

# Independent

Member APNS & CPNE

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

www.dailyindependent.com.pk

Quetta

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vt XXV No 119, Jamadi-us-Sani 05, 1445 AH Tuesday December 19, 2023 Pages 08, Price Rs.15

## No security compromises with undocumented foreign nationals: PM

**Our ultimate aim is to build safer, more peaceful, and prosperous Pakistan; 65 terrorists killed in encounters were identified as Afghans; No responsible government can ignore such concerns. Whenever we raised this with the interim Afghan government, they advised us to "look inwards"**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has said that as Pakistan stood at the crossroads of history, it could no longer continue to compromise its national security by accommodating huge number of undocumented immigrants.

"Our ultimate aim is to build a safer, more peaceful and prosperous Pakistan — with associated benefits for our own people, for the region, and the wider world,"

the prime minister wrote in an article published in The Telegraph on Sunday.

He said that the governments across the world were adapting to a new era of mass migration linked to conflict, climate change, and economic opportunism.

He said the UK Government's plan to deport illegal immigrants to Rwanda was a sign of that pressure. The heated debate surrounding the pro-

posals and the many efforts to derail the scheme illustrated the huge challenges for policymakers as they sought to balance human rights with hard realities.

Similarly, he said, France was also struggling, while Italy had expressed fears that it might become "Europe's refugee camp". After opening its arms to several million refugees in recent years, Germany was also feeling the strain,

Continued on page 2

## Caretaker PM visits Kuwait; conveys deepest sympathies to new Amir

KUWAIT (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar visited Kuwait today to offer condolences over the sad demise of the Amir Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

During his meeting with the new Amir Sheikh Meshal al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the Prime Minister offered his heartfelt condolences on behalf of the leadership, government and people of Pakistan. He said Pakistani nation stands united with our Kuwaiti brothers in this time of sorrow and grief.

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said the State of Kuwait has lost a visionary leader, who transformed Kuwait into a



prosperous State.

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah will be remembered as well-wisher and friend of Pakistan who made great contributions in advancing bilateral rela-

tions between the two brotherly states. Sheikh Meshal al-Ahmad al-Sabah expressed gratitude to the leadership, Government and the people of Pakistan for standing with the people of Kuwait in this time of grief.

## Governor Balochistan emphasizes: Correct results can be acquired after making public interest center of policies & projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has categorically stated that we can get correct results by making the interest of public center of all policies and development projects.

The local and international non-governmental organizations along with the public and private institutions should not only follow this principle but their performance should also be seen on ground.

In addition to this, the authoritative people and concerned high ups should also need to take review of the matter seriously that why desired positive and constructive results are not being acquired despite spending hefty amounts from the federal and provincial budgets and tiring efforts.

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

He noted with concern that the government and private institutions prepare several department projects and implement them too, but they lack positive impacts on the masses.

Not only this, big chunk of the budget is also lapsed even, he added.

The Governor said that planning and experts opinion has very key role and importance in the development process, but there is a need to review the needs of common men before start of the projects and any policy. Moreover, the public requirements and modern needs should also be made part of the development projects and policies, adding he stressed.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakhtoonkhw Milli Awami Party Mahmood Khan Achakzai meeting with Amir Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam Maulana Fazlur Rehman.

## Foreigners can not stay in Pakistan indefinitely without visa: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Monday said that foreigners including Afghan citizens could not stay in Pakistan indefinitely without a visa.

Talking to "Hum News" the minister said that some foreign countries had criticized Pakistan for sending illegal immigrants back to their countries. "There are about 20,000 Afghans in Pakistan who worked with the US coalition forces," Murtaza Solangi said.

The minister said that the Taliban government was established in Afghanistan on August 15, 2021, but the US and its allies were not yet able to shift these 20 thousand Afghans to their own countries.

He said that everyone knew the treatment of illegal immigrants across the world. When illegal immigrants were drowning in Greece, no one came to save them, Murtaza Solangi recalled. Pakistan's record about illegal residents was very good as compared to other countries of the world, Murtaza Solangi opined.

## Sarfraz Bugti joins PPP

ISLAMABAD (APP): The former caretaker Federal Interior Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti joined the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) just days after he resigned from office.

"Respected leader Asif Ali Zardari came to Turbat and directed me to join PPP," Bugti told the party's workers convention in Turbat in the presence of the PPP co-chairman and other leaders, as he expressed delight to be entering into the general elections with PPP's support.

The general elections will take place on February 8, 2024, after much fear of them being delayed again, but the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) issued the polling schedule on the Supreme Court orders, ending worries to an extent on the issue.

Bugti hoped that peace would be restored in Balochistan under the leadership of Zardari.

In a bid to provide better healthcare facilities to the locals, he urged the ex-president to build a state-of-the-art hospital in Turbat, similar to that in Sukkur.

## Pak, Iran FMs discuss Gaza situation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani on Monday held a telephonic conversation with his Iranian counterpart Amir Abdollahian wherein they discussed the dire situation in Gaza as well as the recent terrorist attack that took place in South-eastern Iran.

During the conversation, they discussed matters of bilateral importance and the regional situation, a Foreign Office press release said.

Foreign Minister Jilani expressed Pakistan's deep concern over the dire situation in the Occupied Palestine, especially in Gaza.

He emphasized the urgency of a ceasefire, lifting of the siege, provision of uninterrupted humanitarian assistance, including medical supplies to the people of Gaza, and the resumption of diplomatic efforts for lasting peace in the Middle East based on a just solution to the Palestinian question.



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki speaking through video link at the meeting held under chair of caretaker Federal Minister Finance, Shamshad Akhtar on the provincial financial matters in Islamabad

## No one can exercise ECP powers SC nullifies BHC decision for changing delimitation of two constituencies

**Can't object to constituencies delimitation after election schedule issued**

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has declared null and void Balochistan High Court (BHC) decision on changing delimitation of two constituencies of Balochistan.

A 3-member bench of SC presided over by Justice Sardar Tariq Masood nullified BHC decision on the petition against the delimitation of two provincial constituencies of Quetta, Monday.

SC has said in the decision that objection cannot be raised on constituencies following the issuance of election schedule.

The court accepted commission's appeal. Justice Athar Minallah said in his remarks it is the

biggest test of Election Commission (EC) that general elections are held in transparent manner on February 8.

When election schedule is issued then every thing stops. If we give decision on this petition then the petitions will start flooding in SC. How can high court exercise what power has been delegated to EC by the law.

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah remarked all the litigation about delimitations has become ineffective following the issuance of election schedule. The entire electoral process cannot be affected to provide relief to an individual. We have to fix a limit by drawing a line in this regard.

## Decisions with consensus unavoidable on provincial related financial matters: CM

**Independent Report**

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that the decisions are unavoidable with consensus on the financial matters related to the provinces.

He said that we would extend every possible cooperation in view of the decisions made at the national level related to the financial matters.

He said that we are well aware of hardships of federation, however, Balochistan is unable to extend extraordinary assistance financially.

The caretaker Chief Minister was speaking through video link at the meeting held under chair of caretaker Federal Minister

Finance, Shamshad Akhtar on the provincial financial matters in Islamabad on Monday.

The meeting was held to review the matters to rationalize the federal expenditures about provinces.

The Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Rashid Razaq Additional Chief Secretary Planning and Development, Abdul Saboor Khan Kakar, Secretary Planning, Lal Jan Jaffar also participated in the meeting through video link from Quetta.

The caretaker Chief Minister said that we have presented our stance of the province in the meeting of SIFC. We are well aware of the hardships of the federa-

tion, however, Balochistan is unable of the extraordinary financial assistance.

He said Balochistan is facing financial problems, so the province can't afford any such financial sharing that is impracticable.

The Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir told the meeting that the provincial government has taken responsibility of 518 schools and teachers in 2021. As far as the matter of sharing of Balochistan in BISP is concerned, we have to look into that to that extent poverty was reduced and what positive impacts were there.

He said that the formula of financial sharing should be decided keeping in view the results of BISP meant for reduction in the poverty.

## ECP reveals updated voters' registration statistics

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has unveiled the comprehensive data, outlining the total number of registered voters across the nation.

The ECP conveyed that 53.87 percent of the country's voters are male, while 46.13 percent are female.

The ECP's commitment to transparency is evident in this disclosure, providing citizens with accurate electoral information.

According to the latest data, the total number of registered voters now exceeds 128.5 million.

Within this demographic, over 69.2 million individuals identify as male, constituting a significant portion of the electorate. Simultaneously, the female voter count is recorded at over 59.3 million, showcasing a strong and active participation of women in the electoral process.

This disclosure aligns with the Election Commission's continuous efforts to keep an updated and easily accessible record of the nation's voting population.



QUETTA: A delegation of Muslim Hands led by Muhammad Kashif meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

## Some miscreants & misguided elements threatening to sabotage general polls

**Caretaker Minister for Information reiterates demand to Afghan government for handing over wanted terrorists to Pakistan**

**Independent Report**

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has stated that some miscreants and misguided elements are threatening to sabotage the upcoming general elections in the country.

However, the Pakistan state and masses are not afraid of such things.

He said that Afghan people are with Pakistan and on the same way, Pakistani people value their Afghan brethren.



Jan Achakzai said that Pakistan hosted Afghan people for several decades like Ansar. But some miscreants are playing in the hands of anti-Pakistan elements. However, these elements are going to exposed now and Pakistan recognizes all these terrorists.

The Minister Information demanded of the Afghan government to

Continued on page 2

## Security & transport plan being prepared: GoB to extend wholehearted support to ECP for conducting elections in peaceful manner, says CS

**PEC says all preparations are complete for general elections on Feb 8, installation of CCTV cameras to be ensured at polling stations**

**Independent Report** QUETTA: The caretaker government of Balochistan would extend wholehearted cooperation to the Election Commission of Pakistan for conducting general elections

in the province peacefully.

He said that all facilities would be provided to ECP for peaceful and transparent elections in the province. The security and transport plan is being prepared for the elections.

These assurances were made by the Chief Secretary while speaking to the Provincial Election Commissioner Balochistan, Ejaz Anwar Chohan who called

Continued on page 2



QUETTA: Additional Chief Secretary Home Zahid Saleem presiding over a meeting regarding Security Plan during general elections

Continued on page 2



## Interfaith harmony being promoted, maximum facilities to be provided to pilgrims: Ashrafi

PESHAWAR (APP): The Prime Minister's Special Representatives on Religious Harmony, Maulana Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi here Monday said that Hajj was one of the most important five pillars of Islam and reiterated that the government was committed to ensuring maximum facilities to all Pakistani pilgrims next year.

Addressing Tazemul Al-Harman Al-Shareefeen Conference here as chief guest, Maulana Tahir Ashrafi said that a significant decrease in the expenses of Hajj has been recorded this year after decreasing prices of dollars due to Govt's effective economic and financial policies.

He said Hajj were like ambassadors of Pakistan and urged them to strictly abide by the rules regulations and laws of Saudi Arabia. He said Pakistan highly valued its time-tested and all-weather friendship with Saudi Arabia having strong bonds of religion, history, culture, and enormous respect for the custodians of the two holy mosques.

While appreciating the overall Hajj arrangements, he directed the Hajj Organization Association of Pakistan to concentrate on the training of intending pilgrims so that they could achieve maximum blessing while staying in the holy land during Hajj. He said Pakistan was our country and its problems could be addressed through hard work, commitment, and self-accountability.

Maulana Ashrafi who is Chairman of the Pakistan

Ulema Council said that Inter-faith harmony and mutual co-existence in society are vital for the progress and prosperity of Pakistan. He said all minorities enjoy complete religious freedom in Pakistan.

He said Pakistan has all the resources to become an economic giant. He said Pakistan can earn huge revenue worth millions of dollars by promoting religious tourism. Besides the scenic beauty of northern Gilgit Baltistan, KP, and Azad Kashmir, he said Pakistan was home to centuries-old Indus and Ghandara civilizations besides several other religious tourism sites if properly showcased on digital media could bring economic turnaround for the country.

Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi said that Pakistan wanted cordial and brotherly relations with all its neighbors and peace in Afghanistan was in the interest of Pakistan. He said anti-Pakistan and Afghanistans elements wanted to create a rift among both the countries but they would never succeed in their nefarious designs. He said Pakistan's stance on the Palestine issue was very clear. He said atrocities in Gaza should be immediately stopped. He said the sacrifices of the people of Palestine would not go to waste. He said an independent and sovereign Palestine state with Al-Qudus Al-Sharif as its capital would help in enduring lasting peace in the Middle East.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani recording his condolence on the demise of AMIR of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in the visitor's book at Embassy of Kuwait.



QUETTA: DG Benazir Income Support Programme Pakistan Naveed Akbar meeting with Additional Chief Secretary Home Zahid Saleem. DC Chaman and Director BISP Balochistan are also present

## Pak, China focus on B2B cooperation, investment, technology transfer

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan Ambassador to China, Khalil ur Rahman said on Monday that engineering, construction, carbon neutrality, new energy, energy storage, mining development, green and sustainable development and other fields will be the key to future cooperation between Pakistan and China.

"Now we have entered the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), our focus is more on business-to-business cooperation, investment and technology transfer between the two countries, which is also in line with the vision of the leaders of the two countries," he said in his speech at the Pakistan-China Exchange Conference on Investment Opportunity held at the Pakistani Embassy in Beijing.

The conference was

Ambassador Hashmi says:

aimed at strengthening co-operation in engineering construction, carbon neutrality, new energy, mining and other fields.

With the theme of "New Opportunity, New Cooperation, and New Development", this conference is expected to present a higher level of cooperation.

Ambassador Hashmi further said that the Pakistani government has stepped up efforts to facilitate investors and joint ventures in Pakistan. To this end, the government has established the Special Investment Facilitation Committee (SIFC) to provide "single window" facilities to foreign investors and businessmen by removing all systemic barriers. The Prime Minister of Pakistan himself chairs the SIFC Supreme Council. Mining and energy, particularly renew-

able energy, are priority areas for SIFC.

Commercial Counsellor of Pakistan Embassy in Beijing, Ghulam Qadir introduced the policies and incentives to invest in Pakistan.

"We are looking for Chinese investments in different areas, especially industries that are moving from China to Pakistan where we can export value-added products to the world," he said.

He invited Chinese entrepreneurs to participate in the 3rd Pakistan Engineering and Healthcare Expo to be held in Lahore from January 18 to 20, 2024. This event will be attended by many Pakistani-related companies and exhibitors, and B2B meetings will be held. The expo is also expected to pave the way for more achievements in China-Pakistan cooperation.



BEIJING: Ambassador of Pakistan to China Khalil Hashmi speaking at an Investment Opportunities Conference organised by Embassy of Pakistan in Beijing.

## No security compromises...

Continued from page 1

prompting the announcement of tough new deportation measures.

