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phone. Those who become

journalists by holding mo-

bile should think that deci-

sion has come on practice

and procedure act. Justice Tariq Masood and Justice

Ijaz ul Ahsan had refused

to join the bench. I have not

removed any judge from

bench. It is my Endeavour that we should proceed

with consensus or in demo-

cratic way in the commit-

tee. We are heading towards

democracy and democracy

is coming in the court as

the speech which led to dis-

missal of justice Shaukat

Aziz Siddiqui.

The CJP inquired who was the chief justice of

high court then. How Su-

preme Judicial Council

(SJC) came to know about

Anwar Kansi was chief jus-

tice in Islamabad High Court (IHC). Registrar SC had

written note to SJC.

Hamid Khan replied

The CJP inquired who

had asked Shaukat Aziz

he speech.

Hamid Khan read out

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vol. XXV No. 115, Jamadi-us-Sani 01,1445 AH Friday December 15, 2023 Pages 12, Price Rs. 15

PM reaffirms Pakistan's support to Kashmiris; rejects Indian SC verdict as politically motivated

MUZAFFARABAD Speaker Chaudhry Latif (APP): Caretaker Prime Akbar, the session was at-Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday reaffirmed Pakistan's moral, political and diplomatic support to the people of Kashmir, and rejected the recent verdict of the Indian Supreme Court calling it a politically motivated and a tool to consolidate Indian illegal occupation.

The prime minister, in his address at the special session of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly (AJK LA), called for India to desist from consolidating its occupation, revoke the illegal unilateral actions of August 5, 2019 and not change the demography of the disputed

Chaired by AJK LA

LAHORE: Chief of Pakhtoonkhwa Milli Awami

Party Mehmood Khan Achakzai meeting with PML

People to vote for

progressive, developed

Pakistan on Feb 8: Nawaz

LAHORE (APP):Pakistan You (people) are the courts

on Thursday said that he ery and suffering imposed

firmly believed that the on you since my ouster, by

people would make a deci-voting for a prosperous,

(N) quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif.

Muslim League-Nawaz

Muhammad Nawaz Sharif

sion in favor of a progress-

ing and prospering Pakistan

Allah Almighty and the

people of Pakistan for

standing by him all through-

out, he said that he was

happy that the truth had

vindicated him, but he

would be truly happy the

day people of Pakistan

would be freed from the

suffering of excruciating in-

flation and economic strife

inflicted upon them in the

from the PML-N Secre-

tariat in Model Town here,

the PML-N Quaid said, "I

had to knock repeatedly at

Addressing the nation

aftermath of his ouster.

Expressing gratitude to

on 8th February elections.

(PML-N)

tended by AJK Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwarul Haq and Assembly mem-

Kakar also stressed upon India to halt the human rights abuses in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK), repeal emergency laws, withdraw heavy military presence and provide unhindered access to the United Nations bodies and the international media.

The prime minister, who was the first-ever caretaker PM to address the AJK Legislative Assembly, paid tribute to the martyrs of the Kashmir movement and those living along the Line of Control and suffered losses due to the Indian

and the judge and you shall

liberate and free yourselves

from this sentence of mis-

progressing and developed

questions to those who

hatched a conspiracy

against him and the people

of Pakistan. He called for

an explanation for plunging

the country and its

hardworking people into

He raised a plethora of

litical divide, the entire Pakistani leadership stood united to support the Continued on page 2

ceasefire violations.

He said Pakistan would

continue to stand alongside

the people of Kashmir in

their struggle and wished

them to enjoy their due

rights.
"Kashmir is Pakistan's

jugular vein. The word 'Pa-

kistan' is incomplete with-

out Kashmir. The people

of Pakistan and Kashmir

are bound by unique affinity. We share joys and sor-

row. Pakistan cannot remain

indifferent to the situation

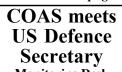
in Kashmir... Kashmir runs

in our blood. Jammu and

Kashmir remains an impor-

tant facet of Pakistan's for-

eign policy," he remarked. He said across the po



Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir met with US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin in Washing ton to discuss the regional security situation and defence cooperation between the two countries.

Pentagon spokesper-son Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder said on Wednesday that Austin received Munir who arrived in Washington on Sunday for a weeklong

"The two officials discussed recent regional security developments and po tential areas for bilateral defence cooperation," said

FO rejects reports, speculations of talks with TTP ISLAMABAD (INP): Pa

kistan has vehemently re-

jected reports and specula

tions of talks with Tehreekunspeakable crisis, ecoe-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) nomic strife, and suffering. Responding to the queries Nawaz said that he was of media persons at her grateful to Allah Almighty weekly briefing in Islamabad on Thursday, for being vindicated in the baseless and false cases. He Foreign Office Spokesper said that he was thankful son Mumtaz Zahra Baloch to the people for standing said there is absolutely no by him in these tough dialogue taking place with times. He pointed out that TTP. The spokesperson the verdicts given against said we have noted the him exposed the lies and statement of the interin deception as all cases Afghan government that it will investigate Tuesday's terror attack that took place in Dera Ismail Khan. She said Afghanistan should

to Pakistan along with the TTF leadership in Afghanistan. The spokespersor urged the Afghan authoric ties to take concrete and verifiable steps to prevent the use of their soil by terror entities against Paki

Jamadi-us-Sani moon sights

take strong action against

perpetrators of this heinous

attack and hand them over

ISLAMABAD (Online): Moon of Jamadi Al-Sani has been sighted. Ministry of Religious Affairs has issued a notification. Jamadi-ul-Sani moon was sighted in Islamabad, Peshawar, Multan, and other areas.

DG Ministry of Reli gious Affairs Mushahid Hussain Khalid. representatives of Department of Meteorology SPARCO, Ministry of Science and Technology also participated. Announcement of Zonal Sighting of Crescent Committee, Chairman of Central Sight ing of Crescent Committee from Madinah

attempt to enter Pakistan by crossing the border, Munawrah and prayed. however, this bid was foiled





dresses the special session of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly.

LHC suspends EC notification for holding general election through bureaucracy

accuses PTI of conspiring to delay elections; In 2018, bureaucracy had carried out the responsibility of DROs, says Shehbaz

LAHORE (Online): Lahore tion through bureaucracy in High Court (LHC) has suspended Election Commission (EC) notification to conduct general election through bureaucracy. The notifications is-

sued by the Election Commission of Pakistan appointing district returning officers, returning officers and assistant returning officers from executive in the upcoming general elections has been suspended by the

A single bench of LHC reality led by justice Ali Baqar Najafi has announced reserved judgment on PTI petition.

Justice Ali Bagar Najafi while recommending to constitute larger bench to hear the petitions against conducting the general elec-

tition, therefore, file is sent Punjab sent the file to Chief to chief justice for constituting larger bench.
INP adds: The Election Justice (CJ) LHC

lowing an order issued by

(LHC). This decision

scheduled to be conducted

comes in response to a five-page written verdict issued

by Justice Baqir Najafi on petitions filed by Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chal-

members of Senate belong-

ing to Balochistan Awami

Party (BAP) did whole-

hearted representation of

Also present on the

Sadiq Sanjrani said that

occasion were President of

BAP, Nawabzada Khalid

Magsi and other leaders.

at first we should under-

stand that what actually the

rights and representation

work to the best of our ca-

pabilities in Senate. He said

that we didn't leave any

stone unturned in making

representation of the

people and province in

BAP's Senators made

wholehearted representa-

tion in Senate and took well

care of rights of all, he main-

man Senate represents the

whole country and prov-

Achakzai meets

cal situation of the country.

Achakzai congratulated

Nawaz Sharif for acquittal

expressed goodwill gesture

for Pashtunkhwa Milli

nizer Marvam Nawaz

Sharif was also present

The PML-N Supremo

PML-N Chief Orga-

Khan

Mahmood

in NAB references.

Awami Party leader.

He also said that Chair-

tained.

In this regard, the

He said that we did

the province in Senate.

on Thursday.

The ECP's move

executive.

It has been said in the Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Thursday has decision that billion of rupees of the nation are spent stopped the ongoing training of District Returning on holding election. If larger parties don't accept the re-Officers (DROs) and Result of the election then the turning Officers (ROs) folmoney of the nation will stand wasted. EC has to conduct free and fair election. Level playing field has to be provided to the canthrows a wrench in preparations for the upcoming didates and voters to turn general elections, originally transparent election into with the assistance of the

Justice Ali Bagar Najafi wrote in his decision the desired results cannot be achieved from general election in the prevailing situation which can weaken future of democracy.

National issues have been highlighted in the pe-



OUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Health, Dr. Amir Muhammad Khan Jogezai addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club.

In all 8,217 patients benefitted from Balochistan Health Card, says Dr. Ameer Jogezai

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Health Dr Ameer Muhammad Khan Jogezai has stated that in all 8,217 patients have so far been benefitted from the Health Card in Balochistan.

This was informed by the caretaker provincial Minister for Health, Dr. Ameer Muhammad Khan Jogezai while addressing a press conference at Quetta

press club on Thursday. Dr. Ameer Muhammad Khan Jogezai said that the patients were treated in 150 hospitals all over the coun

> The treatment of the patients has cost some Rs. 20 million, the Minister Health added. Dr. Jogezai also in-

formed that 18 percent treatment of the patients

Continued on page 2

LEAs foil attempt of crossing Pak border by 120 Afghan nationals, says Jan Achakzai

by the LEAs.

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has stated that the law enforcement agencies (LEAs) foiled the attempt of cross-

ing Pakistan border by 120 Afghan nationals. While speaking to the media persons here on Thursday, the Minister Information said that 120 Afghan nationals made an

The Minister Information said that the interim government is serious in resolving the issues of people of Chaman. Their genuine demands would be resolved soon, he maintained. Referring the recent terrorism incident in Dera Ismail Khan, Jan Achakzai

Nawaz Sharif LAHORE Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party leader Mahmood Khan Achakzai on Thurssaid that the presence of Afghan nationals in the terday met Pakistan Muslim rorism has proved that the League-Nawaz (PML-N) Supremo Muhammad passport is essential for Nawaz Sharif. across the border move-During the meeting, held at the PML-N Central Secretariat, both the leaders discussed overall politi-

Institutions are not bad, people are bad: CJP journalists by holding

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa has remarked country is heading towards democracy, therefore, democracy is coming in Supreme Court (SC).

He further remarked institutions are not bad. People are bad. Destruction comes in the country because institutions are scolded rather than people. Institutions are run by people. We will not allow any one to allege some one behind one's back.
The CJP gave these re-

marks while presiding over five members larger bench of SC during the hearing of former judge Islamabad High Court (IHC) Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui dismissal case here Thursday.

Hamid Khan counsel for Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui gave assurance to file application to make Justice (Retd) Anwar Kansi and others respondents. Federal government

raised question over maintainability of Shaukat Aziz

Siddiqui petition. had asked Shaukat Aziz
The CJP remarked Siddiqui to give decision of now a days people become whim the Lahore High Court

QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Information Jan Achakzai meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Directs to finalize result of entry test:

IT initiative program to help decrease unemployment: Kakar

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that a comprehensive information technology initiative programme has been launched in modern lines for providing opportunities of livelihood and training to the unemployed youth of the province for the first

He said that the IT initiative programme would The Chairman Senate help decrease unemploywas speaking on occasion ment and bring improveof the joining ceremony by ment in overall economy of PTI's leader and Provincial the province through Minister Mobin Khilji here

The Governor directed the concerned authorities to finalize the result of the entry test of the IT initiative programme within a

week The Governor was addressing a meeting held to review different aspects of

Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences and Ultra software system were present.

tiative programme and the

entry test of the aspirants

conducted for it, here on

Thursday.
The Principal Secre-

tary to Governor, Hashim

Khan Ghilzai as well as rep-

resentatives of the Balochistan University of

Speaking on the occasion, Governor expressed pleasure that the IT initiative programme has been launched for the first time.

He appreciated the conscious efforts made by all the public sector universities, Ultra Software system and officers of Governor House and Secretariat for materialising the dream of providing opportunities of livelihood to the unemployed but educated youth



QUETTA: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani addresses to media persons during press conference, in Quetta.

Mobin Khilji part ways with PTI, joins BAP

Independent Report

QUETTA: The former Provincial Minister and leader of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI), Mobin Khilji parted ways with the party (PTI) and joined Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) here

on Thursday. The PTI leader Mobin Khilji announced to join BAP during a joining ceremony arranged by the BAP here on Thursday.

Prominent among those present at the joining ceremony were the Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, President of BAP, Nawabzada Khalid Khan Magsi, secretary

General Senator Manzoor

vincial President, Sardar Muhammad Saleh Bhotani and other leaders of the party.
The BAP's leadership

welcomed Mobin Khilji in

Ahmed Khan Kakar, pro-

the party and hoped that it would strengthen with his Addressing the ceremony, Nawabzada Khalid Magsi welcoming Mobin

Khilji in the party announced to appoint him as provincial Secretary General of the party.

The Secretary General

of BAP Manzoor Kakar said that former Minister and PTI leader Mobin Khilji joined BAP after reposing confidence in the party leadership



ISLAMABAD: DG FIA Mohsin Hassan Butt inaugurating National Trafficking in Persons Hotline for National Referral Mechanism & Management Information System.

FIA launches TIP Hotline for reporting human trafficking cases

ISLAMABAD (INP): For first time in the country, Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Thursday launched a national Trafficking In Persons (TIP) Hotline for national referral mechanism and management information system (MIS) for the general public to ensure the provision of service to victims of human trafficking under one roof, in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Director General FIA Mohsin Hassan, along with ADG Immigration, FIA, country representative of UNODC, Australian Australian Deputy High Commissioner, Director ILO, US Political Advisor, other dignitaries, senior FIA officers from the provinces, also attended the ceremony.

Shireen Malik Sher, Additional Director, FIA, who is the focal person of the project, worked under the supervision of Israr Ahmed Kĥan, Director Anti-Human Smuggling Directorate of FIA and accomplished the Project in a very short span of time. The project was funded by Australian High Commission through International Labour Organization (ILO).

Shireen Malik Sher. sharing the main features of the project, told APP that this was the first-ever initiative which would have the mechanism to ensure a prompt response. After receiving the complaint on hotline, the official concerned at TIP facilitation center would send complaint against the traffickers to the concerned police stations across Pakistan with a single click and trafficking victims will be referred to the concerned departments for welfare, she added



Pakistan warns against any move to change ongoing UN process to reform Security Council

rent Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN) on reforming the U.N. Security Council as the "best platform" to accomplish the objective, saying, any "hasty or rushed process with a piecemeal approach" will disrupt efforts to reach an agreed outcome in the process to expand the

'Any new process will have to start 'de novo' and face the same challenges as those being addressed in the IGN process," Ambassador Usman Iqbal Jadoon. deputy permanent representative to the UN, told delegates when the long-running negotiations aimed at restructuring the Security Council resumed on Wednes-

The Pakistani envoy's remarks came amid a renewed push by India, Brazil, Germany and Japan—known as the Group of Four -- for permanent membership of an expanded Security Council.

"Only through a patient exchange, mutual accommodation, and compromise can we broaden the areas of convergence and reduce the points of divergence and thus evolve a 'model' for the reform that can be accepted by the widest possible majority of Member States," Ambassador Jadoon said.

"We all want to see a Security Council that is more representative, more democratic, more transparent, more effective, and more accountable," he said, adding, "This

goal can only be attained through a comprehensive reform that caters to the interests of all Member States small, medium, and large.3

Referring to reform 'models' proposed by various groups and member states, Ambassador Jadoon said, Any artificial move to propel the reform process towards a disproportionate focus on 'models' is likely to polarize positions and pull the member states further

"Instead of breathing new life, this will further complicate the prospects of a meaningful outcome," he said his remarks during the session.

