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Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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28th Conference of Parties of the United Nations

PM demands urgent execution of \$100bn commitments for climate change finance

Says such funding should not impact development finance or "add to the already high debt burden of the developing countries"

DUBAI (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Saturday called for immediately executing the US\$100 billion commitments for climate finance to ensure implementation of climate change actions by the developing countries and to mitigate the climate change impacts. "Such finance should

not be at the cost of development finance nor add to the already high debt burden of the developing countries," the prime minister said while delivering National Statement at the 28th Conference of Parties of the United Nations (COP 28) here.

He also called upon the developed countries to take

the lead in raising global mitigation ambition commensurate with their economic standing and historical responsibility, and then help developing countries do the same.

"We need to achieve global resilience through delivering an ambitious outcome in the form of a framework for global goal on ad-

aptation with clear targets and indicators including regular monitoring of progress," he said adding that at least half of climate finance must be allocated to adaptation.

The prime minister said the expectations from COP28 were high but not unrealistic hoping that this COP would deliver with

action not just words. He laid emphasis on providing adequate means of implementation including climate finance, capacity-building and technology, to developing countries to tackle this growing challenge. The prime minister highlighted that last year Pakistan suf-

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DUBAI: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar makes a National Statement at the World Climate Action Summit/COP28.



Chief of the Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir interacting with troops during his visit to Khairpur Tamewali (KPT) to witness Field Exercise of Bahawalpur Corps

No other course to run country except implementing Constitution, asserts Mehmood Khan Achakzai

Chairman PkMAP says we have no concern about national & provincial assemblies and Senate, rather we want authority on our rights & resources; calls for holding round table of all stakeholders over issues of country

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chairman Pashtoonkhw Milli Awami Party (PkMAP), Mehmood Khan Achakzai has categorically stated that Pakistan is surrounded by worst crises, and as such there is no other course to run the country except implementing the Constitution of the country.

He said that we have no concern of the national and provincial assemblies and Senate, rather we want authority on our resources and

authority. He pleaded to hold roundtable conference of the politicians, judges, media, lawyers and civil society representatives ahead of the upcoming general elections in the country.

He also put forth demand of new province namely Pashtoonistan consisting of Boltan to Chitral in the 21st century.

We have never made politics based on enmity with the country or any nationality, but we speak of rights of the Pashtoon

people like other nationalities in the country.

We need to speak on the matter of Durand Line carefully as it is a sensitive one. We support the protest dharna being staged in Chaman, however, he asked the rulers to adopt the course based on ground reality instead of force there.

This and similar other views were expressed by the Chairman PkMAP while addressing grand public meeting at the Ayub

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QUETTA: Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) Chief, Mehmood Khan Achakzai addresses a public gathering on the occasion of 50th death anniversary of the Shaheed Abdul Samad Khan Achakzai at Ayub Stadium

PPP to resolve problems of people of Balochistan: Bilawal Bhutto



QUETTA (APP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Saturday said the PPP will resolve the problems of the people of Balochistan after forming a government in the province by winning general election on February 8.

Bilawal said a government will have to be formed which will implement the 18th Amendment, despite all the efforts by opponents, the people are with the PPP.

Addressing a crowded press conference at the residence of President PPP Balochistan Mir Changez Khan Jamali in Quetta Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that the demand for a level playing field by political parties is based on reality.

The public will answer in the elections to those who give the impression of forming government after the elections, he added. Bilawal said that he has thankful to the people of Balochistan for making the foundation day rally a success.

Talking about the situation in Afghanistan, he said that problems have been going on with Afghanistan for a long time. Bilawal said that Afghanistan should act as a state and change their behavior, if the Taliban want to recognize their government.

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Pakistan Army fully prepared to defend motherland from any threat: Gen Asim Munir

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir, visited troops at Khairpur Tamewali (KPT) on Saturday to witness the field exercise of Bahawalpur Corps.

While addressing the troops, the Army Chief said, "Pakistan Armed Forces are focused on defending the frontiers of motherland against a full spectrum of threats and with the support of the nation."

During his visit, the COAS was briefed about field exercise, aimed at enhancing professional skills at various tiers and battle-

field procedures required to meet future challenges in an operational environment, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The COAS witnessed integrated fire and battle maneuvers of various elements, including armor, mechanized infantry, artillery, air defense, anti-tank guided missiles (ATGMs), duly supported by the Pakistan Air Force (PAF), and combat aviation.

Later, COAS interacted with troops participating in the exercise.

The Army Chief appreciated the training standards, operational pre-

Accuses Afghan Taliban of continuing double game with Pakistan:

Jan reiterates demand to Afghanistan to hand over terrorists involved in terror

Says strict enforcement of one regime document being made at Pak-Afghanistan border; no Afghan would be entered in Pak's territory without passport; Balochistan to be cleansed of illegal immigrants, smuggling, hawala & hundi

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has reiterated the Pakistan's demand to government of Afghanistan to hand over the terrorists involved in terrorism in Pakistan.

He said that Pakistan has been demanding of the Afghan government to hand over the terrorists involved in terrorist acts in Pakistan, however, adding he regretfully pointed out, that it (Afghan Taliban) are continuing double game with Pakistan.

He said that government of Pakistan has put forth its demands in front of Afghan Taliban, and the state of Pakistan is ready



Jan Achakzai said that the strict enforcement of the one regime document and passport is being made

to go to any extreme to get its demands accepted. The Minister Information was addressing a hurriedly called press conference at the Quetta Press Club on Saturday.

Jan Achakzai said that the strict enforcement of the one regime document and passport is being made

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Nawaz, Shehbaz chair first parliamentary board meeting

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Quaid Nawaz Sharif and President Shehbaz Sharif presided over the party's first parliamentary board meeting held at the party secretariat 180-H Model Town Lahore.