The situation in the United States was no easier, he remarked.

"Pakistan's problem is of a different magnitude altogether. Over the last three

to four decades, between four and five million migrants (roughly the population of Ireland) have arrived. Many have no right to remain. Despite being a non-signatory to 1951 Convention on Refugees (and its 1967 Protocol), we have generously accommo-

dated the single largest caseload of refugees," the prime minister wrote.

He said the hospitality was in Pakistan's DNA and that was why the country had fulfilled its legal, moral and humanitarian obligations, and would continue to do so.

"We have worked very hard, over a very long period of time, to accommodate as many as we can while giving those with no right to remain ample opportunity to leave voluntarily." Unfortunately, Prime Minister Kakar said that despite frequent opportunities to repatriate voluntarily, and multiple government attempts to register those who remained undocumented, a significant number had persistently refused to formalise their status, choosing instead to stay in the shadows.

He said that while Pakistan had benefited from many hardworking and law-abiding migrants, the overall socio-economic and security cost of the huge influx had been staggering.

"Many work on the black market, paying no tax, depressing wages for legitimate workers. They are also susceptible to exploitation by the criminal underworld, with all its disturbing links to terrorist organisations operating in the region," he remarked

## PPP will surprise everyone if provided level playing field: Bilawal

LAHORE (INP) - Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto said on Monday if the PPP got a level playing field in Punjab, it would surprise everyone.

Speaking to media, he said the regime of Nawaz Sharif proved no less than a dictatorship for the PPP workers.

"The PPP is a political party and the doors of a political party should always remain open for discussion," he said.

Bilawal said it was good to be in Lahore as the PPP was quite organised here.

"Inflation, poverty and

unemployment have hit the common people hard," he stated, adding whenever the PPP came to power, it fought against unemployment and inflation.

In the past, the PPP launched the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and programmes would be launched for the youth and workers in the future to give them relief, the PPP chief promised.

"I will take everyone along with me and a great deal of work is required to prove PPP's prowess in Lahore," he concluded.

## Ahsan Iqbal says PML-N believes in country's progress

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Secretary General Ahsan Iqbal said on Monday that PML-N Quaid Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif had best record of serving the people of Sindh.

Talking to media here, he said that whenever Nawaz Sharif came to power he made unprecedented efforts to establish and maintain peace in Sindh.

He said that in April 2022 a unity government was formed and it was not a political alliance. He said that unity government was made on one point agenda and that was to save the country from default.

Ahsan Iqbal said, "It is power of democracy that

when it comes to national interest, difference of opinion never hinder parties to get together for country's betterment."

He said all political parties would contest general elections with their own manifesto, adding that decision would be of people.

He appealed to the people of Sindh to give a chance to the PML-N to serve them and the party would not disappoint them. To a question, he said, "PML-N respects all its party workers who keep their loyalty intact during hard times."

To another query Ahsan Iqbal said that the PML-N believed in progress and prosperity, adding that it never indulged in negative politics.

## Pakistan women beat New Zealand in Super Over thriller

CHRISTCHURCH (INP): Pakistan women's team on Monday bagged their first ODI victory against New Zealand in third game of the three-match series at Hagley Oval, Christchurch.

The Team Green won by three runs in a super over after the match ended in tie. Pakistan's Aliya Riaz played a heroic knock and set a target of 12 runs and it was successfully defended by Sadia Iqbal, restricting the hosts to eight runs. However, the hosts won the three-match ODI series 2-1. In chase of New Zealand's 251-8 in 50-over game, Pakistan managed to put the same on scoreboard at the loss of nine wickets, entering the match in to super-over for decision.

It is for the first time Pakistan have defeated New Zealand in the ODI match. Earlier, the Green shirts won the first T20I series against the hosts.

## GoB to extend wholehearted support.

Continued from page 1

on him here on Monday.

During the course of meeting, the matters about the upcoming elections including security and other arrangements were discussed in detail.

Also present in the meeting were Additional Chief Secretary Home, Zahid Saleem and Commandant Balochistan Constabulary, Salman Chaudhary were also present.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Secretary said that all arrangements have been finalized for peaceful conducting of the elections in Balochistan.

The Provincial Election Commissioner said that all preparations are complete for the general elections on February 8, 2024.

He said that installation of CCTV cameras would be ensured at the polling stations.

He mentioned that the process of training of district returning officers and returning officers is continued. However, he stressed the need to ensure availability of all basic facilities at the polling stations.

He also stressed the need to ensure early maintenance and repair of the polling stations affected due to the general elections.

## Senate delegation visits Kuwait Embassy, condole death of Emir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber

ISLAMABAD (APP): A Senate delegation led by Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani paid a visit to the Kuwait Embassy in Islamabad to convey heartfelt condolences on the passing of the esteemed Emir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The delegation, comprising Senators Naseebullah Bazai, Mohammad Abdul Qadir, and Danesh Kumar, led by Chairman Senate expressed deep sorrow with the Kuwaiti Ambassador, over the great loss of the Emir of Kuwait, said a news release

issued here on Monday.

As a gesture of respect, Sadiq Sanjrani penned poignant condolence remarks in the memorial book dedicated to guests, underscoring the significant loss felt not only by Kuwait's royal family but also resonating profoundly with the people of Pakistan.

"In the demise of Emir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, we have lost a true friend and a dynamic leader," Chairman Senate remarked.

"His personal commitment to regional stability, global development, and his

role in fostering international harmony will be remembered and cherished for generations to come."

Sanjrani further conveyed his heartfelt condolences, sharing the grief of Kuwait and its people during this difficult time. "May Allah grant forgiveness and exalt the late Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah," he added.

The Chairman's visit stands as a testament to the enduring bond between Pakistan and Kuwait, showcasing solidarity and sympathy during this period of mourning.



QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafqaat in a meeting with representatives of Health Department and anti-polio team

## PPP to make...

Continued from page 1  
omic conditions, we have to give employment to the youth of Balochistan," he said, adding that Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) will be expanded and educated unemployed youth will be given stipend till they get employment.

The former president said that individuals sitting in Islamabad do not understand Balochistan, they do not understand Punjab, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa either, adding that the PPP government formed after the upcoming general elections will build a university in every division of Balochistan, a college in every district and medical colleges and hospitals keeping in mind the population.

The former president said that he had endured 14 years of imprisonment, during which he trained himself. Whenever PPP comes to power, he said and added: "I gave identity to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province by giving its name. It's not our fault, it's our pride."

He said that no nation can bear the burden of another, and added: "We gave hospitality to Afghans for 40 years, but today they are reluctant to be our brothers."

He urged that he want everyone to return to their homeland, stay in their own homes. No other country can take care of them. We will take care of our own," he concluded.

## Some miscreants & misguided

Continued from page 1  
take action against the terrorists and miscreants and hand over the wanted ones to Pakistan.

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

Jan Achakzai said that Pakistan always preferred Afghanistan and its people in the international relations and it (Pakistan) also wholeheartedly supported Afghan people after Soviet Union invasion in Afghanistan.

And then, Pakistan also fully supported Afghanistan after 9/11, he asserted.

While on the other hand, adding he regretfully pointed out that Pakistan had been targeted for terrorism even in the presence of United States in Afghanistan, and it is being targeted continuously after Taliban administration took over there, he added.

Jan Achakzai on the occasion also referred to a judgment of Balochistan High Court passed the other day, in which the onus to prove fake national identity cards would lie on government's authority i.e., NADRA, not the one who have cheated the system. He said that this verdict would create havoc in our system as no where in the world, government has to prove the genuineness of a fake ID.

They even ask for DNAs to qualify any legitimate claim for ID or citizenship, he mentioned adding that it would give legitimacy to fake claimants. He said that only in Balochistan there are barely 250,000 fake ID cards claimants, whom we call identity thieves.

He appealed to Supreme Court to intervene in the matter as this decision of honorable judge as it would open a Pandora box. He announced that the government would challenge the judgment in due course of time.

**TENDER NOTICE**

Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The Divisional Forest Officer Duki invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2023 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates TSE-232412366933 Tender Fee Rs.1000/- and Bid Security 2%

S.No	Name of Works	E/Cost
1	Raising of 200 Acres Cluster Plantation using Water Harvesting Structures	10,000,000/-

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. Turn over of at least 7,000,000 PKR Amount in 1 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm.

The bidder must have completed 2 Assignment of similar nature of work Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 29 December, 2023 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 29 December, 2023 till 09:00 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 10:00 AM Address: Divisional forest officer duki Phone no: 0333787163 Email: attataransdo@gmail.com

**PRQ No.1200/18-12-2023**

**DIVISIONAL FORESTER OFFICER DUKI**

www.dpr.gov.pk @dpr\_gob dprgob @dprgob

**خواہن کے حقوق کی قانون سازی کا نفاذ**  
The implementation of women's rights legislation

18 December 2023  
Quetta

QUETTA: Former MPA Shakeela Naveed along with others addresses during seminar on the implementation of women's rights legislation organized by the Human Rights Commission, held at Quetta press club.

**PRE-IDENTIFICATION OF SUPPLIERS**

[Motorcycle with Trolley (Loader)]

**Employer:** Project Management and Implementation Unit, Balochistan Livelihood and Entrepreneurship Project (BLEP), Planning and Development Department, Government of Balochistan

**Country:** Islamic Republic of Pakistan

**Loan No./Credit No./Grant No.:** IDA65440/IDAD5650

The Government of Balochistan (GoB) has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the Balochistan Livelihoods and Entrepreneurship Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for Pre-identification of Suppliers of Improved variety of plants, high irrigation efficiency system & trellises. The Project Management and Implementation Unit (PMU), Balochistan Livelihoods and Entrepreneurship Project (BLEP) now invites interested firms/companies to submit their detailed profiles containing the following information duly supported by necessary documents. The qualification criteria for Firms is as below: Firms must be registered in FBR as an active filer. Manufacturer / dealers must have at least 10 years working experience of supplying Motorcycle / Motorcycle with trolley (loader) / rikshaw (License / dealership certificate must be required). Manufacturer / dealers must have at least one office / showroom in Balochistan Province. Must have at least two (02) years' experience of supplying Motorcycle with Trolley (Loader) in Balochistan with standard warranty. (Documentary evidence must be required e.g. copies of FBR registration certificate, contract / letter of award / work order / completion certificates or reference letter from clients stating scope of services, deliverables & duration of contract). Detailed Firm's Profiles containing above information must be delivered to the address given below by 11th January 2024 at 11:00 AM. Address: House # 450-5/9 Tajik Abad, Killi Shabo, Off Chaman Housing Scheme, Airport Road, Quetta, Balochistan. Tel: 092-81-2823304, 092-81-2823217 Email: info@blepgob.org.pk

**AB No.231/18-12-2023**

**HEAD OF PROJECT (BLEP)**

www.dpr.gov.pk @dpr\_gob dprgob @dprgob



## Jamal Shah inaugurates exhibition of photographs & books on Quaid-i-Azam

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah on Monday inaugurated ten-day long exhibition of photographs and books on Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah here at Heritage Museum, Lok Virsa.

National Heritage and Culture Division, Lok Virsa organized the exhibition in collaboration with National Library of Pakistan (NLP) and National Archives of Pakistan.

Executive Director Lok Virsa Muhammad Uzair Khan, Director General NLP Asif Khan Niazi and large number of students were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the ceremony, the minister said that National Heritage and Culture Division attached departments have planned a series of events from December 17th to December 28th to pay rich tribute to Father of Nation and Founder of Pakistan, adding that these events include lectures, live performances, exhibitions, seminars, tableaux etc.

Jamal Shah said that these events are being orga-

nized with collaboration our cultural departments, community and local artists.

He said that these events are aimed at highlighting the heroic struggle of our Quaid and his associates in achieving a separate homeland for the Muslims of subcontinent.

"Our youth have tremendous potential and I advise them to make the country prosperous by adopting the teachings of the Quaid-i-Azam and Allama Muhammad Iqbal in letter and spirit", he said.

Jamal Shah said that our younger generation needs to work hard by following the footsteps of Quaid-i-Azam.

He said that every photograph on display tells a story not only about Quaid's life but also the great struggle of our leaders to get separate homeland for Muslim of subcontinent.

He said that it is a great opportunity for youth especially the students to feel real moments captured in photographs, these are the windows to the past which shows how our great leaders went through the freedom struggle.

The minister appreciated Lok Virsa, National Library of Pakistan and National Archives of Pakistan for organizing such a wonder exhibition and book fair.

Earlier, ED Lok Virsa in his opening remarks said that Lok Virsa in collaboration with NLP and NAP organized the exhibition under the aegis of the National Heritage and Culture Division.

He said that the exhibition is an effort to pay tributes to the father of Nation Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah for his valuable contribution towards the creation of Pakistan.

More than 200 rare photographs and 500 historical books relating to founder of Pakistan Muhammad Ali Jinnah and his companions were displayed.

The young singers also paid glowing tribute to the Father of the Nation by presenting 'Mili Naghmas' and got big applause from the audience.

The exhibition will remain on display at the Heritage Museum, Lok Virsa till 25 December.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Jamal Shah cutting ribbon to inaugurate Exhibition of Books and Photographs in connection with upcoming Quaid-i-Azam Day at Heritage Museum, Lok Virsa.

## Minister Madad urges to promote Arabic language

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindh on Monday said that the Arabic language is a great asset of Muslims and stressed the need to further promote it.

Addressing a conference, "Role of Institutions and Individuals in the Reviving the Arabic Language" organized by the Faculty of Arabic, International Islamic University Islamabad

(IIUI) he said that Arabic is an eloquent language, it is a flowing river whose flow is increasing day by day.

He said that the role of the International Islamic University in the promotion of Arabic is exemplary where teachers from many other countries including Egypt, Sudan, and Saudi Arabia are playing an excellent role.

He said that institutions like the International Islamic University should

be promoted in society and the other universities should also adopt the IIUI's style of education. Talking about the importance of education, he said the only solution to development lies in prioritizing education. Speaking at the conference, Muhammad Mutaah Al-Ashbi, the Ambassador of the Republic of Yemen said that Arabic is the language of the Qur'an, and steps should be taken to promote Arabic.



The Federal Minister of Education, Mr. Madad Ali Sindh paid a visit to F-6/3 School to witness firsthand the remarkable efforts undertaken by the local community to enhance the school's facilities and educational standards in Islamabad.

## IIOJK detainees lodged in hell-like jails across India, Kashmir: APHC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has expressed serious concern over the continued illegal detention of Hurriyat leaders and activists and inhuman treatment being meted out to them by communal authorities in jails.

According to Kashmir Media Service (KMS), the APHC spokesman in Srinagar said the detainees lodged in hell-like Indian jails have been deprived of legal rights and basic amenities.