The Security Council reform process, which began in February 2009 have so far remained stalled. The IGN process deals with five clusters—the categories of membership, the question of veto, regional representation, size of an enlarged Security Council, and working methods of the council and its relationship with the General

Despite a general agreement on enlarging the Council, as part of the UN reform process, member states remain vided over the details.

The Group of Four, which is campaigning for permanent seats on the Council, has shown no flexibility in their campaign for expanding the Council by 10 seats, with six additional permanent and four non-permanent



MUZAFFARABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar visits the Yaadgaar-e-Shuhada to pay tribute to the martyrs.

QUETTA: A delegation of lawyers led by Advocate Asif Tareen meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

David Warner slams 164 as Australia take control against Pakistan in first Test

Sports Desk

PERTH: Veteran opener David Warner hammered a gritty 164 to silence the critics and steer Australia to 346-5 against an inconsistent Pakistan attack in the first Test at Perth on Thurs-

The 37-year-old batted for much of day one before finally departing to Aamer Jamal, two balls after smashing the debutant for

At stumps, Mitchell Marsh was unbeaten on 15 and Alex Carey not out 14.

Pakistan have never won a Test series in Australia and have failed to win a Test in the country since 1995, with the team again facing a daunting task.

showed flashes of brilliance scandal. and were rewarded with the

wickets of Usman Khawaja won the toss and opted to bat, Warner took a confi-(41), Marnus Labuschagne (16), Steve Smith (31) and dent single off his first ball in an opening over from Shaheen Shah Afridi that Travis Head (40).

But until Jamal struck, they had no answer to a near-flawless Warner who smashed 16 fours and four sixes in a majestic 211-ball

He padded up under pressure to score runs with an emotional goodbye from Test cricket at the third Test in Sydney in front of his hometown fans his stated

In the lead-up, former Australian paceman Mitchell Johnson questioned whether Warner deserved a hero's farewell given his recent poor redball form and involvement Pakistan bowlers in the 2018 ball-tampering

PM visits Yadgar-e-Shuhada, lays floral wreath to pay homage to martyrs

MUZAFFARABAD Azad Jammu and Kashmir Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday visited Yadgar-e-Shuhada to pay tributes to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the freedom movement of Jammu and Kashmir.

On the occasion, the prime minister laid floral wreath at Yadgar-e-Shuhada to pay homage to the valiant soldiers of the armed

PM Kakar was also presented guard of honour by a smart contingent of Kashmir.

Earlier, the prime min-

ister arrived here on his two-day visit where he was received by Prime Minister AJK Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq.

The prime minister's visit is an expression of solidarity with the people of Jammu and Kashmir in the context of the confirmation by the Indian Supreme Court of India's unilateral and illegal move regarding the status of Jammu and

IHC rejects Imran's request to stay cipher case trial

ISLAMABAD (APP):The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday rejected the request of former Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman to stop his trial in the cipher case and sought comments from the respondents. Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb heard the peti tion of former PTI chairman.

Petitioner's lawyer Sikandar Zulqarnain Saleem ar gued that no notification had been issued regarding the jail trial when the trial court passed an order regarding his client's indictment on December 4. The court inquired regarding the Federal Government's notification for the jail trial. The lawyer said that it was the responsibility of government to specify place for the hearing of a case.

Justice Miangul Hassan observed that it was the authority of the judge concerned to decide about the place for holding the trial. The lawyer prayed the court to issue a stay order against the triaĺ.

The court, however, served notices to the respon dents and adjourned the hearing till December 20.

Govt to ensure affordable healthcare for all citizens: Dr Jan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan on Thursday reiterated the government's unwavering commitment to provide accessible and affordable healthcare for all citizens. The minister, in a statement in connection with the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Day, said,"The UHC Day serves as a powerful reminder of the collective commitment to building equitable and accessible healthcare system across the country.

It also served as a global reminder of the importance of health as a fundamental human right and the need for collective efforts to achieve health coverage for everyone, leaving no one behind, he added. The minister said that this year's theme, "Health for All: Time for Action," resonated with "our ongoing efforts to build a healthier and more equitable society". He said, "Despite the considerable improvement in the UHC service coverage index from 40% in 2015 to 52.7% in 2023, the real challenge still lies ahead. "With our expected enhanced investment in essential health services at the community and pri-

mary healthcare levels, we need to ensure efficiency and effectiveness while ad-

dressing equity issues."

Dr Nadeem affirmed the government's relentless efforts to fortify the healthcare system, enhance infrastructure, and elevate the quality of healthcare services. Emphasizing the importance of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), Dr Nadeem Jan highlighted that the Ministry of Health was involved in the implementation of various reforms dedicated to expanding healthcare access, particularly for vulnerable the Ministry of Health and populations. The Health

implemented various UHC reforms aimed at expanding healthcare access to vulnerable popula-

The Universal Health Coverage, he said, "is a key pillar of our commitment to the well-being of our citizens. Our focus is on building a robust and resilient healthcare system that meets the diverse needs of our population." He said approximately 500 Basic Health Units across the country would be upgraded in a short time under an agreement between World Health the Ministry, he added, had Organisation (WHO).

MoU Signed between OIY and NAMYO



QUETTA (PR): A momentous Memorandum of Understanding (MoÚ) has been signed between the Organisation of Islamic Youth and the Non-Aligned Movement Youth

The signing ceremony took place at the Headquarters of the Non-Aligned Movement Youth Organization in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Hammad Khan Kakar, President of the Organisation of Islamic Youth, and Leyla Hasanova, Head of Secretariat of the Non-Aligned Movement Youth Organization, were the signatories of this historic MoU.

This collaboration marks a significant milestone in fostering greater understanding, knowledge exchange, and joint initiatives between the youth of the member countries in both organizations. It aims to empower young individuals and lead to positive developments in regions represented by the Organisation of Islamic Youth and the Non-Aligned Movement Youth Organization.

People to vote for...

Continued on page 1

against him turned out to

The PML-N Quaid said, "Even if my opponents found it necessary to oust me, entangle me in false cases, and impose unjust sentences in false cases. What crime did the people of Pakistan commit, that they were subjected to such torment? It saddens me that despite unprecedented development during my tenure, Pakistan, which was making progress, was pushed into darkness. I left the country with a growth rate try. of 6.1%, ended load-shedding by adding 12,000 megawatts of new electricity to the national grid, and brought in more than \$50 billion in foreign invest-

had bid it farewell. But PTI,

in its government, once

again placed the begging bowl in front of the IMF, burdening the country with more loans. We crushed terrorism, but unfortunately, after we left, terrorism raised its head again, and under the PTI government, Pakistan once again became a victim of extremism and terrorism.'

Nawaz Sharif said, "I regret that after my ouster, due to wrong economic policies, the value of the Pakistani rupee has been lost, which was the strongest in the region. The country has become the victim of the most frightening inflation in history. How did the rate of inflation, which was at 3 to 4 percent, skyrocket to 40 percent? How did the price of a 'roti' jump from Rs 5 to Rs 30? Why and how did we reach a point where the people of Pakistan were pushed into starvation? He asked why was sugar sold for more than Rs. 300 per kilogram. All this was the worst economic murder of the people in the history of the coun-

Nawaz Sharif said, "During our era, the poor used to get free medicines in hospitals and free treatment," adding, "Protecting the rights of women is our priority, InshaAllah, I will be truly happy when the people are freed from the punishment of poverty and inflation."

He said that it would take hours if he shared the organized conspiracy woven against him after 2013. He said it all started with the August 2014 sit-ins, and its first phase ended on 28 July 2016 when he was not only ousted from the office of prime minister but was program in our era, and we also disqualified for life over not taking salary from his son

LHC suspends EC notification...

Continued on page 1

lenging the ECP's earlier notification to involve the executive in the electoral process. In his judgment, Justice Najafi suspended the ECP notification and recommended the formation of a larger bench to hear the case comprehensively. He further directed the Chief Justice to consider the matter.

Meanwhile the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) on Thursday accused the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) of hatching a conspiracy to delay the February 8 general elections.

In a statement on Thursday, PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif said the PTI was conspiring to defer the general elections scheduled to be held on February 8 next year.

Referring to the PTI petition in the Lahore High Court (LHC) against hiring district returning officers (DROs) from bureaucracy, the PML-N president said the plea amounted to sabotaging people's representation.
"The PTI's petition in

the high court is a plot to run away from the elections. PTI is hatching a conspiracy against the February 8 general elections just like cipher. As always, the PTI is applying doublestandard and hypocritical policy here," he said.

The former prime minister further said the PTI was filing petitions in the courts to postpone the polls, while publicly demanding to hold elections

fiddle in a 126-run opening CTD officials

"Even in the 2018 elections, the bureaucracy had carried out the responsibility of DROs. Then the PTI did not object to bureaument (CTD) cratic DROs performing their duty," he said adding that if the elections of February 8, 2024 were delayed, the PTI would be responsible. Shehbaz said the PTI had adopted different stances on the cipher con-

troversy in public and during the investigation. "[.. of Dera Ismail Khan. now the PTI has adopted the same hypocrisy elections." He blamed the PTI for plotting "a similar conspiracy related to the International Monviewed. Fund (IMF) programme"

He said the PTI wanted political instability by creating constitutional crisis in the country. The PTI did not want the country to be economically strong and people's economic problems to end, he maintained.

Meanwhile, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Faisal Karim Kundi, without naming anyone, said if a political party claimed to be so large then why it is calling for delaying elec-

He also lashed out at the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) saying it was always used for political engineering. He said the same NAB had been lodging cases against former prime minister Nawaz Sharif and now it was ac-

inspect Daraban

leaked 14 runs and never

since a battling 200 agains

South Africa at the

Melbourne Cricket Ground

He was dropped by Khurram Shahzad soon af

ter bringing up his mile-

stone but was otherwise in

command until Jama:

tempted him with a

short ball and he was

caught near the ropes by

black armband in solidarity

with the people of Gaza

was happy to play second

Khawaja, wearing a

Imamul Haq.

It was his first century

looked back.

(APP): Additional IGP Counter Terrorism Depart Abbas along with District Counter-Terrorism Depart-Mehmood Niazi and other inspected the scene of ter

On this occasion, all the aspects and causes of the terror attack and the dam ages caused by the attack were discussed and re-

was done in private sector

Health Card. He said that a total of

Out of these com-

Referring the availabil ity of medicines, the Health Minister said that the huge quantity of medicines have been purchased during las three months.



QUETTA: Former Provincial Minister Hafiz Hussain Ahmed Sharudi and others meeting with Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Balochistan Rashid

terror attack scene DERA ISMAIL KHAN

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Shaukat Police Officer Dera Abdul Rauf Babar Qaisrani, SP ment (CTD) Dera Asif officers here on Thursday rorist attack in Daraban area

In all 8,217 patients

Continued on page 1

was done in public sector hospitals while 82 percent treatment of the patients hospitals through the

264 complaints have been registered regarding the Health Card on the Helpline.

plaints, 166 have been resolved while 98 are being resolved, he mentioned.

He said that the interim

mir was the oldest unsettled agenda of the United Nations as the UN Security Council resolutions remained unimplemented and the Indian government was bent upon consolidating its occupation of disputed territory through a series of legislative and administrative measures.

Continued on page 1

Kashmiris for their right to

count, the prime minister

said the Kashmiris had suf-

fered enormously from

conflicts in history. Even

today, the situation had not

improved as the majority

was still under the subjuga-

tion of an oppressor with a

told the House that Kash-

Prime Minister Kakar

different name.

Giving a historical ac-

self-determination.

Referring to the Indian decision to take the Kashmir issue to the United Nations and repeated Indian leaders recognizing it as a dispute, he said the current Indian government must honour its long-standing commitment to the UN reso-

in law to validate the illegal unilateral measures of Au-The prime minister said considering its massive human rights abuses, the title of 'world's largest democracy' for India should

be changed to the 'world's

largest hypocrisy' where

hollow slogans of democ-

PM reaffirms Pakistan's support.... racy and diversity were dia could not undermine raised to cover up the marginalization of minorities, state-sponsored ter-

rorism and illegal occupa-

ISLAMABAD: DG, FJA, Mr. Hayat Ali Shah presents a shield to DG, KP Judicial

Academy, Ms Farah Jamshed during a ceremony at the Federal Judicial Acad-

emy. Mr. Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Judge, SCP also seen in the picture.

Calling the Indian actions in IIOJK a breach of the UN Charter, the UNSC resolutions and international laws, he said the main objective of the Indian measures was to convert Kashmiris into a disempowered community in their land.

However, he said, the domestic legislation and judicial verdicts could not absolve India of its obliga-

He said on the one hand, India wished to become a permanent member of the ÛN Security Council, while on the other its leadership took pride in trampling upon international laws. Such contradictions reinforced by the Hindutva ideology should be an eye-opener for the international community, he

He said thousands of Kashmiris had been killed, thousands faced forced disappearances and pellet gun injuries, and thousands of the women suffered molestation, while the human rights abuses were also documented in two of the N reports.

Questioning the conscience of the international community, he said despite killings, illegal detention of

their resolve for freedom. He said India was afraid of Kashmiri leader Syed Ali

and sought the death penalty for another leader Yaseen Malik which manifested its failure to suppress the spirit of freedom. He said Pakistan and the Kashmiris rejected the Indian measures of gerrymandering of constituen-

Geelani even after his death

cies and measures to change the demography. The prime minister said the Kashmiris had long been deprived of normalcy in their land also hamper-

ing the development owing

to the fearful environment. He said Pakistan wanted good neighbourly ties with India but its unilateral actions of August 5, 2019 had vitiated the environment leaving the onus on it to undo the situation.

Pakistan wanted peace with justice, not peace with injustice, he added.

Coming to the belligerent statements by the Indian leaders regarding the AJK, the prime minister reiterated that Pakistan had exercised maximum restraint. Pakistan would never surrender to any form of threat or intimidation as it stood firm to safeguard its sovereignty and interests. He said Pakistan had no issue with the Hindu belief but Hindutva, as a considerable size of minorities in Pakistan enjoyed due rights and exercised free-Kashmiri leaders and destruction of structures In-

be false, and the court acquitted him of all charges. What sin was committed by Pakistan and its people to be pushed into a crisis during my tenure?" he questioned. He thanked the nation

over the messages of congratulations pouring in from all over the world. The prayers of the people have always given me strength, and the nation also deserves congratulations on my success", he

ment. However, the PTI's government stopped the process of local and foreign investment in Pakistan. While PML-N took Pakistan out of the FATF grey list, the country was placed on the FATF's grey list because of the terrible policies of the imposed government, turning the country into a beggar once again and pushing Pakistan into darkness." e said, "We had obtained relief from the IMF's

great sacrifices will not go

in vain, adding that the

whole world recognized the

eternal sacrifices of the se-

curity forces in the war

want to destabilize the

country; they are not only enemies of Pakistan but of

the whole humanity and the entire Ummah," he

Rehman, Secretary General

of Rabt-ul-Madaras Paki-

stan, denounced the act,

saying that such elements

had no religion and were

ultimately destined to face

Shoaib, a prominent

scholar, expressed deep

sorrow and regret over the martyrdom of the soldiers

in the terrorist attack and

prayed for the high status

rorists could never succeed

in their nefarious aims and

the entire nation was stand-

ing with the security forces

in the war against terrorism.

He vowed that the ter-

Maulana Muhammad

Maulana Dr. Atta-ur-

'These cruel people

against terrorism

added.

defeat.

of martyrs.