The meeting will decide on selection of party tickets and candidates for national, provincial and specific seats. Decisions regarding Sargodha division will be taken during the current session of the parliamentary board meeting.

The meeting commenced with Fatiha and prayers for senior parliamentarians Begum Najma Hameed and Mushahidullah Khan.

Senior PML-N leaders including Chief Organizer

Maryam Nawaz, Senator Ishaq Dar, Rana Sanaulah, Ahsan Iqbal, Pervaiz Rasheed and others attending the meeting.

The PML-N has entered a crucial phase in which a series of crucial parliamentary meetings will take place across various divisions and provinces for the selection of candidates for the upcoming general elections.

The first meeting took place in the provincial capital. In the second meeting to be held on 3rd December, the focus will shift to Rawalpindi division, then on 6th December to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Hazara and Malakand divisions. Balochistan's candidates will be deliberated upon on 7th December.

Commander 12 Corps meets Governor Balochistan; discusses various matters

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Corps Commander 12 Corps, Lt. General Rahat Nasim Ahmed Khan (Hilal-e-Imtiaz) called on the Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar here at the Governor House on Saturday.

During the meeting, the Governor Balochistan congratulated Lt. General Rahat Nasim Ahmed Khan on assuming the post of Corps Commander 12 Corps. The Governor also expressed best wishes to the Corps Commander for his success and achievements in professional career.

Moreover, they also discussed the latest situation of law and order besides the matters of mutual interests.



QUETTA: Commander 12 Corps Lt. General Rahat Nasim Ahmed Khan (HIM) meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Gohar Ali Khan elected PTI chairman unopposed

PESHAWAR (INP): The Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) on Saturday elected Barrister Gohar Ali Khan as the new chairman in the intra-party elections held on the directives of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). Gohar won the chairman's position unopposed.

Barrister Gohar, who was nominated by ex-PTI

chief Imran Khan for the top slot a couple of days ago, submitted his nomination papers for the office of the party's chairman.

Speaking in Peshawar after his election as chairman, Gohar said he will keep fulfilling this responsibility as Imran's representative.

He said that Pakistan has 175 political parties, all

of which have been providing details of their intra-party polls to the ECP since 1960.

"However, none of these polls have been scrutinised as closely as those of the PTI."

"People are seeing this and will block the oppression," he said. "We have to take the country forward."

بلوچستان شہداء فورم

- ۱۔ شہداء کی قربانیوں کو سراہتے ہوئے حکومت بلوچستان کی کاوشوں کی بدولت بلوچستان شہداء فورم کا قیام عمل میں لایا گیا ہے۔
- یادگار شہداء کی تعمیر کی جبری کے لیے مندرجہ ذیل اقدامات پر عمل درآمد کروائے گا۔
- الف۔ شہداء کے لواحقین کو حکومت بلوچستان یا متعلقہ ادارے سے شہداء کی شناختی کارڈ فراہم کرنا۔
- ب۔ شہداء کے ایک ہیے یا بیگ کی شادی پر مالی مدد۔
- ج۔ شہداء کی تعمیر کے لیے تمام سرکاری ہسپتالوں میں تربیتی بنیادوں پر علاج کی سہولت۔
- د۔ شہداء کے بیٹے یا بیٹی کو کسی بھی سرکاری یا غیر سرکاری ادارے میں ملازمت کے لیے معاونت فراہم کرنا۔
- ۳۔ شہداء کے بچوں کو تمام سرکاری اور غیر سرکاری تعلیمی اداروں میں داخلہ دلوانے کے لیے معاونت فراہم کرنا۔
- ۴۔ بے نظریہ کم پینشن پر مگرام میں رجسٹریشن۔
- ۵۔ شہداء کی شہداء کے ساتھ سلسلہ رابطہ اور ان کے مسائل جاننا اور ان کو تربیتی بنیادوں پر عمل کرنا۔
- ۶۔ ایک خانگی ادارہ ہے جو صرف اور صرف آپ کے ہونے کو عطا کر چکا ہے۔
- تمام سرکاری اور نجی ادارے اور (NGO's) اور صاحب استطاعت افراد اپنے عطیات بلوچستان شہداء فورم کے مندرجہ ذیل آفیشل اکاؤنٹ میں براہ راست جمع کرنا سکتے ہیں۔ آپ کے دے گئے عطیات کسی بھی شہداء کی خلی کی مالی امداد کی جاسکتی گی۔

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پہلے مرحلے میں شہداء کی شناختی اور رجسٹریشن کا عمل جو کہ شروع ہو چکا ہے۔
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پیٹر ان چیف بلوچستان شہداء فورم



LAHORE: PML (N) Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif addressing meeting of Parliamentary Board. Shahbaz Sharif, Maryam Nawaz, Ishaq Dar and Ahsan Iqbal are also present

'Legitimate voices of separatists' exist in assemblies: Bugti

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfaraz Bugti has said that the assemblies in Pakistan represented "legitimate voices" for separatists who articulate their perspective, and certain parts of the country were particularly impacted by "this propaganda".

The minister made this disclosure in an interview with a private TV news channel where he provided specific insights into missing persons cases and their underlying context.

"We have legitimate voices that explain the version of separatists," Bugti said.

Bugti's remarks come in the backdrop of a missing persons case currently being heard by the Islamabad High Court. On

Nov 29, the court warned, that a case might be filed against the caretaker prime minister and others if they did not facilitate the reunion of the missing Baloch students with their families.

During the hearing, Attorney General for Pakistan Mansoor Usman Awan had told the court that, out of 50 missing students, 22 had been recovered, while the whereabouts of 28 others were still unknown.