The spokesman said, brave people of Kashmir are facing the wrath of a big military power in the form of state terrorism, arbitrary arrests, physical and mental torture, humiliation, snatching of govt services and properties including lands and residential

houses. However, they dare the Indian barbarism with dedication, steadfastness and exemplary zeal and zest.

The APHC said the incarcerated leaders and activists, representing the freedom sentiments of the people of Kashmir have dedicated their lives and honour for the sacred cause of freedom from Indian subjugation. The detainees including APHC Chairman Masarat Aalam Butt, senior leader Shabbir Ahmad Shah, Muhammad Yasin Malik, Aasiya Andrabi, Fehmeeda Sofi, Naheeda Nasreen, Nayeem Ahmed Khan, Ayaz Akbar, Pir Saifullah, Merajuddin Kalwal, Shahid-ul-Islam, Farooq Ahmed Dar, Syed Shahid Shah, Bilal Siddiqi, Molvi Bashir Irfani, Mushtaq-ul-Islam.

## TIP Facilitation center FIA operates in full swing

ISLAMABAD (APP): Newly launched Trafficking In Persons (TIP) Hotline in Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) headquarters, 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), starts functioning in full swing.

Shireen Malik Sher, Additional Director, FIA, who is the focal person of the project said that the hotline was launched to provide quick services to the victims of human trafficking and the redressal of the cases in more organized

way. Miss Shireen Malik Sher, said that the project was done within a very short span of time under the supervision of Israr Ahmed Khan, Director Anti-Human Smuggling Directorate of FIA. Shireen told that after the launching of the hotline by the Director General FIA Mohsin Hassan, along with ADG Immigration, FIA, country representative of UNODC, Australian Deputy High Commissioner, Director ILO, US Political Advisor, other dignitaries, senior FIA officers from the provinces, in very simple and dignified ceremony, the hotline started functioning in full swing for provision of better services.

## ICT food teams active to provide safe food

ISLAMABAD (APP): Under the directions of Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, the team of Islamabad Food Authority was active in providing safe food in different areas of federal capital.

According to ICT Spokesperson, Deputy Director Food Authority Dr. Tahira Siddique along with the team of Islamabad Food Authority visited various food points in the areas of E-12.

Deputy Director Food Authority Islamabad sealed a bakery unit in E-12 in which rats were found with food items in the bakery premises as well as expired food items for consumption.

## Eight held during search operation in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: In a collaborative effort with various law enforcement agencies, the Capital Police of Islamabad carried out a comprehensive search operation in different areas under the jurisdiction of the Aahpara police station.

As part of the operation, a thorough examination was conducted, resulting in the inspection of 70 individuals, 15 cars, 23 motorcycles, seven shops and many hotels. The intensified scrutiny is part of the police's ongoing efforts to bolster security measures in the region. Eight individuals who failed to provide proper identification documents during the search operation were promptly transferred to the police station for further investigation.

## COMSTech, PASTIC sign MoU to propel Inter Library Network Resource Services

ISLAMABAD (APP): COMSTech- the OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation and the Pakistan Scientific and Technological Information Centre (PASTIC) have officially inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) towards a landmark collaboration to advance scientific knowledge among OIC member states.

The MoU was signed during a ceremony held here on Monday. The MoU, signed by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhry, Coordinator General COMSTech, and Prof. Dr. Shahid Mahmood Baig, Chairman, Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF),

## Umair says: Not received contempt of court formal notice yet

ISLAMABAD (Online): Barrister Umair Niazi said on Monday that in the contempt of court notice, the Supreme Court has asked for an explanation. We are ready and will give a formal reply.

While talking to media outside Adiala Jail, Barrister Niazi said that the order of Supreme Court regarding contempt of court has been read, no formal notice of contempt of court received yet.

Supreme Court has sought an explanation and we will reply to it formally. He said that petition was not to delay the elections. We want level playing field.



ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Federal Minister for Privatisation, Fawad Hasan chairing a meeting regarding conclusion of HEC privatisation.

## Lance Naik Mahfooz remembered on his martyrdom anniversary

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 52nd martyrdom anniversary of Lance Naik Muhammad Mahfooz was observed on Monday to commemorate heroism and sacrifice. The nation solemnly observed the martyrdom anniversary of Lance Naik Muhammad Mahfooz, a distinguished recipient of the Nishan-e-Haider, our highest military decoration.

Glowing tribute were paid to Lance Naik Muhammad Mehfooz Shaheed, Nishan-e-Haider on his 52nd Shahadat Anniversary.

Born on October 15,

## Secretary Interior takes notice of policeman's killing

ISLAMABAD (APP): Secretary Interior Aftab Akbar Durani on Monday took the notice of the martyrdom of Head Constable Muhammad Ashraf and his son by robbers in Islamabad. Expressing deep sorrow over the martyrdom of Head Constable Muhammad Ashraf and his son, the Secretary Interior sought a report from the Inspector General of Police Islamabad about the incident. He paid tributes the martyred policeman, who along with his son tried to foil the dacoity.

## Pakistan, Norway celebrate 75 years of diplomatic relations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Norway Monday marked the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

Pakistan and Norway had continued to grow over the past 75 years on the basis of mutual respect and shared values, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said here in a statement.

The two countries enjoy a mutually beneficial partnership in political, economic, academic, environmental, social and cultural domains.

There is a common desire to promote regional and global peace, security and sustainable development.

Pakistan-Norway relations are marked by high-level exchanges and contacts with frequent meetings at the leadership level. The two countries also actively collaborate in various multilateral fora.

The bilateral economic relations between Pakistan and Norway are

robust and growing with sizeable trade in multiple product lines and substantial investments of leading Norwegian companies in Pakistan, including Telenor Group, Scatec ASA and Jotun Paints. Cooperation in the fields of IT & ITES, ship-breaking and ship-re-cycling has recently emerged with great promise.

Pakistan appreciates Norway's steady and generous development assistance in sustainable development including SDGs, climate action and renewable energy and its solidarity during times of natural disasters and calamities.

Following last year's floods, Norway provided humanitarian assistance of 227 million NOK to Pakistan.

NORPART programme of Norway's development agency Norad has helped advance bilateral academic cooperation with enhanced student mobility and curriculum development programmes.



ISLAMABAD: Justice of Supreme Court Azad Jammu Kashmir Khawaja Muhammad Naseem meeting with President Azad Jammu Kashmir Sultan Mehmood Chaudhary.

## IPRI hosts launch of first ever book in English on Iranian Foreign Policy

ISLAMABAD (APP): The first comprehensive book in English language on Iranian Foreign Policy was launched by Iqbal Forum in collaboration with Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) on Monday. The book titled, "The Foreign Policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran," has been authored by well-known linguist and professor of International Relations at Tabatabayi University, Dr. Jalal Deghani Firooz Abadi, and duly translated by Dr. Muhammad Hussain Baqeri, a news release said.

The original book is in Persian language. Mr. Baqeri is head of Iqbal Forum and is an author himself of many books on 'Iqbaliyat'.

The book dwells into the policy perspective of the Islamic Republic for the last four decades and does a catharsis in an independent manner. It is a debut work on foreign relations of Iran after the Revolution of 1979, and all aspects on domestic, economic and cultural domains that influenced the foreign relations have been discussed at length.

It explores the theoretical approaches to foreign policy, and broadly looks at the tangible and intangible resources of the country, which has been

under sanctions and international pressure for decades.

The book also talks about the discourses of the Islamic Republic, and articulately divides it in sections of defence, reformation and the path the country has taken in building it as a self-reliant state.

It is a great read for scholars, academia, media people and all those who objectively want to learn about the trajectory of Iranian foreign policy both pre-revolution and post-revolution.

Dr. Baqeri, while elucidating on the book chapters in his presentation, said that it is a "must read" for people who want to grasp the troughs and crests of Iranian policy, and that too in the mist of bias set in by the West in the wake of sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

He said all eras since President Bani Sadr to President Ebrahim Raisi have been discussed in detail, showcasing the elements at home and abroad that have come to shape and influence the policy.

He said that the sanctions critically target infrastructure, and are meant to deprive Iran from developing as a vibrant nation-state.



ISLAMABAD: A view of weary condition residential building at sector G-11 in Federal Capital, which may cause any incident any time as needs to attention for concern authority.

## WIFAS program reaches 50 public sector schools

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal and Punjab governments and Nutrition International (NI) started the school-based weekly Iron Folic Acid Supplementation project aimed at anaemia's reduction among adolescent girls.

The pilot project benefited over 5000 in-school adolescent girls with weekly Iron Folic Acid Supplementation (WIFAS) and education about nutrition and anaemia.

Nutrition International joined hands with the Nutrition Wing of Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination (MoNHSRC), Integrated Reproductive Maternal Newborn, Child Health and Nutrition Program (IRMNCH&N) Punjab and Lodhran district's health and education authorities to pilot a school-based weekly Iron Folic Acid Supplementation (WIFAS) program in 50

public sector schools.

The pilot project reached more than 5,000 adolescent girls with the recommended scheme of WIFAS and enhanced their knowledge about nutrition and iron deficiency anaemia.

There's a need for a comprehensive integrated Behaviour Change Communication Strategy including family planning, nutrition, maternal and child health, EPI, polio and all other things happening at the ground level, said Dr. Nadeem Jan, Federal Minister for National Health Services.

He appreciated the efforts of the Nutrition Wing, Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination and Nutrition International for taking initiatives aimed at improving the health and nutrition outcomes of women and adolescent girls.

try to develop a special task force on Nutrition to strategize and guide on Nutrition Programming in the country using life cycle approach.

He told the participants that two million doses of MMs have been donated to the Ministry for Pregnant women and 10 million dollars have been committed by a donor for local production of MMS in Pakistan which will be a great step towards improving the nutritional status of women.

He reiterated the commitment of his government to focus on the health and nutrition of population especially the most vulnerable including women, children and adolescents.

WIFAS pilot project has been a well-coordinated and comprehensive program with a set of activities around adolescent health and nutrition", Dr. Khawaja Masuood, National Coor-

ordinator Nutrition.

He said that iron deficiency anaemia is one of the key public health problems faced by adolescents in Pakistan.

As per the findings of the National Nutrition Survey 2018, 54.7% of the country's adolescent girls are anaemic, with a higher prevalence in rural areas (56%) than urban areas (53%).

The consequences of outcomes due to anemia and malnutrition can lead to diminished human capital and academic potential.

The government of Pakistan has developed the Pakistan Adolescent Nutrition Strategy and Operational Plan (2020-2025) that includes WIFAS, however, there was a need to develop an implementation model for delivering the program in practical settings.

Continuing its mandate of providing technical

assistance on nutrition to the government, Nutrition International initiated the WIFAS pilot project in Lodhran district of Punjab.

The project was implemented in collaboration with the District Health Authority and District Education Authority, Lodhran along with technical oversight and leadership from the Nutrition Wing, MoNHSRC, IRMNCH&N Primary and Secondary Health Care Department of the Government of Punjab.

Besides the provision of WIFAS, the project also focused to improve knowledge and practices of adolescent girls and their immediate influencers concerning iron deficiency anaemia through capacity building of education and health staff.

Girls constitute 48% of the total adolescent population in Pakistan and half of them are anaemic.



ISLAMABAD: Pastor and District Superintendent of St Thomas Church Rev Emmanuel Lorraine cuts the cake along with Superintendent Police Abdul Aleem and others during the celebrations of Christmas in Federal Capital.



Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**  
Tuesday December 19, 2023

**Giant leap**

In what can fittingly be described as 'one giant leap for mankind', over 100 countries have agreed to transition away from fossil fuels at the recently concluded COP28 in Dubai. For the first time in the history of climate talks, there is strong evidence that nations are willing to shift towards cleaner energy sources. The summit's resolution to phase out oil, gas, and coal use, is a testament to the growing recognition that we must reduce emissions. If one is to be optimistic, this move — long overdue according to EU climate chief Wopke Hoekstra — could mark the beginning of the end of fossil fuels. However, the battle against powerful oil producers like OPEC, who argue for emission reductions without abandoning specific fuels, underscores the geopolitical challenges inherent in global climate negotiations.

COP28's success, heralded by environmentalists for finally addressing the 'elephant in the room', is a significant step forward. However, this is but one step in a long journey. The summit's agreement, while significant, does not fully address some critical aspects. For instance, the International Energy Agency points out that while the agreement includes their recommendations, like tripling renewable energy capacity by 2030, it fails to provide concrete measures for financing clean energy transitions in developing nations. Moreover, while the agreement commits to net-zero GHG emissions by 2050, the path to achieving this goal is fraught with obstacles. The challenge of reducing emissions from agriculture and waste — a significant portion of global emissions — remains unaddressed. Scientist Emile Frison's remark that reaching the 1.5°C target is impossible without tackling food systems highlights the multifaceted nature of climate action. Additionally, the reliance on expensive and unproven technologies like carbon capture and utilisation is a concern. Critics worry that such technologies could justify continued fossil fuel use, undermining progress towards emission reduction. Moreover, the IEA's revised forecast indicating a robust near-term outlook for oil use contrasts sharply with the commitments made at COP28. This discrepancy between policy and practice is a reminder of the challenges of translating international agreements into tangible actions.

As we look towards the next iteration of the climate change conference in Baku, it is imperative to address these shortcomings. The IEA's emphasis on discussing finance mechanisms for clean energy in developing countries at COP29 should be a top priority. It is essential to ensure that the momentum gained at COP28 is not lost but rather built upon to create comprehensive, actionable strategies that address all facets of climate change, including the harder-to-reduce emissions from sectors like agriculture and waste. The journey towards a sustainable future is ongoing, and the decisions made now will shape the health of our planet for generations to come.

**Maleeha Lodhi**

The UN General Assembly convened again on Dec 12 when Israel's war on Gaza had already claimed 18,000 Palestinian lives and caused a humanitarian catastrophe of epic proportions.

The GA adopted a resolution calling for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire by an overwhelming majority — over three-quarters of member states, leaving the US and Israel isolated in the world body. This followed on the heels of the veto exercised by the US in the Security Council (SC) to block a similar ceasefire resolution.

It was the second time the US vetoed a ceasefire that could have brought an end to hostilities in Gaza and to Israel's genocidal military campaign. In October, the US did the same, which was also followed

by an extraordinary GA session requested by Arab and OIC countries.

Then too, the GA voted by a decisive majority to demand a humanitarian truce. Both GA resolutions were a clear reflection of world opinion. They were also designed to mount diplomatic pressure on Washington to relent on its opposition to a ceasefire and blind support for Israel. But that didn't happen.

As GA resolutions are non-binding and cannot override a veto, they could do nothing to stop the war. This meant Israel's brutal bombardment continued to lay waste to Gaza and claim more lives.

The veto then has stood between war and peace. This has brought veto power into sharper public focus and reignited the debate about why the world's premier body responsible for maintenance of international peace and security fails to fulfil its obligations when expected to act.