Religious scholars

denounce DIK attack;

vow to root-out terrorism

ISLAMABAD (APP): Re- tyrs are our real heroes; their

ligious scholars on Thurs-

day condemned the terror-

ist attack on the security

personals in Dera Ismail

Khan, urging the masses to

identify anti-social ele-

ments to protect the coun-

try of the scourge of terror-

Head of the Shaykh Zayed Islamic Research Centre,

Peshawar, said the country

is going through a critical

situation and the entire na-

tion stands shoulder to

shoulder with its brave sol-

diers who are always ready

to lay down their lives in

defense of the motherland.

Speaking to Radio Pakistan, he paid rich tribute

to security personnel who embraced martyrdom dur-

ing this cowardly attack.

'No power on earth can

undo Pakistan and such

cowardly acts cannot weaken the spirit of armed

Tayyab Qureshi, Chief Khateeb, Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa, said the mar-

Maulana Muhammad

forces," he remarked.

Islamia

Dr. Abdul Rehman,

University

'BISP Saving Scheme' to change poverty landscape; make people self-reliant: Dr. Saqib

Chairperson Benazir In- handy for consumers to in emergencies. come Support Programme (BISP), Dr Amjad Saqib Thursday said that the newly launched 'BISP Saving Scheme' will change the poverty landscape in the country by focusing on savings which can help make the people self-reliant.

Addressing launching ceremony of the BISP Saving Scheme held at a local hotel, the chairperson said "Like many other schemes of BISP, the Saving Scheme can change the poverty landscape with our focus on savings which is

extremely important". He said that poverty is like a poison and poverty eradication is the first and prime responsibility of every person on this planet.

The chairperson said that around 150,000 people will be selected under this scheme on a first come first serve basis through Pakistan's selected districts however the scope of this scheme will be further expanded in future.

The beneficiaries have to save a small portion of their income in their 'savings accounts while the government will pay additional forty percent of consumer

ISLAMABAD (APP): savings which will come in besides extending support deal with any uncertain

situation and emergencies. The scheme is for both men and women, he said while urging those eligible to be a part of this scheme.

Dr Saqib said that the objective of the BISP Savings Scheme is to inculcate financial independence and saving habits among con-

The savings will be a protective measure to support deserving people during the emergencies when informal economy shrinks and people lose

He said that BISP is an internationally acclaimed and largest social protection program which has been working for the last 15 years through gaining strength and implementing many pro-poor initiatives.

The primary initiatives of BISP include Benazir Kafaalat, Benazir Education Stipends, Benazir Nashonuma, and Benazir Undergraduate Scholarship however one of the biggest achievements is the creation of the National Socio-Economic Registry which is truly reliable and benefits the deserving ones

The chairperson of BISP said that microfinance is one of the most important strategies for poverty alleviation which means the provision of financial services to the poor in the form of credit, savings, insurance, transfer of money etc.

Speaking on the occasion, Additional Secretary BISP, Dr Tahir Noor said that the scheme, as a pilot project, has been launched in Gilgit and Astor in Gilgi Baltistan; Muzaffarabad and Neelum in Azad Jammu and Kashmir; Peshawar and Lucky Marwat in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; Lahore and Multan in Punjab; Quetta and Qila Saifullah in Balochistan: Karachi and Sukkur in Sindh and Islamabad.

Dr Tahir Noor said that the BISP saving scheme as a hybrid social protection initiative has been launched to support vulnerable communities, making them elf-sufficient.

The hybrid scheme blends social assistance with social risk mitigation elements to promote savings that the vulnerable segments can fall back on in



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed launches the reports of National Time Transfer of Account & Provincial Transfer Accounts in collaboration with UNFPA and PIDE at local hotel.

Dr. Umar Saif terms role of technology as crucial for economic development

Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Dr. Umar Saif Thursday emphasized the crucial role of technology in achieving economic development. He underscored its ability to drive innovation, boost productivity, and enhance efficiency across diverse industries. The minister made these remarks during the foundation-laying ceremony of the Indigenous Research and Development Agency (IRADA) at the National Science and Technology Park, NUST, here

Highlighting the objec- commercialized to contrib-

tive of IRADA, he emphasized its role in fostering country's economic develcollaboration between the opment. Drawing a historical parallel, the minister redefense sector, academia, and industry in Pakistan for ferred to the launch of Sputtechnological advancement. nik by Russia in 1957 and the subsequent creation of He noted that while linkages between these sectors DARPA by the USA. He have existed, IRADA aims highlighted the success of connecting the defense secto formalize and institutionalize these connections. tor, academia, and industry, resulting in the invention During the event, Dr. Saif Umar expressed his vision and commercialization of for IRADA, envisioning a transformative technologies collaborative effort involving NUST, universities, industry, and the Defense sector. He emphasized the potential for joint projects

such as the Internet, GPS and cryptography. The minister informed

that NUST has graciously agreed to host IRADA and provide the necessary ecosystem for its success.

Former chairman PTI can be awarded death sentence in cipher case: Aleema

ISLAMABAD (Online): and it was locked from outformer chairman PTI has said Imran Khan can be awarded death sentence in

"Whenever we come out of our residence, we are followed and threatened, she said this while talking to media men outside Adiala ail Thursday.

She went on to say cells have been made in the court room. I can not comprehend they are afraid of whole family was inside thing.

Justice does not seem

and products that can be

to be done amid what is happening, she underlined. It seems as if we are sitting in some other country, she added.

It pains us what treatment is being meted out to us in our own coun-

We are chased after we come out of our homes, she added. It is said to us that we will be put into jails. But what thing inside. The we are not afraid of any-

271 domestic workers data from 574 houses registered

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal Police has completed the registration of the data of 271 domestic workers of 574 houses in the limits of the police station secretariat for the registration of employees and tenants.

In the campaign, different teams of Islamabad Police are going to streets and neighborhoods to ensure the registration of tenants and domestic workers. According to the de-

tails, the Islamabad Police is taking important steps to ensure the safety of citizens.



harms of addictive nicotine products

ISLAMABAD (APP): of sustained efforts within The Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC) unraveled the misleading narrative peddled by the tobacco industry about the purport-edly "less harmful" nature

of nicotine products local hotel here Thursday, ners, it will keep counterthe speakers showcased incontributed profound insights into this critical public health issue, particularly

as it pertains to Pakistan. Former Senator Muhammad Ali Saif passionately underscored the role of policymakers in safeguarding Pakistani citizens. Safeguarding our people from the harms of nicotine products demands not just attention but concrete legislative measures tailored to our cultural and social context. All political parties should leave their differences aside when it comes to public health, especially that of children. Everyone must stand united against the tobacco industry", he expressed.

Dr. Maheen Malik, Director Tobacco Control South Asia Region-CTFK, emphasized the significance ucts.

the specific challenges faced in Pakistan. "A holistic and long-term approach is essential to counter the nuanced threat posed by new nicotine products within our unique cultural and social landscape. During a seminar or- CTFK is committed that, ganized by the SPARC at a with the support of its part-

ing the efforts of the to-Pakistan's health and economy." Dr. Ziauddin Islam, former technical head, Tobacco Control Cell, Ministry of Health, offered an in-depth exploration of traditional and new types of nicotine products. He said, "The myth of 'less' harm has been meticulously dispelled, exposing the specific health threats these products pose for both adults and children in the Pakistani context. The so-

of consumers. Malik Imran Ahmad, Country Head, CTFK Media and New Nicotine Products shared the insights from the field, stating, "Our scrutiny uncovered the target audience of these prod-

called 'less harm' is enough

to cause serious risks to the

physical and mental health



ISLAMABAD: The First Lady, Samina Alvi is taking keen interest in different kinds of flowers on stall during a workshop on the topic of "New Trends and Techniques in Floral Art" by Aisha Zahid at

34 outlaws arrested, drugs and weapons recovered

Independent Report SLAMABAD: Islamabad city and recovered drugs and sion. According to details, Aabpara police team arered 1,230-gram hashish and 25 liters of alcohol from their possession. Police also arrested Sharon Masih for of heroin from his possession. The Sumbal police team arrested Ahsan, Abdul

illegally. Tarnol police team arrested three accused namely Saleem, Safeer and Sohail and recovered a total of 3,587 gram heroin from their possession.

Similarly, the Sangjani police team arrested Kashif, Asghar and recovered 1,260 grams hashish from their possession. Industrial-Area police team arrested two accused namely Danish Shakeel and Saddam and recovered two 30 bore pistols from their possession.

Shams Colony police team arrested an accused Hamza Ali and recovered 180 gram hashish from his possession. Kirpa police team arrested an accused namely Khalid Hayat involved in illegally refilling gas cylinders.

PMIC extends deadline to complete PIMS HVAC project by Dec 25

tional Science and Technology Park at NUST in Islamabad.

ISLAMABAD (APP): warranted delay in comple-The Prime Minister's Intion of the PSDP projects pection Commission (PMIC) on Thursday gave a five-day extension to the authorities concerned to complete the project of installation of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) plant at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) by December 25. Earlier, the PMIC had given the deadline for project's completion by December 20

A PMIC team made another visit of the the project and reviewed the progress on ongoing work of the HVAC regarding installation of the centrally air conditioning system in the whole buildings of the hospital The visit took place in wake of the deep concerns expressed by the prime minister over the un-

including "Replace and Upgradation of HVAC Plant Room Equipments and Allied Works at PIMS, Islamabad". Following dissatisfaction on the reports from Ministry of Housing and Works and Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination, the matter had been referred to the PMIC for effective supervision, said a press release. PMIC Chairman Brigadier (Retired) Muzaffar Ali Ranjha had assigned the task to the inquiry team headed by Zaĥir Shah for vigorously persuading the project and ensure its completion at the earliest. The inspection

team that visited the project, comprised PMIC Member

Zahir Shah and Co-opted

Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Dr. Umar Saif visiting Na-



mission Dr Mukhtar Ahmad is presenting degree to Laiba Hashmi after conferring the Gold medal during 19th Convocation of Capital University of Science and Technology at Jinnah Convention Cen-

HEC, Microsoft signs ETA to modernize tech education in country

ISLAMABAD (APP): Under the long-term cooperation between the Higher Education Commission (HEC) and Microsoft signed the Education Transformation Agreement (ETA) the other day, aiming to further modernize technological education in the country. At the same time, the Imagine Cup competition, Founders Hub and AI Skilling for students was launched, in which participants will present their innovative projects and entrepreneurial endeavors.

The event was graced by the presence of Nasir Jamy, Federal Secretary for Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication. "In the era of AI, education stands at the threshold of unprecedented transformation. The collaboration between Microsoft and HEC through the Education Transformation Agreement is a testament to our commitment to fostering innovation and equipping the youth with the skills needed for the future," remarked Jibran Jamshad, Country Principal Officer and Regional Education Lead at Microsoft.

The event commenced with address by Dr. Zia Ul Qayyum, Executive Director HEC, setting the tone for an insightful day of discussions and partnerships and highlighting the important role of the

Founders Hub and AI Skilling. In his notable speech, the Secretary Information Technology and Telecommunication stated that embracing Information Technology and Artificial Intelligence was not just a choice, it was a strategic imperative in our rapidly advancing world. These innovations act as a compass, guiding us through progress and unlocking new frontiers, shaping a future marked by innovation, efficiency and endless possibilities, he concluded. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman HEC, Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad expressed his optimism

about the collaboration and

Annual canals closure to start from Dec 26: Spokesman

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Indus River System Authority (IRSA) has de cided to close down canals for annual maintenance and de-silting between December 26, 2023 to January 30,

According to Director Operation and Spokesman IRSA Khalid Idrees Rana the Mangla command canals would be closed from Dec 26 till January 13 in stage wise, and Tarbela command canals would remain closed from January 13 to 30, 2024.

CUST awards degrees to over 1075 graduates

ISLAMABAD (Online): As many as 1075 graduates have been awarded degrees during the Convocation 2023 of Capital University of Science and Technology (CUST) held here the other day. Chairman of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) Dr Mukhtar Ahmad was the chief guest while Syed Ahmed, a renowned IT professional, was the Guest of the Honour. Prof. Dr. M. Mansoor Ahmed, Vice Chancellor delivered an inaugural speech and welcomed the graduate students. He highlighted the contribution made by the University in the field of higher education and hoped that the graduates would contribute towards scientific development.

Park PWD, PIMS officers and Contractor. **CPO Safe City/Traffic** addresses AIR University students on drugs awareness

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police has launched an awareness 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 Officer Safe City/Traffic conducted an enlightening lecture at AIR University, focusing on the damages of threat to both health and

Zahir Shah, Member, PMIC is getting site visit briefing on PSDP project

titled "Replacement and Upgradation of HVAC Plant Room Equipment and

Allied Works at PIMS, Islamabad" at PIMS Hospital Islamabad from the

future prospects.

In a bid to safeguard themselves and their communities from this menace, attendees were urged to take proactive measures. Recommendations were made to educational institutions to organize seminars and anti-drug marches.

During the lecture, the CPO Safe City/Traffic addressed queries from attendees and shed light on Islamabad Capital Police's legal actions against drugrelated offenses. It was



substance abuse and measures for prevention.

The lecture witnessed participation from professors, students, and university staff. The Capital Police Officer highlighted the detrimental effects of drug usage, especially among the youth, emphasizing its

emphasized that the police force is committed to bringing perpetrators, particularly those involved in drug

trafficking, to justice. Furthermore, Islamabad Capital Police seeks the cooperation of citizens in making the city

Nadeem visits King Hamad University of Nursing

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan on Thursday visited the under-construction King Hamad University of Nursing reviewed the construction work and expressed his satisfaction. The project manager while giving a detailed briefing about the construction work said that the project was to be completed by the end of 2024.

The minister directed to complete the remaining work of the university within two months, on which the project manager assured to complete it within two months. Dr. Nadeem Jan said that King Hamad University of Nursing is a state-of-the-art university from which 500 nurses will receive their diplomas every year. He said that the university is a gift from Bahrain to the government of Pakistan which has a capacity of 200 nurses to study in the nursing university. He said that nursing was the backbone of the health sector and this sector is of utmost importance in Pakistan. He said that Pakistan is facing a shortage of nurses and the government has formulated an integrated strategy to meet this shortage. He said that large-scale reforms are underway to improve the field of nursing.

local hotel in Federal Capital.

Capital Police on Thursday apprehended 34 outlaws from different areas of the weapons from their possesrested Anwar Masih and Waqar Ahmed and recovdecanting gas in cylinders illegally. Karachi Company police team arrested Danish and recovered 155 grams

Wahid and Altaf involved in

decanting gas in cylinders

Daily Soice of Masse Independent

Friday December 15, 2023

Unchanged policy rate

With inflation predicted to start easing, the decision taken at the State Bank's monetary policy committee meeting to hold the key interest rate steady — for the Declaration on Sustainable fourth time since June shows that the SBP is not will- tion was adopted. These ing to leave the goal of price were Pakistan's major constability to chance this time.

Its position might appear hawkish and a case of once mit, slated for the petro city, bitten, twice shy in view of a more stable currency, positive 12-month forward real interest rates, reduced global oil food security, water, urban prices, a successful IMF planning, disaster risk reprogramme review and the forecast that inflation will taper off in the coming months. Meanwhile, the depressed growth also makes a case for a rate cut.

However, others argue that both headline and core inflation readings remain high, reserves are falling as foreign official and private inflows dry up, and exchange rate stability is still fragile.

A shift to monetary easing at this time, therefore, might potentially result in a spike in the political discourse conimports, resulting from pentup demand and lead reserves overwhelmed by debates on — which are barely enough to who is more corrupt than the other. cover two months' imports to drain quickly. This could cause the exchange rate to deteriorate and the current account deficit to widen, thwarting efforts to tame prices.

