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By 5-1 majority

SC suspends verdict of nullifying civilians' trial in army courts

Verdict allows military trial of civilians held in connection with May 9 riots; Justice Hilali differs with majority decision

The Supreme Court (SC) on Wednesday conditionally suspended its verdict dated October 23, in which it had nullified the trial of civilian accused in the army courts.

The Supreme Court allowed the trial of civilians to continue in military courts, but the final decision regarding the trial would be subject to the

judgment of the apex court.
The court said that the trial of 103 civilians accused of May 9 riots would continue in army courts but the

issued till the decision of the top court.

A six-member larger bench of the top court, headed by Justice Sardar Tarig Masood and comprising Justice Amin ud Din Khan, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi. Justice Musarrat Hilali and Justice Sadaat Irfan Khan heard the intra-court appeals against the verdict in army courts

The decision was suspended by a majority of 5-

ISLAMABAD (APP): final judgments wouldn't be 1, as Justice Musarrat Hilali dissented from it.

> During the course of proceedings, Justice Sardar Taria Masood remarked that those who martyred the military men would not be tried now because the law has been repealed. He questioned that under which law the trial of these civilians who killed 23 soldiers yesterday, be done

> He further said that after the repeal of Section 2 (1) D, where would the trial of terrorists be held.

Salman Akram Raja Advocate said that he would give arguments if he was allowed.

Defence Ministry's lawyer Khawaja Haris argued that the judgment dated 23th October didn't mention that under which Articles of the Constitutions, the provisions of Army Act were declared unconstitutional.

He said that in the case of Brig (reted) F.B Ali, the Army Act's sections were

Continued on page 2

Speaking at a press conference alongside the Caretaker Federal Minister

for Information and Broad-

casting Murtaza Solangi

and the Caretaker Federal

Minister for Health, he ex-

Communication Satellites.

Federal cabinet approves

country's first-ever "National Space Policy"

No possibility of change, extension in ECP's announced polls date: Solangi



DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar inquiring about the health of those injured in the Dera Ismail Khan blast during his visit of CMH Dera Ismail Khan.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar visiting stalls

Wali Kakar inaugurates Job fair at BUITEMS:

Governor calls for creating collaboration between academia & industry as per our social requirements

Independent Report

OUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stressed that we have to create collaboration between the academia and industry according to our social requirements.

He said that it is a fact that government can't provide jobs to millions of the people, therefore, we have to strengthen our private

The Governor was sons on occasion of the in-

BUITEMS here on Wednesday.

The Governor maintained that the job fair provide male and female students of the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences access to the national and international companies.

The stalls were set up by the national and international companies besides the banks at the job fair.

The Governor visited speaking to the media per- all the stalls one by one where he was briefed by the

settlement and release from

the jails should be exposed

and punished, he demanded

Bhutto Zardari said a vibrant

and reinvigorated democratic

process was the sole option

to put the country's

economy on a path of de-

convention, he said that

under the democratic sys-

tem, Pakistan could get rid

of current challenging cir-

cumstances, adding the

lawyer fraternity always

played a vital role for the

supremacy of law and

of the people and the then

Prime Minister of Pakistan

Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto had to

face the consequences of

for the struggle that the

lawyers have started to get

justice for the leader of the

He said: "I am grateful

Zulfiqar

flawed judicial process.

He said that the leader

struggle for democratic pro-

Addressing a lawyers

velopment and progress.

Meanwhile Bilawal

PESHAWAR: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman,

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addressing to Peshawar

Bilawal calls for national

unity to wipe out

terrorism from country

High Court Bar Association, in Peshawar.

PESHAWAR (APP): Paki-

stan Peoples Party (PPP)

Chairman Bilawal Bhutto

Zardari on Wednesday,

strongly condemning the

terrorist attack on police

and security forces in D I

Khan, called for national

unity to wipe out the men-

convention, he said that the

terrorism and extremism in

their forms and manifesta-

tions could not be eliminated

until all the stakeholders and

political entities joined

hands in the war against

them. He said that the re-

cent wave of terrorism in

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was

regrettable as the people of

the province, including po-

lice, youth, citizens and law-

yers, had already made

many sacrifices in the war

were languishing in jails be-

fore the Taliban government

took over in Afghanistan,

who were later released

Those who facilitated their

He said many terrorists

against the menace.

Addressing the lawyers'

ace from the country.

auguration of Job fair at representatives of the respective organizations.

He said that it's not possible for the government to tackle the issue of unemployment alone, rather the government should provide maximum facilities to the people associated with the trade and commerce so that they may play their role in ending unem-

Earlier, the Governor inaugurated the job fair Also present on the occasion were the Vice Chancel lor of BUITEMS and other concerned high ups

Electricity theft made a cognisable offence ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday promulgated an ordinance to declare the theft of electricity a cognizable offence.

Through the Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance 2023, the president amended the Section 462 (O) of the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860.

According to a President House statement, the electricity distribution companies were earlier facing difficulties in the registration of FIRs of power theft incidents. However, under the

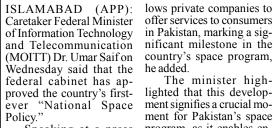
new ordinance, the incidents of electricity theft will be a cognizable offence.

After the Ordinance. theft of electricity will be a cognizable offense on the complaint of not only by officers of grade 17 or above but also the nominees of CEOs of electricity distribution companies.

The president issued the Ordinance under Article 89-1 of the Constitu-

The said ordinance

will help curb power theft in the energy sector worth



lighted that this development signifies a crucial moment for Pakistan's space program, as it enables enhanced communication capabilities through advanced

satellite technology.

The approval of the National Space Policy is expected to facilitate implained that the approved policy establishes the framework for utilizing Low Earth Orbit (LEO) proved telecommunications services, fostering advancements in connectivity and information dissemination across the country.

Continued on page 2



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi, Caretaker Federal Minister for IT & Telecom Dr. Umar Saif and Caretaker Federal Minister for Health, Dr Nadeem Jan addressing a press conference at PID Media center. | court of law.

PM Kakar says Terrorists already lost war;

reiterates unyielding "no surrender, no retreat" policy

(APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said on Wednesday that terrorists had already lost the war, emphasizing the nation's unwavering resilience against this scourge and preparedness to deliver a fitting response to terror-

"I want to tell the perpetrators that you have already lost the war. Only the declaration is yet to be made and the time is yet to be finalised. They are fighting a lost war and we are fighting a war already won by

Imran, Qureshi indicted in cipher case again

ISLAMABAD (INP): Special court on Wednesday against indicted former prime minister Imran Khan and PTI vice-chairman Shah Mehmood Qureshi in cipher case.

The special court Judge Abual Hasnat Zulqarnain heard the case against Imran and Qureshi. This was the second time that the PTI leaders were indicted.

During the hearing, both PTI leaders pleaded not guilty and said the indictment was 'fabricated' They also stated that the indictment was 'illegal' and they would challenge it in a

strengthened with the sig-

nificant verdict of the Su-

preme Court, which sus-

pended the previous verdict

against the trial of civilians

Information was addressing

a hurriedly called press con-

ference at Quetta Press

the SC's verdict on the mili-

tary courts, the Minister

apex court sided by the

Continued on page 2

The caretaker Minister

Giving his reaction over

in the military courts.

Club on Wednesday.

DERA ISMAIL KHAN us, Alhamdulillah," he said destroyed their lives but talking to the media at the Combined Military Hospitheir death. tal after inquiring about the health of the soldiers injured in a terrorist attack

that took place on Tuesday. He said he was amazed to witness the strong conviction of the soldiers who were resolved to fight the terrorists even while being

He said those support-ing the war against terrorism would stand victorious life hereafter but contrarily,

would also rot in hell after

The prime minister told the media that the Ulema stood with the state, peace and the whole soci-

ety.
"With whom they are fighting? Do they want to frighten us with death? No one will be scared. They should fulfill the desire to fight us for any desired duration," he remarked.

He said the state was in the world as well as the pursuing an unyielding

Continued on page 2

Nawaz Sharif demands accountability of 'conspirators'

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz supremo and three-time prime minister Nawaz Sharif on Wednesday said he did not believe in revenge but those 'conspiring' against his government must be held accountable.

Addressing the PML-N Parliamentary body meeting, Nawaz Sharif thanked Allah after his acquittal in the Al-Azizia and Âvenfield reference.

Nawaz Sharif said cases against him were registered after the end of his government and his removal as prime minister. There was

no proof of the allegations leveled against me, Sharif said. The former prime minister regretted, that he was removed as prime minister on 'Iqama' in Panama case in the end.

During Panama hearing words like Sicilian Mafia and Godfather were used against me, Nawaz Sharif said and asked do judges use these words?

The PML-N supremo stressed that vendetta wasn't his goal; however, the individuals responsible for the nation's sufferings should be held

Pakistan, Turkey vow to boost collaboration in aviation industry

ISLAMABAD (APP): Combat Commander Turkish Air Force, General Îsmail Güneykaya, called on Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu here on Wednesday.



The meeting underscored several key areas of mutual interest with a special focus on bilateral training, progress of current joint ventures and exploration of further avenues of collaboration in the aviation industry, a Pakistan Air Force (PAF) news release said.

During the meeting Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force, shared the framework of PAF's comprehensive modernization strategy involving integration of emerging technologies, bolstering critical infrastructure and a comprehensive restructuring of its training set-up, in order to address contemporary air warfare challenges.

Fazlur Rehman says JUI-F ready to form coalition govt with PML-N electoral alliance.

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief of his own faction of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F), Maulana Fazlur Rehman has said that his party was ready to form a coalition government with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).

Talking to media persons on Wednesday, he said that JUI-F has not held talks with the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) regarding seat adjustment and

Maulana Rehman said that common citizens and law enforcers were being martyred in Dera Ismail Khan, Tank and South Waziristan daily. The Bajaur incident death toll has reached 80 he added. The JUI-F was still demanding the timely organisation of fair and free

general elections despite the

deteriorated law and order

situation, said Fazl.

SC's verdict on military courts surely bad news for pleaders of terrorism, disturbance & political riots: Jan

Caretaker Minister Information describes DI Khan terrorism incident as 9/11 of Pakistan; asserts revenge of every drop of blood would be taken

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker

Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has termed the Supreme Court's verdict on the trial of civilians in the military courts as historic and said that it is surely a bad news for those indulged in terrorism as well as pleaders of disturbance and political riots in the country.

He said that the apex court backed the state by giving the verdict on crucial matter while ignoring the



ticular political party. negative propaganda and of Pakistan would be





He said that the state

Information said that the state in the important mat-

OIC expresses concern over Indian **Supreme Court's verdict on IIOJK**

JEDDAH (INP): The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has expressed concern over the recent verdict of Supreme Court of India upholding the illegal unilateral actions taken by the Narendra Modi-led Indian government that re-

occupied Jammu and Kashmir on 5 August 2019. According to Kashmir

Media Service, the OIC General Secretariat in a statement issued in Jeddah in reference to the decisions and resolutions of the Islamic Summit and the OIC

ters related to the Kashmir dispute reiterated its call to reverse all illegal and unilateral measures taken by the Modi regime since 5 August 2019 aimed at changing the internationally-recognized disputed status of the occupied ter-



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Trade, Industry Excise & Taxation and Energy Prince Ahmed Ali Ahmedzai addressing a meeting organized by Balochistan Public Private Partnership

KPGovernor, CM review law & order

situation after DI **Khan attack**

PESHAWAR (APP): Care-

taker Chief Minister

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Jus-

tice ® Sved Arshad

Hussain Shah and Gover-

nor Haji Ghulam Ali, on

Wednesday, paid a visit

to district D.I Khan

where they reviewed law

panied by the Chief Secretary Nadim Aslam Chaudhry and IGP Akhtar

Hayat Khan Gandapur.

Both the dignitaries jointly

chaired a meeting regarding

law and order, held at the

office of commissioner D.1

Khan.

They were also accom-

and order situation.

Pak expects raising \$4.5bln this year: Shamshad Akhtar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar said Pakistan anticipates raising approximately \$4.5 billion from multilateral and bilateral sources, excluding the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the current fiscal year (2023-24).

In an interview with the official flagship Journal of ICMA International, the minister said for the second quarter (Q2), the government expects to receive over \$1.6 billion from these sources. She said the major creditors include the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, adding the inflows comprise both projectbased and program-based

She said, negotiations for some program loans

have been completed, and disbursements are expected. The country is currently meeting its debt obligations in a timely manner and intends to continue doing so in the future.

Talking about IMF

programme, the minister said, as the first review of the Standby Agreement was successfully concluded, a Staff Level Agreement (SLA) has been reached. This is subject to approval by IMF's Executive Board and upon approval, Pakistan will have access to SDR 525 million (around US\$ 700 million).

On the existing economic situation, the minister said, despite domestic and global challenges during FY2023, fiscal and external sector stability has been achieved through various stabilization measures and structural reforms. Fiscal deficit stood at

7.7% of GDP during FY2023 as compared to 7.9% last year while current account deficit FY2023 narrowed down by 87.2% to \$ 2.2 billion against a deficit of \$ 17.5 billion in FY 2022. She said, trade deficit was contained by 38.7% in FY2023 as compared to expansion of 36.4% in FY2022.

Ms Akhtar said, the caretaker government took charge in a very tough economic environment, adding turning around the economy was a challenging task and required careful economic planning, policy consistency, and a favourable external economic environment.

'The government is quite vigilant of the challenges/risks emanating from the domestic and external sides and taking timely measures to address them, she added.



QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Duki Captain (Rtd) Fayaz Ali paid a surprise visit to the District Headquarters Hospital on Wednesday.

During the visit, he in-

spected various departments of the hospital including the emergency ward, OPD, X-ray room, laboratory and reviewed cleanliness, staff attendance, and stock of medicines and also inquired from the patients about the facilities provided to them.

DC said that providing the best, timely and free health facilities to the public in the hospital is the pri-ority of the health depart-

cerned officers and staff should ensure their attendance and play a constructive role in providing facilities to the public.

He said that there were a large number of labourers every day there was a fear of accidents in the mines.

important to provide com plete facilities in the hospital in which any shortcoming is not tolerated, he noted.

SC's verdict.

Continued from page 1

He regretfully pointed out that a political party run the negative campaign against the Chief Justice and

he said, adding the so-He said that those incalled decision of the Inwell turbulence and politidian SC would not have any impact on the Kashcal riots would be dealt with iron hands.

their handlers, facilitators and supports would be overcome through this verdict of the apex court, he maintained.

Referring the Afghani stan and terrorism act in Dl

He said that the revenge of every drop of blood would be taken from the

He said that Pakistan "We believed that the so-called decision will give boost to our efforts for the legitimate solution of the Kashmir issue," the minis-

ter said while quoting the prime minister as saying. He said the Kashmir issue should be decided according to the resolutions of the United Nations and as per the aspirations of the Kashmiri

people. The minister said Pakistan would continue to extend political, diplomatic and moral support to the people of Kashmir.

Sealed tenders are invited by the Divisional Superintendent Pakistan Railways

In this connection, Tender documents can be obtained from traffic store branch

The tender will be opened on 04.01.2024 at 12:30 Hrs. in the Office of Divisions

Request for obtaining tender forms should be made only on letter head/ pad of the

No contractor/firm will be allowed to participate in tender process without the

The offer must be made valid for 90 days from the date of opening the tender, no

For Divisional Superintendent, PAK Railways, Quetta

PAKISTAN RAILWAYS

TENDER NOTICE

Quetta from approved contractors/firms/companies duly registered with sales ta

Divisional Superintendent, Office Pakistan Railways, Quetta on payment of non

Accounts Officer, Pakistan Railways, Quetta in presence of contractors. Earnest mone

@ 2% of the bid value in the shape of CDR/PO from schedule Bank should be deposite

firm/company containing CNIC No. of the proprietor and copy of National Tax No

samples of items. All the samples of required items must be made in Pakistan

Acceptance of tenders will be made on the basis of quality/rates. No over writing will be

(NTN) (Active certificate in FBR) and Sales Tax Registration Certificate of the firm.