The veto enables the five permanent members of the Security Council who possess it to take unilateral actions to prevent resolu-

tions they deem to be against their interests as well as protect their allies. This results in the Council's paralysis. Failure to take action in times of war, crisis and mass atrocities denudes the Council of legitimacy and the UN too of credibility. The veto is arguably the UN Charter's most anachronistic and controversial provision that makes the P5 unaccountable.

The Security Council structure along with veto power were the product of the historical arrangement reached over 75 years ago by the victors of World War II. Veto power was bestowed on permanent members as a compromise to elicit agreement by the major powers on the establishment of the UN and their cooperation with it.

Ostensibly designed to ensure 'peaceful relations' between big powers it also aimed to insulate them from a decision against any of them. This was regarded by the wider membership as a 'necessary price' to pay for big powers' support for the world body.

The P5's privileged position was nonetheless

questioned even at the UN's inception but much more so in subsequent years as frustration grew with the Council's ineffectiveness in the face of conflicts and international crises. Calls for reform also became louder with changing global realities as the Council was seen to reflect the power relations of a bygone era.

The first significant effort by the GA to respond to the Council's paralysis came in 1950 with the adoption of the Uniting for Peace resolution (377), which provided that the GA could consider and make recommendations on a matter relating to the maintenance of peace and security if the Security Council failed to act. The two GA sessions on Gaza in October and December 2023 were convened by invoking this resolution.

Growing calls for SC reform led to the creation in 2009 of the intergovernmental negotiations process. Talks have been going on for over two decades in informal GA sessions with the aim of achieving comprehensive SC reform that addresses five interlinked issues, including categories of membership, question of

veto and size of an expanded Council.

There is general agreement among countries on reform to reflect 21<sup>st</sup>-century realities and democratic principles to make the Council more representative and accountable. But consensus has been elusive on how to accomplish this — with no solution in sight.

The question of the veto continues to be a source of intense contention. The principal disagreement, mainly responsible for lack of progress in negotiations, is between countries that aspire for permanent seats for themselves and others who oppose this and propose enlarging the Council by adding more elected, non-permanent members. This has put the so-called G4 — Germany, Japan, India and Brazil — at odds with the Uniting for Consensus countries led by Italy and including Pakistan, Argentina, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Canada and other like-minded states.

The UFC argues that the Council's frequent deadlock and paralysis is due to discord and clashing interests of the P5, which prevents it from

playing the role expected of it and enjoyed by the Charter. Adding more permanent members with veto powers will only compound this dysfunction, not end it. UFC members also regard the veto as contrary to the democratic principle of the sovereign equality of states.

A European proposal suggested restricting the veto in humanitarian cases. These have remained unimplemented proposals. An important move to make veto-holders accountable came last year with the GA's adoption of a resolution, which requires the P5 to explain and justify their use of veto. This provides for the GA to be convened within 10 days after a veto to debate the situation. The first such debate was held in April this year.

While these efforts are important, they have not dissuaded the two countries — US and Russia — who have used the veto most frequently over the decades from continuing to do so. The grave consequences of this are being witnessed today in the killing fields of Gaza, where peace has been vetoed. -- Courtesy Dawn

**The elephant in the COP28 room****Dr Khalid Waleed**

As the gavel struck, finalizing the 21-page deal at the COP28 summit in Dubai, a wave of mixed emotions swept across the faces of delegates. It was a moment of historical significance, and yet one marred by the realization that the path to combat climate change remains steep and treacherous.

The central tenet of the agreement — for the first time in COP history — is a collective acknowledgment of the need to transition away from fossil fuels. This inclusion in the final text marks a significant departure from previous COPs, where explicit references to coal, oil, and gas were conspicuously absent.

Norway's Climate Minister Espen Barth Eide has aptly referred to fossil fuels as the 'elephant in the room', a sentiment echoed by many.

The agreement's lan-

guage is indicative of the complex geopolitical and economic landscape that shapes global climate policy. While it stops short of demanding a phase-out of fossil fuels — a demand many governments championed — it instead nudges countries to "contribute" to transitioning away from fossil fuels "in a just, orderly, and equitable manner".

This phrasing, though less forceful than some might have hoped, is a clear nod to the future of energy systems and the pressing need to rethink our dependence on carbon-heavy fuels.

Another key aspect of the deal is the recognition that global emissions will likely peak before 2025 — though for developing nations this timeline may extend further. This acknowledgement underlines the uneven playing field in global climate efforts, where developing countries grapple with the dual challenge of economic growth and environmental sustainability.

On the critical fronts of adaptation and finance, the language in the agreement appears diluted. The text merely reiterates the need for developed countries to support vulnerable nations facing the brunt of climate

change, a step back from more assertive 'requests' or demands. This softening of stance raises concerns about the commitment level of affluent nations in aiding those less fortunate in their climate resilience efforts.

Sultan Ahmed Al-Jaber, the president of COP28, styled the summit as a historic turning point. Indeed, the explicit mention of fossil fuels and the need for a transition marks a significant stride. However, the agreement's fundamental weakness lies in its lack of enforceability. The language employed does little more than invite countries to participate in climate action, lacking the compelling force that many activists and experts deem necessary.

This lack of compulsion was candidly acknowledged by Al-Jaber, who has emphasized that the success of this deal hinges on "implementation" — how earnestly countries translate these commitments into action. The metaphor of doing the washing up highlights the disparity between making a token contribution and shouldering a fair share of the workload.

Simon Stiell, a senior UN climate change diplomat, has pointed to "genuine strides forward", particularly the pledge to triple renewable

energy capacity by 2030 and the establishment of a fund for wealthy nations to support those grappling with the impacts of climate change.

Brazil's climate minister, Marina Silva, has emphasized the role of developed countries in leading the transition away from fossil fuels and underscored Brazil's commitment to hosting COP30 in the Amazon city of Belem.

John Kerry, America's climate envoy, has acknowledged the imperfect nature of the deal but highlighted it as a cause for optimism. Kerry's remarks underscore the balancing act between ambition and realism that defines international climate negotiations.

Indeed, the COP28 agreement is a testament to the painstaking process of global diplomacy. It reflects the myriad interests, concerns, and aspirations of nearly 200 participating countries, each wrestling with their unique socio-economic and political realities. The outcome, therefore, is a document that threads a middle path, offering hope yet simultaneously underscoring the monumental challenges that lie ahead.

As the world will now be gearing up for COP29 in Azerbaijan and eventually

COP30 in Brazil, Pakistan faces a unique set of challenges and opportunities in its approach to climate change. A country profoundly impacted by environmental issues, Pakistan's preparation for COP29 needs to be strategic, robust, and forward-thinking.

First things first, Pakistan should base its climate policy on being a climate-resilient economic power, ensuring climate justice both within and globally. Pakistan must intensify its focus on climate adaptation strategies.

The country is prone to extreme weather events, including floods, droughts, and heatwaves, exacerbated by climate change. These pose severe risks to agriculture, water resources, and overall public health. Developing comprehensive adaptation plans, including improved water management, sustainable agriculture practices, and resilient infrastructure, is paramount. Pakistan should seek technical and financial support from international partners for these initiatives, leveraging the platforms provided by COP29 to forge collaborative relationships.

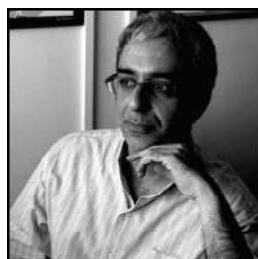
I hope Pakistan will have a representative government by COP29, and local governments by then as well, as one of the major highlights from COP28 is the need of multi-level action and significance of city and local governments.

As Pakistan and the world now head to COP29 and COP30, the nation stands at a crossroads. The choices and investments Pakistan makes today will have long-lasting impacts on its climate resilience and sustainable development.

Preparing for COP29 is not just about policy papers and pledges; it is about setting a course towards a sustainable future for all Pakistanis.

As the world moves forward from COP28, the key question remains: will this agreement, non-binding and cautiously worded as it is, catalyze the profound and urgent action required to confront the climate crisis?

The answer lies not in the text of the agreement but in the actions of the signatories in the months and years to come. The world, now more than ever, needs bold steps, not just cautious strides. In addressing the 'elephant in the room' at COP29 and COP30, the clear and present need to phase out fossil fuels stands as our most significant stride towards safeguarding our planet's future. -- Courtesy TheNews

**Songs of slaughter****Zarrar Khuhro**

We all have soundtracks to our lives; background music that plays in our heads depending on our mood and situation. We know which songs we like to listen to when we are sad or happy — sometimes to magnify the mood and sometimes to dampen it — because music has the power to unleash and tame emotions. William Congreve was right when he wrote in 1697 that "Musick has Charms to soothe a savage Breast", but the reverse is also true: music also has darker charms that do not soothe, but inflame that breast, making it savage. In Israel's genocide in the Gaza Strip, music of the latter type has come to the fore. These are the soundtracks of genocide, the musical accompaniments to mass murder.

Recently, one such song topped the Israeli charts. Charbu Darbu (swords and strikes) celebrates Israel's murderous actions with lyrics that call Palestinians "rats and sons of Amalek", and calls upon Israelis to "write names on the bombs, for the children of the Gaza envelope". It also includes death threats against Bella Hadid, Dua Lipa and Mia Khalifa, who have been vocally opposed to Israel's indiscriminate mass slaughter.

In keeping with the psychopathic nature of Israeli society, the song was hugely popular, with Israelis posting videos of themselves dancing to it. Similar songs are favourites of the Israeli occupation forces too, with one group of soldiers dancing to lyrics that go: "We know our slogan:

there are no 'uninvolved civilians'." Charming, coming from a military famous for murdering children, women and unarmed men.

This genre of music isn't recent, nor limited to Israel. In recent years, with the rise of the fanatical Sangh Parivar in India, Hindutva hate pop has also secured itself a large, growing audience. Lyrics to these popular tracks — which incite hate against the minority Muslim community — go like this: "Hinduo kaa hae Hindustan, Mulla jao Pakistan" (India is for Hindus, Muslims should go to Pakistan) and "Insaan nahi ho kasaalo, ho tum kasaayi; Bahut ho chuka Hindu-Muslim bhai bhai" (you're not human; you're butchers. Enough of Hindu-Muslim brotherhood).

Highly popular in Hindutva circles, these songs are played at Hindu supremacist rallies and marches through Muslim neighbourhoods, events that are almost always followed by violence and hate crimes. They also seem to enjoy official sanction as one of the singers, failed Bollywood singer Prem Krishnavanshi, recently received an award from Yogi Adityanath, the fanatical chief minister of Uttar Pradesh. In 1994, the world watched as the Rwandan genocide unfolded. In just four months, anywhere from 500,000 to 800,000 Tutsis were slaughtered by Hutu militants belonging to Interahamwe and their supporters in a murderous orgy where the weapons of choice were machetes and firearms. This genocide had its specific sound-tracks as well — songs that extolled the power of the Hutus and vilified the targeted Tutsis.

Prominent among the hate singers was Simon Bikindi who was indicted in 2005 by the International Criminal Tribunal of Rwanda on six counts for crimes perpetrated during the genocide, including one

count of "direct and public incitement to commit genocide". According to the indictment, during bro-adsads on extremist Hutu radio stations — known collectively as Radio Rwanda — "appeals on RTLM to attack the enemy were often preceded or followed by songs written and performed by Simon Bikindi". His music worked as a recruitment tool as well. Deeply involved in Rwandan cultural life, Bikindi was the director of a popular ballet company where "succumbing to the mobilising effects of his music, members of the ballet were re-c-rutted into the In-terahamwe militia, underwent military training and went on to kill Tutsis".

It wasn't just the Tutsis who suffered this lyrical violence as Bikindi also targeted what he saw as "moderate" Hutus in songs with titles like Njyewe nanga Abahutu (I hate these Hutus). These Hutus were also targeted by Interahamwe and their allied mobs. Neo-Nazis and white supremacists in the Western world have also used hate music, known as "hatecore" in those circles, to whip up supporters and for recruitment. According to the racism watchdog organisation, the Southern Poverty Law Centre, National Socialist Black Metal "has proven a potent recruiting force, especially among youth".

That this genre of music has deadly consequences is an established fact: in 2012, Wade Michael Page murdered six people at a gurdwara in Wisconsin, before killing himself to avoid capture. It emerged that he had been active in the hatecore scene for over a decade, playing for and listening to bands like Jew Slaughter, Final Solution, and Ethnic Cleansing. In Israel today, as in Rwanda, we see the consequences of this type of 'entertainment' applied on an industrial scale. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Studying habits****Neda Mulji**

We've often heard human beings are creatures of habit and many of us have become habitual complainers. Each working day seems to be a burden, each conversation drags us into the alleyways of despair. Habits also tend to mushroom fast and furiously through society until they become traps. Few can resist the growing tide of habits. Studying can be inculcated as a healthy habit in children; yet, we often see students resisting it, perhaps because it is presented as a chore.

A departure from habits, which become a comfort zone for many, would need some conscious forays into planning, reading, implementation. This brings us back to the question: what is our education system really teaching our children? A school leader sighed helplessly during a conversation: "Let's face it, our children don't read and they won't." Why do we give up so quickly? And how exactly will our children develop a growth mindset, ideals, dreams and perspectives without reading? How will they sustain professional careers without consciously reading to develop skills, learn and implement goals?

We often talk about 21<sup>st</sup>-century skills but choose to fester in our last century mindsets. There isn't much change in our classic brick-and-mortar schools in the last perhaps 50 years and students are still seen striving for grades, not thriving in their passion to study. If study-

ing habits could be inculcated as something to be proud of, we would find more students being driven by internal motivation.

Educators, for example, hope that they can teach creativity and critical thinking, and enable students to learn through collaboration and communication. Yet, there is little opportunity or expertise in classrooms to bring these wonderful skills into play. Most teachers find themselves racing against time and, in doing so, fall back on their default habit of reading to the children, explaining, paraphrasing and translating. The students have little agency in what they learn and how they get to practise it.

In a world where students get the immersive experience of being actors and players in their digital video-gaming experiences, we cannot expect them to turn into still and patient auditory learners in class. Not only the curriculum but also teaching practices require a shift towards replicating immersive learning experiences in class where students get an opportunity to lead, learn, argue, play and compete. We see very young children buying video games and diving deep into playing the very same day — they don't need any guidance to unravel even the most complex game. They teach themselves as they are motivated to do so.

Reading can be a motivating, immersive experience just like video games, especially if students are given digital opportunities. Where that isn't possible, involving children in reading groups, with hands-on projects related to books may be a good starting point to motivate primary-level students. Giving up on reading as a habit isn't an option as it is not only a skill for life, but also critical as a job requirement.