Besides, real interest rates their academic or social life. remain negative given the monthly inflation recordings, dren and 63 out of every Anyone who has visited a while Pakistan's trading partners have positive real interest rates. Thus, a rate cut at this moment is not justified.

The SBP has, in the recent state of the people in the past, got its inflation forecast wrong on quite a few occasions. That it is for once trying to get ahead of the curve to achieve price stability in the medium term, targeting 5-7pc CPI inflation by the end of June 2025, should be appre-

There is no doubt that the SBP is taking a cautious approach as the decision to leave the interest rate at the all-time high of 22pc takes into account the impact of the recent a day to bury wasted dreams. Each year, January heralds hope and then even gas price hike, which, the MPC ery December ends says, "may have implications appointment. The year 2023 is no different. for the inflation outlook, albeit in the presence of some off- tional community stands setting developments, par- polarised as never before. ticularly the recent decrease West and the East, the diin international oil prices and vide between civic freedoms improved availability of agri- sion, the chasm between culture produce".

With headline inflation measurably. surging to 29.2pc in November, compared to 26.9pc in the sides — for the Stars and previous month, and core inflation at 21.5pc, only slightly them. For or against genolower from its May peak of cide. In today's inversion of the Holocaust, this quota-22.7pc, the MPC admits that tion seems cruelly apt: the actual impact of the administered gas prices is "rela- barbarity. After all, who tively higher than [its] earlier expectation". How can SBP re- That voice was Adolf turn to monetary easing and Hitler's. ensure price stability when of international strife, four unknown risks to inflation crucial elections are scheduled to be held in 2024. In threaten to wipe out the few the United States, the presigains resulting from a tighter dential elections could bring stance? Rates must come down back into the White House. — but gradually, when inflation In Russia, Vladimir Putin starts easing and foreign exchange reserves begin to rise. Rash decisions could land us longest Russian ruler since in greater trouble. What we need the most at the moment Modi has every intention is a little bit of patience.

New climate finances



Ali Taugeer Sheikh

UAE had a dramatic start: the Loss and Damage Fund (LDF) was established, a pledge to replenish the Green Climate Fund (GCF) was made, and the UAE-led Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Accerns in climate negotiations. If followed, these developments alone can keep us busy until the next sum-Baku.

There is more. Various other parties also made financial pledges on energy transition, agriculture and duction, the SDGs, regional collaboration, and philanthropic commitments. Most, however, will seek

private sector leveraging and partnerships. This may not altogether be good news for Pakistan. We have for years struggled to attract foreign direct investment (FDI). A series of internal institutional and legal reforms are needed for an enabling environment for these pledges to flow into Pakistan.

The total pledges amounted to over \$57 billion in the first four days of the conference, including \$725 million for LDF, \$3.5bn for GCF, \$2.7bn for health, \$2.6bn for naturebased solutions, \$2.5bn for renewable energy, \$1.2bn for relief recovery and peace, another \$1.2bn to reduce methane emissions, \$568m to encourage investment in clean energy manufacturing, and \$467m for urban climate action. All these are areas of primary investment interest to Pakistan. On another track, the

UAE banking sector has pledged to leverage \$270bn in green finance by 2030. This private investment fund, called Alterra, is aimed at financing climate projects in countries like Pakistan. COP28 president Sultan Al Jaber, who also heads UAE's national oil company

board of the new fund. The Arab Coordination Group that includes some countries close to Pakistan will allocate \$10bn to support energy transition until 2030.

The critics are not clear

how many of these commitments are new and additional, and how and when these will be operationalised. According to the Guardian, the amounts pledged to LDF will cover less than 0.2 per cent of the amount needed. In most cases, the exact funding targets and mechanisms are unclear. A big concern for developing countries is how much of the financing will be in the form of grants and how much in loans that will increase their debt. The debate now centres around the growing financial gap: how much of it will be covered by the domestic and how much by the international private sector investment?

Pakistan has applauded the swift operationalisation of the LDF, urged developed nations to fulfil their commitment of providing \$100bn in climate finance, and more specifically, it has taken the lead on financing for eradicating neglected tropical dis-ADNOC, will chair the eases that will worsen as

temperatures increase. The UAE and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation have pledged \$100m each for climate-related health

scape is indicative of the international climate finance architecture that has become an impossible maze to understand and traverse. From Pakistan's perspective, four developments deserve closer examination. First, the multilateral banks development (MDBs) have announced the adaptation of existing frameworks to the new re-

Second, multilateral climate funds (Adaptation Fund, Climate Investment Funds, the Global Environment Facility, and the GCF) at COP have adopted a joint declaration to simplify their processes and enhance direct access to finances through joint programming, mobilising private sector finance, and increasing funding for climate adaptation.

Third, the MDBs have signed at the climate summit a co-financing frame-

work agreement with 16 financial institutions to partner with private financial institutions and cooperate with other partners. In other words, the institutions out-This complex landside the traditional MDBs' sphere will be expected to follow principles agreed at

the UAE summit. Fourth, the World Bank launched an initiative onglobal methane reduction from rice production, livestock, and waste management at the national or subregional levels. Pakistan joined the Global Methane Pledge in Glasgow in 2021 and committed to cut methalities of climate change by ane emissions by 30pc by 2030. The World Bank has pausing (not cancelling) debt service in case a country announced that it will mobilise catalytic financing faces an environmental difor scaling up successful projects in 15 countries in

the next 18 months, but Pakistan is not on their list even though we are one of the world's top 10 methane emitters. The World Bank's representative at the Pakistan pavilion urged the government of Punjab to proactively engage and become the first country in the The international fi-

nancial system is dysfuncdeveloping world. For Pa-

The bubble has to be

kistan, it is the perceived or real risks that make the cost of capital too high to invest at the scale and speed needed. How can Pakistan design de-risking instruments to ensure availability and access to climate finance? Can Pakistan develop a coherent strategy to make climate funds agents of transformative change for the country rather than accumulating additional debt burden?

Since Pakistan is presently not an attractive destination for FDI and faces debt vulnerability, it is essential for us to leverage a diversity of funds, particularly by mobilising domestic private sector financing. The State Bank of Pakistan needs to take the lead in the coming years and remove five barriers to green finance: i) develop a green taxonomy, ii) use information disclosure strategies, iii) promote financial markets, iv) design effective policy measures, and v) facilitate cooperation in green finance. If Pakistan is to avail climate finance, the State Bank will have to step up its role, rather than waiting for the outcome of tional for large parts of the the COP. -- Courtesy

The roadmap to growth



Kamila Hyat

As we move towards a postinues to hover around the old issue of corruption, And while there are le-

gitimate reasons for this focus, the real issues of the country lie elsewhere. They lie in the fact that almost 50 per cent of our children are stunted and many will not develop sufficient IQs to make any kind of mark in There are other harrowing figures: one out of 20 chil-1,000 children born in the country will die before they attain the age of five.

The maternal mortality rate is as shocking as are other figures indicating the country. If we think in terms

of the lives our citizens lead, these issues are of greater significance than the illegal actions of politicians. Yes, corruption should be punished under the law; but it should not be the sole political agenda on which we base our ideas.

The PTI has played a major role in labelling all its opponents as corrupt, and during its tenure in power it focused more on bringing cases against them. While some corruption cases may be genuine, others were based on insufficient evidence or a simple error in the management of business. And now this is true for the PTI which has multiple cases against it. Again, some of these may be genuine while the rest lacks sufficient evidence to back the claims made against the

We need to expand the scope of dialogue and think about how we can rescue people from the perpetual misery in which they live. government hospital will openly and intensely in political circles. This is critical

people into the 220 million that make up Pakistan. For these young people, as they reach their teens and beyond we need to find education, employment, and opportu-

At the moment, we can offer them very little, and this is why we see the figures which prove that in 2022 more Pakistanis left the country legally than ever before. Of course, more would go if the option was open to them. This is sad. Pakistan

has resources and talent. Pakistanis who have reached top positions as academics. scientists, doctors or in other fields around the world prove that this is true. We must ask why this excellence cannot be delivered at home to the people of the country. Some of these persons have attempted to return to their home country and work within it, but for many this has proved im-

We saw in the past how highly qualified professors were dismissed from understand at least some of public- and private-sector this misery. The issue needs universities on a whim, to be discussed far more sometimes based on the views that they put forward. In other cases, the lack of as we have a youth bulge which will add more young driven investors away.

We need to bring more of our accomplished Pakiburst. We need our elite to give more. This should obstanis back to the country. Many would say this is an viously come in the form of impossible task. The reality taxes, with land taxation also is that many younger coming as an area of prior-Pakistanis in particular do choose to return and serve their country as best they can. We also feel that from within the country, some excellent work has been achieved by bureaucrats who have set up model schools in their districts or other persons who have achieved similar feats in other areas. Even now, there are graduates from top universities who voluntarily run soup kitchens or make other collective efforts to help their less privileged compatriots. But it is also true that a vast majority of the rich live in a bubble of luxury and are either oblivious or indifferent to the state of their fellow citizens. There are still

those who deny poverty ex-

ists in the country. Yet, these

same people willingly spend

around Rs5,000 on a single

meal at a posh restaurant, not

recognizing that this sum

equals the monthly earnings

of a typical labourer. The

minimum wage set at over

Rs30.000 in Puniab has never

genuinely been met, and the

situation is the same in other

provinces as well.

ity. It is completely unjust that citizens who live on salaries or own small businesses are taxed at high rates, putting larger amounts into the national exchequer than the truly privileged. Indirect taxation is of course another major burden forcing every person who purchases even the smallest article to pay tax on this transaction. Change needs to be widespread if it is to be meaningful. The way to achieve this is not easy, but we have to overcome this challenge. We have been gov-

erned poorly for far too many years. Indeed, many historians argue that bad governance began virtually with the inception of Pakistan. To overcome this is a mammoth task. We need experts who can advise our to be sure that our government will follow these experts' advice.

For this, the first step should be taken from the school level, ensuring that every student has the opwhich is relevant and use- -- Courtesy TheNews

Wretched of the earth

nology. The dehumanisation

ful. Countries which have made progress have done so largely by educating their people and making them more capable of mastering tasks that can help their country. It is quite obvious that we have fallen far, far behind. We cannot wait any longer to catch up. Indeed some wonder if we can catch up at all. But there is no other alternative than to do so and to put in place policies which can achieve this. This can preferably be done after discussion and debate at a wide variety of forums ranging from universities to assemblies and every other location where people gather and meet to talk and discuss what has become a nation filled with multiple

We all know what these crises are. Solving them will not be easy. But to do so, we must ensure the willing participation of as many citizens as possible so that they feel a part of the coungovernments, and we have try that has never included them in its working or given them a sense of belonging. And while more people have become disillusioned with their government, it is important for the Pakistani nation to work together if it portunity to learn material is to achieve any of its goals.

Baying at the moon



F.S. Aijazuddin

The New Year was invented for those who need

Today, the interna-The schism between the and authoritarian oppreshuman rights and unethical wrongs have deepened im-

Communities have been called upon to take Stripes and its 51st star (the "Our strength lies in our intensive attacks, and our today remembers the genocide of the Armenians?"

Against this backdrop has announced that he intends to stand for reelection in 2024. When (not if) he wins, he will become the Josef Stalin.

In India, Narendra of winning a third term as prime minister in 2024.

Mani Shankar Aiyar (a Congressite opponent of Modi's) has admitted that the Democratic Alliance led by Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party has an 80 per money to buy aviation fuel cent chance of returning to for its national airline. Pro-Aiyar gives his own

team — the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance — a 20pc chance. INDIA is a recently formed compression of 28 political parties, led by the Gandhi-led Indian National Congress. Its pointed objective is to topple Modi's government. In 1977, a similar coa-

lition (the Janata alliance) was cobbled together by disparate parties under Morarji Desai. Its aim was to dislodge the then unpopular prime minister Indira Gandhi. The Janata alliance succeeded; the IN-DIA alliance will not as it has nothing to offer the Indian electorate other than a fourth generation Nehru/ Gandhi. Modi offers India the hubris of Hindutva and the headiness of hegemony.

Some believe that Modi's re-election could reignite the embers that brightened Indo-Pak relations, following his 'spontaneous' visit to Nawaz Sharif's home in Lahore in December 2015.

Nawaz Sharif declared that, if re-elected, he will persuade Modi to resume a between Islamabad and New Delhi -more productive than the 'back channel' which meets outside the subcontinent, and clucks eggless.

Sharif senior should recognise that Modi is not the man Modi was in 2014-15. Then, Modi was an inexperienced prime minister who needed to demonstrate that he could mature into a statesman. Since 2014, Modi has arrived, and so has his Bharat — economically, strategically, and extra-terrestrially. Lord Krishna wanted the moon as his toy; India has landed on it.

A nuclear Pakistan may still possess the tech-

nology to be a plausible adversary, but can it afford to sustain its hostility? It is not a secret that every day it has to scrounge for pelling a rocket to the moon is an expensive hobby. It requires more than petty cash.

Has Nawaz Sharif been assured — and if so, by whom — that his intended overtures to India will not be thwarted, yet again? This time he has no Clinton in the White House to rescue him from another Kargil.

More importantly, will Sharif be able to persuade PM Modi that the UN resolutions on Jammu & Kashmir are the precondition to any Indo-Pak

After legislative approval by India's parliament, the Indian supreme court decision on Dec 11 has given Modi the final benediction he needed. It has endorsed former PM I.K. Gujral's observation that the J&K issue stood resolved even as it began in 1948: "We could not give it, and you cannot take it."

Why has the UN Security Council not found a voice to comment on (if not condemn) such a blatant repudiation of its authority by a country seeking to gain a seat on its Council? Perhaps its staff cannot trace moth-eaten UNSC Resolution 39 in its archives.

Many in Pakistan will cavil at Modi's habitually unilateral policies. Much as they might wish it, India's policies towards Pakistan are not determined by the latter's expectations. It is now 76 years since the divorce – too long a time to still be arguing over alimony. Realism demands that we accept the bird in hand: integrate Azad Jammu & Kashmir and the northern areas we have, as we once did Bahawalpur, Khairpur, Makran, and Swat. Baying at the moon for 76 years is not sound foreign

policy. -- Courtesy Dawn

Abrahim Shah

In his seminal work, The Wretched of the Earth, Frantz Fanon paints a dismal picture of the Manichean world of colonial Algeria. In the suburbs, large boulevards run through neighbourhoods, imparting a sense of calm and order. In contrast, the cramped streets home to the natives are chaotic. plagued with anomie, dissolution, and lawlessness.

Recently released pic-

tures from Gaza depicting Palestinian men stripped and paraded in the streets reveal similar juxtapositions. These images, however, highlight a deeper tension that permeates colonised spaces — one that goes beyond the marked differences in infrastructure, public services. law and order. This tension extends beyond the physical, and spills over into the realm of the psychological, where it draws a sharp distinction between the humanity and individual dignity of the native and coloniser.

