to During this campaign, combat drug trafficking, the police teams have dewhile special teams have been formed to apprehend livered lectures in various drug peddlers in educational educational institutes about the harms of drugs and pre-



PTDC, UoB sign MoU to establish Center of Excellence for Mountain Tourism

historic Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) and the University of Baltistan, Skardu, solidifying their commit-ment to establishing a Center of Excellence for Mountain Tourism.

The event was graced by Minister of State for Tourism and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Youth Affairs, Wasi

Speaking at the occasion, the minister affirmed the government's dedication to the welfare of porters, vowing to allocate resources and modern facilities for their benefit.

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Defence analyst Brig (Retd)

Said Nazir has said that se-

curity forces were making

all-out efforts to eliminate terrorism incidents of ter-

Police, para-military

He opined that the

forces were the front-line

fighters against the ter-rorism, he said while par-

ticipating in Radio Pakistan's current affairs

terrorist activities in the

rorism in the country.

programme.

Pak fully committed

to root out terrorism

from its soil: Analyst

Pakistan.

other countries.

He emphasized the significance of prioritizing human life and expressed gratitude for the realization of his dream—the establishment of this Center of Excellence. The initiative, credited to the collaborative efforts of Vice Chancellor Baltistan University and PTDC's Managing Director, Aftab ur Rehman Rana, holds the promise of boosting global confidence in Pakistani climbers.

The minister highlighted the center's pivotal role in initiating the certification of porters, aligning with broader goals of enhancing workplace safety and promoting sustainable tourism. Plans for incorporating skiing facilities were

He said that the in-

mountaineering prowess. Managing Director PTDC, Aftab ur Rehman Rana, Vice Chancellor Baltistan University, Dr. Naeem Khan, and Chair-

man Islamabad Wildlife Management Board, Rania Saeed, spoke on the occa-The festivities concluded with an eco-hike at

Margalla Hills, symbolizing the commitment to environmental conservation. **HEC announces LAW-GAT 2024,**

for LLB Graduates

also unveiled, showcasing

the government's multifac-

eted approach to mountain

tourism. Ten accomplished

mountaineers, who scaled

8,000-meter peaks, proudly participated in the

event, contributing to the celebration of Pakistan's

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has the nexus of Research and Analysis Wing(RAW) and other agencies, inimical to announced the schedule of the LAW Graduate Assessment Test (LAW-GAT), which will be held on January 07, 2024.

terim Afghan government According to official sources, the Law Graduate was unable to control the militant organizations on its Assessment Test is compulsory for all LLB gradusoil, to refrain from their nefarious designs against ates who wish to seek Bar Council Registration. Applications for LAW-GAT He said "Pakistan always supports peace and 2023 can be submitted online at the HEC portal prosperity in Afghanistan as peace in Pakistan is dilatest by December 25, rectly linked with peace in



ISLAMABAD: Deserving people gathers outside Benazir Income Support Programme at Sector G-7 as such people are suffering due to lack of any kind of shelter or sitting facility, which is the insult of humanity, needs the attention of concern authority.

Capital's air quality unhealthy as PM2.5 ratio beyond permissible limits

ISLAMABAD (APP): The air quality of the federal capital was recorded an unhealthy on Tuesday as the air pollutants ratio in the atmosphere was beyond the permissible limits of the national environmental quality standards of the Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency as dry and cloudy weather clouted the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

The Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) daily air quality report indicated an increased ratio of air pollutants, recorded below permissible limits, and the air quality was unhealthy.

The Agency is responsible for ensuring the protection of the environment under the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act

The ratio of nitrogen

cubic meter.

Daily soice of Masse Independent

Wednesday December 13, 2023

A grave injustice

The Indian supreme court has validated the great injustice committed by New Delhi against the people of held Kashmir in August 2019. Hearing a number of petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370 of the In- trifugal egos before its memdian constitution over four years bers would find their feet.

They needed it to feet ago, the court on Monday ruled that the said article "was an interim arrangement", and that the BJP-led government's dubious decision to scrap the disputed territory's limited autonomy was the "culmination of the process of integration".

Pouring salt on the Kashmiris' wounds, one of the justices observed that a 'truth and reconciliation commission' should be set up in the occupied region to probe rights' violations.

The learned judge should know that successive Indian governments have systematically denied the Kashmiri people their fundamental rights, and no one believes that an administration that treats Kashmir as conquered territory will seriously look into the abuses perpetrated by its own troops.

Amongst the petitioners were parties that have always been elites are a global phenomloyal to New Delhi; the Indian state rewarded them for their lack of imagination and ba-'lovalty' by reportedly putting sic incompetence that ra-kistanis do. Every day the Mehbooba Mufti and Omar evidence continues to Abdullah under house arrest before the verdict was announced. The decision is likely to give the BJP's Hindutva juggernaut a further boost in next year's elections, while it is also an attempt to rewrite history. The world recognises Kashmir caretaker chief minister of poor people. as a disputed territory, even Punjab announced a plan to though India is trying to create disrupting the flow of trafnew facts on the ground.

The abrogation of Article 370 down the entire city of has allowed India to change held Kashmir's demographics, and effectively turn Kashmiris into a minority in their ancestral land.

In a related development, Indian Home Minister Amit Shah recently told the Lok Sabha that "Nehruvian blunders" had hurt New Delhi's case vis-à-vis Kashmir. The 'blunders' he was referring to were Jawaharlal Nehru's acceptance of the ceasefire during the 1947-48 Pakistan-India war, and taking the dispute to the UN.

He added that if these 'mistakes' had not been made, Azad Kashmir would today be part of India. Again, these are reflections of the Sangh's revisionist, COP28, there was intel--le-ctual chaos across revanchist thought, as other Indian ministers have also made cotted the event, protestirresponsible statements about 'taking back' Gilgit-Baltistan.

The court's decision may strengthen India's stranglehold over Kashmir, but it cannot extinguish the Kashmiris' strong ing countries, fearing bias desire for freedom and dignity. No amount of Indian legal subterfuge, or brute force, can stop the Kashmiris from demanding that a phase-out of fossil their legitimate rights.

Though Pakistan has rejected ing that he was misquoted. the Indian court's decision, unfortunately, successive administrations here have failed to adequately highlight the Kashmir mentum, inclusivity, and a issue diplomatically on the global stage, which has added to India's brazenness.

Sadly, not all occupations are deemed equal by the international community', as evident in the fact that the occupation of Kashmir and Palestine is conveniently brushed aside, whilst the occupation of Ukraine is cast as an existential battle between labour unions are prohibited COP28 has some democracy and authoritarianism. pelled the rulers to allow nificant progress has been

Outwitting Modi's psyops is key



Jawed Nagyi

It could get worse before it gets better, goes the sagacious saying. It was in the nature of its very being that the INDIA alliance needed to cross the hump of cen-They needed it to feel equipped to take a clean shot at vacating Prime Minister Narendra Modi's bid for a third successive win in the April-May general elections.

The recent state polls may have been important for the Congress, but were in many ways an obstacle for the alliance. They were not, in any case, the decisive battle presaging the 2024 contest, as has been projected by last week's winners. The state polls were entirely about the Congress winning or losing to the BJP, and of scant in-

terest to the rest of the alliance partners, who were not emotionally attached to A Congress landslide

would have, in fact, complicated the quest for cohesion in INDIA. The muttered relief among some of the members at the humbling of the behemoth masked a perverse licksmacking joy at the result for the smaller but powerful stakeholders. The results could now clear the emotional block for the alliance, which should now not hesitate to yield to its animal instinct of survival. Any dilution of the resolve would be fatal, as everyone in the group knows. The incidental benefit

of the races in Madhya Rajasthan, Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Telangana should also not be discounted. With Congress winning Telangana, there is now a marked north-south divide electorally, though not for the first time. Indira Gandhi was routed in 1977 in the north, whereas the southern states stood resolutely with her. That's where she launched her comeback campaign from.

The fact that the state polls were a close race and ings. Add up the seats in hand, the Congress was

not a disastrous outcome for the Congress should go a long way for the INDIA partners to frontally challenge Modi's psychological warfare. They can now work on a winning strategy. in which the Congress is accepted as a scrupulously equal partner but not less though not even slightly more, entitled than the rest. From what one has gleaned in Rahul Gandhi's long march to unite the country. cohesion, and not the spoils of power, would be the Congress's quest hence-

On the other hand, psyops are a pivot for the ruling party's strategy. Mr Modi has declared the three state results a hat-trick. which his chorus advances as a mirror to the comingbut-already-won third term for their leader. The fluff, however, is palpable in the pretence. The psychological initiative the BJP claims could be more clearly seen as a saffron mirage. The BJP's logic of reading state results as indicative of its impending victory in the general elections can be turned on its head.

A simple headcount should allay many misgivthe states that the BJP controls, let's say, irretrievably: Uttar Pradesh Madhya Pradesh (29), Chhattisgarh (11), Gujarat Assam Ìharkhand (14),Uttarakhand (five) and Rajasthan (25)

The total parliamentary seats in the BJP's selfproclaimed stronghold in the northern states add up to 204, clearly short of the 272 needed in the 543member Lok Sabha. The INDIA alliance

states, on the other hand, send 267 deputies, five short of a simple majority. Note that the INDIA calculation includes 48 MPs of Maharashtra, where tragicomic defections led to the BJP taking power. That would be reversed by most accounts in a free and fair contest.