The habit of not reading or studying only for exams may be difficult to break but the investment of time and effort in developing good reading habits can pay dividends for life. For example, many students view reading and studying as a time-consuming, complaint-worthy activity that they have come to resist and resent. If we could motivate students to study and enjoy it exactly as they enjoy video gaming, there would be no pressure or reasons to complain. Studying habits develop as a proxy to strong reading skills. Most parents have fallen into the trap of coaxing and cajoling their children into studying, particularly memorising for tests and exams. Much of the learnt material is discarded from memory soon after the assessments.

For long-term sustained achievement, studying can be skillfully intertwined in the students' daily habits, especially if they are motivated by an internal drive. Much of that drive comes from enjoying the content, engaging with it beyond the classroom, and learning to experience studying, not as a chore but as necessary building blocks to growth and success. If these building blocks are ignored at the primary levels, students get into a firefighting mode at the secondary level where they cram the material before every exam which is not only stressful, but also sets them up for failure.

Excellence is often the result of consistent habits that are contributing to success, not short-term achievement based on a firefighting attempt at getting through exams. It's time to revisit the habits that our students have developed over time. -- Courtesy Dawn



## CM approves desilting of 15300 miles long canals in province

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi chaired a special meeting in which approval for desilting 15300 miles long canals was accorded.

A committee comprising Chairman P&D, Secretaries of Irrigation, Agriculture and Mines has been constituted to formulate the mode of desilting.

CM Mohsin Naqvi stated that water will be provided to 3-4 lacs acres of land with the completion of desilting campaign across the province.

Secretary Irrigation Wasif Khurshid while giving a briefing on the desilting campaign to be carried out after ten years apprised that the canals of Mangla Dam will be closed down from 26<sup>th</sup> December to 13<sup>th</sup> January in the first phase. The canals of Tarbela Dam will be closed

down from 13<sup>th</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> January in the second phase. The desilting campaign will be launched from 26<sup>th</sup> December in three phases after the closure of canals in Punjab.

The campaign of desilting will be formally launched from the first week of January across the province.

LIMS will provide a satellite image of desilting situation across the province. The data will be uploaded on the Irrigation Monitoring App at 10:am daily. The police will register a case and initiate an action on finding an illegal water theft channel during the desilting campaign. Provincial Minister Amir Mir, Chairman P&D, Additional IG, Secretary Agriculture, Secretary Information, Secretary C&W, Commissioner and other officials attended the meeting.



**KARACHI: Chairman Karachi Port Trust Syed Saad Din Raza Abdi meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh Justice (ret'd) Maqbool Baqar.**

## PPP, ANP, QWP discuss seat adjustment with JUI-F

PESHAWAR (INP): The delegations of Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Awami National Party (ANP), and Qaumi Watan Party (QWP) visited Mufti Mahmood Markaz, the provincial secretariat of JUI-F and discussed seat adjustment in the forthcoming general elections with it, said Abdul Jalil Jan, the provincial spokesman of JUI-F here on Monday.

The delegation of PPP consisted of former provincial president, Syed Zahir Ali Shah, former KP Assembly Speaker Kiramatullah Khan Chagarmati, Amjad Khan Afridi, Malik Tehmash Khan, and Misbahuddin while the delegation of ANP consisted of the provincial president, Aimal Wali Khan, Senator Hidayatullah Khan, Khadim Hussain and Shakeel Umerzai.

Similarly, a delegation of QWP comprised of its provincial president Sikandar Hayat Khan Sherpa, Dr Farooq, Aad Afridi, and Fayyaz Khan

also visited the provincial headquarters of JUI-F and held detailed negotiations regarding seat adjustment.

During the negotiation team of JUI-F was represented by its provincial ameer, Senator Maulana Atta-ur-Rehman, Maulana Atta-ul-Haq Darwais, Senator Dilawar Khan, Mufti Fazal Ghafour, Abdul Jalil Jan, Maulana Amanullah Haqqani and Asif Iqbal Daudzai.

According to Abdul Jalil Jan, the provincial spokesman of JUI-F, the delegations of all these three political parties expressed their desire for joint participation in the February 8 polls. The provincial ameer of JUI-F, Senator Maulana Atta-ur-Rehman while welcoming the visit of the leadership of the political parties to Mufti Mahmood Markaz stressed the need for harmony among the political parties in the province and said that traditions and toleration have always been respected.



**LAHORE: Activists of Hotel Association holds protest in the favor of their demands outside Press Club in Provincial Capital.**

## WSSP Officers get training in 'Asset Management, Energy Optimization'

PESHAWAR (APP): The Water and Sanitation Services Peshawar (WSSP) completed a three-month online training programme on Monday in 'Asset Management and Energy Optimization' for 19 officers and staff members.

The training was conducted in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and German experts provided online instruction to the officers. During the training course, participants were educated on various aspects of solid waste management, tube wells, and efficient energy utilization through 12 modules. After each module, participants were tested, followed by a comprehensive examination. Those who passed the exam received certificates. The primary objective of this training programme is to enhance operational efficiency and ensure the effective utilization of resources to reduce costs.

Zameer-ul-Hasan, General Manager of HR and PMER, distributed certificates to the officers who completed the training.

Among the officials present on the occasion were Turab Shah, General Manager Operations; Zonal Managers Tariq Aziz, Amir Gul Khattak, Basit Khattak, Anwar-ul-Haq, and Chief Internal Auditor, Mian Asif Shah.

On the occasion, Zameer-ul-Hasan praised JICA for their financial support for the training and emphasized that by using resources efficiently and according to the best practices and energy needs, not only will services improve but also costs will decrease. He encouraged the trained officers to utilize their skills for the benefit of the organization and the public, and also to transfer their expertise to their colleagues. He further stressed the importance of ongoing training to enhance the capabilities of the workforce and indicated that such training programs.



**LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi chaired a special meeting in which approval for desilting 15300 miles long canals accorded.**

## CM Sindh increases annual grant of IDA RIEU to Rs15 million

**KARACHI (APP):** The Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar Monday declared that the Annual Grant of IDA RIEU will be raised from Rs10 million to Rs15 million.

Additionally, he has supplied three pianos specifically for children with disabilities.

He made this announcement while speaking at the opening ceremony of the inclusive Youth Parliament at IDA RIEU. President of IRWA Ida RIEU Welfare Association, Nadira Panjwani, Secretary of the Department of Differently Abled Persons, Taha

Farooqi, and others received the president.

He said that the IDA RIEU was doing a great service for the cause of education of differently abled children, therefore he has decided to increase their grant from Rs10 million to Rs15 million.

The CM watched the differently abled children playing the piano. The four children had one piano, therefore he announced to get them three more pianos so that they could enjoy playing their favourite music.

Speaking on the occasion, Baqar said the role of IDA RIEU Schools & Colleges for the Blind &

Deaf for taking this important initiative and congratulated all the participants selected for the significant event.

The CM said that the Youth Parliament aimed at empowering diverse young voices for an inclusive Pakistan. I can see that it is inspired by the vision and mission of the IDA RIEU Welfare Association, which has been serving the cause of persons with disabilities for over a century. "The IDA RIEU Welfare Association endeavours towards providing quality education and rehabilitation services for the differently abled,

empowering them and ensuring inclusiveness and equality," he said and added that the IDA RIEU was playing a lead role in creating a more accessible and equitable Pakistan.

He said that with the efforts of IDA RIEU thousands of students have had the chance to nurture their talents and contribute to the world. "Our country grows stronger and more vibrant with each passing day," he said. The Youth Parliament is an opportunity to celebrate pluralism as a nation, however, this diversity also comes with challenges and responsibilities to ensure that all our citizens.

## Maulana Ashrafi meets KP governor

PESHAWAR (APP): Special Representative to the Prime Minister of Pakistan for Middle East and Interfaith Harmony, Maulana Tahir Ashrafi here on Monday met with Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali at Governor's House.

At the meeting, both discussed the security conditions and interfaith harmony in KP. The governor and Maulana Ashrafi also strongly denounced the atrocities of Israeli army in Gaza and the genocide of Palestinians.

Ashrafi apprised the governor regarding steps taken for the interfaith harmony and welfare of Pakistanis residing in the Middle East.

Governor Haji Ghulam Ali said world powers should play their pivotal role in preventing the innocent Palestinians from Israeli atrocities.

## Two killed, 10 injured in building collapse

**KARACHI (APP):** A tragic incident occurred at Jaffar Chowk in Machar Colony due to a gas cylinder blast resulting in the collapse of a building. This devastating incident claimed the lives of two individuals, while ten others sustained injuries, according to reports.

The deceased have been identified as Ameen, aged 45 years, and another individual, whose identity remains unknown, aged 29 years, police said.

Those injured in the incident include Syed Noor, aged 28 years, son of Fazal Haq, Alam, aged 29 years, son of Fazal Haq, Hameed, aged 21 years, son of Noor Muhammad, Noor Hussain, aged 30 years, son of Noor Muhammad, Farooq, aged 30 years, son of Fazal Haq, Abdul Ameen, aged 27 years, son of Abu Bakar, Shahzadi, aged 3 years, daughter of Abdul Tahir while three other injured were yet to be identified.

## Customs foil drug smuggling, arrests two

**KARACHI (APP):** The Pakistan Customs authorities made a significant drug seizure in the vicinity of the Northern Bypass, leading to the arrest of two individuals.

Acting on a tip-off, the Anti-Smuggling Organization (ASO) intercepted a trailer traveling through the Katcha area from Sunday night to Monday, according to a spokesman for Customs on Monday.

Upon inspection of the toolbox section's spare wheel, officials uncovered 57 packets of hashish weighing 70 kilograms.



**KARACHI: Volunteers and Security personnel are busy in assistance in cemented debris of buildings after gas cylinder blast at Machar Colony in Provincial Capital.**

## Minister for collective efforts for betterment of healthcare system

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Health Minister Prof. Dr. Javed Akram has urged the stakeholders of healthcare sector to unite for the betterment of patients.

Speaking at a risk-based inspection training seminar hosted by the Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (PPMA) at a local hotel on Monday, the minister shared that he had faced terrorism-related cases in pursuit of enhancing the healthcare system. Emphasizing the significance of taking risks for success, he underscored that patients held the utmost importance for him.

## Work on 36 city roads to be started soon: Dr Jamal

**RAWALPINDI (APP):** Caretaker Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare and Population Welfare Dr Jamal Nasir on Monday said that the repair and carpeting work of 36 roads including Asghar Mall Road would be started soon.

He said this while meeting a delegation of Anjuman Tajran Asghar Mall Road led by General Secretary of Markazi Anjuman Tajran Tahir Taj Bhatti.

Expressing concern over the absence of a biotechnology plant and unsafe industrial practices in the country, Dr. Javed Akram advocated for a revolution in the country's biotechnology sector. He reiterated the need to transform the field of biotechnology within the nation. The minister stressed that the Drugs Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) should monitor both Good Clinical Practices (GCP) and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP). According to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), he noted that every pharmacy in Punjab should have a pharmacist.

## LHC moved for nullification of mdcat final merit list

**LAHORE (Online):** Lahore High Court (LHC) has been requested to nullify the final merit list of mdcat. The petition against final merit list of mdcat came up for hearing Monday. The petitioner said marks were given to students of 2021 against rules in merit list. Students of 2022 and 2023 have been affected by this decision. The court has sought reply from university of health sciences and others with reference to final merit list of mdcat.

## ANF recovers 81 kg drugs in six operations

**RAWALPINDI (APP):** Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting six operations across the country managed to recover 81 kg drugs and arrested 11 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday. He informed that 44 grams weed was recovered from two parcels sent from the UK at the courier office in Rawalpindi. 30 kg hashish was recovered from a vehicle near M-1 Motorway Islamabad while four suspects were arrested. 20.4 kg hashish was recovered from a vehicle near Kakpul Islamabad while an accused was arrested.

## Kamran Tessori meets Baligh-ur-Rehman

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman and his Sindh counterpart Kamran Khan Tessori met and discussed matters of mutual interest besides ways to promote inter-provincial relations during a meeting at the Governor's House here on Monday.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that everyone should play a positive role for a strong, prosperous, and stable Pakistan. He said that the improvement and stability in the country's economy bodes well for a bright future.

The Governor Punjab further said that the

exchange of educational and business delegations will strengthen inter provincial coordination. He further stated that both the provinces can benefit from each other's experiences in various fields.

He informed his counterpart from Sindh about the steps taken to improve the quality of universities in the province. He said that educated youth are the asset of the country. He emphasized that along with education, there is a need to focus on their character building. On this occasion, Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori appreciated the initiative of opening the Governor House Lahore to the public in an organised manner.



**LAHORE: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori meeting with Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House.**

## KPCM approves appointment of BoGs of nine MTI hospitals

**PESHAWAR (APP):** The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister has acceded to the appointment of new chairmen and members of board of governors (BoGs) of nine MTI hospitals of the province after an approval of the Election Commission of Pakistan.

According to the notification of KP Establishment department, the appointment of the BoGs would be for a period of three years, adding that Ghulam Qadir Khan has been appointed as chairman of BoGs Hayatabad Medical Complex Peshawar, while Professor Mahfooz Hussain, Akhtar Naveed, Dil Roz and Dr Muhammad Ali Chohan nominated are the members. Similarly, Malik

Mushtaq Ahmad Dar has been appointed as chairman BoGs MTI-MMM DI Khan while Dr Muhammad Iqbal, Khalid Mahmood, Samin ullah Khan, Musa Khan and Esa Khan were appointed as the members.

Prof Dr Ejaz Hassan Khan was appointed as chairman of BoGs MTI-Bacha Khan Medical College, Swabi while Prof Mohammad Ishaq Khattak, Sher Bahadur Khan, Prof Noor Jehan, Muhammad Irfan and Prof Sajjad Muhammad Khan were appointed as the members. Dr Damsaz Khan was appointed as chairman BoGs of MTI Khalifa Gul Nawaz Hospital, Bannu while the members included Malik Niamat Ullah Khan.



**PESHAWAR: SAPM for Inter-Religious Harmony Maulana Tahir Ashrafi meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali.**

## LHC directs FIA to investigate the properties in the name of children of Farah Shahzadi

**LAHORE (Online):** Intra court appeal with reference to removal of name of children of Farah Shahzadi came up for hearing in Lahore High Court (LHC).

FIA has filed reply. A two members bench of LHC presided over by Justice Shehram Sarwar Chaudhry heard the appeal plea Monday.

During the hearing of case FIA told the court illegal properties are registered in the name of children. Name of children have been included in ECL being the properties in their name.

The counsel for Faraz Iqbal and Iman Iqbal children of Farah Shahzadi

took the plea while arguing that single bench did not review the facts correctly. Name of Farah Shahzadi children are in passport control list.

The counsel requested the court to order for removing the name of both of the children from ECL.

The state counsel told the court name of both of the children were given by anti corruption establishment to home department. The court remarked the petitioner is not a public office holder. The court directed FIA to investigate what properties are in the name of children.