Speaking about the matter during an interview that was aired on Friday, the minister stated, "We are facing an intelligence-driven war led by the Indian agency Research and Analysis Wing (RAW)."

"At assemblies, we have legitimate voices that

explain the version of separatists," he added.

Unfortunately, he noted: "The result of propaganda is very much felt in Punjab."

He also emphasised the delicate nature of the missing persons issue, stating, "We have a commission on this matter, and it has resolved around 85 per cent of cases."

The commission was established in 2011 to trace missing persons and fix responsibility on the individuals or organisations responsible for it.

Minister Bugti pointed out the fine line between "enforced disappearances and self-disappearance", highlighting that the commission had encountered cases with surprising details.

"There were cases wherein people left their homes after a domestic dispute, and it transpired weeks later that they had left home themselves."

He also noted instances where individuals lost their lives in "encounters" with security forces.

Minister added, "Then there are cases in which suspects are absconders required by a court, and their families submit pleas claiming their family member as missing to avoid court [action]."

He remarked that such cases had been reported and documented.



Chief of the Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir witnessing integrated fire and battle manoeuvres of various elements at Khairpur Tamewali during field exercise of Bahawalpur Corps

Caretaker PM, Bill Gates discuss progress on Pakistan's polio eradication efforts

DUBAI (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and Bill Gates, Co-Chair Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), on Saturday met on the sidelines of COP-28 and discussed progress on Pakistan's polio eradication efforts.

The prime minister apprised Gates of the ongoing polio vaccination drive in Pakistan and said that Pakistan would spare no effort to eliminate poliovirus.

He underlined the Government's full commitment to maximizing outreach of vaccines to children all across Pakistan, PM

Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The caretaker prime minister and Gates also discussed cooperation extended by BMGF to Pakistan in financial inclusion, poverty alleviation and malnutrition.

While lauding the support received from the Gates Foundation, the prime minister further encouraged the BMGF to work with Pakistan to enhance national capacities in STEM education, strengthen early warning and emergency operations for disaster management as well as to digitalize agricultural value chains.

Amb. Masood briefs two US lawmakers on illegal immigrants' repatriation from Pakistan

WASHINGTON (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Masood Khan, had separate meetings with Congressmen William Keating and Brad Schneider to brief them about the phased repatriation of undocumented foreigners from Pakistan, according to a press release of the Pakistani embassy issued Friday.

The situation in the Middle East was also discussed, and the upward trajectory in Pak-US relations was reviewed, the release said.

Congressman Keating wrote on X, formerly Twitter,

"Productive meeting with Pakistani Ambassador Masood Khan regarding the opening of an IOM (International Organization for Migration) facility to process US-bound Afghan allies in Pakistan. As I wrote to the Ambassador in Oct., we will continue to protect Afghans and their families who risked their lives to protect the US from terrorism."

During the meeting with Congressman Brad Schneider, the Ambassador had the opportunity to listen to his views and in-

sights on durable peace in the Middle East, the press release said.

The Pakistani envoy also briefed Congressman Schneider on the phased repatriation of illegal foreigners from Pakistan.

"Ways to address climate change and the issue of unregulated migration also came under discussion," it was pointed out.

Meanwhile, a senior US State Department official will leave for Islamabad next week to discuss with Pakistani officials migration issues



DUBAI: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar meets with the Co-Chair of Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Bill Gates on the sidelines of the high level segment of COP 28

PPP to resolve problems....

Continued from page 1

He advised the government that instead of being sentimental, we should engage with Afghanistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan have been living in a constant state of war.

The people of Afghanistan and Pakistan want to live a normal life. Bilawal said Asif Zardari gave rights to Balochistan through the 18th Amendment, he will bring development in the areas affected by terrorism.

He said that Benazir Bhutto always fought for a level playing field. Talking about level playing field for political parties, PPP knows how to play on the political pitch. He said that there is a protest going on in Chaman, the legitimate demands of the protestors should be addressed.

He said that the rulers should listen to the problems of the people of

Chaman and resolve it on priority bases.

He said the selected governments that were formed in the history of Pakistan failed, it is time to bring new politics in Pakistan and there was a dire need to introduce a new style of politics.

Former Foreign Minister, Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that the future of Balochistan and Pakistan is connected with CPEC.

"The politics revolving around hatred are not going to be great for our country," Bilawal Bhutto said. He said the deposed premier wanted to convert all the institutions of the state into the Tiger Force.

Highlighting the importance of his party, Bilawal Bhutto asserted, "It is important for the PPP to form the government in a bid to address all the challenges the country is facing."



ISLAMABAD: Players in action during CAS-Serena Hotels International Squash Championship for Men & Women organized by Pakistan Squash Federation in collaboration with PAF & Serena Hotels at Mushaf Squash Complex.

Buttler hails 'new beginning' to restore England's tarnished white-ball image

ANTIGUA (INP): Jos Buttler the England team captain has stated his desire to take England white-ball cricket back to its previous heights, saying that he feels personal responsibility for "shaping the next period" of the format's evolution.

Speaking after England trained for the second consecutive day at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua, Buttler reflected on what has been a difficult two months, before throwing forward and highlighting the talent and excitement at the start of a "new beginning".

"There's some really exciting talent in this team," Buttler said. "Young guys eager to get their opportunities and perform. There's some guys that have not been exposed to ODI cricket a lot, but have a lot of experience in Test cricket, so not necessarily new to the international game. It's a nice blend."

One player who particularly impressed at training was fast bowler John Turner, who bowled a barrage of bouncers at both Buttler and Harry Brook in a gut-busting spell of high-quality fast bowling. Turner doesn't currently appear in the running for a

starting spot in the first ODI, but Buttler said he was more than happy to have faced half an hour of bouncers from England's new quick on the block.