These are the main theatres of mobilisation, where any talk of a hat-trick for the BJP would be laughed off.

Besides, in the states the Congress lost last week, the difference of votes was two to four per cent highly bridgeable. Madhya Pradesh was the trickier of the three. On the other

snapping at the BJP's heels in the close race, something psephologists got terribly wrong. This is the contour of the battlefield in which every regional satrap's state could either galvanise the alliance or be breached by the opponent. And IN-DIA is an alliance of very powerful satraps.

In other words, it is obvious that no state being ruled by any particular party or alliance can take success for granted. We do, however, get an idea as to where and how the votes would be stacked. Therefore, the fight is on, and it is preposterous to liken it to a walkover by the alliance, as the Modi psyops is conjuring or projecting it to be.

It doesn't mean the alliance stands freed of its own demons. There are at least three prime ministerial hopefuls in the opposition ranks, and another few who would be eyeing their chance as the dark horses that Narasimha Rao and Manmohan Singh came to

the Congress's loss in the states, the drooling over prospects of gaining power would hopefully abate. There are strong bind-

the SIFC from the Pakistani

ing glues to work on; for example, the expulsion of the West Bengal MP Mahua Moitra from Lok Sabha last week over laughable allegations that she took money to ask questions in parliament. The opposition has come together to stand united behind her. That Moitra was a staunch critic of Modi and his corporate friend Gautam Adani is a notable aspect of her profile.

The opposition has had a decade to observe and study the methods Modi has used as prime minister to score high on the ballot, or to be careful with words, on the electronic voting machine.

They also have an instructive dossier on his time as chief minister of Gujarat. They know of the communal mobilisation that has worked for Modi. They also know how a tinctured Hindutva hasn't worked for Congress Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.

There's nothing invincible about Mr Modi. To paraphrase Brutus in a reflective moment, the initiative lies squarely with the opposition, not with the BJP. -- Courtesy Dawn

Sleepwalking into the darkness



Mosharraf Zaidi

Venal and rent-seeking enon, but most countries don't have to deal with the

week, the Last unelected, caretaker commerce minister repeated the delusional \$100 billion target for exports with a selfreferential announcement that would make even the most indulgent narcissist

improve air quality without fic. His brilliant climate-altering solution is to hose Lahore with four teams of one hundred cleaners each, using high pressure water

iet streams to reduce 'dust'. Advocates

privatization in Pakistan argue, with no sense of irony, that the task of privatizing state-owned enterprises (SOEs) must be conducted urgently – with one caveat: it must ensure job security for the low skilled. burdensome labour employed by those SOEs (in short, retain the one facet of SOEs that is the definitive reason for why privatisation has become so

The federal government continues at least a quarter century run of borrowing valuable dollar-denominated money from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank to. among other things, help the Federal Bureau of Revenue (FBR) raise more revenue. in... you guessed it: rupees, from... you guessed it: salaried middle-class suckers and the helpless and grow-Over the weekend, the ing ranks of GST-paying

Among the political and military elite, the delusions of normalization of ties with India continue to Balakot, so-called surgical be the primary layer of new strikes across the border, ideas: except that this is one and constant LOC fire on new idea that is as old as Pakistan itself.

In the bargain, India

has rewarded this idea with its occupation and annexation of Kashmir, the murder of thousands of innocent Kashmiris, the expansion of a global network of terrorists and terrorism financing targeting vulnerable aspects of Pakistan's polity, the use of Afghanistan as a staging ground for violent extremist actors targeting Pakistani soldiers and the weaponization of UNSC 1267 through both a sustained campaign of South Block revisionist fictions, and material measures such as the grey list sanctions that the FATF has

decade and a half. Despite all this, Pakistan's elite wants to restore the now dead and buried 'composite dialogue format with India. Of course, India's 'peaceful' intentions don't end with the lawfare, information operations, legalised occupation and annexation in the boardrooms and on the airwaves. They cut deeper.

imposed twice in the last

Errant BrahMos missiles, aerial attacks into the ground are all meant to signal the seriousness of India's capability to enact 'Cold Start' operations as and when India chooses. Here too Pakistani elites insist on burying their heads in the sand

Perhaps the most obvious of India's actions that signal its intentions are the most meaningless of them efforts to exclude Pakistan and Pakistanis from the world cricket calendar, bans on Pakistani entertainers and artists from partaking in India's massive domestic consumption market and attempting to exclude Pakistani leaders at every turn at international fora. It is with this same

India with whom Pakistani elites want to reach some kind of bargain. Right-wing, hatred-laced, historically delusional national discourses do not make for good dance partners – but this is difficult to explain to boomers who are stuck The SIFC is supposed

to be the new stability play through which the most assured human resources tural innovation, climate adimportant sectors and agen- and the counterparts they aptation, materials sciences, das in the country will be protected from the travails PIF, AIDA, QIA, Mubadla, of whatever this version of democracy is going to manufacture on February 8.

The larger question as stupid as the Pakistani might be who will protect elites. They follow how the

elite's insatiable appetite for mediocrity and incompetence. There is a long list of countries that struggle to get from point A to point B capably. But how many countries have sought to establish sovereign wealth funds without fund managers, financing bridge mechanisms without finance professionals, and deal-making vehicles without the capacity to engage in even the most basic conversations about how to conduct cred-

ible valuations?

Ask questions about how to engage in due diligence and how to negotiate realistic long-term contracts and prices that will protect taxpayers today and deep into the future and there will be few answers. Very little indicates how the country will overcome the large capacity gap between the best and the brightest available within the republic's job-security

Investors – both at home and abroad – are not

Pakistan regionally

elsewhere.

Temasek, BII, DFC, and

tax authorities in Pakistan try to bully the largest investors in Pakistan – the country's telecom companies – into paying more taxes by locking the offices of telcos. They see how multinationals are prevented from taking their money abroad by finance ministers obsessed with fictional notions of low exchange rates.

It is exactly this gap that is the most perplexing and worrying of all. Democratic rights, free expression and even basic rule of law questions can be left unanswered as they have in fits and starts throughout the last seven decades. There are hardly any takers for these

 East or West. The difference between places that will barely survive and places that will thrive is economic growth. The places that will thrive are already focused on life sciences, artificial intelligence, organic seed technology, water-scarce agriculdata science and analytics driven public sector service provision, supply chain innovation, bespoke content consumption, and escalation on the manufacturing value

Climate action



Masood Lohar

Contrary to initial doubts, apprehensions, and explicit criticism from activists and environmentalists, COP28, set to conclude today, seems to have proved itself productive and on point.

Before the start of sectors and reg-ions. Some organisations even boying the appointment of Dr Sultan Al Jaber, the CEO of UAE's national oil company ADNOC as the president of COP28. Critics were sceptical about holding the summit in one of the world's top 10 oil-productowards the fossil fuel industry. Controversy escalated when Dr Al Jaber was quoted as saying that there was "no science" indicating fuels is needed to stop global warming, later clarify-

Despite the early scepticism, progress and commitments at the event have made it unique. COP28 has seen unprecedented mowillingness to adapt. There optimism for groundbreaking developments, with early consensus reached on the loss and damage issue, setting a positive tone for the remaining agenda items.

Furthermore, the summit has given rise to uncommon occurrences in the UAE, such as protests. Despite the country torically held by governbeing seen as an autocracy where political parties and ited, COP28 has com-

the entry of human rights organisations normally frowned upon by the state. Activists argue that the UAE government's motive is to enhance its international image, but they emphasise that only limited protests are permitted, subject to prior ap-

One notable instance involved protesters gathering in solidarity with the Palestin-ians. Another noteworthy procession took place a few days ago, demanding the release of pro-democracy activists imprisoned in the UAE and Egypt. Described as "historic" by Saudi and UAE human rights researchers, this protest stood out for its audacity and significance.

Almost near to the conclusion of the summit, Dr Al Jaber talked about the historic progress made the summit, emphasising its uniqueness. He said, "We can all agree COP28 has been different, and I am sure we will agree that COP28 has already made history."

The COP28 president has actively engaged with all participating parties, stakeholders, NGOs, civil society, observers, businesses, and industry to advocate for unprecedented ambition in COP

This approach challenges the conventional belief that climate diplomacy and environmental conservation should solely rely on traditional UN bureaucracy and less action-oriented NGOs and g o v e r n m e n t depar--tments. Some argue that, for-profit and innovative tech companies can handle climate challenges more efficiently. The COP leadership, hisment officials and diplomats, is now witnessing a

Amid COP28, sig-

achieved, including the establishment of a Loss and Damage Fund, launching a \$30 billion private market climate vehicle, and commitments from 51 oil companies and 119 countries to decarbonise and triple renewable energy, respectively. This progress raises questions about whether climate diplomacy is increasingly led by the polluting industry and forprofit tech businesses. The UAE is position-

ing itself as a frontrunner in climate innovation by making substantial investments in decarbonisation. In September, a significant carbon capture and storage project was introduced, designed to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those produced annually by half a million petrolpowered cars. ADNOC accelerated its net-zero greenhouse gas target for operational activities, now aiming to achieve this goal by 2045, five years earlier than initially planned. The company has ceased routine methane venting and flaring, seen as a demonstration of a commitment to emissions reduction ahead of its in-

dustry counterparts. Dubai is striving to attain 75 per cent of its total power generation from clean energy sources by 2050 — a potentially transformative move. How did this massive green initiative come about in a region abundant with oil wealth? And that also nearly two decades ago, back in 2006? An approach, predating the widespread adoption of solar technology and climate innovation has the potential to reshape the climate discourse and translate into concrete actions on

the ground. This paradigm shift in the climate narrative brings to mind the expression 'Moses in the house of pharaoh', symbolising a transformative force emerging from an unexpected place. -- Courtesy

Dr Niaz Murtaza

We lag economically even in South Asia. This lag is well-known but not its huge scale. To display that, I compare Saarc economies using World Bank data which runs up to 2022 and thus excludes our poor 2023 data. I focus on the state we left (India) and the one that left us (Bangladesh) to show our lag even against ones with similar DNAs.