## CS, PEC Sindh discuss arrangements for general election

**KARACHI (APP):** The newly appointed Provincial Election Commissioner Sindh Sharifullah called on the Chief Secretary Sindh Dr. Muhammad Fakhr Alam here on Monday and discussed arrangements for the upcoming general elections in detail.

The Chief Secretary said that the Sindh government had made all necessary preparations for holding fair and peaceful elections. "Security and transport plans and other necessary arrangements have been made for the peaceful conduct of the elections" he said adding

that all facilities would be provided to the Election Commission for holding transparent elections.

The Provincial Election Commissioner Sharifullah said that the Election Commission had completed all necessary preparations to conduct the general elections on February 8, 2024.

"The Election Commission was fully prepared for conducting free, fair, and impartial elections" he said adding that as per directives of ECP CCTV cameras would be installed at polling stations to ensure transparency.



**FAISALABAD: A group photo of Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Faisalabad Maqsood Ahmad Lone along with Prof Dr Zill-i-Huma Nazki Vice Chancellor (VC) Government College Women University Faisalabad (GCWUF) with other officials after distributing certificates among women police on their completion of WOW (Women on Wheels) training program.**



## Belt and Road (Pakistan) Center launched to empower Pak-Changshu cooperation

BEIJING (APP): The Belt and Road (Pakistan) Center was officially launched in Changshu, China.

A delegation led by Gohar Ejaz, Minister of Commerce, attended the launching ceremony and had a meeting with Qin Meng, the mayor of Changshu city.

"Changshu has experienced rapid economic development in the past decades, consistently ranking among the top four counties in China.

Numerous Fortune 500 companies have settled and established factories in Changshu, with their products exported worldwide," stated Qin Meng.

"We hope to have a better platform between Pakistan and China to promote exchanges and

economic cooperation. The launch of the Belt and Road (Pakistan) Center which took place on 14<sup>th</sup> December will be a platform to provide comprehensive services for economic and trade activities, opening up new prospects for China-Pakistan cooperation."

The Belt and Road (Pakistan) Center in Changshu, China, is established with the support of the embassies and consulates of 29 Belt and Road countries, including Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, China Economic Net (CEN) reported. The center will provide information and communication channels, organize regular economic and trade forums, and provide offline matchmaking and transaction services for

enterprises of China and cooperating countries. Additionally, the center will create an entrepreneurial support platform specifically for overseas students studying in China, offering an excellent entrepreneurial environment and professional services.

Gohar Ejaz highly praised Changshu's achievements in economic and social development and expressed great anticipation for its future cooperation.

He said, "Changshu and Pakistan are becoming increasingly close. We have mutually invested in high-quality projects and maintained interactions in textiles, agriculture, and other fields. I hope both sides can further explore new areas of cooperation in renewable energy."



SIALKOT: A group Photo of Provincial Minister Industries Commerce, Investment and Skills Development/Energy and Agriculture Punjab SM Tanveer with exporters during a reception by SCCI.

## Minister says: Punjab govt takes measures to resolve problems of business community

**Independent Report**  
SIALKOT: Provincial Minister for Industries, Commerce, Investment, Skills Development/Energy and Agriculture Punjab SM Tanveer has said that the Punjab government has introduced business-friendly facilities to resolve the problems of business community.

The establishment of Business Facilitation Centers is a link of this chain, he added.

Policies will be formulated in consultation with all stakeholders to increase exports and strengthen the economy, he said and added that business activities will be

promoted and the wheel of economy will move forward.

He expressed these views while addressing the meeting with the officials of different trade associations in Sialkot.

SM Tanveer said that the business community has to play its role to get the country out of economic challenges.

He said that the business community of Sialkot is a role model for other business communities of the country. He said that Sialkot is earning valuable foreign exchange for the country by exporting 3 billion dollars annually.

## SBP says: Current Account Deficit declines to \$1.6bln in 5 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Current Account Deficit (CAD) has significantly slid down to \$1.6 billion during the first five months of the current fiscal year as compared to the deficit of \$3.26 billion during the same period of last year, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported Monday. "Current Account Deficit improved significantly to \$1.6 billion in July-November

FY24, from \$3.26 billion in July-November FY23," SBP posted on the social media website X (formerly Twitter).

On year-on-year basis, the CAD witnessed a surplus of \$9 million in November 2022 compared to a deficit of \$157 million in November 2023.

According to the latest SBP figures, the merchandise trade deficit during July-November



SAPM Jawad Sohrab Malik meets with President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at Global Labour Market Conference (GLMC) in Riyadh, KSA.

## PSX witnesses bearish trend, loses 925 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Monday, losing 925.35 more points, a negative change of 1.40 percent, closing at 65,204.68 points against 66,130.02 points the previous trading day.

A total of 1,890,424,261 shares valuing Rs.24.595 billion were traded during the day as compared to 1,741,361,884 shares valuing Rs. 29.976 billion the last day.

Some 381 companies transacted their shares in

the stock market, 107 of them recorded gains and 264 sustained losses, whereas the share prices of 10 remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 444,141,868 shares at Rs.1.90 per share, K-Electric with 392,747,456 shares at Rs.5.83 per share and Energyco PK with 205,409,424 shares at Rs.5.90 per share.

Hoechst Pakistan witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.49.00 per share price, closing at Rs.1,249.00.

## Rupee on recovery path; gains 05 paise against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Monday witnessed the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive recovery session as it gained 05 paise against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs283.20 against the previous day's closing of Rs283.25. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs 283.2and Rs286 respectively.

The price of the Euro decreased by Rs2.03 to close at Rs 309.35 against the last day's closing of Rs311.38, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen came down by 01 paise and closed at Rs1.98; whereas a decrease of Rs2.02 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs359.53 compared to the last closing of Rs361.55.

## PIDE to launch report 'State of Commerce on Dec 20

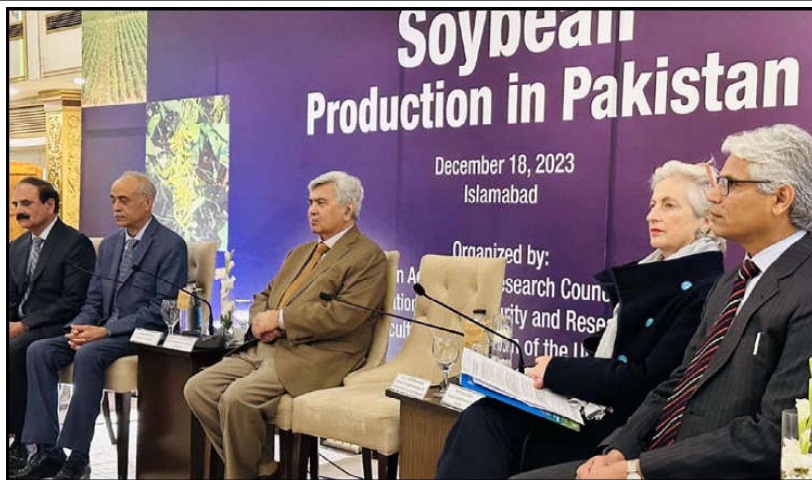
ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), the country's premier think tank advocating reforms through socio-economic and public policy research will launch a report titled "The State of Commerce in Pakistan - International and Domestic" here on December 20. In his introductory remarks, Vice-Chancellor PIDE, Dr Nadeem Ul Haque would highlight the significance of the report compiled by expert researchers and economists at the PIDE.

The report promises to provide invaluable insights into the current state of commerce in Pakistan, both on the international and domestic fronts.

## Over 8 mln cotton bales arrive at ginneries factories

MULTAN (APP): Seed Cotton (Phutti) equivalent to over 8 million (8,023,707) bales have reached ginning factories across Pakistan till December 15, 2023.

According to a fortnightly report of the Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA) issued on Monday, Punjab ginning factories recorded a cotton arrival figure of (39,56,880) bales while arrivals to ginneries in Sindh recorded (40,66,827). Out of the total arrivals, seed cotton converted into bales was recorded at over 7.8 million (78,65,618) bales.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Food Security & research Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik sitting on stage during the National Workshop on Soybean Production in Pakistan. Country Representative of FAO Ms. Florence Roll is also present.

## Inflow of remittances thru exchange companies rises by 10 to 15 percent

ISLAMABAD (APP): General Secretary of the Exchange Companies Association of Pakistan (ECAP), Zafar Paracha, in a statement on Monday, said that the inflow of remittances into the country through exchange companies has seen a rise of 10 to 15 percent following the recent crackdown. Paracha said the crackdown launched by authorities has proved to be the most effective tool to bolster Pakistan's foreign reserves, said a press release issued

here on Monday. "We've seen a substantial rise in remittances flowing into the country through exchange companies, whose daily exchange values have been increased to \$50 million after the recent crackdown that helped us recover more than \$900 million in just a couple of months from the culprits dealing in the black market," he added.

The black market forex trade, or, in other words, remittances flowing

into the country through unregulated money operators like hawala and hundi, has caused a massive loss of more than \$4 billion to Pakistan in FY23. Its foreign reserves plummeted from \$12.9 billion to an alarming \$12.6 billion and are even decreasing further due to the black-market flow of remittances. "The ongoing countrywide crackdown against unlawful money operators gives hope to the nation's depleting foreign reserves."

## Jawad meets President ECOSOC in Riyadh

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Jawad Sohrab Malik, on Monday engaged in a significant meeting with President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations Ambassador Paula Narvez.

The heart of the discussion revolved around critical themes of migration dynamics, the imperative for equal opportunities, social responsibility, and the elimination of gender inequalities, a news release said.

A specific focus was placed on fostering inclusion and empowerment of women in economic activities, with a special reference to Pakistan.

The dialogue aimed at expanding the framework to enable women to participate freely as overseas workers.

Ambassador Paula Narvez commended the dedicated efforts of Jawad Sohrab Malik in advancing these crucial agendas. The meeting underscored the shared commitment to creating an environment that upholds principles of equality and social responsibility, particularly in the context of international migration.

## Gold rates up by Rs.400

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs400 and was sold at Rs 217,200 on Monday compared to its sale at Rs 216,800 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs 1,543 to Rs 186,214 from Rs 185,871 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs 170,696 from Rs 170,382, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram Silver remained stagnant at Rs 2,670 and 2,289.09 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market increased by \$3 to \$2,043 from \$2,040, the Association reported.



FAISALABAD: A worker is busy in his work on power loom at textile factory in city.

## Steel industrialists demand withdrawal of PHL surcharge to boost industry

ISLAMABAD (APP): The steel industrialists on Monday demanded the withdrawal of the Power Holding Limited (PHL) surcharge to boost the industry and for playing a large role in the growth of the country's industry.

A delegation of Pakistan Association of Large Steel Producers (PALSP) led by its Secretary General Syed Wajid I. Bukhari visited the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) to highlight the issues being faced by the large steel producers due to the levy of PHL surcharge and other taxes on the electricity bills and

demanded that the NEPRA should withdraw this surcharge to save the steel industry from collapse, said a press release issued here.

Khalid Javed, Nasir Khan, Dawood Khan, Javed Iqbal, Rafaat Farid, and others were in the delegation.

Addressing the delegation, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that the steel industry is making a significant contribution to the economic development of Pakistan through its vital role in construction projects,

## Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity reported at the Port where three ships namely, MSC Prelude V, Stamina SW and Serengeti scheduled to load/offload Container, Rice and Gas oil, berthed at Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal and Oil Terminal respectively on Sunday. Meanwhile two more ships, Clean Sanctuary and Kamome Victoria also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port Qasim on same day to unload Petroleum Products respectively. A total of five ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them a containership 'MSC Prelude V' left the port on today morning and another ship.



ISLAMABAD: Traders associated with hotel industry holding banners are shouting slogans during protest outside OGRA Office against the unjust price hike of gas, in Country.

## SBP Governor calls on CM Punjab

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Jameel Ahmad called on Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi here on Monday.

Prevailing economic situation, matters relating to the Bank of Punjab and the Punjab Provincial Cooperative Bank were discussed during the meeting.

CM Naqvi expressed his commitment to increasing production by implementing measures such as providing subsidies and soft loans to the farmers. Recognizing the need to alleviate the financial burden on small-scale farmers, he emphasized that fostering higher production is paramount.

The anticipated positive outcomes include widespread benefits from enhanced economic activities in the agricultural and other sectors, he noted.

The CM also highlighted the significance of achieving record cotton production in Punjab, projecting substantial savings of two billion dollars in foreign exchange. The CM pointed out that the rice export from Punjab has exceeded two billion dollars as the provincial government is following a policy of providing comprehensive facilities to investors and industrialists, foreseeing positive ramifications in the form of a thriving stock exchange.

Recognizing that enhanced production of cotton, rice and other crops will contribute positively to the national economy, the SBP Governor expressed optimism about the future economic landscape and commended the CM for his valuable initiatives to improve different sectors including agriculture.



LAHORE: Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Jameel Ahmad called on Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi.

## Ethiopian Parliament ratifies bilateral trade agreement with Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Embassy of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) in Pakistan on Monday announced that the House of the Peoples Representatives of FDRE had unanimously approved the bilateral trade agreement signed by the two countries on February 14 this year to boost bilateral trade.

The trade agreement was submitted by the Standing Committee of the House on Trade and Tourism to the Ethiopian Parliament for approval during the 8<sup>th</sup> regular

meeting of the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the House of the Peoples Representatives held the other day, said an embassy news release.

The bilateral trade agreement is aimed at boosting trade cooperation between the two countries for further strengthening the economic and commercial relations between Ethiopia and Pakistan. Ethiopian Ambassador in Pakistan Jamal Beker Abdula described the approval of the agreement as a "major breakthrough" in the bilateral relations of the two countries.

## LSMI output declines by 0.44% in first four months of FY 2022-23

ISLAMABAD (APP): Large Scale Manufacturing Industries (LSMI) in the country witnessed a negative growth of 0.44 percent during the first four months of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of year 2021-22, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. The provisional quantum indices of Large Scale Manufacturing Industries (LSMI) for October 2023 with the base year 2015-16 have been developed based on the latest data supplied by the source agencies.

On a year-on-year basis, PBS posted a decrease of 4.08% in the LSMI sector compared to the industrial output of October 2022, according to PBS data.

The main contributors towards overall negative growth of 0.44% are Food (0.61), Tobacco (-0.71), Textile (-3.12) Garments (3.98), Petroleum Products (0.49), Chemicals (0.22), Pharmaceuticals (1.66), Cement (0.42), Iron & Steel Products (-0.10), Electrical Equipment (-0.50) and Automobiles (-1.51).



PESHAWAR: Laborers busy in extracting sugarcane juice and boiling it to prepare treacle (Gur) using old traditional methods, which is also known as Indian Jaggery in South Asian markets.