For Fanon, colonialism was as much psychological warfare as it was physical occupation. Colonising a territory meant breaking the minds of its inhabitants, instilling fear and a sense of inferiority in relation to the white 'civiliser'

Central to this were notions of 'primitive' natives who in all aspects culture, language, lifestyle — remained inferior to the colonisers. At its core, colonialism was an exercise in dehumanisation denominating entire populations in racist and offensive termi-

of Palestinian men reveals continuity in these colonial thought patterns. The Israeli Defence Forces claimed the men belonged to Hamas and had surrendered to the IDF. In an instant, individual identities were eroded. The men were now part of a nameless horde, their guilt predetermined and hence undeserving of human dignity. Guilt is an interesting emotion in colonial trauma, which Edward Said explored more fully than Frantz Fanon. Author of the seminal text in post-colonial thought, Oriental-ism, the former revealed how brown and black men were often identified as guilty simply on account of their race and

These denominators of identity made them predisposed to violence and disorder in the eyes of the white coloniser, thus requiring surveillance and control

Notice again the erosion of the black and brown man's humanity and individualism. He is seen as more inclined towards violence, harbouring lust for white women and posing a threat to the social order, traits that make him less human and more primal. These tendencies are seen as ubiquitous in black and brown male population, undermining any delineation at the individual level.

Fanon and Said allow us to don a lens which helps us see the Israel-Palestine conflict in a different light. It is not simply about nation states, the return of refugees or access to holy sites. At its core, the conflict carries substantial reverberations for the psyches of communities, questions of human dignity and how race and power continue to define and shape humanity. This explains why the conflict elicits such divergent responses and sympathy around the world in terms of the violence unleashed on Palestine and the losses suffered

by Israel. Dehumanisation and the systemic control of brown populations is not limited to this conflict. The entire edifice of the modern 'war on terror', in fact, rests on these Orientalist perceptions. Thus, the pictures of Palestinian men being paraded in their underwear evokes the same sense of melancholy and hopelessness that emanated from Abu Ghraib — the infamous sight of torture inflicted on the bodies of brown men seen as less than

On the flip side, this de--humanisat-i--on is used to justify violent in---vasions of sovereign coun-tries, as Laura Bush, then first lady of the US. claimed when she said America's war against Afghanistan made Afghan women 'safer' - overtly revealing Orientalist tendencies to view brown, black or Muslim men as dangerous. These biases under-

pin the Patriot Act and the mass surveillance of Pakistani and Muslim men in the US. An internalisation of these biases percolates the minds of Pakistani and other brown men, who are forced to exercise immense reticence while expressing opinions in a Western setting, all the while shouldering a collective guilt over the actions of their governments. It is hesitation that stalks black and brown men in public spaces, lest they be viewed as suspicious and accosted by lawenforcement officials. It is everywhere in the American justice system, where African Americans are indicted with far heavier penalties than their white counterparts for similar

Control is therefore psychological, while power is multifaceted. As we mourn the loss of life and hold out hope for a ceasefire, let us remain cognisant of how the very essence of human dignity is at stake. -

Governor advises students to look at the positive side of life and be grateful

Independent Report LAHORE: A delegation of students and teachers of Balochistan Residential

College Loralai, headed by Farooq Kakar, met Muhammad Balighur Rehman here today at Governor House Lahore. The delegation comprised of Balochistan province. Governor Puniab

Governor House Lahore.

Speaking on this occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman while addressing the students asked them to look at the positive side of life and be grateful. He said that this country has given us so much that we cannot children from 31 districts pay back to our country

Governor Punjab said welcomed the students that an educated person Punjab said that between

rationally. Governor Punjab further said that before 2018, students of Balochistan were not only included in the laptop scheme but record number of laptops were distributed among them.

transparent and public welfare schemes like laptops were discontinued after 2018. Governor

from Balochistan to evaluates everything 2013 and 2018, special bring Balochistan into the stream of development.

He said that a special quota has been fixed for the students of Balochistan in the universities and medical colleges of Punjab.

Governor Punjab said that the continuation of public welfare policies is very important for the development of the

on Wednesday said that

timely elections were the

need of the hour, however,

was imperative to conduct

here at Shaheed Benazir

University (SBBWU), he

said that holding the general

elections was the responsibility of the

Election Commission of

Pakistan (ECP) and the

caretaker governments were the facilitators, adding

the concerns of the stakeholders should also be

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and

Balochistan provinces

were facing two challenges

one is the security

conditions.

He said that currently

He said the ECP

weather

addressed by the ECP.

Talking to the media

polls in the country.

a conducive environment election.

Women's

'Timely elections need of

the hour'; KP Governor

Governor Khyber weather conditions Pakhtunkhwa Ghulam Ali coupled with the security

(APP): election date as harsh

Pakhtunkhwa

imperative.

morale.



LAHORE: Punjab Governor Muhammad Balig-ur-Rehman in a group photo with teachers and students of Balochistan Řesidential College Loralai.

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali in a group photo with under training ASPs and Senior Officers of National Police Academy during their study tour to Governor House.

George highlights services of unsung heroes of Christians for country's development

Caretaker Federal Minister for Human Rights Khalil

He was addressing an event "Unfaded heroes of Society. The

momentous remarkable contributions of that

Pakistan in general.

Minister George George on Thursday said,"Pakistan is our highlighted the services of country and we are living unsung heroes of minority here happy and getting communities, particularly christians, for the development of country. forefathers.

He called for creating Christian Community in an environment where KP" held at the Governor everyone, regardless of House, in collaboration their background, could with the Pak Mission thrive and contribute to shared progress.

The minister stressed occasion celebrated the the importance of ensuring

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Ghulam Ali, in his address, reinforced the significance of diversity, unity, and interfaith harmony in the

to shared prosperity.

The governor reaffirmed a commitment to a future marked by tolerance, inclusivity, and

He called for continued collaboration development and understanding to build 68 individuals from the initiatives were inclusive a province that "serves as Christian community in and considerate of the an example of unity in diversity'



KARACHI: Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh Justice (retd) Maqbool Baqai inaugurates 18th International Book Fair at Expo Centre.

Minister hands over vehicles' keys to colleges' principals

PESHAWAR (APP): among nine male and female Khyber Pakhtunkhwa caretaker Minister for Higher, Primary and Secondary Education, Professor Dr Muhammad Qasim Jan on Thursday said the provincial government, despite its limited resources, was taking steps for the uplift of the education system.

He said resolution to the problems of all colleges of the province including the newly merged districts was the utmost priority of the

He was addressing a function in connection with the distribution of vehicles colleges here.

The function besides others was also attended by Higher Education, Sayyed Mazhar Ali Shah, Director of Higher Education, Dr Faridullah Shah, and principals of the relevant colleges.

Dr Jamal inaugurates

RAWALPINDI (APP): A free health fair in collaboration with the Red Health Authority was organized at the Divisional Public School (DPS) and

Caretaker Provincial Minister Primary and Secondary Health and Population Welfare Punjab Dr. Jamal Nasir and Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Liaqat Ali Chatha inaugurated the health fair.

details, as many as 22 health camps were organized in free health mela including 11 each for girls and boys.

On the occasion, the minister was told that under the first phase of the AIP Program, 55 Hiace vehicles and buses were approved, of which 46 vehicles were distributed in the first phase while the remaining nine were distributed in today's

PTI making Health fair at DPS conspiracy to delay election

Around 850 students were checked in OPD while Eye, dental, hepatitis, Crescent and District blood screening, and general screening of the students of government colleges were conducted in College here on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Jamal Nasir said that organizing such fairs would help in developing a healthy environment. He said that the students of government educational institutions According to the benefited from organizing

free health fairs. In the next phase, a complete health screening of all DPS students will be carried out.

Acknowledging the rich diversity that defines Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he emphasized its role as a

strength that contributed

prosperity for all.

Three dacoits

killed, 2 flee

in a shootout

RAWALPINDI (Online):

As many as 3 dacoits have been killed and two have

fled the scene in exchange

of fire in the area of Pir

the incident took place in

Fouji colony Pirwadhai

where the robbers gang

dacoits were killed while

arms were recovered from

dacoits escaped to Nullah

Leh while firing. Search

operation is underway to

conducted raid to arrest

robbers gang and the

dacoits opened fire on

PESHAWAR (APP)

Provincial spokesperson of

Awami National Party

(ANP), Samar Haroon

Balour, has stated that the

petition of Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in

the Lahore High Court

against the Election

Commission's notification

was an attempt to delay

the general elections,

which was not acceptable

Thursday, she expressed

that due to the PTI's

petition, preparations for

February 8 were disrupted and PTI would be

responsible for the delay.

In a statement here

police during raid

opened fire on police.

According to police

In exchange of fire 3

Police said two

Rawalpindi police had

Wadhai here.

trace them.

vigilance, creating breast cancer awareness LAHORE (APP): First Addressing the societal Lady Begum Samina Arif importance of combating Alvi emphasised the urgent need for spreading awareness about early that one in nine women in Alvi emphasised the urgent

First lady urges

breast cancer, particularly the disease. among women, at a University of Lahore on

various institutions and NGOs societal taboos around addressed the significance discussing breast cancer, of self-examination in attributing it to increased detecting abnormalities

women to conduct crucial

diagnosis and treatment of Pakistan is suffering from

Emphasising the seminar, organised by the urgency of early diagnosis, Begum Alvi underscored that breast cancer is curable At the event, held at at any stage, but delays can the Governor's House in increase risks and reduce collaboration with the survival chances. She World Health Organisation, commended the progress medical made in overcoming breast awareness.

The First Lady Begum Alvi urged acknowledged the media's role monthly self-examinations disseminating information, and consult a doctor stating that the awareness promptly if any lump or campaign, ongoing for five detected. years, has led to more



Maqdoom Muhammad Haroon is addressing during " Solidarity Kashmir Conference" at local hotel in Federal Capital.

PPP wants to develop the urban, rural areas alike: Mayor Karachi

Karachi Barrister Murtaza it is connected with the link Wahab has said that Pakistan People's Party wants to develop the urban and rural areas alike and his party does not believe in politics discrimination prejudice.

He said this while addressing the opening ceremony of the road construction expansion project from Razzaqabad to Sheedi Goth Power House on Thursday.

He said that his party is completing development projects in all districts of Karachi, while the next provincial government will be ours and we will be in the center as well.

He said that the construction expansion of the road from Razzaqabad to Sheedi Goth Power House will provide travel facilities to the residents. A sum of Rs 307 million has been spent on inaugurated soon.

KARACHI (APP): Mayor this 6.2-kilometer road and road of Super Highway and National Highway, he added.

Deputy Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad, Mayor Karachi Spokesperson for Political Karamullah Waqasi, former Member of National Assembly Jam Abdul Karim Jokhio, Chairman Gadap Town Tariq Aziz Baloch and other leaders and activists were also present.

He said that if the infrastructure of Karachi is better, the city will develop. Work has been done on Jatoi Sahib's UC in the area, fifty thousand square feet of pavement work has been done, a huge star ground has been inaugurated in Sherpao Colony, development work is also in progress on Shershah Road, Malir Kala Board Road will also be

Federal, provincial govts, LEAs committed to wipe out terrorism: KP CM

chief minister said.

situation in Khyber PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan could affect the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa He said that the Syed Arshad Hussain Shah free, fair and transparent economic situation of the on Wednesday said that the country could only be federal and provincial streamlined if an elected governments, government came to power enforcement agencies and for which a fair and the people were on the transparent election was

same page to wipe out terrorism and extremism from the country in all terror attack, he said that forms and manifestations. Talking to a delegation well as the bereaved of trainee Assistant families and all of them Superintendent of Police

were determined and in high (ASPs) here at his office, he said that the morale of Earlier, he inaugurated the law enforcing agencies badminton and squash and security institutions courts at SBBWU and said was high and they were that women's education ready to cope with any was the top priority of the challenge for peace in the

situation and the other is adding that the role of women in any sector could bring prosperity. He said that equal should consult all the opportunities should be

Referring to the Dera

he met with the injured as

government for a peaceful and developed society, **CJ PHC visits** Kohat Jail KOHAT (APP): Chief Justice Peshawar High Court (PHC), Mohammad political parties and given to females in all Ibrahim Khan on Thursday

visited District Jail Kohat. The chief justice was warmly welcomed and received by the District & Sessions Judge & Superintendent Jail, Kohat.

He inspected every barrack personally and gave a patient hearing to all the prisoners by listening to their complaints.

During the visit it was pointed out that 45 prisoners of district Hangu were stationed at Kohat district Jail, The chief justice directed to make necessary arrangements for the immediate shifting of these inmates to the Jail of their home district instead. Besides, the CJ PHC

also directed that cases of under-trial prisoners shall be expedited and those who were behind bars in cases involving petty nature offences shall be released forthwith after obtaining bail bonds. Likewise, the Hon'ble Chief Justice observed that the provision of a solar system, video link facility and exhaust mechanism indispensable facilities for the facilitation of inmates therefore, these issues would be taken with the concerned department for immediate action.

LHC suspends termination of ex-PCB director media

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Thursday suspended the termination letter of Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) ex-director media and communication Sami Burney. Justice Abid Hussain Chattha passed the orders on a petition filed by Sami Burney challenging his termination. The court also sought

reply from PCB and others respondents. petitioner's counsel argued before the court that his client was transferred from the PCB's media and c o m m u n i c a t i o n department to special projects after the current PCB management. "Whoever is against the country is the enemy for the areas. of all of us and whoever does not follow the country's Constitution

He said that the role of police was important in maintaining law and order in the society and protecting the lives and properties of the people, adding that KP police always fought against terrorism bravely in the province and had rendered great sacrifices.

The CM said that the of the merged districts was

government and a formal plan had been chalked out

He, however said that due to financial problems at national level, the will be dealt strictly," the welfare and development of the merged districts was being affected.

He said that the promises made at the time of merger could not be fulfilled adding that due to this reason, the process of development in the merged districts was hampered.

The chief minister said that the issue of funding for the merged districts had been raised welfare and development by the Prime Minister and he had assured to a priority of the address this issue.



LAHORE: Ambassador of the Philippines to Pakistan Maria Agnes M. Cervantes meeting with Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi.

Sindh govt focuses on eradication of GBV, welfare of women: Info Minister

KARACHI (APP): Sindh very Information, Minority sectors but it was not Affairs and Social Security Muhammad Ahmad Shah, here on Thursday, said that the Sindh government was focusing on eradication of gender-based violence and welfare of women, children and all vulnerable segments

of the society. Multi Sectoral Coordination Committee (MSCC) on gender based violence that was organized by Pathfinder International in collaboration with UNFPA Pakistan funded (SMK) Project and MSCC on Gender Based Violence.

The minister said that Sindh had taken lead in beneficiaries.

Caretaker Minister for legislation in all important enough to make laws and their implementation was also

necessary. Emphasizing on effective implementation of laws with full passion and determination, he said that respect and fear of the He was addressing the law and deterrence to second conference of the crimes could only be created by implementation of the law.

Stressing on joint efforts for welfare and betterment of all the citizens without any discrimination, he said that Sehat Mand Khnadan funds allocated by government for the purpose should reach their rightful and deserving

KP Minister emphasizes responsible tourism practices

a significant address during the Chitral Symposium held in Peshawar, Caretaker Minister of Information and Public Relations, Culture, and Tourism Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel, reaffirmed the unwavering commitment of the provincial government, armed forces, and institutions to foster the

growth of the tourism sector. Highlighting key initiatives, Minister Kakakhel underscored the priority placed on providing necessary

PESHAWAR (Online): In facilities. He said tourism policing and a 24/7 helpline for the convenience and safety of tourists have already been introduced. He welcomed publicprivate partnerships, citing the establishment of four integrated tourism zones, with a special focus on Chitral, as a testament to the region's dedication to enhancing

> Expressing gratitude to the Pakistan Army for their support in organizing the successful Chitral Symposium, Minister Kakakhel praised the Department of Tourism necessary and Culture and Tourism.



MULTAN: View an overturned truck that was fells down due to over speeding after traffic accident while rescue operation is underway, in Multan.