GDP: South Asia (mean), Bangladesh and India's GDP per capita in 2022 were about \$2.200. \$2,700 and \$2,300, but ours was only \$1,600. Their 10year mean GDP growths were about six per cent but ours only 4.4pc and inflation was 5.3pc, 6.2pc and 5.6pc. Ours was 8pc (and 30pc inflation in 2023).

The investment-GDP ratio of the other three is 30pc but ours only 15pc. Only high investment and productivity ensure longterm high GDP growth. Our low ratio shows that our brief growth spurts under Musharraf, the PML-N and PTI came from high fiscal and external deficits and money supply growth and caused economic crises in 2008, 2018 and 2023.

External balance: We do worse here. Since 2000, we have had seven economic crises that led us to IMF against three for Bangladesh and none for India. This mainly reflects our poor exports, foreign investment and reserves

Bangladesh and India's 10year mean export-GDP ratios were about 19pc, 14pc and 21pc; ours only 10pc. Foreign reserves-external

and 82pc but ours only 20pc. Our current account deficit and foreign investment-GDP ratios are also

Public finance and

debt: The regional data here is patchy. India's recent taxto-GDP ratio is about 20pc, ours 13pc and Bangladesh's 8pc. Yet its debt-GDP ratio was about 40pc in 2021 against 70pc for us, 80pc for India and 86pc for South Asia. But our 10-year debt service-exports ratio is 23pc vs only 12pc, 8pc and 11pc for South Asia, Bangladesh and India. Our education and health outlay ratios were the lowest but the defence outlay ratio the highest over 10 years.

Thus, on almost all key social and economic axes, we lag regionally. Even tiny Maldives (\$11,000), Sri Lanka and Bhutan (both \$3,000-plus) beat us on per capita GDP and Nepal on the human development index, leaving us ahead of only the Afghans. Why has the proud 'ideological' fortress created with so much hype and hope done so much worse than less pretentious states?

We think we were on the way to being an economic star under dictators but got waylaid under civilians. This is humbug. All our regimes used non-durable local or foreign stimuli to achieve transient growth that bust soon. People argue that mean GDP growth under Ayub was 5.8pc but 4.8pc under Bhutto. Even this is not a big

fall. But take Ayub's first five years only to fairly match Bhutto's term, and his falls to 4.9pc. Ayub gained from a booming global economy (capitalism's golden age), huge US aid and unfair milking of the Bengalis. Bhutto had oil shocks, global stagflation and big floods but not aid.

Yet Bhutto did better than Ayub on most key axes: poverty rose under Ayub but fell under Bhutto; our export-GDP ratio was

debt ratios were 69pc, 60pc only about 7pc under Ayub but 12pc under Bhutto (it being highest in the civilian 1990s at 16pc); the tradedeficit-GDP ratio was about -7pc under Ayub but only -4pc under Bhutto and investment growth only 12pc under Ayub but highest ever at 35pc under

Bhutto. His public investment fuelled high growth even under Zia initially before US aid became a transient stimulus. But there were big issues with Bhutto's autocratic era too. For example, nationalisation was overdone and state units badly run by a harassed and deskilled bureaucracy.

Later regimes, too, all used non-durable local and/ or external stimuli to provide transient growth. But civilians faced the worst external shocks (2008 and Covid-19 global crises) and legacies from eras where the establishment dominated. The result is an unproductive, elitist and patronageled economy run on transient stimuli and thus crisis-prone. How can change

India Bangladesh, civilians run the economy and politics. So, the establishment's hold in both realms must end. Civilians must then turn a patronage-led economy into a merit-led one. But our civilian leaders are more elitist than middle-class ones in the other two states.

Even our main middleclass ones offer empty populism. The best they may do if facing collapse is to turn a rapacious economy run by the Ishaq Dars and Shaukat Tarins into only a slightly better neoliberal one run by the Miftah Ismails and Shamshad Akhtars that is less crisis-prone yet more anti-poor and thus more conflict-prone. So, a fair and productive economy remains a distant prospect. The forces that can create it are still too weak. --Courtesy Dawn

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

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

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 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, 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 tirelessly on the ongoing hospital upgrades,

KARACHI: Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh Justice (retd) Magbool Bagar

Secretariat Peshawar on

Tuesday wherein the

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Caretaker Minister for

Newly Merged Districts

Commerce and Technical

on Health Dr. Riaz Anwar,

Special Secretary Health

Planning Officer of the

Department, District

Health Officers of the

merged districts and other

caretaker minister, Advisor

to CM advisor and

Secretary Health handed

vehicles to the DHOs of

Abdullah said that the said

assets which were standing

In the ceremony, the

Speaking on the

Industries

Health

Senior

officials

presides over the joint session of Industrialists of various Associations.

KP govt provides

mobile hospitals to

remote tribal areas

PESHAWAR (APP): The ceremony was held at Civil

Affairs.

Secretary

relevant

participated.

Ten vehicles were Education Dr. Aamer

provided to the health Abdullah, Advisor to

department officials in the Caretaker Chief Minister

where basic health facilities Mahmood Aslam Wazir,

Centralized Programme for over the keys of the said

Similarly, seventeen occasion, caretaker more vehicles will be minister Dr. Aamer

these districts for health vehicles were national

In this regard, a without any use.

As a result of this Habibullah,

Hospital

were lying dysfunctional merged districts.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

government has provided facilities of mobile

hospitals for the basic

health facilities in the

needed remote areas of the

merged districts for use as

mobile hospitals in areas

facility, minor operations,

laboratory examinations.

X-rays, dental treatment

and maternity needs can be

were donated by the German Development

Bank KFW under the

Tribal Areas in 2013 but

repaired and provided to

due to required repairs.

The said vehicles

merged districts.

are not available.

fulfilled.

Mobile

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 dedicated team working encouraged protesting doctors to channel their passion positively.

ANF seizes

over 320 kg

drugs in three

operations

RAWĀLPINDI (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

an operation conducted in

Gali Jalal Khak of the Qila

recovered over 271 kg of

hashish hidden in a house

recovered from a vehicle

Motorway Toll Plaza

Charsadda while two

accused were arrested

recovered from a vehicle

near Chungi No. 26,

Islamabad and an accused

Narcotics Act were

registered against the

arrested accused while

further investigations are

under process and

companies, providing

valuable opportunities for

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

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

commodities in the market

of daily-use

According to the

students while meeting the

1.2 kg hashish was

Cases under the Anti-

during the operation.

48 kg hashish was

Abdullah

was recovered.

intercepted

was arrested.

He informed that in



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

the Kashmiri people.

minister added. 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 and Kashmir. "Any piece of legislation by the Indian right to decide their future. Jammu and Kashmir stretched over eighty-four

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

thousand square miles is an

he emphasized the

imperative components

required to fortify health

systems: equity, trust,

conducive environments,

financial investments, and

accountability.

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

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.

SMIU hosts 2nd job fest with 32 companies participating

University (SMIU) recently organized its second job fest, welcoming the participation of 32 companies companies, including various banks. The event saw over 300 graduate and final year students from diverse fields engaging in interviews for potential job opportunities.

The inauguration of ems. management of health the job fest was graced by NED University Vice Chancellor, Professor Dr. Hashmat Distinguished personalities such as Vice-Chancellor of SMIU, Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai, Vice-Chancellor of Mehran Engineering University Jamshoro, Dr. Taha Hussain Ali, Additional Secretary Universities and Boards, Dr. Afshan Rabab, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Jinnah Sindh Medical University, Sadia Akram, and Sindh Agriculture University Tando Jam's Vice Chancellor, Dr. Fateh Muhammad Marri, were

also present at the event. During the fest, Director Students Affairs Muhammad Naeem delivered a warm

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Madressatul Islam

welcome speech.

capable of destroying enemy: CM Baqar

Pakistani forces

KARACHI (APP): The Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh Justice (Retd) persons, he said that the nation was united to eradicate terrorism from Maqbool Baqar while the motherland. strongly condemning a He further terrorist attack in Dera Ismail Khan, has said that the Pakistani forces are capable of destroying

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 recovery of injured of the enemy.

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

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



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 DG Sindh Riaz Soomro, Benazir Income Support Programme Chairperson Dr Muhammad Amjad Saqib on Tuesday said that any unlawful deduction from the stipends given to beneficiaries of the Benezir Kafalat program would not be accepted.

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

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

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

WDD launches gender parity report

LAHORE (APP): The data across Punjab has launched the "Punjab governance, edu Gender Parity Report health, ecc 2022," a comprehensive participation annual publication aimed at fostering gender equality and women empowerment here on Tuesday.