## Experts must expedite efforts to ensure food security: UAFVC

FAISALABAD (APP): Agricultural scientists and experts must expedite their efforts to ensure food security in order to meet the demand of the ever-growing population, said University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Iqbal Ahmad Khan.

He was addressing the concluding session of a four-week workshop titled Finance, Administration Management and E-governance arranged by the Professional Training and Skill Development Center, UAF, for the officers of Agriculture Department Punjab. Director

Professional Training Prof Dr Mahmood A Randhawa, Dr Neelam and others also spoke.

Prof Dr Iqbal Ahmad Khan said that the agricultural sector was facing challenges including low productivity, water scarcity, climate changes and others. He added that to combat the challenges, we have to adopt modern trends in the agricultural sector. He urged them to disseminate modern agricultural trends in the farming community that would boost productivity. He said that the development of the country.



## Gaza's Al Shifa hospital a 'bloodbath' says WHO

**Monitoring Desk**  
CAIRO: Gaza's Al Shifa hospital is providing only basic trauma stabilization, has no blood for transfusions and hardly any staff to care for a constant flow of patients, the World Health Organization said on Sunday.

After a UN visit to deliver medicines and surgical supplies, the team described the emergency department in the enclave's main health facility as resembling a "bloodbath".

The WHO said there were hundreds of wounded patients, with new ones arriving by the minute and trauma injuries being stitched on the floor, with almost no pain management available.

Only four hospitals of 24 working in north Gaza before the war with Israel

began have even partial service, and three of those are barely functioning, the WHO said.

The WHO said it was urgently gathering information at the Kamal Adwan hospital, where Gaza authorities said Israeli forces this week used a bulldozer to smash through the perimeter of a site Israel has said was used by Hamas fighters. The group which governs Gaza has denied using the Kamal Adwan or other hospitals for militant activities.

Israel has also said Al Shifa, which it had occupied earlier in the war, had been used by Hamas.

Tens of thousands of Palestinians are believed to remain in north Gaza, after Israeli forces pushed most of the population to the south during the first days of the bombing campaign

and ground war that began after the Oct. 7 Hamas attacks on Israel.

Gaza health authorities under the Hamas government say that more than 50,000 Palestinians have been injured during the Israeli operation, and 19,000 killed. The WHO said "tens of thousands" of displaced people were using the Al Shifa hospital for shelter, describing severe shortages of safe water and food.

Gaza is home to 2.3 million people, most of whom have been displaced from their homes by the offensive.

At the Kamal Adwan hospital, the Gaza health ministry said Israeli troops made hundreds of internally displaced persons leave, and evacuated wounded patients and medical staff to the hospital grounds.



Bulldozer tracks are seen in the area where tents were erected outside the Kamal Adwan Hospital by displaced people. Palestinian authorities have accused Israel of razing the area as people slept.

## Trump repeats 'poisoning the blood' anti-immigrant remark

**Monitoring Desk**  
DURHAM: Donald Trump, the Republican presidential frontrunner, said on Saturday that undocumented immigrants were "poisoning the blood of our country," repeating language that has previously drawn criticism as xenophobic and echoing of Nazi rhetoric.

Trump made the comments during a campaign event in New Hampshire where he railed against the record number

of migrants attempting to cross the US border illegally. Trump has promised to crack down on illegal immigration and restrict legal immigration if elected to a second four-year term in office.

"They're poisoning the blood of our country," Trump told a rally in the city of Durham attended by several thousand supporters, adding that immigrants were coming to the US from Asia and Africa in addition to South America.

## Parts of China gripped by record-low temperatures

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: Temperatures in parts of China, including in provinces Shanxi, Hebei and Liaoning, hit their lowest levels since records began, state broadcaster said on Sunday, as a cold snap gripped large swathes of the country.

The city of Yichun in Heilongjiang could see a record low of minus 47.9 C (minus 54.2 F), recorded in January 1980, broken early next week, according to a meteorological forecaster from the area.

The agriculture min-

istry launched an emergency response and the national disaster prevention body issued a directive to local authorities to prepare emergency plans, as well as snow and ice removal equipment.

"Storage of thermal coal should be done in advance to ensure the normal power generation of power plants during the critical period," added the directive.

It also called on local authorities "to ensure that the national energy supply and demand are stable and orderly."

## Israel finds large tunnel, raising new questions about prewar intelligence

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIT HANOUN: The Israeli military said Sunday it has discovered a large tunnel shaft in Gaza close to what was once a busy crossing into Israel, raising new questions about how Israeli surveillance missed such conspicuous preparations by Hamas for the militants' deadly Oct. 7 assault.

The entryway to the tunnel is just a few hundred meters from the heavily fortified Erez crossing and a nearby Israeli military base.

The military said that it stretches for more than

four kilometers (2½ miles), links up with a sprawling tunnel network across Gaza and is wide enough for cars to pass through. The army said Sunday that the tunnel facilitated the transit of vehicles, militants and supplies in preparation for the Oct. 7 attack.

That day, militants used a rocket-propelled grenade to break past the portion of wall close to the Erez crossing and stormed the base, killing at least three soldiers and kidnapping some back to Gaza, the army said.



State Emergency Service personnel evacuating people from flood waters in far north Queensland, Australia following heavy rain and flooding from tropical cyclone Jasper.

## British MP Layla Moran's family trapped in Gaza church

**Monitoring Desk**  
LONDON: British politician Layla Moran in a series of tweets raised alarm about Israeli attacks on a church in Gaza City, where members of her family have been trapped along with hundreds of others for several days and where two Christian women were shot dead by an Israeli sniper on Saturday.

Separately, Pope Francis on Sunday deplored the killing of the two women, and once again suggested Israel was using "terrorism" tactics in Gaza.

There are reports that nearly 300 people, including children and the sick, are seeking shelter in the Holy Family Catholic Parish. The two Christian women, identified as Nahida and Samar, were shot dead by an Israeli sniper while inside the grounds of the church, with reports of seven others wounded.

"I am desperately worried for my extended family in Gaza City."

## UK court finds TV channel defamed

**Monitoring Desk**  
LONDON: A UK High Court hearing a defamation claim brought by Pakistani Canadian pop star Meesha Shafi against private channel New Vision TV, the broadcaster of ARY UK, has found that the channel had defamed the celebrity in a December 2020 broadcast. At a preliminary hearing, the court found that the channel had made defamatory statements by asserting in its broadcast that Ms Shafi was deliberately failing to comply with court orders over the course of two years and that the channel depicted Ms Shafi as "someone who does not comply with legal requirements laid down by a court and engages in such behaviour repeatedly".

"Such an assertion would have the tendency of lowering the claimant [Ms Shafi] in the estimation of right-thinking people generally."

On Monday in Guangdong, where snow is generally limited to the northernmost areas, snowfall blanketed the top of a mountain in a city just 80 km (50 miles) north of the provincial capital Guangzhou by the coast. A low of 8 degrees Celsius (46.4 Fahrenheit) was forecast for Guangzhou, compared to the province's typical early winter temperatures that hover in the double digits, while January averages around 14 Celsius (57 Fahrenheit). Guangzhou officials urged precautions, especially for the old and young who may be vulnerable to "cold wave illnesses".



German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius and Lithuanian Defence Minister Arvydas Anusauskas sign an agreement for further deployment of thousands of German troops to the Baltic country in Vilnius, Lithuania.

## Iran petrol stations hit by cyberattack

**Monitoring Desk**  
DUBAI: Iran's Oil Minister Javad Owji on Monday confirmed that a nationwide disruption to petrol stations was caused by a cyberattack.

A hacking group that Iran accuses of having links to Israel claimed it carried out the attack which disrupted services at petrol stations across the country on Monday, Iranian state TV and Israeli local media reported.

Owji had earlier told Iranian state TV that services had been disrupted at about 70% of Iran's petrol stations and that

outside interference was a possible cause. He later said 1,650 petrol stations were operational. The ministry supervises 3,800 petrol stations.

Iran's state TV news said a group called Gonjeshke Darande or "Predatory Sparrow" had claimed it was behind the disruption. Israeli local media outlets also reported the claim.

"This cyberattack was carried out in a controlled manner to avoid potential damage to emergency services," the group said in a statement on Telegram.

## Bulldozers crush Gazans sheltering outside hospital

**Monitoring Desk**  
GAZA: The Israeli military has bulldozed displaced Palestinians who were camped outside the Kamal Adwan Hospital in northern Gaza, killing scores of civilians, including women and children, who were still sleeping in their tents when the demolition occurred.

In what was once the courtyard of the Kamal Adwan Hospital in the northern Gaza city of Beit Lahiya, Palestinians waded through the rubble, searching for corpses, AFP reported.

The sound of one of them sobbing breaks out while he wraps a body to

prepare for burial.

In a statement on Saturday, Hamas accused Israeli troops of having carried out a "horrific massacre" inside the hospital where they said Israeli forces "fired at patient rooms", arrested staff, and destroyed tents of displaced people with bulldozers.

Earlier, the health ministry in Gaza said that Israeli troops had expelled hundreds of people taking refuge inside the hospital, and ordered the wounded patients and medical staff to relocate to the hospital grounds.



Displaced people fleeing from Wad Madani in Jazira state arrive in Gedaref in the country's east.

## US sees no impact on Vietnam ties from Hanoi-Beijing defence pledges

**Monitoring Desk**  
HANOI: The United States will continue to closely cooperate with Vietnam, a US official said after Hanoi announced last week strengthened ties with China, including on defence and security, as the two great powers compete for influence.

Vietnam's leaders upgraded relations with Beijing during China's President Xi Jinping's visit to Hanoi last week, three months after they had boosted ties with Washington as Joe Biden

travelled to the country in what has been seen as a success for Vietnam's "Bamboo diplomacy".

Despite language in a China-Vietnam statement that may be seen as directed against the United States, concerns that may hamper Washington's plans to deepen relations with Hanoi have so far been underplayed. "Our relationship with Vietnam is not about any third country," said Cameron Thomas-Shah, spokesperson at the US embassy in Hanoi.

## Rare snowfall in southern China as deep freeze grips the north

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: The cold weather sweeping China brought rare snowfall on Monday as far south as the province of Guangdong, while temperatures in the chilly north plunged to near historic lows for the month.

In a week of unexpectedly frigid weather, temperatures have fallen to lows below zero in northern areas, disrupting road, rail and air transport and even causing a brake failure in a commuter train in Beijing, the capital. Forecasters early in November had predicted a warmer winter this year due to the El Nino phenomenon, while warning that temperatures could fluctuate after one of the warmest Octo-

bers in decades.

On Monday in Guangdong, where snow is generally limited to the northernmost areas, snowfall blanketed the top of a mountain in a city just 80 km (50 miles) north of the provincial capital Guangzhou by the coast. A low of 8 degrees Celsius (46.4 Fahrenheit) was forecast for Guangzhou, compared to the province's typical early winter temperatures that hover in the double digits, while January averages around 14 Celsius (57 Fahrenheit). Guangzhou officials urged precautions, especially for the old and young who may be vulnerable to "cold wave illnesses".

## Egypt's Sisi sweeps to third term as president with 89.6pc of vote

**Monitoring Desk**  
CAIRO: Abdel Fattah el-Sisi has swept to a third, six-year term as Egypt's president, winning 89.6% of votes in an election in which he faced no serious challengers, the National Election Authority announced on Monday.

The election took place as Egypt struggles with a slow-burning economic crisis and tries to manage the risk of spillover from the war in Gaza, which borders Egypt's Sinai Peninsula.

Some voters said the eruption of conflict in Gaza had encouraged them to vote for Sisi, who has long presented himself as a bul-

wark of stability in a volatile region - an argument that has also proved effective with Gulf and Western allies providing financial support to his government.

Voting in Egypt was held over three days on Dec. 10-12, with the state and tightly controlled domestic media pushing hard to boost turnout, which the election authority said had reached 66.8% - above the 41% recorded at the last presidential election in 2018. The election featured three other candidates, none of them high profile. The most prominent potential challenger halted his run in October, saying officials and thugs had targeted his supporters.

## Thousands flee as Sudan's army, paramilitary forces battle for aid hub

**Monitoring Desk**  
DUBAI: Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces battled the army outside the central city of Wad Madani, pressing an attack that has opened a new front in the eight-month-old war and forced thousands to flee, witnesses said.

Crowds of people - many of whom had taken refuge in the city from violence in the capital Khartoum - could be seen packing up belongings and leaving on foot in video posted on social media.

"The war has followed us to Madani so I am looking for a bus so me and my family can flee," 45-year-old Ahmed Salih said. "We are living in hell and there is no one to help us." He said he planned to head south to Sennar.

Sudan's army, which has held the city since the start of the conflict, launched air strikes on RSF forces to the east of the city, the capital of Gezira state, as it tried to push back the assault that started on Friday, witnesses said.

The RSF responded with artillery and RSF reinforcements were seen moving in the direction of the fighting, the witnesses added. RSF soldiers have also been seen in villages to the north and west of the city in recent days and weeks, residents said.

The United Nations said 14,000 people had fled the area so far, and a few thousand had already reached other cities. Half a million people had sought refuge in Gezira, mainly from Khartoum.

## Flood and wind warnings issued, airlines and schools affected as strong storm hits the Northeast

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW YORK: Heavy rain and high winds swept through the Northeast on Monday for the second time in a week, spurring flood warnings, electricity outages, flight cancellations and school closings.

The National Weather Service predicted up to 5 inches (13 centimeters) of rain in some parts of the region. More than 245,000 power outages were reported from Pennsylvania to New York to New England, with numerous reports of trees falling on

power lines. Wind gusts of up to 60 mph (97 kph) were forecast for the south-east New England coast, the Weather Service said.

Nearly 50 flights were canceled and nearly 90 were delayed at New York-area airports, according to FlightAware. Many school districts canceled or delayed classes because of the conditions. Commuter rail systems were reporting delays.

In New York City, high winds prompted the temporary closure of the Verrazano Bridge.

## China, North Korea hold high-level meeting amid missile launches

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi held high-level talks with a senior North Korean official in Beijing on Monday, coinciding with Pyongyang's launch of a missile capable of reaching anywhere in the United States.

China always views its ties with North Korea from a strategic and long-term perspective, the foreign ministry said in a statement, citing Wang's comments in the meeting with North Korean Vice Minis-

ter of Foreign Affairs Pak Myong Ho.

Beijing is willing to strengthen two-way communication and co-ordination while deepening exchanges and co-operation, Wang added.

Wang and Pak exchanged views on issues of "common concern", on which the ministry did not elaborate.

North Korea is officially China's only ally. Both are bound by a treaty signed in 1961 to take all necessary measures.

## Security tight ahead of landmark trial for leading Hong Kong democrat

**Monitoring Desk**  
HONG KONG: A landmark national security trial for leading China critic Jimmy Lai opened in Hong Kong on Monday amid tight security, with the pro-democracy activist battling charges that he colluded with foreign forces, including the United States.