(Last paid GST invoice is compulsory up to December 2023)

department (active in FBR Department) for supply of common user items

refundable cash amount of Rs. 2000/- w.e.f. 18.12.2023 to 03.01.2024.

allowed in rates both in words and figure in the Tender form.

erms and conditions from the firms would be acceptable.

responsible for such inci-Continued from page 1

upheld. A 17-member full court bench had also declared the judgments as correct during hearing a case pertaining to the 21st Amendment. The lawyer said that the top court had previously ruled that the trial of civilian accused could be held in an army court if a petitioner in army court

He requested the bench to allow to resume the military trials of those currently

The AGP argued that not every civilian was being tried in a military court, appeals first. adding that only those would be tried there who were a threat to national

Justice Masood said just wait for detailed verdict, about the Oct 23 order, which would be issued accordingly. To this, Haris said that then the court or-

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs meeting of the federal cabinet.

Shaheen Shah Afridi named vice-captain for Australia Test series

Sports Desk SYDNEY: As Pakistan gear up for the Benaud-Qadir Trophy against Australia, pace star Shaheen Shah Afridi has been named the vice-captain for the national squad for the three match Test series, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced on Wednesday.

Shaheen, who is also Pakistan's captain for the T20 cricket, was appointed the vice-captain for Test cricket for this specific series slated to begin tomorrow (December 14), after the announcement of play-

Shaheen has played 27 Tests, 53 ODIs and 52 T20Is for the national side.

ANKARA (INP): Awards

ceremony for sixth edition

of 'Jinnah Young Writers

Award', essay competition

was held in Ankara on

Wednesday. The prize dis-

tribution ceremony was

graced by the Turkish Min-

ister for National Education,

Yusuf Tekin and ambassador

of Pakistan to Turkiye

Yousaf Junaid. Named after

Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad

Ali Jinnah, the founder of

Pakistan, the essay compe-

tition is one of the key fea-

tures of Pakistan Embassy's

commitment to intellectual

development. The essay

competition is held annually

among senior high school

students of Turkiye. Theme

tition was 'Muhammad dependence.

GWADAR: Caretaker Provincial Minister for

Sports and Culture Nawabzada Mir Jamal Khan

Raisani watching fine arts during Youth Festival

Terrorists already lost war...

rorism and thousands more and its Armed Forces

for the 6th round of compe

Awards ceremony for 6th

edition of 'Jinnah Young

Writers Award' held in Ankara

national side in an international game after Babar Azam was removed from captaincy in all three cricket formats. Imam-ul-Haq,

Abdullah Shafique, Babar Azam, Saud Shakeel and Sarfaraz Ahmed (wk) would strengthen the batting line, whereas all-rounders Salman Ali Agha and Faheem Ashraf are also expected to deliver in the tough Australian condi-

Meanwhile, the bowling line-up will abundantly bank on newly appointed vice-captain Shaheen, and newly-inducted Aamir Jamal and Khurram For the first time Shan Shahzad, who will make

Iqbal and Mehmet Akif

Ersoy- Two great poets of

sion, Minister for National

Education of Turkive Yusuf

Tekin stated joint initiatives

as Jinnah Young Writers

Award are reflective of our

commitment to strengthen

the bonds of brotherhood

and friendship and pass it on

to our future generations as a

sacred trust. Referring to the

theme of the competition

the minister highlighted

that Muhammad Iqbal and

Mehmet Akif drove their

inspiration from Ouran and

advocated against persecu-

tion, injustice and under de-

velopment, guiding their

He said the whole na-

He said Pakistan was a

Caretaker Federal Inte-

tion stood united against

terrorism and was resolved

to defeat the evil in all of its

forms and manifestations.

strong and resilient nation

would thwart the nefarious

rior Minister Sarfaraz

Bugti, Governor of Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam

Ali and Caretaker KP Chief

Minister Justice (Retd)

Syed Arshad Hussain Shah

accompanied the prime

said that the judges who

took that decision were also

Tariq Masood refused to

recuse himself from the

bench on the objection of

former chief justice Jawwad

S. Khawaja, who was also

case. Attorney General of

Pakistan Mansoor Usman

Awan said that when there

was no notice, how could

Earlier, Justice Sardar

from the Supreme Court.

designs of the enemies.

Speaking on the occa-

20th century

Masood would lead the their Test debut for Pakistan in the first Test. It is pertinent here to mention that Pakistan have

not won a Test on Australian soil since 1995. Pakistan have lost 26 matches and won just four in and against Australia, while in the last five series, Pakistan suffered whitewashes. The Australians are

looking in red-hot form, after surprising India in the ODI World Cup final last month to leave the nation of over 1.4 billion in complete shock and sadness. In contrast to Austra-

lia, Pakistan cricket is in chaos and disarray. The poor results and administrative flaws have engulfed our cricket into shambles.

PMSA for effective law enforcement at sea

Naval Chief hails

SLAMABAD (APP): Chief of the Navál Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf on Wednesday visited the Headquarters of Pakistan Maritime Security Agency and appreciated for it's effective law enforcement at sea.

Upon arrival, the Naval Chief was presented Guard of Honour by the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) contingent, à Pakistan Navy news release said.

The Admiral was briefed on Maritime

Security Operations, carried out by Pakistan Maritime Security Agency to uphold regulations and rulebased order at sea and safeguard the maritime interests of the country.

The Chief of the Naval Staff expressed his satisfaction over the law enforcement functions being under-taken by PMSA and commended the collective efforts of all in fulfilling the National and International obligations in the maritime domain.



KARACHI: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf being briefed during his visit to Headquarters of Pakistan Maritime Security Agency.

طلاع بـرانے انٹرویو فوت شدہ ملازمین کے لواحقین

بحواله مجاز اتصار ٹی کے منظوری نمبر 3630-19402-10 S . O (R−I) 5 (13) کا مورخد8 0 نومبر3 2 O 2ء واکیکٹن کمپیٹن کےletter no ا-2023-Elec (3) 10 أمورنه 26 أكتوبر 2023 بحواله اشتهار 2023-06- PRQ NO .4474/21 كتحت جن اميدواران نے اپنے كاغذات متعلقه ا ئیسٹاک آفس میں جمع کروائے تھے۔ان تمام امیدواران کو بذریعیاشتمار مطلع کہا جاتا ہے کہان فوت شدہ ملاز مین کےلوانتھین کے ٹیسٹ وائز ویودرج ذیل شیڈول کےمطابق ہو تگے۔

بمقام		اعروج		تاریخ عمیث	آسای	rt	يريلبر
يرمل المحل سالمنسر الشينيوث برورى رود كوئد		19-12-202		18-12-2023	(BPS-11) گرگر.		1
رِيْ اللهل سالسنسوالسَلِيْدِيث برورى رودُ كوئيد		19-12-202		اسفنٹ (BPS-18-12-2023)		اطأك	2
			فلاع	قلات د ڈویژن کے ام			
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ومؤكث لائع شاك الجيرمستوعك				ورج جارم (كيل من النينة ف، ج كيدار، تائب كاصد) 3		مستوكك	1
ة مثر كث لا توساك أغير قلات				ورج جارم (كمل من المنظرف بوكدار، نائب قاصد) 3		فآات	2
واستركث لاتيسناك آفيسر ضندار				دىجەچارم (كىمل ئىن، ئىندىك، چىكدار، ئائبقامد)		فغداد	3
ومثر كث لائيسناك بغير لبيله				ورجه چارم (ممل من النيازان، چكيدار، نائب قاصد)		لبيله	4
ومشركث لائيوشاك آفيسرآ واران				درجه چارم (كمل ين، ائيندن، چكيدار، نائب قاصد)		آواران	5
				ژوب ڈویژن کے اصا		1.	
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ك لا يُوسًاك آخِير قلد سيف الله	ومتركه	26-12-20	23	عن، النينة نك، جوكيدار، نائب قاصد)	درچه چهارم (ممل	قلعدسيف الله	2
ك لا تيوسناك آخيسر لور الا في				مِن النيزن ، چوكيدار، نائب قامد)		لورالائي	3
ومركت لائيه شاك البيروي				مِن النيزن ، چوكيدار، نائب قاصد)		ۇكى	4
المركث لاتيه شاك الجسر باركعان				من النينة ف ج كيدار، نائب قاصد)		باركمال	5
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ومؤرك لائيساك فيرصيرا باد	26-01-2024			درجه چارم (كمل عن، النيازات، وكيدار، نائب احد)		لعيرآباد	3
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🕶 : - اعروبو يح من كسيليم تصديق شده كاغذات جن من شاختي كاردُ (والد، والده اوراميرواركياكا يي) اوكل اؤ وميائل بقليمي اسناه، پنشن رول دُيثاشيث (پنشن بُك فوت شدہ ملازم کی نادرا ڈینچہ سرٹیفیک ، عدالت ہے جاری شدہ مختیارنامہ (sucession Certificate) دوعد دتھ مرٹیفیک ، عدالت ہے جلفیہ بیان اسنام پیج وتھ کمشنرے تصدیق شدہ ہمراہ لائیں ۔اورتمام بھرتی گورنمنٹ کی منظورشدہ یالیسی فوت شدہ ملاز مین کونہ کےمطابق ہوگی۔عمر کی عد18 تا28 سال تک ہونی جا ہے تا ہم بالا کی حدکی رعایت سرکاری توانین کے تحت دی جائے گی 📫 👛 : فوت شدہ ملازین کے معذور (بچے جن میں بیٹا، بٹی اور بیرو) بھی جنبوں نے ابھی تک درخواشیں تمن فیس لروائیں وہ بھی انٹرویو کے لیئے تشریف لائیں ۔ان کی عمر حد18 تا28 سال اور رعایت 10 سال تک دی جاسکے گی۔

کران ڈویژن کےاصلاع

درج چارم (كمل شنءائيندن، چكيدار، تاكب قاصد)

درجه چارم (ميل من ائيندن، چكدار، ناعب قاصد)

دىجەچارم(كىل ين،ائىندىك، چىكدار،نائبقامد)

درجه چارم (ایمل من ، انیزند، چکدار، نائب قامد)

درجه چارم (عمل من النيزند، چكدار، نائب احد)



01-02-2024

02-02-2024

02-02-2024

اعرويعارح

06-02-2024

07-02-2024

ومشركث لائيسناك أفيسرجافي

ومثركث لائيوشاك أفيسرخاران

ومثركث لاتيوشاك أفيروافك

ومشركث لائيوشاك أفيسر يحكور

ومشركث لائيوشاك أفيسرتربت

PRQ No.1147/13-12-2023

جإفى

خاراك

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4



and BUITEMS in presence of Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

after a meeting of the Fed-

was presided over by Care-

taker Prime Minister

ister said, "So far, no such

incident has occurred

which leads to the post-

ponement of the elec-

of the Federal Cabinet, he

said the forum had rejected

the "unilateral verdict" of

Sharing the decisions

"Jammu and Kashmir

is not an internal issue of

India rather an interna-

tional dispute that has been an unresolved agenda

at the UN Security Coun-

cil for over seven decades,'

Solangi said the Fed-

eral Cabinet called upon on

the international commu-

nity to strongly condemn

the illegal Indian move that

usurped the rights of

Supreme Court committed

a flagrant violation of

India's international com-

mitments and obligations

by unilaterally dismissing

the petitions against its il-

legal action of August 5,

He said that the Indian

Kashmiris.

The information min-

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

eral Cabinet.

decision.

Federal cabinet approves.... tion technology) ministers

Continued from page 1

He mentioned that the policy had been prepared in consultation with all stakeholders over three months, ensuring a balanced approach to facilitate private

companies. The minister disclosed that the federal cabinet has also approved the establishment of the National Cybercrime Investigation Authority (NCIA). This agency is dedicated to investigating cybercrime, taking over the mandate that was previously with the the Indian Supreme Court FIA. The gradual transition regarding the illegal annexof cybercrime investigation ation of Jammu and Kashresponsibilities from the mir by India as an illegal

FIA to the NCIA is planned. He said the federal cabinet approved the establishment of a Telecom Tribunal to handle cases and dis-

putes related to telecom. The tribunal, he said, will have specialized individuals with knowledge of information, telecom, and policy.

In response to a question, the minister mentioned that the federal government had notified the right of way policy last week, and all provinces have adopted it. Regarding the removal of the MD of the National Telecommunication Corporation (NTC), he explained that it was due to serious complaints, including financial irregularities and misuse of powers.

The senior-most person, he said, has been given charge, and the removal followed a three-month investigation.

Meanwhile Caretaker Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Wednesday ruled out any change, amendment or extension in the polls date announced by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

"No extension, amendment or change in the election date given by the Election Commission is on the agenda," Murtaza Solangi said while addressing a news conference along with the health and IT (informa-

in the name of DAO/OTA

He said that the con-

The cabinet meeting

who were working in coal mines in Duki district and

Therefore, it is very

ters related to its security. bench hearing the case.

volved in the terrorism as The terrorists as well as

Khan the other day, the caretaker Minister termed the DI Khan terrorism act as 9/11 of the country.

terrorists.

hosted Afghan refugees for four decades bearing burden on the country's development and resources.

Pakistan always preferred Afghanistan in the international relations, but it is regretted to note that it (Afghanistan) is going to become hub of terrorism Jan Achakzai charged. He said that our martyrs are very important to us.

He also said that Taliban administration is dents and as such it would have to clear its position.

PID(Q)195/23

SC suspends verdict of court's Oct 23 order and

ter," he commented.

Continued from page 1

policy of no surrender and

said many thousand people

had already sacrificed their

lives in the war against ter-

were ready to join the

attack, we will march 10

steps ahead. If they take 10

steps, we will advance by

100 steps. This is the war

of the winners and we are

with the winners, here in this

world and the life hereaf-

"If they carry out one

Prime Minister Kakar

no retreat.

course.

the crime pertained to the

in custody of the military.

security.

der (of Oct 23) should be

jected to a stay order on the the third week of January.

the objection be heard. Those who objected were not even present, he said. adding it was better for the bench to start hearing the

He prayed the court to

pects to be resumed. The court earlier reserved its decision and later suspended the verdict dated October 23 while announcing the short order.

conditionally allow the mili-

tary trials of civilian sus-

The court also served notices to respondents and adjourned the hearing till

suspended. Sardar Latif Khosa ob-



Minister for Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindhi during 3rd International Conference on "Modern Trends in the Arab Novel in the Second Half of the Twentieth Century organize by AIOU at Academic Auditorium.

'We need to promote Arabic literature in Pakistan': Madad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindhi on Wednesday said that we need to promote Arabic literature in Paki-

He said this while addressing the opening session of the two-day international conference on 'Modern Trends of the Arabic Novel in the Second Half of the Twentieth Century", at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU)

The minister said, "Learning Arabic is considered essential for every Muslim. In Pakistan, there is a need to promote Arabic literature. This conference is on a unique and most important topic."
"I congratulate the

vice chancellor and the entire team, and I am grateful for the invitation to participate in this conference," he

The Department of Arabic at AIOU is organizing a conference, with the participation of 13 scholars from Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Egypt, Jordan, Thailand, Malaysia, Oman, Algeria, Nigeria and Syria in person, and 15 international scholars joining the conference online

On the occasion, the minister emphasized the importance of this unique conference, as the people are not familiar with the modern Arabic novel.

Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, expressed his gratitude to the Federal

Sindhi, for attending the conference as the chief

He also mentioned that Islamic scholars from all over the world are participating in the conference and presenting their research papers, which will provide a real picture of Arab society. Dr. Nasir said that the presence of foreign schol-

ars at the conference would be beneficial for the promotion of Arabic literature. He believes that Arabs have a unique history and their language is very broad, which allows the Arab society to relate to its civilization and

Dr. Habibur Rahman Asim, Faculty of Arabic Language, International Is-

Minister, Madad Ali lamic University, Dean Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies at AIOU, Prof. Dr. Mohyuddin Hashmi and Chairman, Department of Arabic, Dr. Abdul Majeed Baghdadi also addressed the opening session

> The two-day international conference will consist of parallel sessions on both days, and a closing ceremony is scheduled on Thursday.The Department of Arabic at AIOU is organizing a conference, with the participation of 13 scholars from Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Egypt, Jordan, Thailand, Malaysia, Oman, Algeria, Nigeria and Syria in person, and 15 international scholars joining the conference

HEC, British Council, PMYP to jointly work on **Green Youth Movement** ISLAMABAD (APP): Programme

forces to fortify OIC's

Scientific Landscape

COMSTECH and Huawei technology, transcend engi-

Technologies Pakistan have neering bottlenecks, and

forged a strategic partner-ship to bolster national bring responsible and secure ICT technology to all in-

dustries.

(OIC)

The Higher Education Commission, British Council, and Prime Minister's Youth Programme have entered a new partnership to collaboration in their flagship programmes aimed to contribute to the economic and social development of the Pakistani youth.

Special Assistant to Prime Minister Mr. Wasi Shah was chief guest of the signing ceremony, which was attended by Chairman HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Executive Director HEC Dr. Zia Ul Qayyum, Country Director British Council Mr. James Thompson and other notables from the

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The Ministerial Committee

for Scientific and Techno-

logical Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic

cybersecurity and advance

capabilities in areas crucial

to the OIC member states

including cybersecurity, AI,

the escalating importance

of cybersecurity in the digi-

tal era, the collaboration between COMSTECH and

Huawei aims to elevate the

cybersecurity proficiency

on security management,

incident response, vulner-

ability management, and

staying abreast of emerging

Huawei, a global leader in digital transforma-

tion, networking, and com-

munication technologies, is

security technologies.

This includes a focus

of OIC member states.

In an effort to address

and 5G.

Muhammad Ali Malik, Advisor (Global Engagement) HEC Mr. Awais Ahmed and Country Director British Council Mr. Hampson signed the Letter of Intent

The tripartite collaboration will be focused on the outcomes of the Prime Minister Programme's Green Youth Movement, HEC's Green

The primary objectives of the collaboration are to provide essential capacity-building and technical support to Green Youth

well-positioned to contrib-

ute to the development of

see joint efforts to expand

the frontiers of science and

ICT technology to all in-

the occasion, Ethan Sun, CEO of Huawei Pakistan

said, "The MoU lays the

foundations for OIC mem-

ber states to access oppor-

tunities to promote

cybersecurity awareness

through knowledge sharing

and training courses. Huawei is ideally posi-

tioned to share experiences.

global best practices, and

methodologies that have

ment, Huawei will support

COMSTECH in hosting

cvbersecurity training

based on Huawei's prac-

tices and experience shar-

As part of the agree-

proven successful

Sharing his views on

The collaboration will

the digital economy.

Meer Badshah Qaisrani against his lifetime disqualification. Deputy Secretary Movement (GYM) clubs Prime Minister's Youth develop training content. Movement (GYM) clubs,

> Some candidates made misdeclarations in their requisite nomination papers, some produced degrees from unrecognized institutions and others fake degrees to show eligibility of their participation in the general elec

period of two years, and we are informed that his appeal against conviction is pending before the Multan Bench of the Lahore High Court.

"However, the learned counsel for the respondent states that the period of disqualification is for five years as per section 232(2) of the Elections Act, 2017, which provision was enacted through the Elections (Amendment) Act, 2023, promulgated on 26 June

"The learned counsel are unanimous in stating that unless there is a clear pronouncement by this court on the matter the returning officers in the forthcoming general elections may wonder whether to apply section 232(2) of the Elections Act, 2017, or the said judgment of this court, which may create needless confusion in the elections and

There is also the like-

The order said that bench of a minimum of five

states that the interpreta-tion of a federal law, the Constitution and applicability of the decision of the Supreme Court is required, which will also impact elections to the provincial assemblies, and as such requisite notices be issued," it added.

issue notices to the Attor ney-General for Pakistan and all the Advocate Generals of the provinces, besides the Election Commission of Pakistan, which should be published in a prominent English and Urdu newspaper having wide circulation as the decision in these appeals



Sayad Wasi Ahmad addressing during signing ceremony of "Letter of Intent" between PMYP, HEC and British Council, Higher Education Commission, in Federal Capital.

IHC instructs police to recover missing ex-MPA

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday instructed the police to re-cover missing former MPA Chaudhry Arshad till De-cember 19.

An IHC's bench heard the case filed by Rasheed Begum, the sister of missing MPA, seeking early recovery of the victim. The petition said that Chaudhry Arshad was abducted by some policemen from Sector F-8/3 of the Federal Capital.

The Senior Superintendent of Police (Operations) Islamabad appeared before the court and expressed anonymity about the missing person. He said that Chaudhry Arshad was not in the custody of Islamabad Police.

The court instructed the police to take measures for the recovery of the victim and adjourned hearing till next date.

IHC reserves decision on Saghri's re-inclusion in NA-53

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday reserved its decision on the plea for the re-inclusion of Saghri in NA-53, the constituency of former interior minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan.
IHC Chief Justice

Amir Farooq on Wednes-day heard the plea of Shiekh Sajid-ur-Rehman.

The defence counsel argued that the demarcation of NA-53 was not conducted in accordance with the law. In response, the lawyer for Election Commission of Pakistan stated that the demarcation was carried out in alignment with the directions of the Supreme Court.

After listening to the arguments of both sides, the court reserved its decision.

Islamabad police nab 18 outlaws; recover cache of narcotics, alcohol

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Police on Wednesday claimed to arrest 18 outlaws and recover drugs and alcohol from their possession. According to a police spokesman, the Karachi company police team arrested an accused namely Waseem Masih and recovered one dagger from his possession. Golra police team arrested an accused namely Ali involved in the illegal sale of petro-

leum products. The Sumbal police team arrested an accused namely Hasnain Haider and recovered 1260 grams of hashish from his posses-

PSW begins Phased Implementation of **DRAP** e-services

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Single Window (PSW) in collaboration with the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) has successfully integrated all existing entities, licenses and product registration of drugs with the PSW platform and has begun the gradual roll-out of various

The initiative was ency, efficiency and ease of needy. doing business for pharmaceuticai companies, commercial importers, healthcare institutions and humanitarian organizations involved in imports of finished drugs, according to a press release received here on Wednesday.

In the current phase, PSW will offer digital services related to the electronic submission and issuance of Drug Import Li- ment.

with the release order for donated unregistered drugs imported by hospitals, NGOs and other organiza-

The services shall be available on the PSW platform from the beginning of January 2024 and are envisaged to reduce the time and cost of pharmaceutical imports to ensure faster aimed to enhance transpar- delivery to the sick and

In this regard, a vebinar was organized by PSW for Drug Import License holders, Drug Manufacturing License holders, Custom Agents and members of various trade and pharmaceutical associations and chambers to give them a walkthrough of the new processes and facilitate a seamless transition to the digital environ-

CPO Security addresses Quaid-e-Azam University students on drugs awareness

Independent Report SLAMABAD: Following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police has launched an awareness

ducted an enlightening lecture at Quaid-e-Azam University, focusing on the damages of substance abuse and measures for prevention. The lecture witnessed participation from professors, students, and univer-



campaign in federal capital to eradicate drug abuse and secure the young generation from the curse of narcotics. As part of this initiative, the Capital Police Of-

sity staff. The Capital Police Officer highlighted the detrimental effects of drug usage, especially among the youth, emphasizing its threat to both health and ficer Security Division con- future prospects.

Orderly room held with focus on addressing police officials' concerns

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Chief Traffic Officer Islamabad, Muhammad Sarfraz Virk conducted an orderly room session at the traffic police headquarters, with the aim of promptly and effectively resolving institutional and personal matters affecting police personnel.

The orderly room serves as a dedicated platform to prioritize and address the concerns raised by police officers and officials, emphasizing the importance of their welfare and timely issue resolution.

Capital Police actively participated, bringing forth a range of personal and official concerns for discussion with the Chief Traffic Officer. Immediate directions were issued to resolve pressing matters, with senior officers tasked to address remaining issues promptly. Sarfraz Virk highlighted various measures taken to enhance the welfare of police personnel. These initiatives include improvements in residence facilities. enhanced healthcare provisions, and an elevation of During the session, educational standards.

officials from the Islamabad

SC decides to hear all lifetime disqualification cases together ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court (SC) dates and some also faced criminal prosecution. It said that the peti-

has decided to hear all identical cases pertaining to lifetime disqualification under Article 62(1)(f) of the Constitution together.

These cases, and any others involving the same question, should be fixed for hearing in early January, 2024 before a bench constituted by the com-Youth Movement, and the mittee under the Act, the British Council's Pakistan court said in its written Youth Leadership Initiative order pertaining to the hearing of an appeal of JUI-F's former MPA

The apex court said that the general elections of 2008 required candi-**COMSTECH**, Huawei join dates to have a minimum graduation qualification.

lihood of election tribunals and courts being intioner was convicted for a undated with cases arising out of the uncertainty.

> the Additional Attorney General (AAG) pointed out that in the matters where constitutional interpretation is required a

judges has to hear it.
"The AAG also

The court directed to



ing the "Guy Talk Initiates Conversations on Masculinity in Pakistan" As Organized by The Swedish Embassy at local hotel in Federal Capital.

Dense fog to engulf few plain areas of Punjab: PMD

ISLAMABAD (APP) Dense fog is likely to per sist in few plain areas o Punjab during the next 24 hours reducing the visibil ity level, according to the Pakistan Meteorological

to persist in upper Sindh plain areas of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during morning and night hours.

Department (PMD)'s fore-Fog/smog is also likely

ISLAMABAD: IESCO workers busy installing new electricity meters in residential flats at G-7 in Federal Capital.

APS attack anniversary: 9 yrs on, Pakistan's anti-terror strife continues to safeguard nation, thwart enemies' designs

ISLAMABAD (APP): As the country observes the ninth anniversary of the terrorist attack at the Army Public School in Peshawar on December 16, the Pakistani nation stood resilient with a commitment to combating terrorism while persistently pursuing the goals of safeguarding its citizens and thwarting the sinister designs of its enemies.

In an inhumane terrorist attack on December 16, 2014, the militants attacked the Army Public School (APS) in Peshawar, and over 140 people including students and teachers were martyred.

Termed Pakistan's 9/ 11, the day serves as a reminder of Pakistan's enduring dedication to countering the menace of terrorism and ensuring the safety of

Following the inhumane APS attack, the country's civil and military

leadership joined heads to formulate a National Action Plan which followed major operations including Zarb-e-Azb and Rad-ul-Fassad against terrorists for their elimination Though the world is

witnessing a global spread of terrorism, Pakistan is one of the worst victims. Having sacrificed over 70,000 lives and suffering an economic loss of over \$150 billion. Pakistan remains resolute in achieving riddance

from the scourge. Pakistan's major cities had faced different waves of terrorism, but Peshawar suffered the most and the APS attack was the worst.

The country has re-

peatedly highlighted that India has long been sponsoring terrorism on its soil A dossier has already been issued by Pakistan containing very specific information such as bank accounts and Indian nationals involved. It also included the locations of training camps for Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Baloch miscreants, and other groups. According to a security analyst, recently Indian intelligence agency RAW spent \$1 million for the merger of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) with four other militant groups to carry out

terrorism in Pakistan. The analyst said that India had also been funneling money to Baloch separatists and activists through think tanks in Afghanistan and other means

WaterAid unveils strategy to accelerate progress in WASH initiatives

Committee

Doaba

USAID

ISLAMABAD (APP): WaterAid Pakistan on Wednesday unveiled its ambitious Country Programme Strategy for the period 2023–2028, with a focus on accelerating progress in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) initiatives across the coun-

The strategy aims to prioritize the integration of WASH within the health sector, intending to make substantial contributions to public health outcomes said a news release

The launch event gathered a diverse group of stakeholders, including representatives from academia, community-based organizations, and the media, according to a press release.

Notable attendees included Senator Ms. Sitara Ayaz, Secretary-General of the International Parliamentarian Congress, and Seemee Azdi, Chairperson

Peshawar; and Sehr Afsheen, Country Representative of VSO. They explored the crucial roles of stakeholders, academia, and civil societ ies in enhancing WASH conditions in Pakistan. Muhammad Fazal Head of Program Strategy

and Policy at WaterAid,

concluded the discussions

by emphasizing a commit-

ment to collaborative ef

of the Climate Change

cussions were led by key figures such as Dr. Hifza Rasheed, Director-General

of PCRWR; Liaqat Ali, Ex-

ecutive Coordinator of the

Muhammad Nawaz, Cli-

mate Integration Lead at

Muhammad Rafiq, Head of

the Center for Water

Informatics and Climate

Resilience at IM Sciences

During the event, dis-

Foundation

Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Deserving children waiting to reactive free food from charitable people in a ground at sector G-11 in Federal Capital.

Daily Aoice of Masse, Independent

Thursday December 14, 2023

Maintainability of **ZAB** reference

At the outset of hearing of presidential reference seeking revisiting the PPP founder and former prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto (ZAB) murder case, a senior judge of the Supreme Court, Mr. Justice Mansoor Ali Shah has questioned the PPP counsel over the maintainability of the reference.

SC's senior judge Justice Syed Masoor observed that matter pertaining to trial of ZAB had attained finality as a review petition had been dismissed earlier, so how can the apex court re-open the case that has already been concluded.

It may be mentioned here that a ninemember bench of the apex court headed by CJP Justice Qazi Faez Isa heard the presidential reference seeking revisiting the ZAB murder case.

The apex court heard the attorney general and PPP counsel Farooq H Naek, and adjourned the hearing till second week of January, 2024. The court also appointed amicus curiae (friends of court) having expertise on criminal and constitutional fields for its assistance in the presidential reference. The proceedings were broadcasted live at the Supreme

The CJP, while dictating the order of the court proceedings, noted that the application of Naek had become infructuous as the SC committee has already decided in that regard.

Justice Syed Mansoor observed that matter pertaining to trial of ZAB had already attained finality as a review petition had also been dismissed; therefore, the apex court had no jurisdiction to hear a second review petition.

The judge asked Naek as to what decision the court could give, and asked him to assist the court on the question of maintainability.

Meanwhile, the court after the hearing the matter, dictating its order and noted that Attorney General Mansoor Usman read out the presidential reference as well as the order of the court given on April 21, 2011, containing the questions to be addressed. The court noted down in its order that the reference was filed in 2011 and the last hearing was held

It noted that in the same order a number of amicus curies who were appointed among them some have passed away while some are alive. Ali Ahmed Kurd advocate, who was also among those amicus curies has consented to assist the court, while Makhdom Ali Khan is also willing to do so as well, the order noted, adding that the court consider to appoint constitutional experts, particularly on the scope of Article 186 whereby the presidential reference was filed, and the question of maintainability of the reference. The order noted that it needed wisdom of criminal experts, so name of Justice (retd) Manzoor Ahmed Malik was proposed, and the parties supported it.