"It was good. It's what I want him to do," Buttler said of the battle between the two. "There are some exciting seam bowlers, guys with good pace, some good athletes and it's a nice time to look forward to, give guys an opportunity and see what they have got."

Another of those seamers is Reece Topley, who joined up with the group to continue his recovery from the broken finger he sustained in the World Cup and to prepare for the T20I series next week. There is no suggestion that Topley will be made available for the ODI series.

Buttler also confirmed that Phil Salt and Will Jinks will open the batting on Sunday, but kept his cards close to his chest in regards to the balance of the bowling attack that will line up on what has appeared to be a wicket that could spin prodigiously. England coach and former Test offspinner Richard Dawson bowled throughout the session, at one stage getting the ball to rag back through Brook's gate and clean-

bowl the IPL millionaire.

"We're gaining a lot of information from the couple of training days here," Buttler said, though he went no further as to whether England will opt to field both specialist spinners in Rehan Ahmed and Tom Hartley.

In referring to this tour as "certainly a bit of a new beginning", Buttler was more holistic about the context of the series than his teammate Ben Duckett had been when speaking a day earlier, with Duckett instead preferring to consider the series in little more than the here-and-now.

Buttler's macro-approach can be attributed to a player who has been there, seen it and done it. An international debut that came when David Cameron had only just ticked off a year in No. 10 Downing Street, you can forgive Buttler for speaking in the knowing tones of someone who just knows more about this subject than you do.

"We have had one bad tournament," Buttler said on the position of English white-ball cricket, as well as what is left to motivate a man with over 300 international appearances and two World Cup titles to his name.

FJWU, DSU to cooperate for boosting educational ties

WASHINGTON (APP): Pakistan's Fatima Jinnah Women University (FJWU) Friday signed a letter of intent with United States' Delaware State University (DSU) paving the way for cooperation between the two educational institutions in several areas, including student exchange programmes.

The signing ceremony was held at the Embassy of Pakistan in Washington, D.C., in the presence of

Pakistan's Ambassador to the US Masood Khan.

Th Dover-based Delaware State University is a public institution that offers access and opportunity to diverse populations from all over the United States states and the world.

According to an embassy press release, the letter of intent would establish a framework for collaboration between the two universities to foster a more vibrant academic experience

for students, faculty, and staff that will encourage mutual engagement at all institutional levels.

The important areas of collaboration between two educational institutions are diversity and inclusion workshops, collaborative research on minority issues, student exchange programmes, joint community outreach programs, and networking events for minority academic professionals, according to the press release.



KARACHI: Lawyers hold a protest rally to show solidarity with Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and condemn recent actions by the government of Israel

PM demands urgent execution of \$100bn....

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ferred super floods while this year would be the world's hottest year in recorded history.

At COP 26 at Glasgow, he said Pakistan increased its ambitions presenting the revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) with a target of 60% overall reduction in projected emissions by 2030.

"This year Pakistan presented a comprehensive national adaptation plan and has also launched an innovative Living Indus Initiative that brings together our care for climate and for nature," he said adding "We will also be presenting our first update report during this COP".

Last year, he said Pakistan led the endeavor to craft an agreement on establishing a global loss and damage fund while this year "we worked to activate an adequately financed loss and damage fund and its funding arrangement".

He said climate justice demanded that the developing countries should be enabled to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) even as they contribute to climate objectives. "The provision of sufficient additional predictable grant-based climate finance by developed countries is imperative."

Meanwhile Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Saturday stressed the need to fulfill the growing needs of the developing countries to implement the climate change actions.

"Financial needs of the developing countries are way more than the unfulfilled US\$100 billion pledge," he said in his address to the Global Stock Take (GST) event on means of implementation here.

He said even to fulfill

less than half of their existing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), the developing countries needed \$6 trillion by 2030. The prime minister pointed out that adaptation needs alone were \$387 billion per year till 2030, whereas with respect to the current estimate for loss and damage were around \$400 billion annually which were expected to grow to \$1 to 2 trillion by 2050.

He urged that the outcomes of GST and the COP28 must clearly highlight this enormous gap between the finance mobilized and needs of the developing countries. The prime minister also called upon the developed countries to urgently rectify shortfalls and their finance commitments under the Paris agreement, unlocking scaled up and improved financial support that would enable developing countries to contribute in bridging the implementation gaps in their mitigation and adaptation action. "We believe outcomes of the GST are well timed to guide the critical discussion in 2024 on setting the post 2025 new collective quantified goals on finance commensurate with the needs of the developing countries," he remarked.

He also stressed that the GST should strengthen effectiveness of the technology mechanism in scaling up development and transfer of proven climate technologies and enable better degree of capacity building for developing countries.

"The need for reform of the international financial architecture also requires focus," he added. Regarding the technology transfer, PM Kakar said "we proposed to focus on key and high emitting sectors with joint indicators functioning

solutions, time frames and enabling conditions needed to put in place green technologies".

On capacity building, he said the developing countries required support, and greater coherence and coordination across the UN system.

"To attract the required private and public investment, developing countries must be provided capacity building support to develop appropriate instruments and in creating pipelines of bankable projects for adaptation and mitigation," he remarked.

He hoped that the discussions and deliberation here and throughout the COP could result in an ambitious outcomes on the means of implementation which was equitable and responsive to the needs of developing countries.

He said "We have all come here with one aim ensuring that the planet remains liveable for our children and children's children". "Our assembly here recognizes the acuteness of challenges faced in the realm of climate extremes.



LAHORE: Contestants are in action in Swimming Championships during HEC All Pakistan 43rd Boys and 12th Girls Quad-e-Azam Trophy Inter City Swimming Championship at Nishtar Park in Provincial Capital



QUETTA: Majlis Wahdat-ul-Muslimeen (MWM) Leader, Allama Maqsood Domki addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club

No other course to run....