Queues formed outside the West Kowloon Law Court building the night before the closely anticipated trial, with scores of police deployed. Hong Kong's security chief warned last week any attempts to disrupt proceedings would not be tolerated.

Lai, the founder of now-shuttered pro-democracy newspaper Apple Daily and one of the most prominent Hong Kong critics of China's Communist Party leadership, has faced a salvo of litigation since a wave of pro-democracy protests in 2019.

The 76-year-old appeared calm and thinner than in previous court appearances as proceedings

started, smiling and waving to the packed court.

Lai, flanked by four guards, was seen reading court documents as his lead lawyer, Robert Pang, addressed the three judges in wigs and red robes.

"When fundamental rights are engaged, any protection must be interpreted generously in favour of Mr Lai and narrowly for the prosecution," Pang told the court.

Lai has pleaded not guilty to all charges. Lai was brought to the court building in a navy blue prison van in a police convoy. A security cordon was set up around the court building, with uniformed, riot and plainclothes police, armoured vehicles and sniffer dogs on site.

Some supporters of Lai, who faces possible life imprisonment, lined up overnight in the white chill to secure a spot in the courtroom.

"Lai has been detained in prison for almost three years now."





ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi addressing the event to celebrate Award Winning Project Green Presidency, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## Madad Ali overturns FDE's restrictions, empowering teachers to seek redressal at ministry

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindhi has stepped in to overturn restrictive measures imposed by the Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) that hindered teachers and staff from approaching the offices of the Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training (MOFEPT). The FDE had issued a circular just days ago, asserting that seeking resolution from MOFEPT without prior permission was a violation of conduct rules, potentially leading to disciplinary action.

The circular, which raised concerns among educators, not only restricted staff from accessing the ministry but also warned of consequences if this directive was defied, even after

work hours. Principals were instructed to prevent their staff from approaching the ministry, creating an atmosphere of constraint and limiting avenues for issue resolution. However, responding promptly to the growing concerns, Education Minister Madad Ali Sindhi took to Twitter, asserting that teachers and staff are indeed allowed to visit the Ministry for the submission and redressal of genuine and pressing issues, without compromising their official duties. In a tweet, he went on to emphasize that the FDE should have sought clearance from the ministry before issuing such a restrictive circular, questioning its validity and necessity.

Minister's intervention is being widely appreciated as a step toward em-

powering teachers and recognizing their crucial role in educating the young generation. A teacher told APP on the condition of anonymity, hailed the minister's decision and noted that this move opens a direct channel for teachers to voice their concerns, particularly regarding issues such as time scale and rental ceiling problems.

He expressed optimism that the Minister's involvement would foster a closer connection between teachers and the ministry, demonstrating that the minister is a public figure committed to addressing the concerns of educators. Dr Rahima Rehman, President of the Federal Government College Teachers Association (FGCTA) welcomed the Minister's decision as visionary and wise.

## Gwadar, Hainan forge stronger bonds as free trade zone partners

BEIJING (APP): Hainan Province and China Overseas Port Holding Company Limited inked an online memorandum of understanding (MoU) which officially includes the Gwadar Free Zone in Pakistan as part of the Global Free Trade Zone (Port) Partnership Initiative.

"Gwadar Free Zone is located adjacent to Gwadar Port, which is Pakistan's third largest port and a vital deep-water port in South Asia. Its policy advantages and functional orientation are consistent with the Hainan Free Trade Port. Dai Zhen, Director of Hainan Province's Foreign Affairs Office stated at the signing ceremony.

We aspire for both sides to fully leverage their strengths to deepen economic and trade cooperation, and jointly benefit the people of both regions."

Since the launch of the Global Free Trade Zone (Port) Partnership Initiative earlier this year in March, the Hainan Free Trade Port has established robust connections with management institutions of prominent overseas free trade zones and ports.

So far, 11 overseas free trade zones and ports have joined this initiative. Yu Bo, Chairman of China Overseas Port Holding Company Limited, which is responsible for the construction and operation of Gwadar Port, conveyed his enthusiasm for further collaboration, local media reported.

"We aim to establish deep cooperation in trade, logistics, industrial services, and talent exchange with Hainan Free Trade Port and other stakeholders of the Global Free Trade Zone (Port) Partnership Initiative.

## ECP contempt case: LHC declines plea to immediately halt Imran's jail trial

LAHORE (APP): A full bench of the Lahore High Court (LHC) on Monday declined a plea to immediately halt the jail trial of Imran Khan, former chairman of Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), in the Election Commission contempt case.

The three-member bench, headed by Justice Aalia Neelum, heard Imran Khan's petition against his jail trial in the contempt case.

At the start of proceedings, Justice Aalia Neelum questioned Imran Khan's counsel in connection with the office's objection about missing certified copies in the petition.

In response, the counsel, Ishtiaq A. Khan, clarified that they had not received certified copies but had obtained copies from the website.

To which, Justice Aalia Neelum commented that the case could not advance until the office objection was resolved and questioned the court's jurisdiction to hear the matter.

At this, Imran's counsel asserted that the LHC

possessed the authority to hear this case. He further submitted that the LHC Rawalpindi bench had forwarded an identical case to the principal seat for hearing while replying to the court suggestion for approaching the Islamabad High Court or the LHC Rawalpindi Bench for hearing of the matter.

However, Justice Aalia Neelum explained that the Rawalpindi bench lacked judges for the constitution of the bench, leading the matter to be transferred to the principal seat.

The counsel submitted that issues of federal nature could be challenged in the provincial court, emphasizing that the Election Commission lacked the authority for contempt or jail trials. He further submitted that no notification had been issued for jail trial in response to a court query.

Justice Shehram Sarwar Chaudhry, another member of the bench, questioned the plausibility of a jail trial without notification.

## Court will pass order about delimitations as per SC directives: IHC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday declared that it would pass orders on petitions about delimitations keeping in view the directive of the Supreme Court.

Chief Justice Aamer Farooq heard the cases pertaining to the delimitations in various constituencies.

During the course of proceedings, law officer of the Election Commission of Pakistan Zehran Anees informed the bench that the top court had declared all the complaints pertaining to delimitations filed after December 14, as ineffective.

The chief justice said that he would do consultation with other judges of the high court, and issue orders keeping in view the directives of the top court.

## BRUSSELS: Ambassador of Pakistan to European Union, Belgium and Luxembourg Anna Baloch visited Embassy of Kuwait in Brussels to offer condolence on the sad demise of His Royal Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, late Emir of Kuwait.

QUETTA (APP): The Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) in Balochistan province has recovered over 2.53 billion rupees from electricity defaulters and pilferers. The company's spokesman informed that 329 more power connections were disconnected during last 24 hours in the province.

Similarly, 58 tempered meters were also removed during 24 hours, the spokesman informed.



LAHORE: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari inquires about health of PPP senior activist Zubaidah Shaheen during meeting held at her residency in Lahore.

## PTA launches 'cyber security awareness week to safeguard cyber threats

ISLAMABAD (APP): Director General (DG) Cyber Vigilance Pakistan Telecom Authority (PTA) Muhammad Mukaram Khan Monday on Cyber Security awareness week stressed employees and general public for taking proactive steps in safeguarding their digital lives, assets, and sensitive mobile data information.

Talking to PTV news channel said he said that cyber security Awareness weeks to share its leading cyber security experience and success stories with the public with its social media awareness drives which would help for maintaining the safety of the digital space and protecting institutions as well as individuals from cyber-crime.

As part of this awareness-raising initiative, PTA

## LHC orders release of Sher Afzal Marwat

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Monday ordered the release of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Senior Vice President Sher Afzal Marwat.

Justice Shehram Sarwar Chaudhry passed the orders on a petition filed by Khalid Lateef Khan, the brother of Marwat, challenging his detention.

During the proceedings, Advocate Khawaja Mohsin Abbas submitted a reply on behalf of the caretaker Punjab government, wherein it was submitted that the Lahore deputy commissioner had issued a notification for detention of Sher Afzal Marwat and the petitioner should have approached the relevant forum first against it.

The reply further requested to dismiss the petition.

## QESCO campaign goes on in full swing: Over 2.53b recovered from electricity dues defaulters, pilferers in Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): Secretary Labor and Manpower Abdul Khaliq Mandukhel on Monday said that technical and vocational training centers across the province were being upgraded to modern lines for the provision of technical education to students.

He expressed these views while talking on the occasion of awarding the shield to the principal of

## SECP issues FAQs on category-wise voting for poll of directors

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has issued a set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) regarding the concept of category-wise voting for the election of directors.

This concept was recently introduced through amendments in the Listed Companies (Code of Corporate Governance) 2019, said a press release issued here on Monday.

The introduction of category-wise voting aims to address practical challenges faced by listed companies in election of independent directors and female directors, ultimately promoting diversity on the boards of listed companies.

## Technical & vocational training centers being upgraded in Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): Secretary Labor and Manpower Abdul Khaliq Mandukhel on Monday said that technical and vocational training centers across the province were being upgraded to modern lines for the provision of technical education to students.

He expressed these views while talking on the occasion of awarding the shield to the principal of

# President for improving energy efficiency to curb climate change impacts

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday called for improving energy efficiency, adopting sustainable practices, and changing attitudes and priorities to mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change.

"Transitioning to renewable energy sources, improving energy efficiency, and reforestation are key to curb the adverse impacts on the planet's climate and ecosystems," the president said while addressing an event with respect to a project "Green Presidency of Pakistan" here at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

He said the modern world with changing priorities and attitudes, was becoming dangerous which must be stopped to curb the adverse impacts of climate change. The Green Presidency of Pakistan is a flagship initiative under which a one-megawatt solar PV system was installed, along with effective implementation of energy conservation and efficiency measures.

The president said the initiative would result in a reduction in energy usage by Aiwan-e-Sadr by 42.5%.

This energy savings is equivalent to a reduction of 3,144 tonnes of greenhouse gases or a plantation of 142,090 mature trees. "It is a matter of great pleasure that, out of 129 projects from around the world, the Green Presidency Project of Pakistan has been conferred with the prestigious award of "International Energy Project of the Year 2023", he added.

He also expressed gratitude to the Association of Energy Engineers USA for recognizing with the esteemed Best International Energy Project of the Year Award for 2023. He also called for promoting peace in the world and discouraging wars that were a big cause of deviating the world's focus on mitigating global warming.

He said despite contributing less than 1% in carbon emission, Pakistan suffered huge losses in last year's devastating floods that occurred due to global warming and climate change. He recalled that by mid 20th century, the people were conscious about utilizing the natural resources despite abundant resources, but now the priorities had been changed, the needs and wants had been mixed due to which they started using abundant resources for their ease.

He said the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) had also taught for consuming the natural resources with utmost care by demonstrating the same in his life. The president pointed out that the world was witnessing a much-needed transition towards clean energy in the wake of climate change.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Information Jan Achakzai attending 5th anniversary of Balochistan Youth Empowerment Society.

## Additional Info Secretary visits APP, PBC Quetta

QUETTA (APP): Sayeed Mubashar Tauqir Shah, Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, on Monday visited the offices of Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) Quetta Bureau and Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC).

APP Bureau Chief Nazam Muhammad Jamali briefed the Additional Secretary on the functioning of the Bureau. The latter assured that the issues being faced by the APP Bureau would be addressed on priority basis.

Earlier, during his visit to the Radio Pakistan Quetta Station, Sayed Mubashir Tauqir Shah highlighted that the Radio Pakistan had an effective reach even in remote areas of the country, and emphasized to carry out efforts for enhancing PBC programmes.

The Additional Secretary, who took round of different sections of the Radio Pakistan Quetta, assured the ministry's full assistance for reviving the non-functional transmitters in Balochistan. He also assured that the problems being by PBC Quetta would be given priority attention.

## Training of Returning Officers completes; DROs' session to be held in Quetta today

QUETTA: The training of Returning Officers (ROs) completed in Balochistan on Monday.

The three-day training of the ROs was conducted at four divisional headquarters including Quetta, Loralai, Sibi and Khuzdar.

In all 67 returning officers from all national and provincial assembly constituencies participated in the training session conducted at all the four venues.

In Quetta, 31 ROs participated in the training session. The participants were trained to conduct the general elections in their respective constituencies. They were also apprised about the rules and regulations of the elections besides their responsibilities with regard to conduct free, fair and transparent elections.

It may be mentioned here that the ROs' training had resumed on Sunday. Prior to it, they had already participated in the training for one day.

Meanwhile, the one-day training session of District Returning Officers (DROs) is scheduled to be conducted today (Tuesday). The DROs training is being conducted in Quetta only, stated the spokesman of Provincial Election Commissioner.

According to the PEC spokesman, in all 36 DROs would be attending the training session.



QUETTA: Provincial Election Commissioner Ejaz Anwar Chohan meeting with Additional Chief Secretary Home Zahid Saleem.

## NADRA rejects reports of blocking CNICs of PTI leaders

PESHAWAR (INP): National Database Registration Authority (NADRA) has rejected the media reports regarding blocking CNICs of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders.

The spokesman of NADRA said on Monday that neither the authority has taken any such action nor any court has issued directives in this regard.

He made it clear that blocking CNIC was a complete legal procedure.

The NADRA has not taken any action in this connection, neither the interior ministry has issued directives to block CNICs of PTI leaders, therefore, spreading rumours should be avoided, the spokesman urged. It should be mentioned here that earlier a section of media reported that NADRA has blocked the PTI leaders who were declared absconders in May 9 riots cases.

## FIU launches to increase efforts against corruption in Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): The Anti-Corruption Establishment Balochistan (ACEB) has launched a Financial Investigation Unit (FIU) established at Quetta under a project funded by the U.S. Embassy's Office of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL), implemented through the Accountability Lab.

The Director of ACEB, Abdul Wahid Kakar emphasized to the media the need for a proactive approach in combating corruption, given the changing patterns and complex nature of financial crimes, said a news release.

As an anti-corruption agency, ACEB faces complex challenges of identifying corrupt transactions, uncovering crime patterns, locating stolen assets, and addressing situations involving multiple jurisdictions.

Yasir Amanat, Program Specialist for Rule of Law, and Corrections at INL, commended ACEB's proactive role in leading the implementation of this important project. Appreciating the media's role in reporting on corruption cases.



QUETTA: Baloch Student Organization (BSO) Leader, Samand Baloch along with others addressing a Press conference, at Quetta press club.

## SSGC kicks off winter safety awareness campaign in Quetta

QUETTA (APP): Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) on Monday launched a winter safety awareness campaign among the public to adopt preventive measures during the use of gas heaters.

On this occasion, Regional General Manager Anwar Baloch while talking to the media said that every year in Balochistan, the awareness campaign



QUETTA: Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) General Manager, Muhammad Anwar Baloch talks with media persons before sending SSGC teams to different areas in connection with the public awareness campaign for winter season.