Accordingly, subject to his assent, he is appointed as amicus curiae and he may submit a concise statement in this regard, the court noted and also appointed Khwaja Haris as amicus curiae. Haris was the Punjab advocate general when the case was earlier heard by the Supreme Court. The court also appointed Salman Safdar as amicus curiae on criminal side as well as Faisal Siddiqui advocate on constitutional side to assist it. Faroog Naek raised objections on the two lawyers.

The court, however, turned down the objections and held that it was its prerogative to appoint amicus curiae. The court also appointed Raza Rabani as amicus curiae on constitutional side besides appointing also former AG Khalid Javed Khan, Salahuddin Ahmed, Barrister Zahid Ibrahim and Yasir Qurashi as amicus curiae on constitutional side.

Barrister Aitzaz Ahsan, however, refused to assist the court as amicus cu-The court further noted down in its

order that the reference has also referred to former CJP Nasim Hassan Shah in the case ZAB versus the state, the review decision in ZAB case - PLD 1979-SC 741 and the interview of the Justice Nasim with a private TV channel (Geo TV) anchor Iftikhar Ahmed. The court issued ago but, like much of his notice to the TV channel for providing the transcript of whole interview.

During the course of hearing Ahmed Raza Kasuri, who had lodged the FIR against ZAB, pleaded the court to adjourn the hearing until after general elections as he pleaded that the PPP will exploit the verdict of the apex court for its election

Kasuri submitted that this case should not be used for elections. However, CJP told Kasuri that many references were filed in the apex court after the present, adding that at that time there were also some election matters but the references were heard.

Meanwhile, while speaking to the workers in Gujranwala, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari said that "we are grateful to the Supreme Court for finally hearing the Zulfikar Bhutto reference after 12 years." According to him, the judiciary has the opportunity to rectify the history in the 'murder' case of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. Although it is utmost desire of the PPP Chairman, but still, it has to be decided by the apex court in its final verdict after hearing the case. Until that time, everyone should wait.

OPINION Loan sharks in apps



Rafia Zakaria

The figure of the loan shark has always been a grim and fear-inducing one. For centuries, the creditor showing up at your door to demand money has been the central plot of many a tragedy. In many novels of Charles Dickens, it is creditors who precede the carting off of many a character to the debtor's prison.

Even now, a mother, wife or sister putting her jewellery up as collateral against a loan and then losing it all when the money taken cannot be repaid is a frequent character on television and in films and books.

In some Western reality shows, the 'repo-man' is seen tracking and then outwitting payment, dodging borrowers or simply carting away cars or other items that have been bought

on unpaid loan. There is money to be made in loan also provide money at high interest rates. collecting just as it is in lending to needy customers at high interest.

However, it must also

be said that there are legitimate fintechs that are entering consumer markets to provide instant loans (albeit often at very high interest rates). Their existence has created a grey zone that can be exploited by scammers to fool potential borrow-According to news re-

ports, loan scams are pre-

dominantly seen in Mexico, Thailand, Indonesia, India, Pakistan, Colombia, Kenya, Singapore, and the Philippines. While the details may vary, the general ploy is the same: a customer is coaxed into taking an instant loan which can be approved and deposited into the borrower's account at great speed. Note that these fast loan approvals themselves are not scams in the sense that the money is usually delivered to the borrower. This makes it tricky to distinguish from, for instance, instant loan approvals being offered by consumer giants like Flipkart or le-

Detecting misuse, Google recently took down 17 loan apps from its Play Store. In dubious apps, the borrower is asked to download a particular application from Google Play, which shows why Google is taking the issue of scams very seriously. Until now, it could

count on the borrower feeling secure in downloading the app because of their confidence in Google-related products. In any case, scam applications are essentially spyware. Once the borrower downloads the application he or she is bombarded by a series of confusing and often contradictory loan guidelines. In the meantime, the app collects information stored in the individual's phone that is then used to blackmail the customer and extort money.

In a recent television documentary, spyware scammers used an Indian call centre to harass and blackmail Australians. The call centre employees that work for these scam spyware applications are nothing like the ones of gitimate fintechs, which yore beyond the fact that

they still use Western distinguishing their 'sernames instead of their

Instead of being polite, etc., they utter profanities, resorting to lewd descriptions, and threaten to disseminate illicit photos or pornographic deep fakes to get people to send them sums of money at huge interest rates. One BBC documentary noted how some borrowers committed suicide or took other very negative actions because they could not see a way out of their situation.

In the Australian hunt for people who work at these call centres, a raid was organised that had a camera focused on the very people calling a borrower and resorting to rude and abusive behaviour. In it, the Indian call

centre harasser uses a name different from her own. Once she is on the phone, the tables are turned and the woman is stunned when her victim calls her by her real name and then even proceeds to name the scammer sitting next to her. But such 'gotcha' mo-

ments are not common. The easy temptation inherent in these applications and the difficulty in

vices' from the high-interest loans offered by legitimate fintechs has created an environment where already harassed and vulnerable victims all over the world can easily fall prey to their dubious dealings.

A legitimate fintech will also offer an instant loan and charge an exorbitant interest rate. However, it will not use spyware installed on one's phone or attempt to blackmail and extort money using abusive tactics

This leads to a diffi-

cult question regarding mass consumer finance availability and credit markets. In the West, where credit ratings of individual consumers are well-established, the threat of having these adversely impacted and having to declare bankruptcy, etc., provide a mechanism that creates incentives to pay back loans with a high interest rate. Because Western fintechs rely on a high volume of transactions they can provide instalments and other financial literacy means in order to get people to pay on time.

in emerging credit markets like South Asia and certain countries in the Far East. With familial and community networks dissipating and inflation at record rates, consumers cannot be blamed for needing instant money for sudden and unexpected expenses.

These abusive scammers then perform the role of the loan shark of old — crossing the line between what is a legitimate tactic to get a customer to pay and extortion using means such as spyware.

In the meantime, consumers need to be extremely careful regarding who they trust, and should think twice before downloading apps that provide a deal that sounds excellent but is actually too 'good' to be true.

While Google's ban on 17 of these is a good first step, it is hardly anything when one considers the fact that Lookout media has identified 251 android apps and thousands of Apple Store apps that are still available. Even worse, they have already been downloaded a collective 15 million times. --This is more difficult Courtesy Dawn

Remembering Saleem Ahmad



Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri

Ahmad Saleem, a luminary in the realm of Urdu and Punjabi literature and poetry, left an indelible mark on Pakistan's social and political landscape. He was a mentor to many of us.

I have not read all of his 175-plus publications, but whatever I could read is worth many degrees. His extensive body of work reflects great depth of insight that transcends mere academic pursuits. His influence extends across diverse facets of South Asia's history, politics, and culture, making his contributions invaluable.

Those interested in learning about the evolution ture cannot overlook Saleem's seminal four-volume series, 'Pakistan ki Siasi Tareekh' (Pakistan's Political History). For a nuanced exploration of the movements in Pakistan.

his work 'Land of Two Partitions' serves as a poignant resource.

His book 'Rewriting

History' vividly narrates stories of friendship and how Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs risked their lives to save each other's during Punjab's communal riots in 1947, offering a compelling alternative perspective on a critical juncture in the Subcontinent's past. To understand the role of religious minorities in Pakistan's trajectory, his work 'Pakistan and Religious Minorities' is an illuminating read.

Saleem's approach to biographies featuring personalities such as Iskandar Mirza. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Jam Saqi, Saif Khalid, Amrita Pritam, Masood Khadarpoosh, Habib Jalib, Karl Marx and others stands out for its unbiased portrayal. Rather than succumbing to binary perspectives, Saleem skilfully introduces shades of grey, providing a balanced and multifaceted identity. nuanced understanding of

these figures. nessed the ebb of leftist started his professional life

factors leading to the tragic separation of East Pakistan, Young Saleem, as a member of the Communist Party of Pakistan's student wing, had first-hand experience of the evolution of leftist movements in Pakistan. He also had the insight into the fall of left politics in Paki-

> Saleem's publications including 'Roshan Khiali' (Enlightenment), 'Jis Dhai Se Koi Maqtal Ko Gaya' (The Honour with which One Went to the Gallows), 'Tareekh Ka Aik Gumshuda Warq' (The Lost Page of History) and others are essential to comprehend the rise and fall of left-wing politics in the country.

> His political ideas were influenced by Faiz Ahmed Faiz. He always took pride in being a disciple of Faiz and how he narrated his memories with him – in a way that takes his readers to Faiz's company. Beyond politics, Saleem's exploration of Pakistan's culture and arts. documenting the evolution of PTV, radio, and cinema, showcases his commitment to capturing the nation's

Born in Guirat's village Miana Gondal in 1945. The post-Zia era with he grew up in Peshawar and Karachi.

multicultural exposure in his formative years embodied the spirit of a true Pakistani in him. That helped him break the taboos and stigmas attached to challenging the policies and practices that bred marginalization and exclusion in smaller provinces.

For doing this, he had to go to jail several times as a prisoner of conscience. However, his commitment to human rights and an inclusive society remained Noteworthy are the

compilations of Saleem's letters to and from luminaries like Faiz Ahmad Faiz, Amrita Pritam, Rajinder Singh Bedi and others. These volumes serve as a window to the burning issues of their time, contrasting sharply with the impersonal nature of contemporary communication mediums such as WhatsApp and emails.

As a poet, Saleem's verses resonate as the voice of the people. His courage at the SDPI longer than any sitive topics such as the forced conversions of girls and women who were kidnapped or separated from their families on both sides of the border after the communal riots of 1947

Through his poems, he also showed solidarity with marginalized groups and advocated for labourers and farmers' rights. His poetry reflects a commitment to social justice and a keen awareness of the challenges faced by various segments of society. My first interaction with Ahmad Saleem was in 2001. At that time, he was the editor of Urdu and vernacular language publications at the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI). His unwavering belief in translating policy research into local languages underscored his commitment to

making information accessible to a broader audience. When I compile a list of my lifetime accomplishments, one of the most significant will be retaining him at the SDPI for almost two decades. He remained associated with the SDPI until he breathed his last. He started working at a is evident in addressing sen- other organization in his be with us, his legacy will career - spanning over six decades.

We used to believe that his books were his only wrong. During the SDPI's soul rest in peace. -- Courfinancial crisis in 2008, he tesy TheNews

Impotence of law

surrendered his gratuity and provident funds to help pay off the organization's liabilities. He also decided to work for the SDPI without salary and continued working under this arrangement for almost a year until the organization's financial situation improved. This demonstrated his strong commitment to the SDPI's mission.

His resilience against health challenges, including a liver transplant in 2013 and a battle with Parkinson's disease during the last two years, symbolizes the courage and fortitude that defined his life. Neither cancer nor Parkinson's disease could stop him from reading and writing. It was with Parkinson's that he compiled his memoir 'Meri Dharti Meray Log' (My Land, My People) last vear Ahmad Saleem's passing on International Human Rights Day, (December 10 2023) marks the end of an era. While he may no longer continue through his writings, his resource centre, and the countless lives he touched with his intelleclove, but he proved us tual contributions. May his

A people's poet

never wavered. Hardly any

obituary has acknowledged

birth and health issues pur-

milieu, so he went to Lon-

his abbreviated schooling

and lack of further educa-

tion. That was not unrelated

to the fact that he had re-

solved at the age of eight to

go vegan, and to earn his

living as a poet. His reading

woes as a dyslexic did not

interfere with his determi-

nation to express himself.

appealed to those who dis-

dained poetry mainly at-

males. "Most people ignore

most poetry because most

people ignores most

Adrian Mitchell put it.

to say, he said it straight,

taking no prisoners.

He did so in ways that

Born in Birmingham to

darity Campaign.



Mahir Ali

"We live in a world where they say we communicate more, but the world staved silent when slave trade was making money/ The world stayed silent when the Nazis started to kill trade unionists, people with disabilities, homosexuals, lefthanded people and Jews/ And now in the age of the global village and mass communications the world is staying silent when Palestinians are being annihi-

The outstanding British poet, novelist, broadcaster, actor and agitator Benjamin Zephaniah wrote those words several years verse, they remain potently relevant. And alive. Unlike, depressingly, the poet himself, who died last week at the age of 65 just two weeks after being diagnosed with a brain tumour. To paraphrase his favourite Dylan Thomas poem, he went gently into the good night after a lifetime spent raging against the dying of the light.

'When I was young,' he once noted, "there were two things I really wanted to see: a free South Africa and a free Palestine." That wish remained only halffulfilled. In the former instance, his contribution was recognised by none other than Nelson Mandela. In 1982, the first single The Wailers recorded after Bob Marley's death was 'Free South Africa', with Zephaniah on vocals. Mandela heard it on Robben Island and, a decade later, sought out Zephaniah on his first visit to Britain, requesting him to host a 1996 concert in honour of resiled from keeping a sharp

eye on global affairs. He There was no compalapped up the adoration of the literary establishment rable progress on the Palestinian front. Zephaniah and was willing to assist the first visited the occupied British Council in dissemiterritories in 1990, and the nating the gospel of British artistic consequence was a multiculturalism, but drew the line at kowtowing to the travelogue interspersed with poetry, Rasta Time in political establishment. Being offered induction into Palestine. Over the decades, his passion for the cause the Order of the British

Empire in 2003 was a

recipe for indignation.

that he was a patron of As he wrote in The Britain's Palestinian Soli-Guardian, "I woke up on the morning of November 13 wondering how the govparents from Barbados and ernment could be over-Jamaica, he had a difficult thrown and what could replace it", when he saw a letsued him into adulthood. ter from the prime Severe dyslexia led him to minister's office. He went drop out of school in his on: "Me? I thought, OBE early teens, and enter a life —], I thought. I get angry when I hear that of petty crime that in one instance involved almost word 'empire'; it reminds being beaten to death at a me of thousands of years police station. By his late of brutality, it reminds me teens, Zephaniah realised of how my foremothers that an early death beckwere raped and my forefathers brutalised ... Benoned unless he escaped his jamin Zephaniah OBE no way Mr Blair, no way don and joined a different kind of gang — of poets and artists. He thrived, despite Mrs Queen. I am pro-

foundly anti-empire.' Unlike the Palestinian poet Refaat Alareer whom Abbas Nasir eloquently eulogised in his weekend column — Benjamin Obadiah Iqbal Zephaniah was not assassinated by an empire or its agents. He leaves behind a treasure trove of books and music or spoken word albums that will be cherished for generations to come. tributed to dead white But his living voice — with its endearing lisp and Caribbean-flavoured Brummie tones — and his limitless people," as the late poet compassion for the oppressed all across the world

Zephaniah did not follow will be sorely missed. that trajectory. He spoke Alongside a bunch of directly to his burgeoning talented contemporaries audiences, with little paand predecessors, he libertience for abstractions, alated poetry from the page lusions or complicated imand brought it to the agery. Whatever he wanted people. "I think poetry should be alive," he once said, "you should be able to dance to it" — echoing Early adulthood in Thatcherite Britain meant Emma Goldman's centurythere was no dearth of doold opinion: "It's not my revolution if I can't dance mestic topics, but he never to it." -- Courtesy Dawn

Adeel Wahid

Arrests; rearrests; denial of bails; surfacing of new FIRs once bail is granted; trials behind closed doors with the die already cast. None of this is new, or even exclusive to Pakistan.

Formally, the judicial system remains intact: the robed honourable judges still show up in court. Lawyers still get to make a few noises, smug in their delusion that their word may carry the day. Nonetheless, there

has been an overwhelming

attrition of faith in the

courts. The bulk of the blame has been put on the judiciary, that the judges, with the prefix 'honourable', were supprefix posed to be the custodians of the people's rights. That they were to intervene, ensure protection, and stand between the wrath of the state and the

people. Such a huge ask from the judiciary was never realistic, and not even fair. First, the past has been one where precedents of capitulation exist in huge numbers, making it the norm, rather than an aberration. Second, judges, just like ourselves, are mere mortals, driven by ambitions, desires and fears. Only one of these things needs to be capitalised on. Third, and importantly, judges come from within the society they live in, and are not divorced from the ideas and

And it is not only about the judges. In fact, the law — its promulgation, interpretation and enforcement — remains

ideals percolating in it.

contingent on the beliefs, ideas and narratives that have traction in society at large. One way to think about the law is that it remains strongly tethered to the mainstream notions of the populace.