Compiled by the Status of Women, a dedicated institute under Department. collaboration of UNFPA guest. (United Nations Population Fund), the serves as a vital report provides a information document for report provides a detailed analysis of

Women thematic areas, including Development Department de mographics, governance, education, economic opportunities, justice. and special initiatives.

The unveiling ceremony was attended by Javaid Akram, Provincial Puniab Commission on the Caretaker Minister for Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Social the Women Development Welfare, and Baitul-Mal, with who served as the chief

This annual report policymakers, researchers, gender-disaggregated and justice providers.



Christmas cake along with Christians Community at Governor House.

Speakers call for consistent role of education institutions to eradicate corruption

PESHAWAR (APP): in connection with anti corruption leads to Speakers at a seminar here on Tuesday said that corruption was a social evil and proactive role of educational institutions it completely from the

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

corruption week jointly organized by the NAB-KP and IMS. Besides others, the seminar was attended by a large number of was imperative to eradicate 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.

weakening the social fabric rules and regulations were seminar was held at IMS of the society, he said also forms of corruption.

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 In addition to merit and deviation from

Áccording to a CM FAISALABAD: Chief Minister Punjab, Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi is visiting as masters of their destiny, known as Rajwards", the Khan made it clear that

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Azad Jammu Kashmir Finance Minister and spokesman of the State government Majid Khan has 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

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

Describing Kashmiris hundred small states

Minister urges collaborative investment in robust health systems on UHC Day

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

systems. Universal Health Coverage decision-making powers in

Highlighting the persistent issues plaguing the health system, he pointed out the lack of accountability, inadequate robust and resilient health



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): Commissioner Environmental Protection Peshawar, 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 the 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

Besides,

Superintendent of Police representatives of EPA local government, Water Supply & Sanitation Programme (WSSP) and administrative officers of the local bodies also attended the meeting. During the meeting, environment

Senior

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 smokeemitting 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 Deputy and unregistered vehicles.



International Trust, Maulana Bashir Ahmad Farooqui addressing during the inauguration ceremony of Rehabilitation Center.

Baloch meeting with Sindh Governor Kamran UNDP commemorates Intl human rights day with local community FAISALABAD (Online): inter-faith harmony,

KARACHI: DIG Special Security Unit Irfan

Christian and Muslim equality, inclusion, the community members, right to work, and to Church, 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 all citizens and Article 5 solidarity, equality, peace, non- religious practice and discrimination, dignity for cultural development 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 the 16th of August 2023 at emphasizing and that damaged Christian reinforcing the values of places of worship.

Pakistan's constitutional provisions, specifically Article 25 (1) guaranteeing equality before the law for respect, ensuring freedom of minorities, speakers spotlighted the need to translate these constitutional safeguards

faith communities. The

violence in Jaranwala on

Catholic reiterate participants' National commitment to these values, also distributed goodwill food packages to 125 Christian and Muslim community members from Jaranwala neighbourhood.

> butchers' into tangible realities for all

for extending relief to commissioner along with field staff paid a surprise visit to markets on Multan Road and its adjoining areas Recognising and checked prices of various commodities at grocery shops and the

> citizens for meat more than while sealing their shops. He also issued a warning to several other

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

During inspection, four butchers were found involved in charging the officially notified rates and imposed fines on them

shopkeepers and directed them to ensure compliance with relevant rules otherwise action would be taken against them as per

KARACHI (INP): State offsetting developments, Bank of Pakistan (SBP), particularly the recent Tuesday, decided to maintain the policy rate at prices and improved 22 % while taking into account higher than produce. expected impact of the recent gas price hike on inflation outlook.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) in its meeting assessed that the real interest rate continues to be positive on a 12month forward looking basis and inflation was expected to remain on a downward path, said a statement issued here.

The MPC viewed that hike in gas prices may have implications for the inflation outlook, albeit in the presence of some improvement

decrease in international oil availability of agriculture

The MPC noted that the successful completion of the staff-level agreement of the first review under the IMF SBA program would unlock financial inflows and improve the SBP's FX reserves.

The quarterly GDP growth outcome for the quarter FY24 remained in line with the MPC's expectation of a moderate economic recovery while recent consumer and business confidence surveys show

observed adding that core inflation was still at an elevated level and was coming down only gradually.

developments, Committee assessed the current monetary policy stance as appropriate to achieve the inflation target of 5-7 percent by end-FY25 and reiterated that this assessment was also contingent upon continued targeted consolidation and timely realization of planned

The recovery in real GDP during FY24 is expected to remain moderate as real GDP grew

external inflows.

comparison to 1.0 percent in the same quarter last year, the MPC noted. Recovery in the agriculture Taking stock of the sector was the major driver of the growth while the manufacturing sector also recorded a moderate recovery, with growth in large-scale manufacturing becoming positive after contracting in the preceding four quarters, the committee viewed adding that, unlike the commodity-producing sector, growth in the services sector remained subdued. The MPC observed a significant improvement in the current



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Privatisation, Fawad Hassan Fawad chairing a meeting of the Privatisation Commission Board.



ISLAMABAD: Jemal Beker Abdula, Ambassador of Federal Republic of Ethiopia to Pakistan, in a meeting with Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs Dr. Shamshad Akhtar at Finance Division, Islamabad.

Dr Gohar presents investment friendly policies at interaction with Chinese business leaders

Commerce Minister, Dr in constructive interaction location, Gohar Ejaz presented with prominent Chinese Pakistan's investmentfriendly policies at an leaders at the Business for business growth. interaction with prominent Chinese business and hotel in Beijing. investment leaders here and invited them to invest in sectors such as textiles, food, agriculture, livestock, technology, infrastructure and energy.

Pakistan and China, the policies, highlighting the and energy.

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Dubai's Department of

Economy and Tourism (DET) is making significant

strides to increase tourist

arrivals from Pakistan,

with an ambitious plan for

continued growth in 2024.

13.90 million international

visitors from January to

October 2023, surpassing

performance of attracting

13.50 million visitors for

stands among Dubai's top

10 source markets,

delivering a noteworthy

year-to-date visitation of 254,000 overnight visitors

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Aramco, one of the world's

leading integrated energy

and chemicals companies

on Tuesday signed

definitive agreements to

acquire a 40% equity stake

in Gas & Oil Pakistan Ltd

Vice President of Products

and Customers, Yasser

Mufti and GO founder and

CEO Khalid Riaz signed

the agreement, according to

a news release received

here from Dhahran, Saudi

Aramco Executive

Pakistan currently

the same period in 2019.

With Dubai welcomed

pre-pandemic

Dubai DET unveils

plans to welcome more

Pakistani visitors in 2024

BEIJING (APP): Federal commerce minister engaged country's business and investment networking dinner at a local

Dr Gohar Ejaz along with the top 20 business executives from Pakistan interacted with Chinese business leaders In an initiative to representing over 150

said a news release here on

impactful roadshow

workshops for tour operators in key cities like

Islamabad, Faisalabad, and

Sialkot underscores its

dedication to forging direct connections with

the Pakistani travel

industry.

Aramco to acquire

DÉT's recent series of

economic zones, skilled workforce, and potential

He emphasized Pakistan's dedication to providing a favourable business environment and facilitation.

During interaction, key topics of discussion included investments in sectors such boost economic and Chinese enterprises and as textiles, food investment ties between presented Pakistan's agriculture, livestock business communities of investment-friendly technology, infrastructure,

CM chairs meeting on Sialkot BFC

Caretaker Punjab Chie Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi chaired a meeting on the project of the Business Facilitation Centre (BFC)

According to the SCCI, the chief minister briefed the house on the successful launch of BFC in Lahore and announced the establishment of the same in important business districts of Punjab. He announce the

These workshops establishment of Sialkot serve as a cornerstone in BFC on a priority basis DET's strategy to redefine The Secretary Industries travel experiences and was directed to visit the cement Dubai's position as Sialkot Chamber to finalize a preferred destination. the matters. President workshops Sialkot Chamber of provided a platform to Commerce and Industry empower tour operators Abdul Ghafoor Malik and with enhanced destination officials from other chambers including LCCI, from January to October, knowledge.

RCCI, GCCI, MCCI, and FCCI attended. FCCI,

FAISALABAD (APP) Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) and UK Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (UKPCCI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to give a quantum jump to bilateral trade in addition to attracting maximum foreign direct investment. FCCI Senior Vice President Dr Sajjad Arshad and UKPCCI Vice President Mian Saad Hassan signed the documents on behalf of their respective

a 40% stake in Gas **UKPCCI** & Oil Pakistan ink MoU downstream lubricants and convenience stores operator, is one of the largest retail and storage companies in Pakistan. The transaction

customary conditions, including regulatory acquisition is Aramco's first entry into the Pakistani fuels retail market, advancing the Company's strategy to strengthen its downstream value chain internationally.

is subject to certain



RAWALPINDI: A street vendor is arranging Oranges at his road side setup to attract customers in the Committee Chowk area of the City.

Fawad chairs meeting of Privatisation **Commission Board**

ISLAMABAD (APP): no additional fee for Fawad on Tuesday chaired a meeting of Privatisation 2022 Commission Board.

to Government Agreement Mode-Manner Procedure) Rules, 2023, according to a press release. The Board also granted approval for a six contract of audit firm with in 2021

Caretaker Minister for completion of Privatisation Privatisation Fawad Hasan Commission audits for the period July 2013 to June Furthermore, the

The Board approved Board referred the decision Privatisation for transfer of ten percent Commission (Government shares of the OGDCL in the name of Petroleum and Division to the Cabinet Committee Privatisation (CCoP) as the divestment of shares had not been allowed by months extension to the the CCOP/Cabinet earlier



warm clothes at Weekly Bazaar Peshawar Mor.