Continued from page 1

sports complex on Saturday.

The public meeting marked the death anniversary of the renowned Pashtoon nationalist leader, Khan Abdul Samad Khan Achakzai.

The senior leaders of PkMAP Abdul Rahim Ziaratwal, Abdul Rauf, Nawab Ayaz Khan Jogezeai, Abdul Qahar Wadhan and Muhammad Wasim Junior joined Quetta Gladiators.

In this regard, Naseem Shah also shared a picture of himself on Instagram, captioning it as: Destination, Islamabad.

He said that while the public meeting marked the death anniversary of the renowned Pashtoon nationalist leader, Khan Abdul Samad Khan Achakzai.

He said that although Khan Abdul Samad Khan was an orphan and didn't get education from any university, but he raised voice in favour of rights of Pashtoons.

Khan Samad Khan was the democrat and realistic person and anti-feudal.

Referring the Pakistan-Afghanistan relations, Mehmoob Khan Achakzai stressed that both are Islamic countries and they should resolve their issues accordingly.

He also appealed to the Secretary General United Nations to mediate and resolve the issues of Afghanistan with its neighbouring countries. He also demanded of the Taliban rulers to convene Jirga of all stakeholders to settle how to save our region from Russia, America and other forces. He said that we want to live self-esteem in our homeland.

However, our people are being forced to live miserable life, while the constitution of the country

gives everyone right to lead respectable life and do business, he maintained.

He said that we want the seat which would be given by the people, nothing else.

He on the occasion urged all political leaders including the PML-central leader, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, PPP Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Maulana Fazal ur Rehman to save the country.

The PkMAP chief also said that we don't need charity from anyone, and we need representation in the armed forces in proportion with our population.

He said that there is a separate province of Punjab's, and so of Balochs and Sindh, then why injustice is with Pashtoons.

Earlier, addressing the gathering, the leaders of PkMAP Abdul Rahim Ziaratwal, Nawab Ayaz Khan Jogezeai and others paid homage to Khan Abdul Samad Khan on his meritorious services for the rights of Pashtoons.

They stressed the need to follow the vision and philosophy of late Pashtoon nationalist leader to secure rights for the Pashtoons.

They also called for forging unity among ranks of the Pashtoons for protection of their rights.

They said that the lives of Pashtoons are being made miserable in different parts of the country closing doors of livelihood for them.

Meanwhile, several resolutions were also adopted in the public meeting. They were also carrying the party flags besides the portraits of leaders.



ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP), Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, presided over a high-level meeting at the Central Police Office Islamabad to evaluate the current crime scenario.

ICCP holds crime meeting; comprehensive strategies to prevent crime ordered

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP), Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, presided over a high-level meeting at the Central Police Office Islamabad to evaluate the current crime scenario, a public relations officer said. He said that the meeting was attended by CPO Operations, SSP Operations, AIG Operations, SSP Investigations, all Zonal DPOs, SDPOs, and all Incharge police stations. During the meeting ICCP scrutinized the performance of all divisions and issued directives to officers regarding crime prevention targets. Each officer underwent individual scrutiny, and those exhibiting poor performance were reprimanded. The ICCP Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan directed all officers to promptly respond to "Pucar-15" emergency calls, assess registered cases in police stations, liaise with complainants, and provide feedback on their requests. Further directions were given to improve inspection standards, expedite the process of filing cases for swift court proceedings, and rectify deficiencies found during case investigations.

To enhance investigations, officers were directed to include scene photography in their investigation protocols. Senior officers were tasked with weekly assessments of police station performances, appointing competent and reputed officers proficient in investigative matters, and ensuring optimal facilities for appointed officers and staff at respective stations. ICCP Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan further emphasized advertising campaigns against criminals, absconders and proclaimed offenders.

APHC urges UN to force India to end modern day slavery in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has strongly condemned the reign of terror unleashed by Indian troops across illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). The APHC, in a statement issued Saturday in connection with the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, called upon the United Nations to force India to end modern-day slavery in the occupied territory. The APHC pointed out, "Indian troops enjoying unbridled powers under black laws are perpetrating crimes against the Kashmiris, who are struggling to break the shackles of Indian slavery and secure their right to self-determination, as acknowledged by the World Body." The statement de-

Intl Day for Abolition of Slavery being observed today

ISLAMABAD (APP): International Day for the Abolition of Slavery is being observed today. This year's theme for the day is 'Fighting slavery's legacy of racism through transformative education'. The focus of this day is on eradicating contemporary forms of slavery, such as trafficking in persons, sexual exploitation, the worst forms of child labour, forced marriage, and the forced recruitment of children for use in armed conflict. The International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, observed annually on December 2nd, marks a significant moment in global history. It is a day dedicated to remembering and acknowledging the brutal history of slavery and the ongoing impacts of its legacy.



ISLAMABAD: Participants in a group photo during Biodiversity walk at Margalla Hills Trail-5 organized by the Devcom-Pakistan in connection with the 13th Pakistan Mountain Festival, over 100 university students and citizens take part in the activity.