Put differently, the law in a particular society can bear just as much burden or strain as the popular, prevalent ideas in that society allow it to bear. Especially so, in the context where expectations from the law and those who dabble in it — such as legislators, judges and the executive — is to serve as a protective mechanism both from the state itself, and all those, including private segments, who wield disproportionate

domestic violence — an example from our ordinary lives, and not from politics. Laws may be in the books, police in the field (when not lined up to provide protocol to office holders), and the honourables in the courts. Yet, because of the idea of privacy of a household, that whatever happens in a home belongs in the private domain, the forceful subjugation of women has continued unabated. Despite the law's existence and despite the existence of the machinery of the law, instances of domestic violence are rampant.

Similarly, the Constitution says glorious things about fundamental freedoms. You and I, by virtue of being persons and citizens, are free to assoto think and say as we please. But then, not really. Free speech is a value we have failed to engender in our society. Muzzling voices at home, in schools and in universities, produces very few mavericks, and many, far

too many, conformists. And when those who can come after political parties — even the ones

they manufactured — and put political actors behind bars, we, the stunted of society, passively accept it. We know no other way. For our entire lives we have seen that those with relative power are going to abuse it unchallenged. This happens at all levels — in our villages, in the cities, in the panchayats, and in corporate board-

rooms. Without the right

ideals, it is hard to prop

sufficient to accuse and

Therefore, it is not

up the law.

blame the law, that it has not been promulgated right, that only if the text said something else. And it is not enough to blame robed, the honourables, the mere flesh and bones, with pre-Take the example of tensions of being saviours. In fact, we have to look deeper into our everyday practices, into the things we are taught at school and in our homes, in our everyday conversations and our thoughts. Have we, in our everyday lives, allowed people such as our spouses, our colleagues, our friends and our fellow citizens, to flourish? Have we given people respect irrespective of their family background, caste, and class? Have we produced an environment where our children can experiment with non-conventional thoughts, and, at least, harbour and express them, despite our convictions of them being wrong?

Why then put the burden on the law, an artificial construct, when ciate; free to assemble; free our lived experiences are a continuous testament and reflection of exactly the things that are then projected broadly in society?

Yes, the law's impotence has to do with the deficiencies in our governance and judicial structures. But it has more do with the absence of ideals in our society. -- Cour-

Minister emphasizes pivotal role of research in societal impact

University's two-day conference on Frontiers in Biological Sciences on Wednesday, Caretaker Punjab Health Minister Professor Dr. Javed Akram emphasized the pivotal role of research in societal impact.

He underscored the importance of collaboration between academia and industry, particularly in the vast field of biological

Akram highlighted the urgency for Pakistan to focus on biotechnology, expressing concern over the absence of a single biotechnology plant in the country compared to China's 3,000 facilities. Propelled by the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi, Dr. Akram revealed plans to establish biotechnology parks in

Anticipating Pakistan

LAHORE (APP): In a becoming the world's thirdcompelling address at the largest country in Lahore Garrison population within two decades, Dr. Akram emphasized the need for progress in gene editing and improving lab skills. He announced comprehensive screening

Thalassemia screening mandatory for every class 10 student across the

Commending Lahore Garrison University's commitment to quality research, Dr. Akram announced its affiliation with teaching institutions to enhance the teaching department.

Vice Chancellor Major General (Retd) Khalil Dar, Dean Basic Sciences Colonel (Retired) Dr. Muhammad Amjad Khan, and distinguished guests including Prof Dr Shahida Hasnain and Prof Dr Tahir Yaqub were present at the conference, which drew a large participation from students



LAHORE: Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi and Dr Arshad Muhammad are giving a briefing to the media about the performance of the department at Ombudsman office.

Minister for NMDs chairs steering committee meeting

Caretaker Minister for development process, law Newly Merged Districts, and Industries, Commerce and Technical Education Dr. Aamir Abdullah chaired a meeting of the Special Steering Committee formed regarding Newly Merged implementation of the Districts at Civil directives of the previous Secretariat here on task force meeting and the

During the meeting, the committee reviewed directed to achieve the progress on various tasks tasks given in various assigned to relevant departments by the Special Task Force and Steering priority basis while in this Committee in previous decisions. Additional Chief Secretary Planning and Development Department Syed Imtiaz Hussain Shah, officers of the Pakistan Army, secretaries of the Department of Health, Industry, Irrigation, Communications and Works, Higher Education, Relief and Rehabilitation, including including Special Secretaries of Home, Health and Agriculture Departments, police officers and other relevant officials attended the

order of the departments

steering committee. The committee was

data in the next meeting of

the committee.

On this occasion, the release of funds for various developmental projects in the Department of Health. Communications and Works, Police and other sectors were also reviewed. while the committee asked all the departments to fulfil their professional responsibilities efficiently and speed up the work of the necessary stages of the

PESHAWAR (APP): various issues were Khyber Pakhtunkhwa reviewed to improve the administrative matters in this regard, the forum was briefed on the performance

regarding

sectors and the overall development process on a connection, departments were directed to present the performance with details, based on clear

In the meeting, development process.



LAHORE: Press Club President, Azam Chaudhry is inaugurating the Digital studio at the Lahore Press Club.

Officers participating in 34th Senior Management **Course visit RUDA**

Authority (RUDA) is prerequisite with other initiatives, which will be beneficial for the general public. CEO RUDA Imran Amin said this while speaking to the delegation of government currently officials participating in 34th Senior Management Course (SMC) at National Institute of Management RUDA. The delegation functioning and initiatives that policy formulation and development projects.

LAHORE (APP): Ravi implementation at strategic Development and operational level is working towards the organizational growth, revival of River Ravi along which is being followed in true letter and spirit. The delegation, expressing gratitude, appreciated the efforts of CEO RUDA Imran Amin

and his team for ensuring essential components of organizational practices with an aim at focusing on housing challenges of service delivery. (NIM) during their visit to Furthermore, the delegation was also taken for field visit was briefed about the to Industrial Area and at the site of Chaharbagh to brief

Army soldier laid to rest with military honours

HYDERABAD (APP) The martyred army soldier Ghulam Murtaza Dahri was laid to rest at the ancestral graveyard in Pir Shahmir on Wednesday.

Ghulam Murtaza Dahri (35) was among one of the Pak Army Jawans who were martyred in a terrorist attack in Dera Ghazi on Tuesday. He belonged to Village Khair Muhammad Dahri, Tehsil Qazi Ahmed District Shaheed Benazirabad. Ghulam Murtaza was buried at the graveyard of Dargah Pir Shahmir graveyard where the contingen presented a salute

SIALKOT: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab, Mohsin Naqvi is visiting Allama **Iqbal Teaching Hospital.**

Govt. spending hefty amount on health sector to benefit people: Governor

PESHAWAR Governor Pakhtunkhwa, Ghulam Ali Wednesday said the government was spending a hefty amount to of health facilities to improve the healthcare people. system for the facilitation and benefit of the masses. He was addressing the

convocation of Rehman Medical College as a Chief Guest. The ceremony was also attended by Caretaker Health Minister, Qasim Jan, Health Advisor, Dr Riaz Anwar, Vice Chancellor Khyber Medical University, Dr Zia-ul-Haq, Chairman RMI, Dr Muhammad Rehman, faculty members, and students.

Five SHOs

reshuffled

in DI Khan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN

(APP): Station House

Officers (SHOs) of five

police stations in Dera

Ismail Khan were reshuffled on Wednesday.

police spokesman, District

Police Officer Dera, Abdul

Rauf Babar Qaisrani issued

transfer and posting orders

Malik Sajid was posted as SHO Saddar

police station, Attaullah

posted as SHO Dera Town

police station, Khubab

Baloch posted as SHO

Yarik police station,

station, while Zeshan Iqbal

posted as SHO Khoi

Two bodies

found in

Ghazi Brotha

water channel

ATTOCK (APP): Police

have found two bodies in

the Ghazi Brotha water

unrecognizable, mutilated

According to Police

condition on Wednesday.

the Attock Saddar Police

Station reported two dead

bodies found in the Ghazi

Brotha water channel in a

mutilated condition within

the limits of Attock.

channel

Bahara police station.

of five SHOs.

According to the

importance for patients and their recovery. He advised doctors to

the medical profession is

being given due respect by

society and doctors must

work for maximum relief of

ailing community adding

dedication and attitude of

doctors is of supreme

(APP): He said that a with patience. He also Khyber maximum portion of the Haji budget was being spent on into the feel of the health as the government innovation for the benefit must ensure the provision of patients. He also distributed degrees and commendation certificates Governor lauded the position of RMI in the medical field and said that Governor lauded the among students and congratulated parents for medical field and said that the success of their

children.

Later, the Governor met with a delegation of the All Pakistan Marble Industries Association that was led by Asghar Khan Utmankhel. The delegation informed the governor about their problems relating to mining material, be more polite and under-construction roads in cooperative and listen to Mohmand district, and the ordeal of their patients granite and marble mining.

LHC seeks reply from govt, others on plea against doctors' strike

LAHORE (APP): The counsel argued before the Lahore High Court (LHC) court that the patients on Wednesday sought a reply from the Punjab government and other respondents on a petition against young doctors' strike in government hospitals till December 18.

The court also sought reports from medical superintendents of the hospitals concerned in connection with the matter. and the court orders.

Justice Ali Baqar

court that the patients were facing problems due to continuous strike of the young doctors in the government hospitals. He submitted that the health sector fell in compulsory service category and there was no provision of strike. He submitted that the doctors' strike was in violation of various laws

He pleaded with the Najafi heard the petition court to issue directions for SHO Daraban police against young doctors involved in the strike,



Allama Tahir Ashrafi and Chairman Pakistan Ulema-e-Islam Council addressing a press conference at Directorate of Hajj.

Symposium held to promote the Tourism and Cultural heritage of Chitral

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa ceremony, emphasized the Culture and tourism need to promote tourism authority (KPCTA), He stated that the event Tourism Department and Frontier Corps North the rich culture of Chitral. jointly organized the a region full of diverse Symposium" to emphasize importance of promoting cultural heritage and the tourism potential of Chitral.

Minister for tourism highlighted and information Barrister Syed Feroze Jamal Shah Kakahel, Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry and Inspector General Frontier Corps North Noor Wali Khan were the Chief authorities about their

Barkatullah Tourism Marwat, GM planning and Hameed and Manager and Events Haseena Shaukat contributing to tourism in also graced the event. Tourism and information Minister Feroz Jamal Shah

PESHAWAR (Online): Kakakhel, addressing the was arranged to showcase Tourism culture that should be promoted. He urged tourists to visit Chitral and experience its beauty and heritage. The Chief Secretary

government's initiatives to promote tourism in Chitral, stating that symposium provided stakeholders with an opportunity to inform problems and way Secretary Tourism forward. He mentioned Mutahir Zaib, DG that the initiative of living with natives would provide tourists with opportunities Marketing Ali Syed, GM for enjoyment and Culture and Tourism Sajjad understanding local culture

190,000.

traditions, KP and enhancing its peaceful environment and

CM Naqvi visits civil hospital, reviews various development projects in Sialkot

SIALKOT Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi paid Government Sardar Begum Civil Hospital Sialkot and Allama İqbal Medical Teaching Hospital here on Wednesday and also various development projects.

The chief minister came to know during the visit that Sardar Begum Hospital lacked medical damaged and walls were dilapidating. Due to the sewerage passing through the hospital, there was a smell of sewerage water everywhere and students classrooms were in poor

The attendants of the patients were forced to sit

of the situation, Mohsin Naqvi upgradation and redesign of the hospital and said Sardar Begum Civil Hospital would be upgraded soon. It would cost Rs 210 million, and 21,000 square feet area of the hospital would be upgraded

CM Mohsin Naqvi visited various wards, met patients and inquired about the treatment facilities in hospital. He inspected the Emergency, ICU, Gynecology, Lab and other wards. He also went to the basement, ground and first floor and expressed his displeasure over the bad condition of the classrooms. The CM condition listened to problems of elderly woman in hospital would be upgraded in the

feet area of the hospital on the floor. Taking notice and gave instructions to the

minister also visited Allama Iqbal Medical Teaching Hospital and reviewed progress on upgradation project of the hospital. He inspected the ongoing construction activities in the hospital and said that the upgradation project of Allama Iqbal Teaching Hospital will would cost Rs. 700 million. He said that the 65 per cent of upgradation work at Allama Iqbal Teaching Hospital had been completed. Naqvi said that 100,000 square feet area of Allama Iqbal Teaching Hospital would be revamped while the remaining 50,000 square



presides over a follow up meeting for beautification of Shahrah-e-Faisal and development of Chaukundi Graveyard at CM House.

KP CM annoyed over staff absence

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister on Wednesday expressed annoyance over the cleanliness condition and absence of staff and unsatisfactory sanitation service at Hayatabad Medical Complex (HMC) and sought a report within

A letter to the Advisor for health said that the CM visited HMC here on December 9 and found several doctors, and staff on duty absent, besides Ghaffar Khan posted as filed by a citizen, Zeeshan, action against the doctors non-satisfactory sanitation services while kitchen staff and food handlers were working without necessary medical certificates.

DC launches 5-day anti polio campaign

PESHAWAR (APP): Deputy Commissioner Lakki Marwat Rehmat Ali, alongside District Health Officer Dr. Abdu Gul and other health department officials, officially kicked off a five-day anti-polio campaign on Wednesday.

He started the campaign by administering anti-polio drops to a child here at DC office. The anti-polio drive will continue till December 18, which aims to vaccinate all children under the age of five. Deputy Commissioner Rehmat Ali appealed to the parents to ensure the administration of anti-polio drops to their children to safeguard them from the disabilities associated with the disease.

China always played key role in development, stability of Pakistan: Mayor Karachi KARACHI (APP): Mayor General Parks and

Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab Wednesday said the People's Republic of China always played a key role in the development and stability of Pakistan.

He said this while addressing the opening ceremony of the open-air

people of Karachi express their gratitude to the Chinese government for the establishment provision of modern facilities for the citizens at the Pak-China Friendship

On this occasion, China's Consul General Yang Yundong, People's Party District Central General Secretary Dil initiatives are bringing the Muhammad, Director

Horticulture Junaidullah Khan, Commissioner East Altaf Sheikh and heads of various departments of KMC were also present. Mayor Karachi along

with Consul General of China officially gym established with the inaugurated the open air cooperation of China at the Pakistan-China Friendship Park while on Park on Kashmir Road. this occasion cake was also He said that the cut regarding Pak China friendship

The cooperation between Chinese Consulate and KMC was signed by Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab and the Consul General Yang Yundong. He appreciated KMC on the establishment of Pakistan China Friendship Park. Such

two countries closer



FAISALABAD: Visitors keenly viewing flowers during Chrysanthemum, Marigold & Autumn Flowers Show-2023 arranged by the Institute of Horticulture Sciences, University of Agriculture

Year-end tally of complaints against departments to exceed 190,000: Federal ombudsman

LAHORE (APP): Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi has said that the year-end tally for complaints against the government departments in 2023 is likely to exceed

Addressing a press conference at the Ombudsman regional office here on Wednesday, he said that so far 183,000 complaints had been received, whereas 178,000 decided. He said the complaints rose from 110,405 in 2021 and appreciating

highest number of 183,000 and disposal also reached an all-time high of 178,000, while comparing the number of complaints in 2023. He mentioned that crucial in raising awareness complaints worth Rs 4.2 billion were addressed in 2023 so far, as against Rs 3 billion of last year.

represent the trust of people in the Ombudsman institution for redressing their problems, while 164,174 in 2022 to the performance of the officers court of the poor.

of the Ombudsman institution in this regard.

ombudsman said that the role of the media was among people about the Ombudsman institution. He stressed the media to cooperate in disseminating He said that the the message of ombudsman phenomenal increase in the to masses so that more and number of complaints more poor people could approach the institution for speedy and free relief. He said that the

federal ombudsman was the often referred to as the



PESHAWAR; Khyber Pakhutnkhawa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali, Advisor t Health Dr. Riaz Anwar, Vice Chancellor KMU Dr. Zia ul Haq addressing the annual convocation of Rehman Medical College.