Dr. Saqib says:

BISP to hire services of more banks to ensure transparent payments

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib has emphasized the need for a transparent payment system and announced plans to include the services of more than 15

banks to ensure efficient and transparent payments the registered beneficiaries. In a significant visit to Karachi, Chairperson BISP conducted a thorough assessment of the payment disbursement center and the BISP regional headquarters in the city, said a news release.

The visit included a high-level meeting attended by BISP board members, including Dr. Kaiser Bengali, Mr. Haris Gazdar, Barrister Ayesha Tammy

NSER Naveed Akbar, DG Sindh Riaz Soomro, and DG MCO Zulfiqar Sheikh, among other officers. Dr. Amjad Saqib

proposed the initiation of training programs for staff and officers to enhance their

performance contribute to the program's overall efficiency. Several proposals were considered during the meeting, aligning with the future vision of BISP. "BISP is the largest social safety net program of Pakistan, and we are committed to ensure that the benefits reach the deserving recipients with transparency", he added.

DG NSÉR Naveed Akbar provided insights into the Kafaalat and Nashonuma programs.



LAHORE: Vendor displaying eggs to attract the customers at his setup in a local market as demand increased due winter season.

LCCI to encourage members to visit Business Facilitation Center, says Kashif Anwar

Industries Department provide awareness Secretary Ehsaan Bhutta regarding the Business has said that less human Facilitation Center interaction increases (BFC) to the business transparency and the Business Facilitation Center (BFC) is based on this very idea.

He stated this during his visit to Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry where the LCCI President Kashif Anwar welcomed him here
Tuesday. Additional
Secretary Commerce Ijaz
Muinir, Chief WTO Punjab Zuhaib Mushtaq, CEO PIEDMC Ali Moazam, CEO PBIT Jalal Hasan and Deputy Secretary Commerce Abubakar Zubair also accompanied the Provincial Secretary.

The purpose of the

LAHORE (APP): Punjab meeting was also to Community.
On the occasion, the

LCCI President said that BFC is a great initiative of the caretaker Punjab Chief Minister, Minister for Industries, Secretary Industries and all the relevant departments. "Punjab government has done its job and now it is our responsibility to inform our members about BFC and ask them to visit this center and avail benefits," he added.

He said that to aware LCCI members, brochures regarding the Business Facilitation Center have been e-mailed

Ethiopia seeks financial sector collaboration with Pak for attracting Pakistani investors

ISLAMABAD (online): The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) on Tuesday sought collaboration with the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in the Financial Sector for attracting investment from Pakistani investors in its flourishing economy.

Jemal Beker Abdula, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the FDR Ethiopia to Pakistan, expressed the desire for the collaboration in a meeting with Federal Minister for

Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs H.E. Dr. **PSX** witnesses

bullish trend, gains 414 points ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of Pakistan

Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around to bullish trend on Tuesday, gaining 414.46 points, a positive change of 0.63 percent, closing at 66,426.78 points against 66,012.33 points the previous trading day. A total of 969,630,378 shares valuing Rs.26.931 billion were traded during the day compared to 1,215,932,469 shares valuing Rs. 33.423 billion

the last day. Some 385 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 244 of them recorded gains and

127 sustained losses.

During the meeting, both sides discussed matters of mutual interests including different initiatives to deepening the already flourishing bilateral ties between the two

Jemal Beker briefed the minister about the home grown economic reforms carried out by H.E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of Ethiopia, in five major sectors including agro-

tourism.He also highlighted the initiatives taken by the Embassy of the FDR Ethiopia in Islamabad during its first year for strengthening the bilateral relations between the two countries through strong bilateral, regional and H.E. Ambassador multilateral cooperation.

"Opening Ethiopian Embassy in Pakistan is a game changer for Ethiopia-Pakistan bilateral relations," the ambassador said, adding the arrival of Ethiopian Airlines in Karachi is processing, manufacturing, mining, technology and the two countries' ties. another breakthrough in

ICCI calls for slaughter house and a separate market for poultry sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): and exports of meat Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Tuesday said that a new slaughterhouse is a longstanding demand of the business community of the meat sector for enhancing their trade and ensuring the supply of Association that visited fresh meat to their ICCI led by its President customers. He urged the Khursheed Ahmed Capital Development Qureshi. Javed Qureshi Authority in consultation with the stakeholders to Sardar Zaheer Ahmed vicinity of the federal delegation.

products. establishing a separate market for the poultry sector to boost its business activities.

He said this while addressing a delegation of the All-Pakistan Jamiat Ul Quresh Meat Welfare Senior Vice President establish a state-of-the-art Secretary General, and slaughterhouse in the others were in the capital to promote trade Bakhtawari.



LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Information and Culture Amir Meer inaugurates Beauty Festival organized by Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industrcy.

Rupee gains 11 paisa against Dollar ISLAMABAD (APP):

Pakistani Rupee on Tuesday gained 11 paisa against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs283.78 against the previous day's closing at Rs283.89. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs283.9 and Rs286 respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by 45 paisa to close at Rs 305.81 against the last day's closing of Rs305.36, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen went up by 02 paisa and closed at Rs1.95; whereas an increase of 85 paisa was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound.

Gold rates decline further by Rs.1,800 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.1,800 and was sold at Rs.213,600 on Tuesday compared to its sale at Rs.215,400 on last trading

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.1,543 to Rs.183,128 from Rs.184,671 whereas the price of 10 gram 22

Women's financial inclusion Mobilink Bank, Unikrew Solutions collaborate on **USAID-funded initiative**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's leading digital microfinance Mobilink Bank, has joined forces with a prominent fintech player, Unikrew Solutions, to drive women's financial inclusion in the country through a project funded by USAID.

Quratulain Chaudhary, Executive Manager Women Financial Services (WFS) Mobilink Bank, and Muhammad Bank's Unikrew Solutions, signed Understanding here, economic growth in the alongside Project Leads to country.

set the collaboration in motion.

Mobilink Bank is part of the VEON group, a global digital operator that provides converged connectivity and digital services to nearly 160 million customers in six dynamic markets that are home to 7% of the world's population, said a news release. The project fully aligns with Mobilink Naveed Sharif, Director commitment to fostering women's financial inclusion Memorandum of to drive inclusive socio-

Tokyo's Nikkei closes higher

TOKYO (AFP/APP): allegedly failing to report Tokyo's key stock index closed higher Tuesday but trimmed earlier gains as traders eyed a major government corruption scandal.

benchmark Nikkei 225 index added 0.16 percent, or 51.90 points, to end at 32,843.70, while the broader Topix index slipped 0.23 percent, or 5.39 points, to 2,353.16.

Local media reported that Prime Minister Fumio Kishida is set to fire several under investigation for

income from political fundraising parties.

Poll ratings for Kishida's government are at their lowest levels since he took office two years ago. And the scandal widened on Tuesday with a faction within the ruling party headed until recently by Kishida reportedly now also implicated.

Investors were also looking ahead to a key US inflation report later in the day and the Federal top ministers who are Reserve's last monetary policy decision of 2023.

Nuclear warnings serve Putin's purpose as he bids for new term

Monitoring Desk LONDON: The prospect of six more years in power for Russian President Vladimir Putin is likely to mean no let-up in nuclear tensions with the United States, as time runs out on the last remaining treaty that limits the number of warheads each side can de-

Putin has boasted since launching his 2022 invasion of Ukraine that Russia has the world's most advanced nuclear arms and said it could wipe out any

On Monday, three days after announcing he

would stand for re-election in March, he presided at a flag-raising ceremony for two new submarines including the Emperor Alexander III, which last month tested a nuclear-capable Bulava intercontinental ballistic missile.

While denying that Moscow is "brandishing" nuclear weapons and resisting calls to adopt a more aggressive doctrine on their possible use, he has placed his nuclear forces on raised alert and announced the deployment of tactical nuclear missiles in Belarus, his

neighbour and ally. Last month he signed



Some security analysts say nuclear weapons have assumed greater importance in Putin's thinking and rhetoric as his conventional forces have struggled in Ukraine and as Western countries have weaned themselves off Russian energy, weakening his ability to exert pressure by cutting off oil and gas.

UK PM Sunak

'deeply sorry'

for pandemic

deaths as he

faces inquiry

Monitoring Desk

LONDON: British Prime

Minister Rishi Sunak on

Monday said he was "deeply sorry" for those

who lost family during the

Covid pandemic as he was

quizzed about his actions

as finance minister during

the global health emer-

face questions at the public

inquiry into the UK's han-

dling of the crisis over

netner his Eat Out to Help Out" scheme to boost

the struggling hospitality

sector during the pandemic

spurred the spread of Covid-19. But he started

the session by saying "how

deeply sorry I am to all of

those who lost loved ones,

family members through

he had lost WhatsApp

messages sent during the

crisis as they had not trans-

ferred over to his new

India sent 'secret

memo' to embassies

in North America

to target Sikhs:

Report

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: India had

reportedly sent a 'secret

memo' to its embassies in North America, asking them to crack down on

Khalistani activists, including the slain Sikh leader, Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the US news

organisation, The Intercept,

in its report published, a

day ago, claimed to have a

He also explained that

the pandemic"

Sunak is expected to



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy walks next to U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and U.S. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) as he arrives for a meeting with all U.S. senators at the Capitol in Washington, U.S.