Young hikers cleanup Margalla Hills Trail-5

ISLAMABAD (APP): More than one hundred university students and nature lovers participated in the hiking and cleanup drive at Margalla Hills Trail-5 after an interactive session on wildlife and biological diversity of the Margalla Hills on Saturday. It was the 13th Pakistan Mountain Festival's daylong kickoff event, organized by the Development Communications network (Devcom-Pakistan), DTN and Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) in collaboration with the Comsats University Islamabad Campus Computer Science Adventure Society (CSAS). Pakistan Mountain Festival (PMF) is an annual flagship event of Devcom-Pakistan to commemorate the UN's International Mountain Day (IMD) that falls on December 11, a news release said. Speaking on the occasion, Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director and founder Pakistan Mountain Festival said the Margalla Hills National Park increasingly becoming a focus of visitors and illegal constructions. Solid waste management and littering have increased manifold despite many interventions by the IWMB and civil society organizations. The environmentally unfriendly practices have damaged the natural resources in all three parts of the National Park including hills, Rawal Lake and Shalkarparian despite many initiatives. Mountain Resources are the lifeline of the over 80 percent of the people living downstream who are responsible for heavy carbon emissions, and devastation of the mountain ecosystems. Ahmed said we shall encourage youth for environmentally friendly outdoor pursuits. It is good for their mental and physical health besides making them a responsible visitor to nature. Several youth engagements are in pipeline for the 13th Pakistan Mountain Festival including 9th Pakistan Mountain Youth Forum and cultural shows, and a conference. We need to work out a joint action plan for the promotion of mountains and its communities, culture, art, and heritage instead of individual and scattered efforts.

ICP accelerates efforts against traffic violators

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police has accelerated its efforts against those bikers who drive their bikes without helmet and driving licenses, and vehicles for having fancy or non-pattern number plates, a police public relations officer said. He said that Islamabad capital police is working on hastening actions against traffic violators under the special directives of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan in order to reduce accidents and maintain the smooth flow of traffic. In this regard, all zonal DSPs are directed to take strict action against all motorists violating traffic rules, especially against those bikers who drive their bikes without helmets, driving licenses, and vehicles with fancy or non-pattern number plates. Islamabad capital police have constituted special squads to conduct operations throughout the city and work to improve road safety awareness for the public on several highways and boulevards in the capital.

Chairperson BISP reaffirms program's commitment towards lifting needy families out of poverty

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib on Saturday reaffirmed BISP's commitment to lifting needy families out of poverty. During his visit to the BISP Tehsil Office in Sukkur, Dr. Amjad Saqib was actively engaged in listening to the problems of needy women, attentively addressed their concerns, and ensured their voices were heard. According to a news release, Dr. Amjad Saqib directed his team to employ all available means to facilitate individuals in need. He underscored the importance of maintaining office cleanliness and treating needy women with utmost respect, fostering a dignified environment. Chairperson BISP reaffirmed the program's commitment to timely and transparent payment of Kafaalat stipends through a constructive dialogue with POS agents. Dr. Amjad Saqib also instructed the staff to monitor the process of payment disbursement. Later on, Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib also addressed BISP employees at Toba Mosque in Sukkur. He shed light on the program's basic goal to alleviate poverty in needy families. "BISP is currently supporting 9.3 million deserving families and acting as a lifeline for those facing economic hardship", he stated. In his address, Dr. Amjad Saqib highlighted the humanitarian essence of the program, stating, "Serving humanity is worship."

4th APSUP Rectors' Conference concludes at COMSTECH

ISLAMABAD (APP): The fourth Rectors Conference, organized by the Association of Private Sector Universities of Pakistan (APSUP) in collaboration with other institutions, successfully concluded on Saturday at COMSTECH. The conference was organized in collaboration with Superior University, COMSTECH, HEC, PHEC, Preston University, FAST University, IBADAT University, Abasyn University, University of Sialkot, My University, and IUCCPS. Speaking on the occasion, Rector Superior University, Prof. Dr. Sumaira Rehman, highlighted the background and objectives of the conference. She also highlighted the theme of the conference. President of APSUP, Prof. Dr. Abdul Basit, also spoke at the occasion. Chairman, Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad, emphasized the need for Pakistani universities to network with universities around the world to find opportunities. He stressed the leadership of Pakistani universities and said, "Shun the traditional mindset, network with the world, and grab the opportunity." He said, "70% of the resources in the world are in OIC, but we could not bet on their benefit due to the lack of networking."

Campaign for registration of house servants and tenants data in full swing

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: According to details, following the special orders of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police "Knock the Door" campaign for the registration of employees and tenants is in full swing, a public relations officer said. He said that, during this campaign various teams of Islamabad Capital Police are going to the streets and door-to-door to ensure the registration of tenants and domestic workers as well as to inquire about the problems faced by the citizens. In this regard, the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Islamabad has registered a data of 422 house servants of 1,110 houses from Bara Kahu Police Station jurisdiction. The purpose of this campaign is to avoid any untoward incident by maintaining law and order in the federal capital adding that the registration of tenants and domestic workers could not only keep a close watch on miscreants but also prevent the elements involved in any kind of suspicious activity. He said citizens are also requested that they can ask for the identity of a person if someone dressed in civil clothes comes to their house in order to collect the data. Unregistered employees and tenants could be involved in serious incidents like theft and robbery by impersonating as a common citizen and Islamabad Capital Police is trying to provide a safe environment to the citizens of the federal capital by using all its resources.



ISLAMABAD: Red Crescent worker busy in distributing winter package among flood victims and needy persons during increasing winter temperature.

Ministry steps up efforts for data governance framework to tackle climate change impacts

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives has geared up efforts to prepare a data governance framework for effective tackling of climate change-related issues. "The framework will integrate inter-agency data, enhancing preparedness for climate-induced disasters," a news release said. Accordingly, a workshop titled "Data Governance to Modernize Hydro-Met Services & Impact

Advisories in Pakistan" was held at the Ministry here on Saturday. The workshop was spearheaded by Dr Asim Zia, a Professor of Public Policy and Computer Science in the Department of Community Development and Applied Economics and the Director of the Institute of Environmental Diplomacy and Security (IEDS) at the University of Vermont. Leading experts and decision-makers from various governmental agencies, including the Planning Ministry, Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Aviation, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Federal Flood Commission (FFC), Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA), Space & Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO), and Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), participated in it. After a thorough deliberation, the experts yielded several key recommendations aimed at substantially improving the nation's Hydro-Met services. They called for an urgent need to improve the geographical resolution of impact advisories and more systematic quantification of the social, economic, and environmental impacts of hydromet hazards, including floods, droughts, heatwaves, fires, and air and water quality issues.