Gohar, Wu Qingwen explores avenues for enhances trade ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Commerce Minister Dr. Gohar Ejaz and the esteemed Mayor of Suzhou Municipal Government, Wu Qingwen explored avenues for enhanced economic and trade ties, underlining commitment to building stronger bilateral relations.

În a significant stride towards fostering international cooperation, the Commerce Minister engaged in a highly productive meeting with the esteemed Mayor of Suzhou Municipal Government, said a press release issued here.

meeting witnessed an exchange of ideas and discussions on the immense potential for collaboration between Pakistan and Suzhou.

The discussions were inspired #BRIMeeting, resonating with the Belt and Road Initiative's vision for connectivity collaboration.

As both nations look leverage momentum, the focus remains on identifying and capitalizing on new opportunities for trade and economic growth.

Suzhou's remarkable economic profile was a key highlight, underscoring the city's significance as an economic powerhouse.

Minister Dr. Gohar Ejaz expressed optimism about the potential for mutually beneficial partnerships that can contribute to the growth and prosperity of both Pakistan and Suzhou



SIALKOT: Secretary Industry and Commerce Punjab Ehsan Bhatta visits and addressing Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

PPIB announces financial close of mega Thar coal power project

ISLAMABAD (Online): capacity of 1320 MW, Private Power and Shanghai project has been Infrastructure Board implemented under the (PPIB) today announced China-Pakistan Economic Financial Closing of country's largest Thar coal-fired Power Project by M/s Shanghai Electric Corporation, China. The signing ceremony was held in the office of PPIB which was graced by Mr. Shah Jahan Mirza, Managing Director, PPIB, Mr. Meng Donghai, Chief Executive of the Project Company i.e. Thar Coal Block-1 Power Generation Company and Mr. Zhou Bo, Chief Executive Officer of Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC),

Sponsors were also Having the generation (ICBC).

and Project Company

agreed by the Government of Pakistan and

Government of China, the Project Company commenced construction work in a crunch situation COVID-19 leveraging its equity and bridge financing and completed the project on

5th February 2023 Shanghai Electric Group Corporation are the sponsors of this two Bank of China (ICBC), Karachi Branch. Other while Sino Sindh Resources high-level officials of PPIB Limited (SSRL) is the coal supplier from That Block 1 whereas Industrial and Commercial Bank of China

Technology development imperative to overcome financial deficit: Najeeb

FAISALABAD (APP) Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) Chairman Engineer Muhammad Najeeb Haroon said that development of technology at local level was imperative to overcome financial deficit, being faced by the country and the universities should produce a workforce which should could materialise this

Addressing opening ceremony of the Final Year Design Project Financing at University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF), he said that Pakistan Engineering Council funded 593 projects for 2023-24 among the students of more than 100 universities across the country. He said that the PEC sponsored the Final Year Design Project Financing for engineering students so that they could develop and promote industry/market compatible products.

Engineering Council was promoting linkages with the industry and ample employment opportunities would be provided to all engineering students after internship.

agricultural engineering students would have to play their role in the development and delivery of technology to resolve the problems of food security, water and soil Chancellor Prof Dr Iqrar Ahmad Khan said that Pakistan Engineering Council financing would prove a milestone in imparting technology and business skills to the students. He said that to overcome the economic deficit, knowledge-based economy should be promoted so that a new chapter of development can be ensured by finding local

China, Pakistan to tap new cooperation in textile industry

BEIJING (APP): The Vice two countries have great Xinmin held talks with Minister for Commerce and Industry, Dr Gohar Ejaz here. They discussed China-Pakistan textile and garment investment and cooperation between the two sectors.

Pakistan's textile activities, sector is often referred to as the backbone of its economy and employs 40
Gohar Ejaz stated that and Pakistan are highly country's complementary, and the development.

President of China potential for cooperation Chamber of Commerce for in the cotton industry and Import and Export of trade, China Economic Net Textiles (CCCT) Zhang (CEN) reported on (CEN) reported on Wednesday. "At present, the global supply chain pattern is undergoing significant changes. China and Pakistan can seize this opportunity to collaborate trade, the development of on organizing professional Pakistan's textile industry, textile and garment and the promotion of exhibitions, trade and investment forums, business matchmaking and

45% of its total labour the textile industry force. During the meeting, accounts for over 60% of Zhang mentioned that the Pakistan's total exports textile and garment and holds great industry chains of China significance for the economic

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Energy and Power, Muhammad Ali called on President Dr. Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

OICCI takes lead in shaping private sector climate action at COP28

emissions, evaluating carbon market efficacy, and

fortifying public-private

partnerships.
The distinguished

panel comprised experts

from various sectors, such as Dr. Karen Olsen, Carbon

Market Advisor, United

Nations Environment Program (UNEP), Dr. Charles Ehrhart, Global

Head Climate Risk,

Resilience; Adaptation, Partner, KPMG

International, Dr. Anis

LAHORE (APP): Consul

General of the Republic of

Turkiye Durmus Bastug

visited Pakistan-China

Joint Chambers of

Commerce and Industry to

discuss trilateral relations

among Turkiye, Pakistan

and China, here at PCJCCI

Secretariat on Wednesday.

attended by the executive

committee members of

PCJCCI and many top

The meeting was

Circularity

Director

Nassar, Lead emphasizing affordable Decarbonization; levers such as circularity.

Consul General

of Turkiye visits

on Wednesday.

Economic Forum (WEF)

Fiona Duggan, Global

Sustainability Senior Manager for Climate Advocacy, Unilever, Lina

Osman, Regional Head of Sustainable Finance -

West, Standard Chartered

Bank, and Angelo Sartori,

Engagement, Verra, said a

news release received here

underscored the urgency

for businesses to decarbonize supply chains,

Regional

ISLAMABAD (APP): private capital for The Overseas Investors achieving Net Zero carbon Chamber of Commerce and (OICCI) demonstrated

commitment to driving meaningful climate action at COP28 by hosting a pivotal high-level dialogue in collaboration with the Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC).

Nestled within the exclusive Blue Zone of the Pakistan pavilion in Expo City Dubai, the dialogue, themed 'Decarbonization and the Role of the Private Sector', tackled pressing issues such as mobilizing

Commissioner for providing fertilizers to farmers at fixed rates

SARGODHA (APP) Commissioner Sargodha Muhammad Ajmal Bhatti has issued instructions to deputy commissioners to meet the demand of fertilizer at fixed rates across the division. The commissioner chaired a meeting in which steps taken to provide fertilizers at fixed rates to farmers were reviewed. Deputy Commissioners, Director of Agriculture (Extension) Agrochemicals, FFC, Agritech representatives of Fatima

Fertilizers Company.

notch business leaders from both Pakistan and PCJCCI President Moazzam Ghurki said that

PCJCCI Secretariat countries and they could complement each other's economy in many fields, therefore, they should focus on promoting trade and economic ties to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. He added that Pakistan has gained market access in traditional sectors such as leather, rice, dates, mangoes, cutlery, and sports goods; and nontraditional sectors including seafood, processed agricultural

products, rubber tubes and



PESHAWAR: A delegation of All Pakistan Marble Association meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP) Shipping activity reported at the Port where five ships namely, MSC Mundra-VIII, MSC Jemima, New Asoura, Gaschem Warnow and Al-Deebal scheduled to load/offload Container Cement, Chemicals and LNG,berthed at Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, Engro Terminal and Elengy Terminal respectively on Tuesday Meanwhile three more ships, Nadeen, Dolphin 02 and TCLC Luzhou also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port Qasim on same day to load/offload Rice, Chemicals and Coal Respectively.

A total of ten ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships, Container vessel MSC Mundra VIII and bulk cargo carrier DSI Drammen left the port on today morning and three more ships, Gaschem Warnow, Basrah and Marlin Hera are expected to sail on today afternoon.

A moderate cargo handing was recorded at the port where a cargo volume of 169,071 tonnes, comprising 121,921 tonnes imports cargo and 47,150 tonnes export cargo carried in 3,885 Containers (2,435 TEUs Imports and 1,450 TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

Zong 4G partners with SnappRetail to integrate mobile Top-ups via easy load

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan. Zong 4G, Pakistan's leading telecommunication network, has partnered with SnappRetail Pakistan to introduce Zong's Swiftload solutions for retail merchants.

Merchants recharge accounts themselves digitally through the use of SnappRetail's E-POS (Electronic Point-of-Sale) with the specially curated screen for recharge said a news release.

Business Zong Solutions' partnership with SnappRetail is an effort to of traditional trade in country.

Zong 4G believes that this partnership will bring new horizons in the retail market by allowing retailers to explore multiple avenues with their devices through the can availability of value-added services.

Zong Business has made its mark in the telecommunication industry by providing topdata-related notch solutions to consumers. It further aims to enhance the digital ecosystem of Pakistan by constantly growing and empowering contribute to the promotion its domain throughout the

LESCO recovers Rs 1.59b from 52,155 defaulters in 3 months

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO), in collaboration Tehsildars (Recovery), recovered more than Rs 1.59 billion from 52,155 chronic defaulters in all five districts -Lahore, Sheikhupura, Nankana Sahib, Kasur and Okara -

recovery campaign.

presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.

during three months of its

ISLAMABAD: Senator Muhammad Abdul Qadir, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Petroleum

told the media here on Wednesday that during the 90 days, Chief Engineer O&M (T&G) Zafar Iqbal, with the support of Tehsildar City Mujahid Ziaand Tehsildar Shalimar Noraiz recovered outstanding dues of Rs 201.79 million from

Northern Circle

Humayun, 6,713 defaulters in

Pakistan needs significant transformation in insurance industry: Dr. Shamshad businesses, said a press strategic plan will set the release issued here by

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs, Dr Shamshad Akhtar said Pakistan needs significant transformation in the insurance industry to address its fundamental challenges while catching up with global trends to maximize the value proposition of this

While addressing a two-day International Insure Impact Conference 2023, organized by the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), she asked the insurance industry to recognize that the risks are growing, both globally and nationally,

The Minister also

gave a keynote address at the session, where a large number of industry experts, professionals, and officials from the insurance and financial sectors were present. Dr Shamshad said

that Pakistan needs to track and embrace emerging trends in the insurance sector adding that the global insurance industry is undergoing technological advancements, evolving customers' expectations, and a pressing need for sustainable practices. advised

low penetration ratio of the economic growth, and cater

tone for future policy, legal, and regulatory landscapes. Incorporating recommendation of the insurance industry reform committee would be a step in the right direction.

suggested focusing on mainstreaming global best practices, reducing the cost of doing business, digitizing the operations, and making effective use of technology generally

SECP Chairman Akif Saeed, in his welcome address, informed the participants about SECP's determination to work closely with industry stakeholders to align a concentrating on lifting the strategic vision, propel demanding adequate insurance industry. She to rising community coverage for people and said that SECP's 5-year aspirations.



headquarters during his visit to China.

PSX loses 1,146 points

ISLÁMABĀD (APP): The 100-index of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed a bearish trend on Wednesday, losing 1,146.62 points, a negative change of 1.73 percent, closing at 65,280.16 points against 66,426.78 points against 66,420.76 relative previous trading day.

A total of 1,358,411,606 shares valuing Rs.37.657 billion were traded during the day compared 969,630,378 shares valuing Rs.26.931 billion the last

Some 412 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 93 of them recorded gains and 304 sustained losses, whereas the share prices of

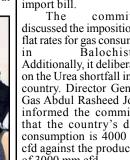
15 remained unchanged. The three top-trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 153,676,751 shares at Rs.1.65 per share, Bank of Punjab with 106,283,289 shares at Rs.6.29 per share and K-Electric Ltd with 90,068,235 shares at Rs.4.52 per share. Sapphire Fibres Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.29.50 per share price, closing at Rs1,699.50, whereas the runner-up was Mehmood Textile Mills with a Rs 23.82 rise in its per share price to Rs

FCCI says to help revive **GPO** services

FAISALABAD (APP): Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) President Dr. Khurram Tariq said on Wednesday that the business community would make concerted efforts to revive historic and architectural splendor of General Post Office (GPO), addition to switching over from private courier companies to the Pakistan Post (PP) to make it a profitable national entity.

During his visit to the GPO, he discussed various issues with Madam Iffat Ishaq, Chief Post Master Faisalabad, and termed the PP a historic asset to Pakistan which had lost its glory due to neglect of the authorities concerned.

He said that the services offered by PP should be upgraded to compete with the private sector and it should also provide similar facilities at affordable rates



Developing Asia's 2023 growth outlook upgraded to 4.9%

ISLAMABAD (APP): and the Pacific need to The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has raised its economic forecast for developing economies in Asia and the Pacific to 4.9 percent.

economy is expected to been lowered to 3.5% from grow 4.9% this year, an earlier projection of compared with a previous forecast of 4.7% in December 2023. For next September, according to year, inflation is expected the Asian Development to edge up to 3.6%, 2023, released by the bank Wednesday. The outlook for next year is maintained

"Developing Asia continues to grow at a robust pace, despite a challenging global environment," said ADB Chief Economist Albert

"Inflation in the region is also gradually coming under control. Still, risks remain, from elevated

global interest rates to

Niño. Governments in Asia

that their economies are resilient, and that growth is sustainable," Park

The region's inflation outlook for this year has 3.6%, according to ADO forecast of 3.5% The growth outlook

for Southeast Asia this year has been lowered to 4.3% from 4.6%, amid weak demand manufacturing exports. The outlook for economies in the Caucasus and Central Asia has been raised slightly, while projections for Pacific economies are unchanged.

Risks to the outlook include persistently elevated interest rates in climate events such as El the United States and other advanced economies



LAHORE: People of Christen Community are buying different decorating stuff from shop during the celebrations of Christmas.

Senate body on Petroleum recommends formalization of policy for LNG import

The Senate Standing 750 mm Committee on Petroleum Petroleum recommended government to formalize a

policy for LNG import and permit private entities to import LNG to meet local demands.

Chaired by Senator Mohammad Abdul Qadir, the meeting addressed the country's energy crisis, emphasizing the need for the ministry to work on newly discovered sites to alleviate the gas shortage and reduce the \$32 billion import bill.

Additionally, it deliberated on the Urea shortfall in the country. Director General Gas Abdul Rasheed Jokhi

Local consumers used

ISLAMABAD (APP): and Engro, utilizing almost The Senate Standing 750 mm cfd. Marri on Petroleum Petroleum supplied Wednesday approximately 85% of gas the to fertilizer companies, with the remaining 15% provided by other companies. Senator Mohammad Abdul Qadir expressed concern that fertilizer companies, despite subsidized gas rates, have not addressed the Urea and DAP shortfall. He directed the ministry to provide details of fertilizer production against the gas supplied. The committee also discussed levying flat committee rates for gas consumers in discussed the imposition of Balochistan. DG Gas flat rates for gas consumers in Balochistan. clarified that similar tariff rates are applied to all rates are applied to all consumers nationwide. However,

acknowledged that consumers in colder that the country's daily consumption is 4000 mm during winter due to higher gas usage. Senator Qadir gas usage. Senator Qadir gas usage. rates for consumers in cold 950 mm cfd, with fertilizer companies, including FFC areas during winter to meet their basic needs.