Myanmar junta holds talks with rebel groups under China's gaze

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: China said on Monday peace talks had been held over the conflict in northern Myanmar and yielded "positive results", after weeks of fighting between the country's junta and ethnic minority armed

Clashes have raged across Myan-mar's northern Shan state after the Arakan Army (AA), the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army

National Liberation Army (TNLA) launched an offensive in late October.

The groups have seized military positions and border hubs vital for trade with China in what analysts say is the biggest military challenge to the junta since it seized power in 2021. "China is happy to see the parties to the conflict in northern Myanmar hold peace talks and achieve positive results," foreign ministry spokesperson

Japan PM pledges to 'restore trust' as fundraising scandal rocks government

Monitoring Desk TOKYO: Embattled Japanese premier Fumio Kishida pledged on Monday to take steps to restore trust in his government amid reports he

is planning to purge cabinet ministers embroiled in a fundraising scandal that has dealt a fresh blow to his public support.
The allegations that

some lawmakers received thousands of dollars in unreported funds pose the biggest political challenge to the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) since it reclaimed its long-held grip on power in 2012.

A poll conducted over approval for Kishida's administration hit a record low, while media on Monday reported the main opposition party was preparing a no-confidence motion against top government spokesman Hirokazu Matsuno, the highest profile minister implicated in the scandal.

'We'll consider appropriate measures at the right time to restore public trust and prevent delays in national politics," Kishida told reporters on

Defence minister Prabowo surges ahead in Indonesia's presidential race

Monitoring Desk JAKARTA: Indonesian defence minister and presidential hopeful Prabowo Subianto has extended a commanding lead in the polls ahead of February's election, with a series of

more than 20-point lead. The latest poll, released by Kompas on Monday, showed that Prabowo and his running mate, President Joko Widodo's 36-year-old son

recent surveys showing the

former general now has a

Gibran Rakabuming, garnered 39.3% of the vote. The survey placed former Jakarta governor

followed by Ganjar Pranowo with 15.3%. poll has shown Anies sur-

Indikator Politik

document in its possession which reveals that India is Anies Baswedan as his clostargeting Sikh activists with est opponent with 16.7%, "sophisticated crackdown scheme" in the West.
"The Indian govern-This is the first time a ment instructed its consulates in North America to passing Ganjar, and reflects launch a sophisticated a rising trajectory indicated crackdown scheme against by other recent polls. Sikh diaspora organisations Two surveys released in Western countries, acduring the weekend by cording to a secret memorandum issued in Apri



Climate activists attend a protest against fossil fuels at Dubai's Expo City during the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP28 in Dubai. United Arab Emirates.



A Palestinian looks on at the site of Israeli strikes on houses amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip.

Born and killed in Gaza war: grandmother weeps for one-month-old Idres

Monitoring Desk RAFAH: Baby Idres was wrapped in a white shroud and a light blue blanket with

dots, his grandmother holding his tiny body close to her chest and weeping uncontrollably as she knelt next to a row of corpses lined up on the floor of a Gaza hospital. Born a month ago as

war raged around him, Idres al-Dbari had been living in a tent in Rafah, southern Gaza, with his displaced family when he and his mother Wafaa were his face and stroke his soft black hair as she cradled him.

After the strike, the dead bodies of over a dozen adults and children had been placed on blankets spread on the ground at Abu Yossef Al-Najar hospital in Rafah, all wrapped in white shrouds with names and dates of death written on them in black. Among the bereaved

relatives with bowed heads surrounding the dead was Um Zeyad al-Dbari, grandmother of Idres, who gently unwrapped the top of the shroud so that she could see his face and stroke his soft

Ex-Afghan troops 'abandoned' by UK face deportation threat

Monitoring Desk

ONDON: Around 200 Afghan special forces personnel, stranded in Pakistan while awaiting relocation to the UK, are facing deportation back to the country they escaped from in 2021, according to BBC.

The report says the personnel, trained and funded by the UK, fled to Pakistan after the Afghan Taliban took over Kabul.

The fears for the Afghan commandos come as it was revealed the government also rejected calls from and military figures to offer asylum to key Afghan leaders whose lives were in

The future of the Afghan soldiers appears to be in limbo after it was revealed that the UK govern-ment did not pay heed to the call for "urgent help" for 32 former governors and officials who worked with the UK and US in Afghanistan's Helmand province

BBC reported that it obtained a private letter sent in March 2022 to the Foreign Office seeking help for these officials who had applied for relocation senior British diplomatic to the UK under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Programme

people have been driven from their homes. Brazil's first lady X account hacked, authorities open

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 week-

end of a breakdown in pub-

lic order and a mass exodus

of Palestinians into Egypt.

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

The narrow coastal

Monitoring Desk SAO PAULO: Brazilian First Lady Rosangela "Janja" Silva had her account on social media platform X hacked on Monday, prompting local authorities to launch an investigation and request that the Elon Muskowned company freeze her profile.

investigation

The alleged hacker posted several messages on Janja's account, including insults against the first lady and President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, as well as misogynistic slurs. The posts had been deleted by Tuesday morning.



Israeli soldiers take positions overlooking northern Gaza, which now re-

New Zealand foreign minister seeks closer ties with Five Eyes powers

Monitoring Desk WELLINGTON: New Zealand Foreign Minister Winston Peters said on Monday he would draw the country closer to intelligence partners the United States, Britain, Canada and Australia, part of a renewed focus on security under the new right-of-centre govern-

The four countries, which together with New Zealand are known as the Five Eyes, have shared intelligence since World War Two, though Eyes partners.

the alliance has come under pressure in recent years. Peters, a former foreign minister and leader of the populist New Zealand First Party, is a coalition partner in the government led by Prime Minister Christopher Luxon. He used his first major policy speech since returning to the role to promise closer cooperation with security partners. "We intend to re-invigorate our defence and security engagement, including with the United States and our Five

Philippines eyes constitutional amendments to ease economic restrictions

Monitoring Desk

MANILA: Philippine lawmakers are considering efforts to amend the to "regulate" economic country's constitution to sectors that can be ease restrictive provisions on economic ownership, a top congressional leader said on Monday.

We want to lift the restrictive provisions vis vis the economy," House Speaker Martin Romualdez said in an eco-

Romualdez said top congressional leaders of the country's political parties are meeting Monday to discuss procedural issues that have hamamend the Philippines' cials.

1987 constitution. The amendments, he

said, will allow lawmakers opened for foreign inves-

Foreign business chambers have been urging Congress to lift current limits to foreign investment, including the so-called 60-40 rule, which caps foreign ownership of local firms at 40%.

Past efforts to rewrite the constitution have failed. Critics have said efforts to amend the constitution could also open doors for lawmakers to lift pered past efforts to term limits for elected offi-

US F-16 jet crashes in South Korea, pilot rescued after ejecting **Monitoring Desk**

SEOUL: A ŬS F-16 fighter jet crashed in South Korea on Monday while on a routine training flight and the pilot was rescued after ejecting when the aircraft experienced an "in-flight emergency," the U.S. Air Force unit stationed in the country said.

The pilot was rescued in the Yellow Sea by the South Korean coast guard and returned to the Kunsan Air Base, the 8th Fighter Wing said in a statement.

Trial of EU envoy 'spying for Israel' begins: Iran

Monitoring Desk

DUBAI: Iran said on Sunday that it had begun the trial of a Swedish national employed by the European Union who is charged with spying for Israel and "corruption on earth," a crime that carries the death penalty. Sweden said on Saturday that the trial had begun of Johan Floderus, who was detained in April 2022 while on holiday in Iran, but did not say what he was charged with. The Iranian judiciary's Mizan news agency said in an online report on Sunday that Floderus's trial had begun.

China's Xi visits Vietnam in bid to counter US

Monitoring Desk Xi Jinping called Tuesday for a "new stage" in relations with Vietnam as he began his first visit in six years, seeking to counter the United States' growing influence with the communist nation.

Xi will meet the leader of Vietnam's ruling Communist Party, Nguyen Phu Trong, later on Tuesday, after Hanoi upgraded dip-lomatic ties with Washington when US President Joe Biden visited in September. Biden's visit was part

of US efforts around the world to contain China's rising economic powerand to secure supplies of crucial materials needed for high-tech manufacturing.

Speaking after his ar-rival at Hanoi's airport, Xi partnership"

said he would talk with Vietnamese leaders on "the overall, strategic, and directional issues of China-Vietnam relations, as well as international and regional issues of common concern, in order to push bilateral relations into a new stage", according to Chinese state

Vietnam has long pursued a "bamboo diplomacy" approach, striving to stay on good terms with both China and the United States. It shares US concerns about Beijing's increasing assertiveness in the contested South China Sea, but it also has close economic ties with China.

Vietnam and China, both ruled by communist parties, already share a "comprehensive strategic

EU gives Mahsa Amini rights prize as Iran blocks family attendance

Monitoring Desk STRASBOURG: EU lawmakers on Tuesday present a top rights prize to Mahsa Amini, whose death in Iranian custody sparked mass protests, but her family won't attend after being

blocked by Tehran.