First secretary of the Netherlands Embassy in Islamabad Ms. Hannah Van der Bles addresses to the Netherlands photos exhibition on the occasion of the 75th year's relations between Pakistan and Netherlands at Muhammad Ibrahim Jyoti Auditorium of Gallery. DG Culture Sindh Munawar Ali Mahessar, Honorary Consul General of Netherlands in Karachi Tarek M. Khan, and others are also present.

Ambassador Usmanov says: Uzbekistan-Pakistan connected by historical, cultural relationships

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, Oybek Arif Usmanov said on Sunday that Uzbekistan and Pakistan are connected by historical, cultural and religious relationships, which heritage needs to be transferred to the new generation and enlightened about it. "Our connectivity logically emanates from the closeness of cultures and religious traditions - caravan's roads of Central Asia with South Asia - Pakistan, China, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh", he said. Ambassador Oybek Arif Usmanov said this while addressing the opening ceremony of the photo exhibition titled "Joint Cultural Heritage", organized by the Ministry for Culture and National Heritage. Uzbek envoy said that the rich scientific and cultural legacy of such great

Ulemas like Imam Al-Bukhari, Imam Al-Termizi, Al-Motruddi and Marghinani scholars as Abu Ali Ibn Sina, Al-Ferghani, Abu Raiyan Al-Beruni and Zahiruddin Muhammad Babur, Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal, Mirza Ghalib is considered as a richest and common heritage of our religion. He said the brilliant works of Rahman Baba, Khushhal Khan Khattak, Allama Iqbal, Jalaluddin Rumi, Makhtumquli Fraghi, Sadridin Aini, Mirza Galib, Alisher Navoi are well known in the world's history, science and culture. Oybek Arif Usmanov said the period of our interactions was brightly manifested during the era of the Ghandhara and Harappa civilizations, with the civilizations Saikhun and Jaihun rivers, Moghulistan and Khorasan cities - Samarqand, Bukhara, Khwarazm, Termez which are the well-known centers of Islamic cultural, enlightenment and sciences. "I'm sure that all Pakistanis are well aware of the common great heritage of such dynasties like Amir Taymur and Zahiruddin Muhammad Babar. The great successors of Bukharis, Mughals, Barlas, Termizi, and Mirsas in Pakistan are bright followers of our connectivity, promoting the mutual understanding among our nations, he said." In the last years, our brotherly cooperation has been elevated to a level of strategic partnership due to confident political dialogue, strengthening the trade and industrial, and cultural cooperation. For the last 3 years, we together have increased bilateral trade via brotherly Afghanistan based on Transit and Preferential trade agreements.

Fraud case hearing against Fawad till Dec 16

ISLAMABAD (Online): District and Sessions Court Islamabad has heard the fraud case registered against Fawad Chaudhry in Aab Para police station. The case was heard by the duty magistrate Rao Ijaz Ahmed, Fawad Chaudhry's court appearance was made through video link from Central Jail Adiala, after which the court adjourned the hearing of the case till December 16. Fawad Chaudhry's lawyers Faisal Chaudhry and Qamar Inayat Raja appeared in the court, while Fawad Chaudhry's wife Haba Chaudhry was interviewed in the courtroom through video link. The court proceedings of Fawad Chaudhry's request for medical examination were also considered and the Central Jail Adiala authorities and the prosecution could not submit the report.



ISLAMABAD: Children enjoying play in a street at the slum area of F-7.

Saira Peter mesmerises audience with her magical voice at PNCA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Sufi opera singer Saira Peter, a British-Pakistani soprano recognised as Pakistan's first Sufi Opera singer on Saturday mesmerised the audience with her magical voice at a musical evening in Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA). Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Syed Jamal Shah graced the wonderful event as the chief guest which was held at PNCA. Prominent government officials, Diplomats and a large number of people also attended the event. In his opening remarks, Director General PNCA Muhammad Ayub Jamali welcomed the guests at the PNCA Auditorium. On the occasion, Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah appreciated the performance of Saira Peter and said that the people here love music. He termed Saira Peter as a highly accomplished singer. Saira Peter and her husband music director Stephen Smith started the performance with classical opera receiving high applause from the audience and from there, Saira went on to perform Sufi Kalam. Saira Peter has also the distinction of being the world's first Sufi opera singer. Saira Peter has received an overwhelming response to his live performance in the jam-packed PNCA Auditorium. Saira presented opera and classical songs, Urdu, Pashtu, 'thumri', 'ghazals', film, Sindhi, Balochi and Punjabi songs. She also sang a special Arabic song during her performance. Saira Peter and her enthusiastic audience shared lively interaction throughout the concert. She conveyed her love for the music of her homeland and thanked PNCA for showing so much honour. Passionate about bringing together people of all backgrounds, Saira Peter identified music as a historical means of promoting a positive message. Simultaneously while studying Western Classical voice, she envisioned using her music to take Sufi peace poetry to the world stage.

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Independent

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Next steps

Late Thursday, the ECP issued its final delimitation list for constituencies for the national and provincial assemblies, thereby striking off a major item on its election to-do list. It is now hoped that, with the completion of this important step, the ECP will quickly proceed with the remaining items on its agenda ahead of the upcoming general election.

Notwithstanding all the official promises and assurances made in recent weeks, there is a growing sense of unease over whether the polls remain on track.

The Islamabad gossip mill has been churning out various theories to explain why certain stakeholders would like to see the polls put off for another few months, and these theories have been taken seriously enough to have been dissected at length in various talk shows and op-eds.