Chairman Pakistan People's

Party (PPP), Bilawal

Bhutto held out assurance

of playing his role with full

dedication for resolution of

problems being faced by

business community of the

country, especially of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

surance during meeting with

office bearers of Federation

of Pakistan Chamber of

Commerce and Industry

(FPCCI) and business com-

munity of KP under the

leadership of Malik Mehar

Elahi, Haji Fazal Elahi,

Sartaj Ahmad Khan and

Adnan Jalil here at Zahir

During the meeting,

Shah House on Thursday.

businessmen apprised the

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan

Agriculture Research Coun-

cil (PARC) in collaboration

with Korea Program on In-

ternational Agriculture

(KOPIA) will construct

574 m2 aeroponics green houses and 21,600 m2

screen houses in order to

enhance output of potatoes

and to achieve self-suffi-

ciency in certified seed po-

tato production. The facil-

ity will be established un-

der the project "Pakistan-

Korea Joint Program on

Certified Seed Potato Pro-

duction System" to pro-

duce 160,000 tons of certi-

fied seed potato annually, said an official of PARC

gard the KOPIA signed

technical cooperation

projects and contract for

construction of green/

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Vice Presi-

dents FPCCI, Mr. Umar

Masood ur Rehman & Mr.

Amin Ullah Baig visited the

Embassy of the Kingdom

of Morocco in Islamabad

and met H.E. Mr.

Mohamed Karmoune, Act-

ing Dean of Diplomatic

Corps Islamabad & Ambas-

sador Extraordinary &

He said that in this re-

screen houses for seed po- hectares of land.

Mohamed Karmoune says:

Collective efforts to be

made to improve trade

the future

here on Thursday.

Bilawal gave this as-



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif in a meeting with Telenor and Etisalat delegation.

PPP Chairman about the wheeling policy of electric-

ity was not given due con-

sideration under which the

industry would be provided

electricity at cheap rates

Similarly, the suggestions of

business community for

increasing border trade is

given heed by quarters con-

the occasion, highlighted

demands of small traders of

sion, Bilawal Bhutto said

that he would play his role

for resolution of problems

being faced by business

community. He also made

a clarification that PPP was

not against corporate sec-

tor and giving undue con sideration to SMEs.

Pakistan's total

liquid foreign

reserves reach

\$12.2 billion

KARACHI (APP): The

total liquid foreign reserves

the reserves held by the cen-

tral bank stood at \$7,040.8

million. The State Bank of

Pakistan, in a statement is-

sued here on Thursday, in-

formed that SBP's reserves

\$21 million to \$7,040.8 million during the

week ended on December

mercial banks also inched

up to reach \$5,165.6 mil-

Pakistan reached

S\$12,206.4 million while

Malik Mehar Elahi, on

Speaking on the occa-

cerned, he continued.

the province.

Bilawal assures Businessmen of playing his role

in resolution of their problems

problems they faced and

hardships due to slump in

business in the country in

general and KP in particu-

lar. Earlier, Sartaj Aĥmad of

FPCCI presented a detailed

briefing about the efforts

being made by him and his

team members from the

platform of FPCCI for the

betterment of business

community of the prov-

the districts from Chitral to

D.I.Khan are deprived of

official patronage from the

center as a result of which,

business community and

industry is suffering due to

non-resolution of problems

tato production through

Aeroponics potato projects

will pave ways for self-suf-

ficiency in seed potato pro-

duction, he said adding that

innovations in agricultural

research will maximize ag-

ricultural productivity, he

added. Pakistan and Repub-

lic of Korea are working

jointly on agriculture tech-

nology transfer projects for

seed potato production

through aeroponics, fodder

production, chili drying and

improvement in artificial in-

semination in cattle, he

added. He said that the con-

ventional potato plants

typically yield only five

tuber seeds, whereas

aeroponics plants have the

potential to produce 50 to

60 seeds each, he said add-

ing that the Pakistan cur-

rently cultivates potatoes

on approximately 300,000

Aeroponics.

they faced.

HYDERABAD: Labourer women busy in packing the

tomatoes in the wooden boxes at Vegetable Market.

PARC to establish 574 m²

aeroponics green houses,

21,600 m2 screen houses

He said majority of

CEO of PTCL, Ufone announces 100pc stake acquisition in Telenor Pak LAMABAD (APP): He mentioned that the joint a historic telecommunicatory approvals and custors

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of PTCL and Ufone, Hatem Bamatraf, announced on Thursday the acquisition of a 100 percent stake in Telenor Pakistan (Pvt) Ltd (Telenor Pakistan). During a press conference attended by high officials of the PTCL Ufone Group, he said that this strategic alignment would bring significant benefits for consumers and stakeholders alike.

Bamatraf highlighted that the primary beneficiaries of this deal would be the consumers, who can expect improved services as a result of this integration. entity, with its diverse range of products and services, was committed to delivering the best services across all sectors.

"The collaborative agency aims to provide consumers with an extensive range of products and services," he added. The merger of Telenor will play a crucial role in establishing a modern network infra-structure in Pakistan, contributing to the country's technological advancement. He hoped that the collaboration would bring additional benefits to consumers and stakeholders, contions system that fosters connectivity and supports ary closing conditions. PTCL is actively working



completion of the acquisi-

towards a smooth transijourney.

He said that the mal disruption for employees, customers, and other



QUETTA: Anjuman-e-Tajran Balochistan President, Rahim Agha along with Rafiullah, Balochistan Sugar Association addressing a press conference, at

Pak-Qatar Family Takaful, Instaful

Solutions join hands to promote

inclusive BancaTakaful

comprising 60-70 percent

of total bank depositors.

ISLAMABAD (APP): low-net-worth individuals,

The Pak-Qatar Family

Takaful and the Instaful

Solutions on Thursday

have entered into a strate-

gic partnership to introduce inclusive BancaTakaful, a

first-of-its-kind initiative in

"BancaTakaful, an innova-

tive distribution model, in-

volves offering Takaful products to bank custom-

ers, primarily to deposi-

Unlike traditional BancaTakaful, which typi-

cally targets a subgroup of

wealthier individuals with

higher deposit amounts, it

added, the new initiative

aimed to address the needs

of the majority, middle- or

on Thursday.

a news release said

country.

the heads of Telenor Etisalat Group met with Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Dr Umar Saif here Thursday. The discussion overall growth of the

transition of Telenor's operations to PTCL, said a news release The delegation in-CEO International Etisalat Etisalat International Paki-

focused on advancements in

the telecom sector and the

cluded Mikhail Gerchuk, Group; Abdulrahim Al Nooryani, Chairman stan; Hatem Bamatraf, CEO PTCL/Ufone; Petter-Børre Furberg, Head of Telenor Asia and Khurrum the sector's significant con-tribution to the nation's progress.

country Dr Umar Saif asked telecom companies to proactively take measures to deliver superior services to consumers, emphasizing

telecom sector, he added.

The Ministry of IT, he said,

is committed to enhancing

telecom services, with a fo-

cus on improving quality and accessibility across the

Skilled manpower vital to cope with economic,

FAISALABAD (APP): Skilled manpower is imperative to cope with economic and social woes being faced by the country as a step towards knowledgebased economy, said Prof Dr Iqrar Ahmad Khan Vice Chancellor (VC) University of Agriculture Faisalabad

He was addressing the participants of two-day eas are admitted in UAF on Punjab Educational Endow-said that UAF is putting spement Fund and Directorate of Financial Assistance and University Advancement. Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan

social woes: Dr Iqrar

said that the education brings a person out of the darkness of poverty and ignorance into the light of prosperity and consciousness. He said that entrepreneurial skills should be developed among the students so that they can provide employment instead of running after jobs. He said that the students from the rural arsoft skill development train- the quota basis so that they ing under the auspices of can innovate in agriculture. He handholding of financially depressed students to continue



Rawalpindi Chaudhry Muhammad Yaqub addressing the farmers.

Rupee gains 10 paisa against **Dollar**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Thursday gained 10 paisa against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs283.51 against the previous day's closing at Rs283.61. However, acvolume b/w Morocco, Pak cording to the Forex Assopects and dimensions of ciation of Pakistan (FAP) strengthening relations in the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open Mr. Umar Masood ur market stood at Rs284 and Rehman, Vice President of Rs286 respectively.

FPCCI, said that we should The price of the Euro increase trade with brothincreased by Rs2.64 to erly countries for mutual close at Rs308.48 against the last day's closing of The African Continental Free Trade Area Rs305.84, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (AfCFTA) represents sig-Plenipotentiary of Mo- nificant growth potential

Gold rates up by Rs.5,700 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.5,700 and was sold at Rs.218,300 on Thursday compared to its sale at Rs.212,600 on the last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs.4,887 to Rs.182,270 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs.171,561 from Rs. 167,081, the All

Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola silver increased by Rs.70 to Rs.2,650 whereas that of

taker Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Industries, Commerce, Technical Education and Tribal Affairs Dr Aamer Abdullah Thursday laid the foundation stone of the splint manufacturing unit, being established with the Canadian investment of US\$16 million at the Export Processing Zone (EPZ), Nowshera. "This unit will be the largest factory of its kind in terms of production in the world and all its production will be exported

tory will have eight assembly lines," a press release

The industrial unit would generate employment opportunities for 800 people with 60% women, who would be extended all the facilities according to international labour standards, it added. The minister also laid the foundation stone of two units of leather and plastic pipe manufacturing at the economic zone. A total investment of Rs 210 million has been

PEDO to be made most revenue generating institution of the province: Nisar

that several ongoing power projects are entered in the which will be helpful for the stability of province's economy and the development of the industrial sector in the future. He further added that

high-level forums will be contacted soon on priority basis in terms of facing problems with federation in energy sector of KP. Timely

The most important institution like PEDO will ing institution.

He expressed these views in a review meeting held at PEDO house while examining working pace on

"These customers are exposed to host of savings, investment and protection needs which largely remain

unserved under current model." "Recognizing the changing landscape influenced by enhanced digitalization, Pak-Qatar Family Takaful and Instaful believe that leveraging technology is key to scaling Takaful products beyond a limited

niche to a mass clientele. The concept of Inclusive BancaTakaful is in essence Digital BancaTakaful and revolves around offerthe currently ignored customers.

middle segment of banks through the use of technology," it added. The transformative partnership was signed at a ceremony at the Pak-Qatar Family Takaful headquarters in Karachi, which was attended by senior leadership from both organizations.

Speaking on the occasion, Azeem Pirani, CEO of Pak-Qatar Family Takaful said, "Our partnership with Instaful aligns with our commitment to delivering innovative, customer-centric solutions. Through this collaboration, we aim to redefine the Takaful landscape, making it more acing a range of innovative cessible, convenient, and products and solutions to transparent for our valued

PSX gains 170 points ISLAMABAD (APP):

The 100-index of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around to bullish trend on Thursday, gaining 170.03 points, a positive change of 0.26 percent, closing at 65,450.19 points against 65,280.16 points the previous trading day. A total of 981,194,616 shares valuing Rs.23.743 billion

were traded during the day as compared to 1,358,411,606 shares valuing Rs. 37.657 billion the last day. Some 389 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 198 of them recorded gains and 174 sustained losses, whereas the share prices of 17 remained unchanged. The three top-trading companies were Kohinoor Spinning with 160,178,500 shares at Rs.5.40 per share, Bank of Punjab with 89,773,616 shares at Rs.6.97 per share and Hascol Petrol with 79,313,000 shares at Rs.8.33 per share. Unilever Pakistan Foods witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.175.00 per share price, closing at Rs.22,275.00, whereas the runner-up was Sapphire Fibres with a Rs 85.00 rise in its per share price to Rs1,784.50. Rafhan Maize witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs.350.00 per share closing at Rs 10,000.00.

NPO to organize w'shop on Productivity Specialist ISLAMABAD (APP): tencies needed by partici-

The National Productivity Organization (NPO) is going to organize a three-day training program for "Productivity Specialists" from December 20, to introduce the latest techniques to improve efficiency and raise productivity.

The objective of the workshop includes introducing the standards and requirements for APO certified Productivity Specialists based on Asian Productivity Organization APO-PS 101 Requirements for Productivity Specialists, discussing the knowledge of productivity improvement strategies at the firm and organizational level, and

demonstrating the compe-

pants to act as productivity consultants, trainers, promoters and researchers, said an NPO document issued here.

The event highlights an introduction to APO PS-101, the role and requirement for productivity specialists, lean Six Sigma enterprises and manufacturing excellence.

The workshop has been designed for government officials, production, inventory, supply chain, store, material managers. representatives of industrial associations, academia, professionals involved in conducting training, consultancy, research, or promotional activities



LAHORE: People are buying woolen clothes from vendors at road side flea market to counter the winters spell in Provincial Capital.

CEO CBD Punjab, Chairman P&D discuss socioeconomic development of Punjab

LAHORE (APP): The taken by the authority. In Punjab Central Business attendance were notable fig-District Development Authority (PCBDDA), widely known as Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab), welcomed Chairman Iftikhar Ali Sahoo of the Planning & Development Board (P&D) Punjab to the CBD Punjab Complex in Lahore, for a productive visit.

The primary objective of this visit was to engage in discussions regarding CBD Punjab's ongoing and forthcoming projects and their pivotal role in steering the economic development of Punjab.

During the visit, Imran Amin, CEO CBD Punjab, provided comprehensive insights into the current and prospective projects under-

ures including Executive Director Commercial, Mohammad Omer, Direc-tor Business Development Ali Waqar Shah, Director Project Management Asif Iqbal, along with senior officials from CBD Punjab and NESPAK. The commercial and technical teams of CBD Punjab underscored the significance of authority's projects such as Sirius, Regalia, Runway, Node, and Sano, emphasiz-

ment landscape. Iftikhar Ali Sahoo commended the projects initiated by CBD Punjab and assured unwavering support from the Planning & Development Board, rec-

ing their transformative im-

pact on Punjab's develop-

ognizing their potential to the province.

While expressing his views Chairman P&D Board Punjab, Iftikhar Ali Sahoo said, "The projects initiated by CBD Punjab showcase a promising future for Punjab's economic prosperity. We are committed to extending our support and collaboration to ensure their success."
CEO CBD Punjab,

Imran Amin, extended his profound gratitude for Chairman Iftikhar Ali Sahoo's visit, while talking on the occasion he said, "We appreciate the recognition of CBD Punjab's projects by Chairman P&D Board Punjab, signifying our joint commitment to Puniab's



several areas of multilateral interests, economic and business engagement, investment, promotion of bilateral trade, economic cooperation, investment, and exchange of trade delegations and trade development were discussed in de-

Both sides also addressed the various prosit establishes a structure for fostering regional economic integration, growth, and

The agreement has the potential to offer Pakistan fresh avenues to enhance its trade and investment connections with African nations, thus generating business and reinforcing economic relations

ten-gram silver went up by Rs.60.01 to Rs.2,271.94.