Nations reach deal at **COP28** to transition away from fossil fuels

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: Representatives from nearly 200 countries agreed at the COP28 climate summit on Wednesday to begin reducing global consumption of fossil fuels to avert the worst of climate change, a first-ofits-kind deal signaling the eventual end of the oil age.

The deal struck in Dubai after two weeks of hard-fought negotiations was meant to send a powerful signal to investors and policy-makers that the world is united in its desire to break with fossil fuels, something scientists say is the last best hope to stave off climate catastrophe.

COP28 President Sultan Al Jaber called the deal "historic" but added that its

true success would be in its implementation. "We are what we do, not what we say," he told the crowded plenary at the summit. "We must take the steps necessary to turn this agreement into tangible actions." Several countries cheered the deal for accomplishing something elusive in decades of climate talks. "It is the first time that the world unites around such a clear text on the need to transition away from fossil fuels," said Norway Minister of Foreign Affairs Espen Barth Eide.

More than 100 countries had lobbied hard for strong language in the COP28 agreement to 'phase out" oil, gas and coal use, but came up against powerful opposition from

producer group OPEC which argued that the world can slash emissions without shunning specific fuels.

That battle pushed the summit a full day into overtime on Wednesday, and had some observers worried the negotiations would end at an impasse. Members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries control nearly 80% of the world's proven oil reserves along with about a third of global oil output, and their governments rely heavily on those revenues. Small climate-vulnerable island states, meanwhile, were among the most vocal supporters of language to phase out fossil fuels and had the backing of huge oil and gas producers

Netanyahu

allowed \$1bn

to flow into

Hamas hands:

reports

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: Israel

appro-ved the transfer of

more than \$1 billion from

Qatar to Gaza, even

though there were intel-

ligence warnings that the

large-scale attacks into

Israel, US and Israeli

ported that from 2012 to

reached Gaza from Qatar,

Gaza \$200 million for aid,

fuel and government sala-

ries — and could provide

hundreds of millions more

this year, the reports

the money was collected

organisation and was pre-

sented to the Israeli secu-

Indian SC's

verdict cannot

change India's

status as

occupier in J&K

SRINAGAR (INP): Politi-

cal experts and analysts

based in Srinagar have said that Jammu and Kashmir is

not India's internal matter

but has been an internation-

ally-recognized disputed territory on the UN Secu-

rity Council's agenda for the

Media Service, the politi-

cal experts and analysts in

their interviews and state-

ments said the Indian Su-

preme Court's biased and

one-sided verdict can't

change the fact that New

Delhi remains in occupation

of Jammu and Kashmir

They said the Indian judi

ciary has always acted as a

tool to validate India's ille-

gal occupation over Jammu

Indian apex court has no

right to decide the legal sta-

tus of the internationally-

recognized disputed terri

They added that the

and Kashmir.

tory.

According to Kashmir

last over seven decades.

rity cabinet in January.

The information on

an international

government's approval.

The New York Times,

more than \$1.10h

Last year Qatar gave



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, Finance Minister Christian Lindner, and Economy and Climate Minister Robert Habeck present the 2024 budget in

Washington Post exposes **Indian covert operations** targeting Modi critics

The Washington Post has exposed covert operations by the Narendra Modi-led Indian government to stifle critical voices, both within and outside India.

The Washington Post report says that the Indian government has employed a disinformation lab based in the US to promote Prime Minister Narendra Modi while discrediting dissent-

As per the report, the deraliases to seek "favourable

WASHINGTON (INP): 2020 by Lt Col Dibya Satpathy of India's notorious intelligence agency RAW, has been linking individuals and organizations critical of Modi to various Islamic or conspiracy groups. The lab has reportedly published several reports, all of which are said group was planning to be anti-Pakistan and pro-Modi in nature. The report says Satapthy has "worked media reported on Monto shape international perceptions of India" and met with CNN and Ha'aretz re-Western journalists and un-

Candidates for Indonesia's presidential election

Monitoring Desk

JAKARTA: Indonesia holds a presidential election in February next year with three men campaigning to succeed President Joko Widodo as leader of the world's third-largest democracy and its most populous Muslim-majority na-

Here are details of the candidates and their running

The former special forces commander is making a third run at the presidency having twice lost to outgoing President Widodo. better known as Jokowi, in

Recent opinion polls have shown Prabowo surging ahead rivals of rivals. Prabowo, 72, comes

from an elite family and commands a huge following, despite allegations of human rights violations over the kidnapping of democracy activists during turmoil in the late 1990s and alleged abuses in East Timor. He has denied

He is also a former son-in-law president strongman

COP28 plan to triple renewables is doable, but not easy

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: More than 100

countries at the COP28 climate summit in Dubai have agreed to triple renewable energy capacity by 2030 one of the least controversial commitments floated at the conference. But they have given

little detail on how they can make an industry running flat out go that much faster. 'It is realistic, but

there are elements that need to be solved; permitting, leases, grid connections, Anders Opedal, chief executive of Norway's Equinor (EQNR.OL), a major renewable energy de-

speed up a lot.

The tripling target would bring global renewable energy capacity to at least 11,000 gigawatts (GW) in just six years more than 20% higher than current projections from BloombergNEF of around

key to meeting the 2015 Paris climate agreement to limit global warming. And while renewables are already expanding fast, this latest goal would require solar and wind power deployments to

veloper, told Reuters.

Renewable energy is

9,000 GW by that time.





General Secretary, attend a welcome ceremony at the Presidential Palace.

warns against allowing Putin to win

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden told President Volodymyr Zelensky on Tuesday that the United States will not abandon Ukraine in its desperate fight against Russia, even as Republicans signaled opposition to extending US war funding. Standing alongside the Ukrainian leader at a White House press conference, Biden vowed: "I will not walk away from Ukraine and neither will the

American people."
And he said that allowing a Ukrainian defeat would mean Russian President Vladimir Putin "and Ukraine aid will depend on would-be aggressors every- Democrats.

where will be emboldened. Zelensky, who spent the morning talking to Republicans and Democrats in Congress, signaled cautious optimism that the stalled US aid flow will restart. "I got the signals. They were more than positive. But we know that we have to separate words and particular results. Therefore we will count on particular results," Zelensky said.

But the united front at the White House contrasted with growing divi-sion up on Capitol Hill, where leading Republicans are insisting that renewing

Dozens injured in missile strikes on Kyiv

Monitoring Desk KYIV: Russian missile strikes damaged a hospital and residential building in the Ukrainian capital on Wednesday, injuring at least 45 people, the city's mayor said. Several explosions were heard in the city, with air raid sirens sounded soon after that.

"In total, 45 people were injured in Dniprovsky district as a result of the enemy attack. 18 of them were hospitalized, including 2 children. 27 received medical help on the spot, including three children,' Mayor Vitali Klitschko posted on social media.

ing in windows being blown out in several buildings of the facility. One person was injured at the hospital, according to the mayor.

ing the night attack, result-

cal facility," he added. that "as a result of the enemy's night missile attack (on) the capital's

jured, including two children, were hospitalized. He said "â missile fell Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: A declason the territory of one of the capital's hospitals" dur-

Police at the scene were "inspecting the crater on the territory of the medi-

Klitschko also said Dniprovsky district

over fundraising

Monitoring Desk TOKYO: Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Wednesday announced he would make changes to his cabinet as he seeks to stem the fallout from a fundraising scandal that has further dented public sup-port for his embattled ad-

scandal

ministration. The premier told a press conference he would make the changes on Thursday, just three months after a previous cabinet over-

"I will take the lead in fighting to rebuild the ways of the Liberal Democratic Party to restore trust in politics.'

US intelligence assesses Ukraine war has cost Russia 315,000 casualties

sified U.S. intelligence report assessed that the Ukraine war has cost Russia 315,000 dead and in-

jured troops, or nearly 80 percent of the personnel it had when the conflict began, a source familiar with the intelligence said on Tuesday.

The report also assessed that Moscow's losses in personnel and armored vehicles to Ukraine's military have set back Russia's military modern-



Parliament President Roberta Metsola, Afsoon Najafi and Mersedeh Shahinkar from the "Women, Life, Freedom" movement in Iran pose during the 2023 European Parliament's Sakharov Prize ceremony at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, eastern France.

Myanmar overtakes Afghanistan as world's biggest opium producer: UN

Monitoring Desk BANGKOK: Myanmar became the world's biggest producer of opium in 2023, overtaking Afghanistan af-

ter the Taliban government's crackdown on the trade, according to a United Nations report released on Tuesday.

Myanmar produced an estimated 1,080 metric tonnes of opium-essential for producing heroin this year, according to the latest report by the United poppy cultivation in April

Nations Office for Drugs amine and opium.

and Crime (UNODC). The figures come after opium production in Afghanistan slumped an estimated 95 percent to around 330 tonnes following the Taliban's ban on

last year, according to UNODC. The "Golden Triangle" border region between Myanmar, Laos and Thailand has long been a hotbed of illegal drug production and trafficking, particularly of methamphet-

France to host meeting on tackling Hamas financing, online activities

Monitoring Desk PARIS: Officials from more

than 20 countries including Israel but no Arab states will convene in Paris on Wednesday to define a strategy on how to curb financing of Hamas and its activities online, three diplomats said.

France has been pushng with Germany and Italy for the European Union to create a specific sanctions regime against the Palestinian Islamist group after its deadly attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7.

French diplomats have said they want a broader strategy encompassing as many countries as possible, to damage the group's ability to finance

itself and disseminate propaganda on social media networks

The one-day conference of foreign ministry political directors will begin with a presentation by Israel on the "state of Hamas' threat" before turning to sessions on curbing financing, according to an agenda seen by Reuters.

Presentations will be made by Israel, France, the United States - which will outline current sanctions on Hamas - and an independent organisation that focuses on terrorism financ-

Hamas uses a global financing network to funnel support from charities and friendly nations

South Korea's Yoon arrives in Netherlands, will visit ASML

Monitoring Desk AMSTERDAM: South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol laid a wreath at the Netherlands' national monument in Amsterdam on Tuesday at the start of a two-day visit during which he will also tour the headquarters of tech pow-erhouse ASML

(ASML.AS). Yoon's state visit, in which he is meeting Dutch King Willem-Alexander and outgoing Prime Minister Mark Rutte, is the first by a South Korean president since the countries established diplomatic ties in 1961

Asylum seeker dies on board **UK** barge housing migrants,

charity says **Monitoring Desk**

LONDON: An asylum seeker has died on board a barge housing migrants off the south coast of England, the refugee charity Care4Calais said on Tuesday. The death is reported to have taken place on the Bibby Stockholm, a barge which is moored in Portland, Dorset, and which can house around 500 people.

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has made cracking down on illegal migration one of his key priorities, and as part of that the government is trying to cut the cost of accommodating asylum.

Human Rights Watch call on UK to halt arms exports to Israel

Monitoring Desk LONDON: Human Rights Watch and other civil society groups have called on the UK government to stop transfers of arms to Israel, amid concerns that they might be used to commit "war crimes" against Palestinians.

It comes as Israel continues its two-month-long campaign of airstrikes and ground assaults in Gaza, during which more than 17,000 Palestinians, many of them women and children, have been killed, according to Palestinian officials.

In a detailed letter on Tuesday, the groups said that since 2015, UK authorities have authorized sales of military equipment to Israel worth at least £474 territory, most notably during the 2008-09 Gaza War.

million (\$595 million), including components for combat aircraft, missiles and tanks, other technology, and small arms and ammunition. "The UK provides approximately 15 percent of the components in the F-35 stealth bomber aircraft currently being used in Gaza, including the rear fuselage and active interceptor system, ejector seats, aircraft tires, refueling probe, laser-targeting system, and the fan propul-

sion system," it said. The letter also highlights previous occasions on which UK-supplied components were used by Israel during conflicts in the

Security breach in Indian parliament, man jumps into lawmakers' area

Monitoring Desk

NEW DELHI: A man jumped into the lawmakers' area of the lower house of India's parliament on Wednesday, in a major security breach on the 22nd anniversary of a deadly attack on the complex.

TV channels showed a man wearing a black jacket jump from the visitors' area into the lawmakers' seating area, climbing over tables of lawmakers.

White and yellow coloured smoke could be seen in the chambers in a photograph posted on social media by a lawmaker and shown on India Today TV channel.

Lawmakers told TV channels that the intruder shouted some slogans they could not make out and

Prime Narendra Modi was not in parliament at the time. India Today said the intruder had smoke cans hidden in his shoes and lawmakers fled the chambers as the cans released smoke.

TV channels showed the man jumping over two rows of lawmakers and trying to enter the aisles by evading security personnel. The man was later shown being taken away by police outside the building. The lower house stopped proceedings soon after the incident but resumed business

about an hour later. Speaker Om Birla told members that investigations had found that the smoke released by the man was "ordinary smoke, just there was a sound and some to cause sensation"

Argentina's surging prices add urgency to new president's plan

Monitoring Desk BUENOS AIRES: The relentless pace of creeping prices in Argentina provides the new president's plan for immediate shock therapy little margin for er-

ready wondering how they

will survive annual inflation nearing 150%. President Javier Milei's economy chief laid out the new government's initial policy push on Tuesday, targeting deep cuts to public spending and a sharp

will stoke short-term inflation as it hopes to staunch the bleeding in the country's worst economic crisis in decades.

Economy Minister Luis Caputo, like Milei in ror, with many citizens al- his first few days on the of the peso currency will be halved, public work tenders halted and energy and transport subsidies reduced.

The government will also, however, double social spending

currency devaluation that **UK** agrees to repatriate woman, 5 children from Syrian detention camps

Monitoring Desk ONDON: Authorities in the UK have authorized the

repatriation of a woman and five children from detention camps in Syria, The Guardian newspaper reported. It is only the second time since the ground war against Daesh ended four years ago that Britain has

group to return. A Syrian news agency said the woman and children, British nationals from

allowed an adult believed to

have connections with the

ered to UK officials on Sat-

Robel Baho, a representative of the foreign relations department of the Kurdish administration in northeastern Syria, urged the international community to take steps to repatriate more of the foreign citizens who have been held in camps for up to five years. More than 160 children and 50 women have been returned to France, while Germany has ac-

cepted the return of almost

100 women and children. several families, were deliv-Hunger rises in Gaza as UN prepares to vote on ceasefire resolution

Monitoring Desk

CAIRO: Hunger was worsening among Palestinians in the besieged Gaza strip, aid agencies said, as the United Nations General Assembly prepared to vote on Tuesday on an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in the two-month-old conflict between Israel and Hamas.

Hundreds more civilians have died in Israel's assault on Gaza since the U.S. on Friday vetoed a Security Council resolution calling for a ceasefire.

Most of Gaza's 2.3 million people have been driven from their homes and residents say it is impossible to find refuge or food in the densely populated coastal enclave. The U.N. World Food Programme has said half of the population is starving.

"Hunger stalks every-one," UNRWA, the U.N. body responsible for Pal-

estinian refugees, said on X. Gazans said people forced to flee repeatedly were dying of hunger and cold as well as the bombard-

ments, describing looting of aid trucks and sky high

Israel says its instructions to people to move are among measures it is taking to protect civilians as it tries to root out Hamas militants who killed 1,200 people and took 240 hostage in an Oct. 7 cross-border attack on Israel, according to Israeli tallies. About 100 hostages have since been freed. Israel's retaliatory assault has killed 18,205

people and wounded nearly 50,000, according to the Gaza health ministry. The 193-member General Assembly is likely on Tuesday to pass a draft resolution that mirrors the language of one that was

blocked by the United States in the 15-member Security Council last week. The vote was due a day after 12 Security Council envoys visited the Egyptian side of the Rafah border crossing with Gaza, the

only place where limited humanitarian aid and fuel have entered.