The award—also for the broader "Woman, Life, Freedom" movement—is the latest international recognition for the women challenging Iran's religious government after jailed activist Narges Mohammadi was given the Nobel Peace

ther and brother will miss the ceremony at the European Parliament in the French city of Strasbourg as Iran's authorities con-

ing to collect the EU's Sakharov Prize.

Iranian Kurd Amini died on September 16, 2022 at the age of 22 while being held by Iran's religious police for allegedly breaching the Islamic republic's strict dress code for women.

Her death triggered major protests in Iran and a global movement known as "Woman, Life, Freedom", calling for the end of the Muslim cleric-led government in Tehran and imposition of headscarves on women.

Amini's mother, fa-Iranian security forces have cracked down on the protests domestically, killing hundreds, and have executed dozens for allegedly participating in fiscated their passports what officials have called and barred them from fly- "riots"

Yemen's Houthis claim attack on Norwegian tanker

Monitoring Desk

Yemen's DUBAI: Houthis said on Tuesday they carried out a military operation against the latest protest against oil to be used in biofuels. Israel's bombardment of It was not planning to

The group said it hit the tanker with a rocket because it was delivering crude oil to an Israeli terminal and after its crew ignored all warnings, Houthi military spokes-

However tanker's Norway's Mowinckel Chemical Tankers, said Norwegian commercial the vessel was headed to tanker ŠTRINDA in their Italy with a cargo of palm

stop in Israel, a

son told Reuters. The STRINDA had loaded vegetable oil and biofuels in Malaysia and was headed for Venice, data from shiptracking person Yehia Sarea said firm Kpler showed.

Argentina monthly inflation set to spike to 12% as Milei era begins

Monitoring Desk BUENOS AIRES

Argentina's consumer prices likely spiked around 12% in November alone, a Reuters poll of analysts showed on Monday, which will be the first monthly inflation data under the government of new libertarian President Javier Milei.

The South American country, which swore in its new government on Sunday, is battling triple-digit annual inflation already at 143% and climbing fast. Milei has said he will fight

"tooth and nail" to bring inflation down.

The Reuters poll of 22

analysts gave a median esti-mate of the CPI rising 11.9% in November, up from 8.3% in October. The analysts forecast even sharper price rises in the months ahead, with an expected devaluation likely to stoke inflation. Milei, who gave a bleak maiden speech warning the country to buckle up tough

times ahead, suggested that

monthly inflation could be

between 20% and 40% over

the next few months. Hong Kong 'patriots only' elections see lowest-ever turnout

Monitoring Desk

HONG KONG: Hong Kong's first "patriots only" district council elections saw a turnout of 27.5 percent, the government said Monday, a record-low number for a race that had shut out all opposition candidates

The city last held district council elections at the peak of huge, sometimes violent, democracy protests in 2019, recording a historic-high 71 percent turnout that delivered a landslide victory for the democracy camp.

But a clampdown on dissent-aided by a sweeping national security law imposed by Beijing—has included a drive by authorities to weed out from public office anyone deemed politically disloyal after the protests

Sunday's voting day stretched to midnight, after a rare 90-minute extension was granted following a failure in the digital system used to confirm voters' eligibility

Despite the extra time, the government's official website was updated on Monday morning to show a final turnout of 27.54 percent, with just shy of 1.2 million out of 4.3 million registered electors having gone to the polls.

Previously, the lowest

turnout rate since the city's handover to China was 35.82 percent, recorded in City leader John Lee

had thanked the "more than 1 million" voters at around 1:45 am Monday (1745 GMT Sunday) for coming

After voting Sunday, he said this year's election was "the last piece of the puzzle to implement the principle of patriots ruling Hong Kong". "From now on, the district councils would no longer be what they were in the pastwhich was a platform to destruct and reject the government's administration, to promote Hong Kong independence and to

endanger national security.'

Sindhi urges provinces to work with fed govt in resolving education sector problems

Training Mr Madad Ali Sindhi Tuesday said that all the provinces need to work together with the federal government to resolve all education-related prob-

He was charing the 37th Inter-Provincial Education Ministers' Conference (IPEMC) held here yesterday. The Meeting has been specially called on by the Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Mr Madad Ali Sindhi to deliberate on the "Formulation of Uniform National Strategy to Cater the issue of Out of School Children (OOSC)"

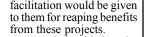
Speaking on the occasion, Madad Ali Sindhi said that Out of out-of-school children is the biggest challenge we face in addition to quality of education. Madad said that these issues have been given top ity of education needs to be improved at all levels including schools, colleges and universities. Madad said that we have enough resources to make a difference, we just need to work hard with honesty.

Madad Ali Sindhi said that the Education Ministry was ensuring that an inclusive approach is taken to devise strategies that benefit students, teachers and parents in every prov-

Madad Ali Sindhi in his remarks said that the meeting was going to play an instrumental role in developing a cohesive plan for providing access to education in all corners of Paki-

He reiterated that IPEMC's contributions were going to be significant in the enrollment of Out of out-of-school children (OOSC) including the distance learning interven-

He also assured the provinces that maximum



Madad said that the Federal Government has a steadfast commitment to address school-related challenges, which is why we have organised this conference to foster an inclusive environment for all provinces to fully participate. Each province will be given the platform to present its plans and formulate practical strategies to address challenges related to out-ofschool children.

Madad said that he hopes that the conference successfully fulfils its objective of formulating a uniform national strategy to tackle challenges faced by children outside the school system. The minister was told that Rs. 25 Billion has been allocated to address the out-of-school problem.

He was apprised of the out-of-school children crisis, in addition to pivotal updates on education initia-



QUETTA: Haji Sultan and Haji Abdul Malik Lehri meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

Balochistan police acquire PITB services

ing the success of Punjab tral Police Office Quetta Information Technology Board's (PITB) office automation system in Punjab, the government of Balochistan also approached PITB. E-Foas has also been implemented in the Central Police Office

According to PITB spokesman here Tuesday, the Balochistan Police Department has acquired PITB's services for the implementation of e-Foas, following the success of the e-filing and office automation system developed by for the improvement of the Services Wing, under the guidance of PITB Chairman Faisal Yusuf. The team under the supervision of DG equipped with a digital sys-Government Digital Services Wing Muhammad Waseem Bhatti imple- help solve public problems.

LAHORE (APP): Follow- mented e-Foas in the Cenwithin a short span of time. From now on, the CPO Office Quetta will distribute all departmental matters digitally rather than on

In this regard, IG Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh praised the PITB team for implementing the system in the police department within the stipulated time. The Director General, Government Digital Services wing PITB, stated that the wing was not only performing its services Punjab, but also the Central Police Office of Balochistan had also been tem. It will not only speed up departmental affairs,

PM to join AJK LA's special session on situation post Indian SC's verdict on IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (APP) Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar will attend the special session of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir's (AJK) legisla tive assembly to discuss the situation after the verdict of the Indian Supreme Court on Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). This was decided in PM Kakar's meeting with the prime minister of AJK Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq held hereatthe PM House. PM Kakar said Pakistan rejected the decision of India's top court to uphold the Indian government's illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).



QUETTA: Chief Guest caretaker Provincial Minister for Health Dr. Amin Muhammad Khan Jogezai addressing participants of PPFP ceremony.

Pak seeks stronger ties with China: Envoy Hashmi

Pakistan's desire for strongerties with China reflects the mutual benefits and shared interests that exist between the two na-

This strategic partnership encompasses various areas such as economic cooperation, infrastructure development, renewable energy, and cultural exchanges, said Pakistan's Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi.

In an interview with China Economic Net, Hashmi elaborated the flourishing China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Belt & Road Initiative (BRI), emphasizing the need for enhanced industrial cooperation, trade, and investment between the two

The Ambassador identified the key areas of focus, including agriculture, information technology, livelihood, and green development, aligning with the priorities outlined during Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng's recent visit to Pa-

(APP): kistan from July 30 to Au-

"We need to quickly improve our productive capacity because the Phase-1 of CPEC was primarily to develop infrastructure and

phase of CPEC, it is the establishment of five corridors, the corridor of growth, innovation, green development, livelihoods, and inclusiveness. These are all areas which are in alignment with our priorities", he stated.

Khalil Hashmi said that the recent trade protocols signed between China and Pakistan opened up around \$30 billion market for Pakistan, covering items such as heated beef, dried chili, Pakistani dairy products, and animal skins.

The Ambassador commended China's efforts for creating & enabling conditions for trade, including regulatory adjustments and the provision of dedicated officers in the Chinese embassy to assist Pakistani

ZAB Presidential Reference is test for Judiciary, **Bilawal**

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that Zulfigar Ali Bhutto Presidential Reference is a test for Judi-

Some forces still do not want justice for Bhutto. The court should cor-

rect the history and rectify the blunder. Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's killers should be exposed. While talking to media

after hearing on Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Presidential Reference in Supreme Court (SC), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that reference was heard after 12 years. Petition was filed in

2018 that reference should be heard immediately. We want justice for leader of nation Zulfigar Ali Bhutto.

He said that we believe that we will get justice. This matter should come before people that Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto was innocent. We want answers of those questions which were raised in Reference.



QUETTA: Special Secretary Finance Habibur Rehman Jamote attending a meeting with IMF regarding implementation of provincial budget.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindhi chaired the 37th Inter-Provincial Education Ministers Conference (IPEMC) in Islamabad.