Foundation stone of splint manufacturing unit with Canadian investment PESHAWAR (APP): Care- sembly lines, while this fac-

Currently, the largest made in the projects, which factory of this type in the world consists of three as-

Independent Report

tary Energy and Power Nisar Ahmad Khan has said final stages of completion,

completion of energy projects is in the interest of

province and people, so the ongoing projects should be completed as soon as possible and the production of electricity should be

be made a developed institution of the province with the support of experts under team work and the most Rs. 50 billion income give

ongoing energy projects in

Putin says there will be no peace in Ukraine until goals are achieved, while offering rare details

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin vowed that there would be no peace in Ukraine until his goals are achieved and said those objectives remain unchanged at a year-end news conference. Offering rare detail on Moscow's operation, Putin dismissed the need for a second wave of mobilization of reservists, saying there are some 617,000 Russian soldiers currently in Ukraine, including around 244,000 troops who were called up to fight alongside profes-

The Russian president who has held power for nearly 24 years and announced recently he is running for reelection, was greeted with applause as he arrived

sional Russian military

Putin did not hold his traditional press conference last year after his military failed to take Kviv and as the Ukrainian army retook swaths of territory in the east and south of the countrv. But with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy now returning to Washington to plead for U.S aid, a stalling counteroffensive and reports of fracturing Western support for Ukraine, the Russian president has decided to face the media once more — though the broadcast remains heavily choreographed and more about

spectacle than scrutiny. This year, ordinary citizens have the chance to phone in questions along with those asked by journalists, and Russians have been submitting questions for Putin for two weeks. It

is the first time Putin, who has heavily limited his interaction with foreign media, will potentially face multiple questions from Western journalists since before the fighting in Ukraine began.

The press conference opened with questions about the conflict in Ukraine and highlighted concerns some Russians have about fears of another wave of mobilization which has proved unpopu lar. In September 2022 Putin ordered a partial military call-up as he tried to boost his forces in Ukraine, sparking protests.

'There is no need,' for mobilization now, Putin said, because 1,500 men are being recruited into the Russian army every day across the country

Congress passes

\$886 billion

defense policy

bill, Biden to

sign into law

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: More than two-thirds of the US

House of Representatives

voted in favor of a defense

policy bill on Thursday

governing a record \$886 bil

lion in annual military

spending and authorizing

policies such as aid for

Ukraine and push back

against China in the Indo-

the National Defense Au-

by 310 to 118, with strong

support from Republicans

than the two-thirds major-

ity required to pass the

measure and send it to the

White House for President

Joe Biden to sign into law.

propriations bills that set

government spending lev-

els, the NDAA authorises

everything from pay raises

for troops - this year's will

be 5.2 percent - to pur-

UK defence

ministry fined

for Afghan

data breach

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: The UK de-

fence ministry has been

fined 350,000 pounds for

disclosing personal infor-mation of 265 Afghans seeking to flee the Taliban,

a data watchdog announced

table data breach let down

those to whom our coun-

try owes so much," said

UK data commissioner

This deeply regret-

on Wednesday.

John Edwards.

chases of ships.

Separate from the ap-

The House backed



A view of destroyed cars next to a damaged residential building following a

COP28 yields 'historic' accord on transition away from fossil fuels

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: For the first time on Wednesday, nations approved a call to transition away from fossil fuels as UN negotiations in Dubai tackled the top culprit behind climate change, but atrisk countries said far more action was needed. 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 opposi-

led oil producer group Opec, which said the world can cut 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. But after 13 days of talks and several sleep-less nights in a country built on oil wealth, the Emirati president of the COP28 summit quickly banged a gavel to signal consensus

Senior Taiwan opposition leader visits China month before election

Monitoring Desk TAIPEI: A senior leader of the Kuomintang (KMT), Taiwan's main opposition party, is in China for meetings with the Taiwanese community, his party said on Thursday, a highly sensitive visit one month be-

fore elections on the island. The previously unreported trip of KMT Vice Chairman Andrew Hsia, a former Taiwanese diplomat and one-time head of Taiwan's China-policy making Mainland Affairs Council, comes as his party seeks to narrow the ruling party's lead ahead of the statement sent to Reuters.

Jan. 13 presidential and parliamentary elections.

The vote will affect Taiwan's future relations with China, which views the island as its own territory and has stepped up military and political pressure to assert those sover-

Hsia, who arrived on Wednesday, is visiting Nanchang, Chengdu, Zhongshan, Xiamen and Chongqing at the invitation community in China and will attend events with them, the party said in a

Indian parliament 'disrupted' on terror anniversary

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: Two men intruded into the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, releasing yellow smoke from canisters in what is being seen as a major security breach on a day that marked the anniversary of a Dec 13, 2001 terror attack on the Indian

parliament. The men jumped from the visitor's gallery hours after leaders and lawmakers led the nation in paying tribute to security personnel who died in the 2001 attack. They were quoted as raising slogans against the government. Curiously, the passes that enabled them to

be in the gallery were sanctioned by a BJP MP from Mysore. Parliament security staff took the duo identified as Sagar Sharma, 25, from Lucknow and Manoranjan D, 35, from Mysore — into custody after they were caught by MPs, who also roughed up one of the intruders, reporters said. Two others — Neelam Singh, 42, from Hisar in Haryana and Amol Shinde, 25, from Latur in Maharashtra — were arrested from a spot near Parliament House where they too opened smoke canisters soon after the incident in



Indian parliament building shows vellow smoke billowing out of a canister.



Grenadines' Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves before a meeting with his Guyanese counterpart Irfaan Ali amid tensions over a border dispute, in Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Japan, UK and Italy formally establish a joint body to develop a new advanced fighter jet

Monitoring Desk TOKYO: The defense ministers of Japan, Britain and Italy on Thursday signed an agreement to establish a joint organization to develop a new advanced jet fighter, as the countries push to bolster their cooperation in the face of growing threats from China, Russia and North Korea.

The three countries had agreed last year to merge earlier individual plans — for Japan's Mitsubishi F-X to succeed the retiring F-2s developed with the United States and with the United States and aircraft.

Britain's Tempest – to produce the new combat aircraft for deployment in 2035. Japan, which is rapidly building up its military, hopes to have greater capability to counter China's

assertiveness and allow Britain a bigger presence in the Indo-Pacific region. Defense Minister Minoru Kihara at a joint news conference with his British and Italian counterparts, Grant Shapps and Guido Crosett, said that co-developing a

Gazans face public health disaster

Monitoring Desk GENEVA: The United Na-

tion humanitarian office said on Wednesday that Gaza faced a public health disaster due to the collapse of its health system and the spread of disease amid an offensive by Israel that has hit hospitals and displaced hundreds of thousands of The head of the UN

agency for Palestinian refugees, meanwhile, warned that the people of Gaza were "running out of time and options' The UN and aid

groups have sounded the alarm about the spread of spreading diseases.

infectious disease in Gaza where the internal displacement of 85 per cent of the population has caused overcrowding in shelters and other temporary living fa-

"We all know that the health care system is or has collapsed," said Lynn Hastings, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory. "We've got a textbook formula for epidemics and a public health disaster." WHO has reported a sharp rise in acute respiratory infections, diarrhoea, lice, scabies and other fast

Washington shows signs of strained patience with ally Israel **Monitoring Desk**

WASHINGTON: The administration of President Joe Biden has begun to publicly air its differences with the Israeli government over the conduct of the war in Gaza, expressing its exasperation even as it remains largely steady in its support.

Biden referred this week to "indiscriminate bombing" in Gaza, underscoring his frustration with conservative Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, whose government Biden agrees is starting to lose global support.

Australian woman jailed for 20 years for death of her four children has conviction quashed

Monitoring Desk SYDNEY: A woman imprisoned for 20 years over the deaths of her four children, and pardoned in June, saw her convictions quashed by New South Wales state on Thursday, with her lawyer saying she plans to claim "substantial" compensation. Kathleen Folbigg was convicted in 2003 of murdering three of her children, and of manslaughter in the death of her fourth. Folbigg maintained her innocence and said the children had died of natural causes over a decade



Palestinian children hold pots as they queue to receive food cooked by a charity kitchen, amid shortages in food supplies, as the conflict between Israel and Hamas continues, in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip.

remarks. A graduate of Cairo's Al Azhar Univer-

sity, Bitmez was the chair-

man of the Centre for Is-

lamic Union Research and

had previously worked for

ment biography shows.

podium before the general

He was married and a

Parliament's official

Turkish MP dies after suffering heart attack in parliament

Monitoring Desk ANKARA: An opposition Turkish lawmaker died on Thursday, two days after suffering a heart attack and collapsing in front of parliament as he finished a speech criticising the organisations, his parlia-

government's policy to-The error saw the ward Israel. email addresses of hundreds Hasan Bitmez, 54, a father of one. of people, including Afghan member of parliament from interpreters potentially elithe opposition Felicity gible for relocation to Brit-(Saadet) Party, died in Anain, openly included in the "to" field, rather than blind kara City Hospital, Health Minister Fahrettin Koca

It first came to light in September 2021, soon after the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, and the chaotic efforts to evacuate vulnerable people from the country. Ben Wallace, who was defence minister at the time, apologised and disclosed that one official had

told reporters in televised assembly on Tuesday. **Cold wave grips northern** China, temperatures set to plummet in south

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: Cold weather

gripped large swathes of China on Thursday, with sharp falls in temperature expected over the next few days, particularly in the south, weather forecasters said, in unusually frigid weather for December.

The cold snap is moving from several northern provinces hit by blizzards to central and southern areas such as the province of Guizhou, and pushing deep into the ower reaches of the

Yangtze River delta. This cold wave is powerful, later this week will be a big move south," said meteorological analyst Wang Weiyue,

according to state broad-caster CCTV.

By Sunday, tempera-

tures south of the Yangtze could reach zero degrees Celsius (32 degrees Fahrenheit), while provinces just north of the Yellow River, such as Shandong, could see minus 10 C (14 F)

Further north, temperatures could approach historical lows for this time of the year or even surpass records, national weather forecasters warned.

In Beijing, snow has been building since Monday in the capital of nearly 22 million. Temperatures are expected to further slide to minus 12 C (10.4 F) on Friday from about minus 3 C (26.6 F) on Thursday.

Trump loses immunity bid in defamation suit **Monitoring Desk**

NEW YORK: Donald Trump cannot assert presidential immunity from a defamation lawsuit by writer E. Jean Carroll, who accused him of rape, a US appeals court ruled on Wednesday, dealing the former US president another legal setback.

The 2nd US Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan upheld a federal judge's decision to broadcast showed Bitmez reject Trump's claim of collapsing to the floor after immunity, finding Trump having been standing at the had waited too long to raise it as a defence. Alina Habba, one of Trump's lawyers in the case, called the ruling "fundamentally flawed"

One killed in Russian drone and missile attack on southern

Ukraine - Kyiv **Monitoring Desk** KYIV: Russia launched 42

drones and six missiles at regions in southern Ukraine overnight, killing one civilian and damaging grain warehouses near the River Danube, Ukrainian officials said on Thursday.

The death was in an overnight missile strike on the Kherson region which destroyed a medical facility, a private house and a garage, emergency services said. Ukraine's air force said 41 of the 42 Shahed-136/131 attack drones fired overnight had been shot down.

53 injured in Russian missile strikes on Kyiv

Monitoring Desk KYIV: A volley of Russian missiles wounded several people and damaged a children's hospital on Wednesday, the worst attack on Kyiv in months, Ukrainian officials said, as the country pleads for Western military aid.

Journalists in the capital heard several explosions before dawn, and air raid sirens sounded soon after that. Ukraine's air force said it had downed all 10 missiles targeting the city and the health ministry said 53 people had been wounded, including two children.

Most injuries were caused by "glass shards, household items and the shock wave" as missile debris fell in eastern and southern parts of the city, been destroyed.

which caused the highest number of wounded in months, was the second in a week. In another attack overnight Sunday to Monday, eight missiles headed for the capital were shot

"The enemy used bal-listic weapons," the Kyiv City Military Administration said, adding that Russia was "intensifying the missile terror of Kyiv

There were also strikes in the southern port of Odesa, where officials said nine Iranian-made Shahed drones had been downed. On the edge of the port city of Odesa, a journalist saw a large hangar in which trucks and cars had

Overwhelming UN vote underlines need for Gaza ceasefire

Monitoring Desk

JNITED NATIONS: The UN General Assembly on Tuesday overwhelmingly voted in favor of a resolution demanding an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza. The resolution also demands the prompt and unconditional release of all prisoners involved in the ongoing unrest. This marks the second such a resolution was adopted by the General Assembly, unlike the UN Security Council where resolutions calling for a ceasefire were vetoed.

The resolution, moved in the General Assembly on Tuesday, was cosponsored by more than 100 countries and passed with a large majority of 153 votes. The vote reflects an increase in support for the ceasefire's demand.

A similar measure in late October drew a nod from 121 countries. The United States and Israel were among the 10 countries that voted against it on Tuesday, while 23 abstained. Austria, Czech Republic, Guatemala, Liberia, Micronesia, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, and Paraguay also voted against.

US allies Britain which had abstained from voting on previous Gaza resolutions at the General Assembly and UN Security Council as well — and Germany were among the 23 countries that abstained.

Prominent US allies including Canada, Australia and Japan, which had previously abstained were among the more than 30 countries that switched their position.

Number of journalists killed on job in 2023 declines despite Gaza: RSF

Monitoring Desk

PARIS: The number of journalists killed in the line of duty fell this year, despite reporter deaths in Gaza in the past two months, me-11 months of 2023, 45 journalists were killed carrying out their work, down from 61 last year, according to the annual report by RSF. It was the smallest number since 33 died in 2002, largely due to a major drop

While some 63 journalists have been killed in the Middle East since the October 7 start of fighting between Israel and Islamist group Hamas, only 17 of dia advocacy group Reporters Without Borders RSF's definition. "It takes those deaths fell under said Thursday. In the first nothing away from the tragedy in Gaza but we are observing a regular decline, and are very far from the 140 journalists killed in 2012 and again in 2013" because of the wars in Syria and Iraq, RSF secretary general Christophe Deloire told AFP.

Former UK Conservative lawmaker faces suspension for 'serious breach' of rules

Monitoring Desk ONDON: A former member of British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's Conservatives committed a "extremely serious

breach" of parliament's rules and should be suspended for 35 days, the standards watchdog said, potentially triggering a by-

Scott Benton sits as an independent, having been suspended from the governing Conservatives filmed in a newspaper parliament.

sting offering to lobby ministers and leak market-sensitive information on behalf of a fake company.

The findings of the

independent Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, who opened an investigation in April, were published on Thursday and found he had breached rules that say lawmakers should not take any action which would cause significant in April after he was damage to the integrity of

then known as Twitter. One

tweet reportedly defamed

the monarchy over links to

a coronavirus vaccine and

an anti-monarchy quote by

18th-century French phi-

losopher Denis Diderot

tenced to three years on

each count under Article 112

of Thailand's Criminal

Code, known as lese

majeste, which protects the

monarchy. She was also

convicted under the Com-

puter Crime Act, whose

broad provisions covering

online activities have been

criticized as a threat to free-

Late Wednesday, the

dom of expression.

Rukchanok was sen-

was allegedly retweeted.

A newly elected progressive Thai lawmaker is sentenced to 6 years for defaming the monarchy

Monitoring Desk BANGKOK: A court in Thailand convicted and sentenced a recently elected lawmaker Wednesday to six years in prison for defaming the monarchy under a controversial law that guards the royal institution.

Human Rights Watch decried the ruling, saying it violated her rights to freedom of expression protected under international human rights law.' Rukchanok Srinork

arrived for her court hearing in the capital, Bangkok, as her fellow lawmakers were convening in Parlia-

"I submitted a request to postpone (the hearing) because today the new parliament convenes for its first session, but the court refused.

So I came to hear the verdict," she told reporters, standing next to her party eader who was there to end support.

She was charged over two posts she allegedly shared two years ago on X,

court granted her release on bail of 500,000 baht (\$14,200). If it had been denied, she would have lost her lawmaker status imme-The parliamentarian

denied she posted the tweets, calling the case against her "weak." The plaintiff reportedly provided screenshots of the posts, but the police the social media platform couldn't find the links.