A man jumps into the lawmakers' area in the lower house of the Indian Parlia ment, in New Delhi, India

Pakistan's huge scope of

sports tourism needs regulation,

infrastructure facilities: President



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi addressing the concluding ceremony of the Conference on Sustainable Mountain Sports

Govt framing National Maritime Policy for dev. of sector: SAPM

KARACHI (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Maritime Affairs, Vice Admiral ® Iftikhar Ahmed Rao, Wednesday, said that government was framing National Maritime Policy to develop the sector for realizing the growth potential and reap benefits of blue economy. He was addressing as chief guest at Passing out Parade of 60th batch of Pakistan Marine Academy (PMA). As many as 94 cadets graduated in disciplines of Nautical Sciences (48) and Marine Engineering (46).

The SAPM appreciated professional services of Pakistan Marine Academy for providing training in nautical and marine engineering fields as well as conducting compulsory seamanship training, certificate courses and post sea specialized courses

Iftikhar Ahmad Rao appreciated the positive role Pakistan Marine Academy is playing in the country's shipping industry and also felicitated the graduating cadets who were ready to induce themselves into much desired process of national building.

Terming cadets as the backbone of the blue economy he stated that you have chosen a profession that has immense importance nationally as well as internationally as marine transportation being the most economical and environment friendly medium occupied significance in global trade and nations who realized its importance became great powers.

Seafarers are backbone on this industry that offers opportunities of bright future to youth as it was ex-

Vice Admiral (retd) pected that global requirement of seafarer officers in the industry would be around 90000 by 2026, he noted. He urged the cadets that they will be the sailing ambassadors of Pakistan in the field of shipping across the world so they must excel while maintaining international standards and earn not only good name for the country but also contribute

in development of national

as well as global economy.

Referring to efforts for upgrading PMA into higher education institution in fields of Nautical Sciences and Marine Engineering, the SAPM said that government was formalizing National Maritime Policy and we are recommending to establish National University of Maritime Sciences and Technology and PMA would be a hub of the

EU, AFD

sign MoU to

spearhead new

climate initiative

in Punjab's

urban centers

ISLAMABAD (INP): A

memorandum of under-

standing was signed between the EU and the

Agence Française de

Développement (AFD) here on Wednesday to

spearhead a new climate

initiative in the urban cen-

Riina Kionka and Deputy

Director AFD Eastern Eu-

rope, Middle East and Asia

vices by installing 200 ki-

lometers of new water sup-

55,000 new connections.

als to drinking water.

3 convicts in

Kasur Video

scandal

LAHORE (Online): Lahore

High Court (LHC) has ac-

quitted three major convicts

of LHC presided over by

Justice Shehram Sarwar

Chaudhry took up appeal pleas of the three convicts

against life imprisonmen

Aleem Asif, Haseeb Aamir

and Sohail Asghar advocate

appeared on behalf of the

cepting the appeal pleas of

the three convicts against

life imprisonment acquitted

The convicts are

Abid Hussain Khichi

The court while ac

for hearing Wednesday.

and Wasim Sindhi.

convicts.

A two members bench

in Kasur video scandal.

It focuses on enhanc-

signed the agreement.

EU Ambassador Dr

Julie Marsaudon

ters of Puniab.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Health Minister Dr. Amir Muhammad Khan Jogezai being briefed about performance of PPHI and departmental affairs

Sector plan for **Balochistan local** govt finalized

QUETTA (APP): Care- day consultative workshop taker Provincial Minister for Local Government Sheikh Mahmood Al Hasan Mandukhel on Wednesday said the sector plan for Balochistan local government has been finalized in collaboration with the Department of Local Government Rural Development Balochistan, European Union BRACE Technical

Assistance and DAI. The local government sector plan is being formed for the first time in the history of the country which will play a key role in the implementation of the Community-led Local Governance Policy.

under the aegis of EC Brace Technical Assistance DAI was organised in Quetta, wherein bodies of the Government of Balochistan, the local government department, various departments and civil society members were present.

Speaking to the workshop participants, Sheikh Mahmood Al Hasan Mandukhel said that this is an important event which is held to consult key stakeholders and it will lead to the ratification of the Local Government Sector Plan.

In an increasingly interconnected world, the role of local governance can-



QUETTA: Provincial Ombudsman Balochistan Advocate Nazar Baloch presenting annual report of his department to Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Ŵali Khan Kakar.

PHC says: Level playing field be given to all political parties including PTI

PESHAWAR (Online): Peshawar High Court (PHC) has ordered level playing field be given to all political parties including PTI. The court further ordered that chief secretary should take action against those behind giving discriminatory treatment.

PHC has issued written decision regarding the case in connection with permission for PTI workers

Justice Ijaz Anwar has written this 5-page decision. It has been said in the court's decision holding election is constitutional obligation of Election Commission (EC) and care taker government. It is binding on care taker government to assist EC in elections. It is ment to influence the election or to make such bid which influences transpar-The decision said level

playing field be given to all political parties including PTI. EC should summon report from DOs on daily basis. No discriminatory treatment should be given to any party. The political party should report the matter of discriminatory treatment to chief secretary and chef secretary should take action against those found involved in discrimi-

natory treatment. The court said in its decision that PTI is resorting to this court repeatedly that FIRs are being registered against its workers and level playing field is not being given to them.

Madad increases quota for women from 33% to 40% in PMYSDP ISLAMABAD (APP):

Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi has increased the quota for women from 33% to 40% in the Prime Minister's Youth Skills Development Programme (PMYSDP).

He made these directions while chairing the 1st Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Prime Minister's Youth Skills Development Programme (PMYSDP) by NAVTTC on Wednesday.

He said that women's empowerment is a crucial milestone that needs to be prioritised if we want Pakistan to overcome the existing social challenges.

Similarly, he ordered that all differently abled students to be given seats fremely positive results.

irrespective of any quotas

He also ordered the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTC) to arrange accommodation for them in major cities to facilitate them

Madad Ali Sindhi said that technical training can become the backbone of the economy of Pakistan. He said that it is imperative that we harness the full potential of the youth of Pa-

He appreciated the sheer scale of the Prime Minister's Youth Skills Development Programme (PMYSDP) and said that effective and practical implementation of this programme can yield ex-

Public support must for making Pak polio-free, emphasizes Governor

Independent Report

Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has emphasized that the general public must extend wholehearted cooperation to the anti-polio teams so as to make Pakistan polio-free. The Governor was

speaking to the Zonal Coordinator, Saleem Raza, who called on him here at the Governor House on

Malik Abdul Wali Kakar regretfully pointed out that we couldn't rid of the polio virus even today despite this has been eradicated in majority countries

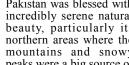
of the world. The Governor, however, expressed satisfaction over that the anti-polio teams are actively taking

part in the polio eradication

However, there is a need to provide protection to the workers of polio teams in view of some unpleasant incidents in the

He also stressed that all segments of the society including religious leaders. media workers and repre sentative personalities and others should play their positive role for eradication

of polio in the province.



Addressing the concluding ceremony of the third Sustainable Mountain Sports Tourism Conference, he said the provision of facilities was the top factor in the development of domestic and sports tour-

President Dr Arif Alvi on

Wednesday said Pakistan

had immense potential for

sports and adventure tour-

ism, however stressed ef-

fective regulation and im-

proved infrastructure to

explore the untapped sec-

The event themed 'Revival of Mountain Glory' was organized by the Alpine Club of Pakistan and gathered the country's renowned he added mountaineers including The

Samina Baig, Naila Kiani, and Sajid Sadpara among others who won titles by scaling the highest peaks

of the world. President Alvi said Pakistan was blessed with incredibly serene natural beauty, particularly its northern areas where the mountains and snowy peaks were a big source of attraction for tourists and

He mentioned that the country's scenic Malam Jabba and Naltar areas offered amazing skiing facilities and had huge potential for adventure sports. Also, the Hunza Valley has the world's best treks amidst the gigantic mountains of Karakoram,

The president, how-

ever, stressed the need to put in place a tourist regulatory mechanism to promote domestic tourism.

He emphasized ensuring facilities for tourists such as easy access to destinations, better roads, clean hotels and guest rooms, and

trained human resources. He pointed out that the unregulated influx of tourists caused nuisance of traffic jams and disruption of the civic system. In this regard, he proposed proper management and development of new tourist destinations to shift the quantum of visitors.

The president also called for raising consciousness among the general public to be kind towards the environment while exploring tourist places.



GWADAR: Participants' of 6th Maritime Security workshop during their visit to Gwadar port.

ECP enforces countrywide ban on DCs', ADCs' transfer, posting ISLAMABAD (INP): The

Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has enforced a countrywide ban on the transfer and posting of Deputy Commissioners and Additional Deputy Commissioners and others assigned to supervise the

upcoming elections. The ECP in a letter addressed to the Secretary Establishment and the four Chief Secretaries, emphasized the strict enforcement of the ban, citing the pivotal roles assigned to DCs and ADCs in the upcoming general elections. "I am directed to state that the Commission has appointed DROs, ROs and ÂROs on 11th December 2023.

Vice Admiral Ovais

Ahmed Bilgrami

appointed Vice

Chief of Naval Staff

ISLAMABAD (INP): The

Ministry of Defence on

Wednesday appointed Vice

Admiral Ovais Ahmed

Bilgrami as Vice Chief of

the Naval Staff with imme-

commissioned in Opera-

tions Branch of Pakistan

Navy in 1989. He carried

out ȟis initial training from

Britannia Royal Naval Col-

lege, Dartmouth (UK) and

won the coveted Sword of

Abbasi declares

not to participate

in elections

KARACHI (INP): Paki-

stan: Former Prime Minis-

ter Shahid Khaqan Abbasi,

speaking outside the NAB

court in Karachi on

Wednesday, announced his

decision not to participate

in the upcoming general

elections. He expressed

frustration with the Na-

tional Accountability Bu-

reau (NAB) and called for a

justice system based on

fairness and transparency.

motives behind his five-

year legal case, which cul-

minated in his acquittal by

the High Court earlier to-

day. He demanded account-

ability for former NAB

Abbasi questioned the

The Vice Admiral was

diate effect.

Foreigners repatriation case sent to SC judges committee

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court (SC) on Wednesday sent the case pertaining to the repatriation of foreigners to the judges committee for the formation of a larger bench.

The three-member SC bench headed by Justice Sardar Tariq Masood, while hearing the case, observed that the petitioners had objected on the powers of caretaker government under Article 224 of the Consti-

It said that in the matter of repatriation of foreigners, the interpretation of articles 9, 10 and 24 was required, and it was sending it to the judges committee under the SC (Practice & Procedure) Act for the formation a larger bench.

During hearing, the Federal Government and the Foreign Office submitted their comments.

The case was then adjourned till after the winter

Asfandyar says: Efforts underway to solve issues of public for facilitating them

QUETTA (APP): Secretary of Forestry and Livestock, Asfandyar Kakar, said on Wednesday that measures are underway to address public issues and provide facilities at their doorsteps. He made these remarks durng a Jirga organized at the Kohar Dam site by the Israr Shaheed Welfare and Peace Committee, with the support of the Ashar Movement. The Jirga, attended by various dignitaries including Commissioner Loralai Division Balach Aziz, Vice Chancellor Ehsanullah Kakar, Deputy Commissioner Sajjad Aslam Rind, Chief of Forestry Depart-

Director Amin Mengal, and Chairman Mandi Malik Taman Khel, focused on discussing and resolving community concerns. Secretary Asfandyar

Kakar emphasized the importance of Pashtun Jirgas in Baloch and welcomed constructive criticism for reform. He stated that government officials are servants of the people, and it is their responsibility to address the challenges faced by the public. He noted that the cooperation of the people is crucial for the development of any area, expressing satisfaction with the local awareness of the ment Muhammad Sharif, region's importance.



KARACHI: Caretaker Minister Balochistan for Law, Parliamentary Affairs and Prosecution Amanullah Kanrani meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar.

Pashtoon nationalist politicians support **Chaman protest**

Slam registration of cases against political leaders

Independent Report QUETTA: The Pashtoon

nationalist politicians have supported the protest being staged by the Laghri Ittehad, All parties and Anjuman Tajran adjacent to the Durand Line in Chaman.

They condemned the registration of cases against the political workers and raids conducted at their residences by the government. They said that hundreds of people deprived of their livelihood are observing protest in Chaman, but no attention is being given to their demands by the government, rather cold and lukewarm attitude is being demonstrated towards them.

These and similar other views were expressed by the Pashtoon nationalist leaders including the provincial president of

Awami National Party, Asghar Khan Achakzai, provincial coordinator of Pashtoon Tahafuz Movement, Noor Bacha, provincial deputy secretary of Pashtoonkhaw National Awami Party, Hayat Khan, leader of National Democratic Movement, Javed Khan Achakzai, Salahuddin Watanyar, Amanullah Khan Achakzai, Abdul Khaliq Haqmal, and others while addressing the grand public protest gathering in front of the Bacha Khan Markaz, Chaman on Wednesday.

They said that the caretaker government has no mandate to take up such sensitive issues. They also lamented the Election Commission for merging two provincial constituencies into one

PTA unveils Cyber Security strategy strategy is built on six foun-

and ROs in connection with general elections.

The project aims to ISLAMABAD (INP): The improve access to drinking water and sanitation ser-Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) on Wednesday unveiled its ply pipes and providing Cyber Security strategy for Pakistan's telecom sector, a comprehensive and ambitious plan set to span from

ing capacities, increasing water treatment capacity 2023 to 2028. by 135,000 cubic meters This strategy is a sigper day and bolstering urnificant step in the impleban water governance. The mentation of the National initiative will improve the Cyber Security Policy access of 400,000 individu-2021 and marks a monumental stride towards bolstering digital security in the LHC acquits country's rapidly evolving

telecom sector. According to PTA, the society.

dational pillars, each targeting a specific aspect of cyber security, such as legal framework, cyber resilience, proactive monitoring and incident response, capacity building, cooperation and collaboration, and public awareness. The strategy empha-

QUETTA: Director Election Quetta Waseem Ahmd and Regional Election

Commissioner Quetta Naeem Ahmed addressing training session of DROs

sizes a multi-stakeholder approach, fostering active collaboration between public and private sectors, regulatory bodies, telecom operators, private security firms, academia, and civil

Balochistan Secretary health visits Mufti Mehmood Memorial Hospital Kuchlak

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Secretary Health Abdullah Khan on Wednesday visited Mufti Mehmood Memorial Hospital (MMMH) Kuchlak. Project Director of

Balochistan Human Capital Project Investment (BHCIP), Saqib Kakar, MS Mufti Mehmood Hospital Kuchlak Dr Abdullah Dotani, Section Officer Tahir Khan, and other assistants were present on this occasion. MS Mufti Mahmood Hospital Kuchlak Dr. Abdullah

Dotani gave a briefing to the Secretary of Health about the provision of health fament in maternal and child health facilities.

cilities in the hospital. Secretary Health also inspected other medical equipment provided by BHCIP to Mufti Mehmood Memorial Hospital (MMMH) Kuchlak. The official reviewed various wards, the labor room, the Operation Theater, and the laboratory of the hospital. The Health Secretary expressed his satisfaction with the improve-



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Local Bodies Sheikh Mehmoodul Hassan Mandokhail. Secretary Locdal Bodies Noor Ahmed Pirkani and others addressing dring a ceremony organized by **Local Bodies Department.**