CDWP meeting approves vital development projects valued Rs.36.219 Billion

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Central Development Working Party (CDWP) convened under the chairmanship of Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Dr. Mohammad Jehanzeb Khan, deliberated on vital development projects spanning diverse sectors including Physical Planning and Housing, Transport and Communication, and Water

Secretary Planning, Mr. Awais Manzur Sumra, Members of the Planning Commission, representatives from line ministries, provincial P&D departments, and officials from the Planning Ministry attended CDWP discussed a

comprehensive overview of 4 significant projects, collectively valued at Rs. 36.219 Billion. Among these, 3 projects received

recommendations for further consideration by the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC), while 1 secured approval from the CDWP forum.

It is noteworthy that the CDWP accorded highest priority to the Post-Flood reconstruction and rehabilitation initiatives. Four projects were discussed under the Post-Flood 2022 Reconstruction Program namely "Resilience Enhancement and Livelihood Diversification in Balochistan (Public Health Engineering/Water Supply Infrastructure Sector, with the total cost of Rs. 2800 Million, Resilience Enhancement and Livelihood Diversification in Balochistan (Road Infrastructure CW and PPHD), worth and Livelihood Diversification in Balochistan (Irrigation Infrastructure) worth Rs. 8250 Million, and Livelihood Interventions for integrated Flood Resilience and Adaptation Program (IFRAP) with the total cost of Rs. 11,360

The Post-Flood 2022 Reconstruction Program emphasizing resilience enhancement and livelihood diversification

Balochistan (road infrastructure CW&PPHD), with a total cost of Rs. 13,809.544 Million, was recommended to ECNEC. This project, funded by the World Bank, aims to strengthen transportation



KARACHI: Group photo of 6th Maritime Security Workshop participants on board PNS Taimur during visit.

NPMC reviews prices, supply situation of essential commodities

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed on Tuesday chaired a meeting of the National Price Moni-

toring Committee (NPMC). The meeting dis-Committee cussed prices and supply of essential commodities, margin between wholesale and retail prices, and availability of essential items, a news release said.

The Chief Statistician of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) presented the price movement of 51 essential items collected from the markets of 17 cities. Minister Sami Saeed urged participants to ensure prices' stability across provinces, seeking their oversights of the supply of essential items, available stock levels and the monitoring of pricing mechanisms. He also urged Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Com-

missioners to strictly employ the Decision Support System (DSS) App developed by the PBS for price monitoring. He emphasized the critical role of administrative oversight and monitoring for maintaining price stability.

Moreover, the meet-ing delved into the prospective utilization by the provinces of remote sensing technology facilitated by SUPARCO for

better monitoring of cropped areas and the likely supply situation of essential food items.

The minister encouraged the exploration and implementation of remote sensing capabilities to bolster the monitoring and oversight capacities. Sami Saeed emphasized the need for continued vigilance and proactive measures for smoothing supply to address fluctuations in commodity prices.



Balochistan Abdullah Khan in a group photo with President Allied Health Professional Council (AHPC) Pakistan after a meeting.

Preparations reviewed: Quaid-e-Azam Day to be observed in befitting manner in Ziarat

Independent Report QUETTA: The Quaid-e-Azam Day would be obbefitting manner.

served on December 25 in In this regard, the necessary preparations have

been started in Ziarat. A meeting chaired by Deputy Commissioner Hamoodur Quetta, Rehman reviewed the arrangements being made in

Ziarat on Tuesday. The meeting was attended by the Assistant Commissioner Ziarat Muhammad Hanif Noorzai, Executive Engineer Road, Nausherwan Muhammad Shahi, Executive Engineer, PHE, Esa Marri, and other concerned.

preparations for observing the Quaid Day in befitting Addressing the meet-

ing, Deputy Commissioner vowed to observe the Quaid Day in befitting He announced that an

impressive ceremony would be held at the Quaid-E-Azam Residency. The high ups would be attending the ceremony,

the Deputy Commissioner added Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner Ziarat visited the Quaid

Residency During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner directed to improve the cleanliness system further.

PTI intra party election: EC adjourns hearing

ISLAMABAD (Online): Barrister Zafar Ali while giving arguments in the case of PTI intra party election in Election Commission (EC) said Tuesday election was coming near and we want the case is decided

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) said "you did not hold election for 5 years too which is not correct in our sight.

PTI intra party election matter came up for hearing before a bench of EC presided over by CEC Sikandar Sultan Raja Tues-

Barrister Ali Zafar said we held intra party election within twenty days on the directives of EC. We don't want the largest party be kept from election symbol. Election is getting close and we want case is decided

The CEC said you did not hold election for 5 years which is not correct in our

Barrister Ali Zafar said we held election as per your order. Peshawar High Court (PHC) said EC cannot make final decision.

Siraj ul Haq says: Those fearing to be held accountable giving proposals

to delay polls LAHORE (INP): Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), Sirajul Haq has said that those who fear of being held accountable are forwarding proposals to delay general

Talking to media persons at Mansoorah on Tuesday, he argued that even in democratic countries at war, citizens are not deprived of their voting rights. Sirajul Haq dismissed

justifications for election delays based on security concerns or adverse weather conditions in less than one percent of the country's area, labeling them as mere excuses to deny voters their right to choose leadership. He emphasized that the continuity of democracy is crucial for establishing peace and prosperity and emphasized the constitutional responsibility of the government to ensure public protection

Implementation Committee reviews progress on Diamer Basha, Mohmand Dams

ISLAMABAD (APP): and Mohmand Dams (ICDBMD), constituted by the Supreme Court of Pakistan reviewed progress on both projects in its meeting held here Tuesday at ICDBMD Secretariat.

The meeting which met with Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA)/ ICDBMD Chairman Engr Lt Gen Sajjad Ghani (Retd) in the Chair, was also attended by Chief Secretary Gilgit Baltistan, Additional Secretary (Budget) Finance Division and Secretary/ Senior Member Board of Revenue Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) via Zoom, said a press

Additional Chief Secretary (Development) KP, Joint Secretary PM Office, ICDBMD Secretary/Joint Secretary Ministry of Water Resources, Representative of Chief (Water) Planning, Development and Reforms Division and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

WAPDA while addressing the meeting, expressed satisfaction over the progress made by the ICDBMD and its Sub Committees for early implementation of Diamer Basha and Mohmand Dam Projects.

The Chairman said that the Dams Committee has been contributing towards the implementation of both vital projects. He thanked the participants and expressed that the ICDBMD forum can play a pivotal and effective role in overseeing and resolving the issues being faced during the execution of both

Member (Finance) WAPDA later briefed the meeting on the financial matters of the two projects. General Manager Land Acquisition & Resettlement, Chief Executive Officer Diamer Basha Dam Company and General Manager Mohmand Dam also made detailed presentations to the participants about the progress and the issues relating to both Projects



Baloch meeting with Caretaker Provincial Information Minister Jan Achakzai. Allied health profession

education being given priority, says Secretary

Independent Report Abdullah Khan has stated that the allied health profession education is being given priority to improve

healthcare services by de-

veloping human resource in

the province. The Secretary Health was speaking to the President Allied Health Professional Council (AHPC) Pakistan, Zamarud Khan to whom he called on Tues-

and other representatives were also present. The Secretary Health

said that the plan is under consideration to upgrade the medical faculty in the intermediate education He said that the pro-

posed plan would be presented for up-gradation of multi purpose school Balochistan at the college

The President of the council assured wholehearted cooperation to the During the course of provincial Health depart-

In this regard, during

the last three months.

QESCO teams carried out

operations in all operation

circles across the province,

including the provincial

ting, Secretary AHPC **QESCO** recovers over 2 bln from electricity defaulters

QUETTA (APP): Quetta Electric Supply Company has recovered over billion from the defaulters in an operation during last three months, a QESCO handout issued here on Tuesday said. Some 30 crore rupees have been collected from illegal electricity users as detection and fines.

Similarly, FIRs have also been registered in various police stations against 492 electricity thieves. As per details, on the special instructions of the

capital Quetta.

In addition, 69 lakh 12 thousand 247 electricity Ministry of Energy (Power units were charged as fines for detection during the ac-Division), Quetta Electric Supply Company is contion against illegal electricity users by QESCO ducting indiscriminate actions against defaulters in teams, of which it has reall operation circles across ceived about 30 crore rupees so far.

Balochistan sports, youth, cultural festival kicks off in Gwadar

GWADAR Balochistan Sports, Youth, and Cultural Festival kicked off in Gwadar on December 10. Several events are being organized on sports grounds, beaches, and colleges. The 6-day festival

will end on December 15th, 2023. According to the Sports & Youth Affairs Department, Government of Balochistan, the Sports Festival includes Football, Cricket (Men, Women), Volleyball, Boxing, Body Building, futsal (Men, Women), and many beach games. Leading multiple organizations in Quetta and social activist Muqaddas Riaz said that it's promising to witness the convergence of sports and youth

capabilities, envisioning a future where Balochistan nurtures polished gems and experts. She said that there is a lot of potential in Balochistan in sports. There should be several sports complexes and playgrounds and training academies for all kinds of sports with hostel facilities to attract sportsmen, bringing investment, and better competition for the improvement of sports.

Gwadar, located in Balochistan has been developing rapidly, and local authorities often organize various events, including sports festivals, to promote tourism, cultural exchange, and community engagement, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday.



QUETTA: Residents of Sariyab road are holding protest demonstration against low pressure of sui gas in their area, outside Sui Gas Office in Quetta.