Distributes gold medals Collective efforts needed to establish welfare state: Alvi

dent Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday urged collective efforts to achieve the objectives of Pakistan and materialize dreams of the founding fathers for establishing a wel-

The president was speaking at the 29th annual gold medal distribution ceremony, organized by Tehreek-e-Pakistan Workers Trust at Nazariai-Pakistan Trust for those who made significant efforts for creation of Paki-

He said that those who had received medals rendered valuable services and it was of utmost importance to recognize their historical achieve-

"We are very fortunate that we are living in a free and independent state," he said, adding the vision behind the creation of Pakistan was very broad.

Ahmad Khan had stressed on acquiring education Allama Muhammad Iqbal talked about forging unity among the Muslim Ummah.

Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah always trusted students and he discouraged sectarianism, he added.

The president said, "Efforts and vision of our forefathers was to get a piece of land from where resurgence of Muslims could take place in light of the Holy Quran and

"Unfortunately today those signs are not visible which can help materialize the dream of our forefa-

Dr Arif Alvi said that there was a need to trace history to accomplish the vision behind the creation of Pakistan.

He said, "Holy Prophet Hazrat He said Sir Syed Muhammad (Peace Be casion.

MUZAFFARABAD: A delegation of Hurriyet leaders calls on the Caretaker

lously developed by PIDE

in close collaboration with

the UNFPA. The primary

objective of the NTA re-

port is to elucidate the in-

tricate linkages between

population growth, evolv-

ing age structures, eco-

nomic growth, public fi-

nances, and other pivotal

facets of the macro-

economy, addressing as-

pects of gender and genera-

tional equity. The NTA,

however, has limitations in

capturing unpaid work fall-

ing outside production

in Pakistan, men typically

commence their working

lives at the age of 10 and

reach the peak of their earn-

ings by the age of 49. How-

ever, their consumption

frequently eclipses their

income during both early

and later years, a gap often

compensated for by other

household members who

possess a surplus. In stark

contrast, women consis-

tently experience a trend

where their consumption

surpasses their income at

The study found that

boundaries.

Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Initiatives

The caretaker Minister for

Planning, Development &

Muhammad Sami Saeed on Thursday said Pakistan

was committed to the

agenda of the International

Conference on Population

and Development (ICPD)

held in Thailand last month.

marks while addressing the

launching ceremony of two

reports jointly compiled by

the United Nations Popu-

lation Fund (UNFPA) and

Pakistan Institute of Devel-

opment Economics (PIDE). "We are commit-

ted to the population con-

ference agenda and our del-

egation to the regional con-

ference made a bit of con-

tribution in it, said the min-

ister while appreciated the

research work carried out

by the UNFPA and PIDE

researchers, adding that

"Pakistan is the first coun-

try in the region to delve

into this kind of effort which

is very useful for

policymakers, academi-

The reports titled

cians and researchers.

Economics

He made these re-

Special

Pakistan committed

to ICPD agenda,

gender equity: Sami

ISLAMABAD (Online): (NTA)" have been meticu-

Upon Him) taught us about forgiveness, unity, justice and all these elements are very essential for establishing a welfare state."

He said that justice was highly needed all over the world so that all hu-mans could be equally treated.

The president said that human mind without ethic and morality would lead to failure, adding that a united community always moved ahead with an objective while hatred ruined everything.

He said that the power of social media could not be denied but it was very regretful that it was a cause of spreading fake news.

Regarding the Palestine issue, he said that the international community should play its role for its durable solution. Mian Farooq Altaf and

Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed also spoke on the oc

Pak, France

agree to further

boost

economic

relations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa

kistan and France agreed

here on Thursday to further

enhance economic relations,

explore investment oppor-

tunities, and increase bilat-

eral trade between the two

countries. According to

press statement issued by

finance ministry, Ambassa-

dor of France to Pakistan,

Nicolas Galey called on

for Finance, Revenue and

Economic Affairs Dr

Shamshad Akhtar, during

the meeting, matters of

mutual interest, economic

relations between the two

countries and collaborative

efforts in various sectors

finance minister stated that

both countries enjoy deep

and historical relations.

adding Pakistan highly val-

ues its bilateral ties with

France including trade and

apprised the French Am-

bassador about the eco-

nomic reforms of the gov

ernment that have brought

The Finance Minister

economic relations.

On the occasion, the

were discussed.



LAHORE: President Dr Arif Alvi distributing the Gold Medals to the Honour the workers of Pakistan Movement during the 29th Annual Gold Medal ceremony of Tehreek-e-Pakistan Trust organized by Nazriya-e-Pakistan Trust and Pakistan Worker Trust.

Robust national maritime sector base of sustainable economic future: CNS

LAHORE (INP): Chief of Navy's annual event which the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf has said that keeping in view that current state of the economy, it is imperative to realize economy and exploring un-Pakistan's maritime potential, since a robust national maritime sector can be a great enabler for transition to a sustainable economic future. He expressed these views on Thursday while addressing the concluding ceremony of 6th Maritime Security Workshop at Pa-kistan Navy War College,

Maritime Security

Independent Report

QUETTA: The President

Balochistan Awami Party

(BAP), Nawabzada Khalid

Khan Magsi has criticized

the Pakistan Tehreek-i-

Insaf (PTI) for filing a peti-

tion against the notification

of Election Commission of

Pakistan (ECP) regarding

posting of District Return-

ing Officers (DROs) and

Returning Officers (ROs)

casion of the joining of

PTI's leader and former

Provincial Minister Mobin

Caretaker Federal Minister | Thursday, Nawabzada and other senior leaders of

While speaking on oc-

for the general elections.

Magsi lashes out at PTI for

petition against DROs &

ROs notification in LHC

Khilji and others here on man Senate, Sadiq Sanjrani

aims to generate understanding on the dynamics of maritime security, creating awareness about blue tapped maritime potential of Pakistan. The workshop participants included parliamentarians, policy makers, bureaucrats, academia, entrepreneurs as well as representatives from media.

Addressing the participants, Admiral Naveed Ashraf emphasized Pakistan Navy's commitments to raise awareness on issues of National Maritime sig-Workshop was Pakistan nificance and underscored

condemns the petition of

PTI against the notification

of ECP about DROs and

ROs for elections in the

over the PTI's move say-

ing that it is surprising that

political parties are afraid

also condemned the terror-

ism incidents in the coun-

try. Meanwhile, fateha was

offered for those martyred

in the terrorism incidents in

the country. Also present

on the occasion were Chair-

He expressed surprise

He on the occasion

court of law.

of the elections.

PN initiatives in generating informed debate on security issues, Blue-Economy, strategic developments in the Indian Ocean Region and intense geopolitical rivalry. He also apprised the audience that Pakistan Navy is divesting resources for the socio-economic uplift of the less privileged segments of society, especially along the coastal belt.

Earlier, Rear Admiral Javaid Iqbal, Commandant Pakistan Navy War College during his welcome remarks gave a brief rundown of various activities during the conduct of workshop.

Marwat arrested from Lahore

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Sher Afzal Marwat has been arrested on Thursday from outside the Lahore High Court (LHC).

Marwat, who is senior vice president of the party, was leaving the high court premises after attending a lawyers' convention when a heavy contingent of police arrested him. According to police, the PTI leader was arrested under 3MPO and shifted to Mazang police station. Last week, the PTI leader alleged an attempted "abduction" by KP police while en route to

Gulabad near Chakdara for

a party convention sched-

Khalid Magsi said that he BAP. uled in Bajaur.

Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed chairs the 7th Excutive Committee meeting of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) in Islamabad.

NJAC decides to develop action plan for technological transformation of courts

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Judicial Au-Committee (NJAC) has decided to develop a plan of action with a specific time-frame to bring about a technological transformation in courts. Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, judge Supreme Court of Pakistan, and the Chairman of the National Judicial Automation Committee, chaired the first meeting of the NJAC, according to a press release on Thursday. During the discussion, the committee acknowledged that while high courts have made efforts to automate the court system, more robust and technology-oriented court processes and holistic data of cases, lawyers, and judgments are needed to make

posed the concept of technological transformation, which involved forming a National Judicial Data Exchange Policy.

ficient delivery of justice. The policy aims to create a National Law Digest that issued by the Supreme Court of Pakistan and the

High Courts. This will allow the litigants to obtain authentic copies of judgments. Additionally, the repository will be AI-equipped, which will enable legal researchers and the legal community to conduct precise and relevant legal research. Furthermore, the policy aims to implement a national AIpowered scheduler to manage court calendars and assign hearing dates, reducing delays caused by unneces sary adjournments. In addition, the vision includes the implementation of online and digital payment systems for all court-related procedures. It also involves constructing verification infrastructure and facilities to verify the identities and documents of litigants using biometrics and other advanced verification methods. Mr. Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar emphasized the need for

data standardization

Shahnawaz gets capital punishment

ISLAMABAD (APP) The District and Sessions Court of Islamabad has awarded death sentence to Shahnawaz Ameer, the son of renowned journalist Ayaz Ameer, for murdering his wife Sara Inam and imposed a fine of one million

Session Judge Nasir Javed Rana issued the reserved verdict on Thursday. The verdict acquitted

USC reduces Ghee, cooking

ISLAMABAD (APP) Utility Store Corporation (USC) Thursday has reduced the Ghee and cooking oil prices of well-known

duced by 17 rupees per kg, While the prices of cooking oil have been reduced from Rs.37 per liter to Rs.48 per liter, said a press release issued here. Ghee will be available at Rs 482 per kg instead of Rs 499, while cooking oil will be available at Rs 470 to Rs 422 per liter and other branded cooking oil will be available at Rs 518 per liter instead of Rs 555. The new prices have been applied immediately and it should be noted

PM calls for resolving Kashmir dispute as per wishes of Kashmiris

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Thursday called for permanent and final settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute according to the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and aspirations of the Kashmiri people.He was talking to a delegation of Hurriyat leaders from Jammu and Kashmir. The leaders thanked the prime minister for condemning the Indian Supreme Court's validation of the illegal and unilateral step of India regarding the status of Jammu and Kashmir. They praised the prime minister for his participation in the special session of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, saying the PM represented the sentiments of Kashmiris during his ad-

PM Kakar said he brought the message of State of Pakistan to Azad Kashmir cause

dress to the Assembly.

MUZAFFARABAD Jammu and Kashmir that (APP): Prime Minister Pakistan would always extend political and diplomatic support to the

Kashmiris The Foreign Ministry and Pakistani missions abroad would increase their contacts with international think tanks, media and academia to better highlight the case of Kashmir at the international level, he said. adding a strategy would be formulated to effectively present the case of Kashmir in Washington DC, London, Brussels and other important capitals of the

A meeting of the For-eign Ministry and Hurriyat leaders would be held soon so that the leaders could give their proposals to strengthen the Kashmir cause, he added.

The prime minister emphasized that the overseas Kashmiris could play a very pivotal role for the



Aurangzeb Kasi meeting with Caretaker Home Minister Captain (Retd) Muhammad Zubair Jamali.

Jamali assures to resolve issues of sugar dealers association

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Mir Zubair Jamali has stated that the issues being faced by the sugar dealers association would be resolved.

He said that the interim government is determined to promote commerce and trade activities and provide necessary facilities to them.

The caretaker Provincial Minister was speaking to the delegation of Balochistan Sugar Association who called on him here on Thursday.

that all the issues facing the us, then we would sell sugar sugar dealers would be re- at the lowest rates in the

solved accordingly. He said that the objective of government is to pro-

community.

egation of Suar Association on the occasion apprised the Minister Home about the issues of sugar dealers. They pointed out that the sugar permits are being

given to irrelevant persons

The members of del-

in the province. The basic reason behind increase in rate of sugar is giving permits to the irrelevant persons, the members of delegation noted.

They demanded of the interim government to withdraw sugar permits on pat-Pakhtunkhaw.

They said that if gov-The Minister assured ernment cooperates with country. The per kilogram rate of sugar would decrease to Rs. 130 from existing Rs. vide facilities to the traders 190 in the province, they

SIFC reviews progress of policy initiatives, key sector projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ex- a news release said. ecutive Committee for Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) on Thursday began its two-day meeting to review the progress of various policylevel initiatives and projects in the key sectors. The meeting, chaired by Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed, was attended by Federal and Provincial Ministers concerned, besides highlevel government officials,

the ministries concerned presented progress on various projects and related aspects, recommending various measures for further improving the business and investment climate. The committee appreciated the overall progress in various sectors and level of economic engagements with friendly countries, especially the signing of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) and Agreements.



QUETTA: Senior politician and former Senator Nawabzada Haji Mir Lashkari Khan Raisani addressing a seminar during sit-in of Balochistan Yakjehti Committee at Sariab Road

CEC needs to remove reservations of all political parties: Kundi

ISLAMABAD (INP): Sec- (CEC) and apprised him retary Information Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Faisal Karim Kundi has said that the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja needs to remove the reservations of all the political parties and ensure provision of level playing field to them during the upcoming general elections on February 8.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad on Thursday, he said that the PPP's stance on general polls was very clear that the ECP should conduct timely, free and fair elecions in the country.

said that PPP's delegation has already met the Chief Election Commissioner

about the reservations and need to provide level playing field in the upcoming polls. The CEC has assured them that there will be no delay in the elections, he He said that the masses should decide to

in general elections as it was the right of the people to vote and elect the party to rule in the country. The PPP leader said, "The masses will not ac-

vote for any political party

free and fair elections are ensured. The credibility of the

cept any government unless

Faisal Karim Kundi Parliament will be nothing if free, fair and transparent elections were not conducted in the country.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar presiding over a meeting held to review different aspects of implementation on IT initiative programme.

All set to restore Bolan Mail, Akbar Bugti Express trains QUETTA (APP): The Pakistan Railways has announced

plans to restore passenger trains Bolan Mail and Akbar Bugti Express, linking Quetta with Karachi and Lahore respectively. "On the directives of caretaker government and PR authorities, all is set to restore the two trains Divisional Superintendent Quetta Muhammad Yousuf Leghari told APP on Thursday. The Bolan Mail will resume its operations on 25th December 2023, while Akbar Bugti Express will be restored in March, 2024. The two trains will facilitate the people of Sindh and Punjab to travel to Balochistan and vice versa. Currently, the Jaffer Express is the only operational passenger train in Balochistan being run between Quetta and Peshawar, besides local Chaman & Hurnai trains. The DS Railway noted that the Bolan Mail would consist of 12 coaches with the facility of a dining car and bedding. The passengers would also be provided clean blankets, pillows and standard food, he added. It may be recalled that, in October last, the Pakistan Railways restored train services at Sibi-Harnai section which was suspended 18 years ago after the miscreants destroyed main bridges

Jahangir Tareen to contest polls

LAHORE (INP): The for seat adjustment. A meetwhich was attended by IPF leaders Ishaq Khakwani

from Lodhran

newly-formed Istehkam Pakistan Party (IPP) handed over a list of constituencies to the Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) ing between the parties was held at the residence of PML-N leader Sardar Ayaz Sadiq here on Thursday

QUETTA: A delegation of Anjuman Tajiran meeting with Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafqaat regarding sugar crisis.

Aon Chaudhry and Nauman Langrial. Former

speaker Ayaz, Khawaja Saad Rafiq, Ata Tarar and Malik Ahmed Khan represented the PML-N. According to insiders, they discussed different options for seat adjustment and agreed to continue discussions.

policies that ensure the efwill store all the judgments

the system efficient and transparent. Mansoor Ali Shah pro-

The policy is aimed at providing stakeholders and policymakers in the justice sector with real-time data to monitor and formulate

in Sara Inam murder case

the Shahnawaz Ameer's mother, who was co-ac-

cused in the case

oil prices

brands across the country. The spokesman told that the price of ghee of wellknown brands had been re-

that for the convenience.