The fresh talk of poll delays seems to have annoyed the ECP, however. In a separate statement issued earlier this week, it rubbished all speculation, insisting that everything was going according to plan.

The preliminary delimitations issued by the ECP had attracted over 1,300 challenges, and it is expected that the Commission addressed all or at least most of them before issuing the final list.

There is also the matter of two petitions which have been filed with the ECP, arguing that the cold weather and Balochistan's deteriorating security situation should be reason enough to delay the polls, at least in the affected districts.

Separately, an impression is gaining currency that the decision-makers want more time to continue stabilising the economy, as they feel their recent efforts have only just started bearing fruit.

While such chatter may be taken as a sign by some that polls may be pushed forward, the ECP should ignore the noise and proceed purposefully in discharging its responsibilities.

The ECP has made a solemn commitment to the Supreme Court to hold elections on Feb 8. It must demonstrate that it is doing everything in its power to deliver. Now that the final delimitation list has been issued, the ECP should waste no time in announcing the election schedule.

There needs to be a greater sense of urgency regarding the polls, and it seems that one way that people will stop getting distracted by conspiracy theories and bad ideas is if they are given some concrete timeline to hold the authorities to. A formal schedule will also place pressure on the state to get its act together and begin preparing in earnest to usher in a new government.

A sense of complacency seems to be setting in, and many seem happy to let things run as they are. However, it is high time for a democratic government to take over the state's affairs. The ECP has a duty to facilitate this transfer at the earliest.

Nadir Cheema

The economic discourse revolves around IMF programmes in Pakistan, as the country is being administered for the 23rd time. IMF's prescription for economic stabilisation, steeped in the principles of economic neoliberalism, is often seen as uniform for countries across the world. This situates the IMF as a bastion of neoliberal thought.

Pakistan's tryst with economic liberalism dates back to the 1960s, when it was among the first developing countries adopted to experiment free-market economic policies. To fully grasp the depth and influence of neoliberal economics, tracing back two centuries to the onset of the Industrial Revolution and intersecting with the phases of colonialisation and the development of the social welfare state, is crucial.

The Economist magazine, renowned for its analytical prowess and influential readership, offers a critical lens for examining the transition from classical liberalism to neoliberalism during last

two centuries. Its 'Homeland Economics' special report published recently navigates the troubled waters of neoliberalism in the post-pandemic and 2008 financial crisis world, aggravated by geopolitical tensions.

Since 1843, The Economist has ardently supported free-market principles, beginning with its campaign against Britain's Corn Laws to advance economic liberalism. The magazine's success in this early endeavour laid the groundwork for its staunch opposition to protectionism and socialism. The Economist played a critical role in the rise of Britain's Liberal Party in the late 19th century, significantly impacting the period's political and intellectual landscapes. Some of its editors were revered as Victorian liberalism's sages.

The magazine's influential role in liberal discourse also highlights Britain's historical role in spreading capitalism across the world. Rooted in London, the heart of global finance, its advocacy for financialised capitalism aligned with the city's standing.

The Economist has skillfully adjusted its editorial positions to reflect the changing tides of global politics and leadership. It initially supported colonial expansion to promote investments, adopted a nuanced approach during World War I, and recognising Britain's waning influence post-World War II, focused more on an American readership, aligning with US foreign policies. The magazine opposed the Anglo-French proposal of military intervention in the Suez Crisis, endorsing the US stance and backed other American strategies during the Cold War.

In the 1970s, it approached neoliberalism with caution but later fully embraced Thatcher-Reagan economic paradigm, maintaining this stance into Tony Blair's New Labour era. The shift is perceived by some as aligning with the prevailing political currents, others interpret it as a practical adaptation of liberal ideology to a changing global context, shifting from classical individualism.

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the rise of a mass working class, a product of the Industrial

Revolution, brought socioeconomic shifts and heightened inequalities. Modern liberals, acknowledging that classical principles of mere physical freedom were no longer sufficient, began advocating for the state to provide social welfare, enabling individuals to achieve their potential — a modern take on 'freedom'. The Economist embraced this broader vision of welfare, seen by some as a means for the capitalist world to proactively address demands and avert revolutionary sentiment. Others view its editorial evolution as a strategic response to the expansion of franchise and the Liberal Party's need to adapt to electoral challenges. Moreover, some credit liberalism with creating an environment conducive to the development of labour movements.

William Beveridge's seminal 1942 report, which laid the foundation for Britain's universal social welfare system, was embraced by The Economist. During the 1970s, the magazine showed a preference for Keynesian economics over monetarist theories, eventually settling firmly into a neoliberal stance.

The 2008 financial crisis prompted reassessment of free-market orthodoxy and the state's role, with The Economist firmly advocating for the public bailout of faltering banks — a move criticised by some as 'socialism for the rich, capitalism for the poor'. As Covid-19 triggered extensive government spending to bolster the economy, proponents of neoliberalism differentiated this broad-based support from the 2008 bailouts, as an equaliser.

In the midst of debates on state intervention versus free market policies, The Economist published a special report 'The Homeland Economics' in October. Across seven chapters, the report explores homeland economics, a concept crafted by the magazine. It presents this approach as a strategic state response to safeguard the nation's economy from volatile market dynamics and unpredictable events, such as pandemics and geopolitical tensions.

'The Homeland Economics', as described by The Economist, is a response to four major global disruptions. The first is the

enduring impact of the 2008 financial crisis, compounded by the 2020 Covid-19-induced recession, which buckled supply chains. The second is the geopolitical strain from US-China economic sanctions and the conflict triggered by Russia in Ukraine. This has given rise to the third disruption: weaponisation of hydrocarbon resources by Russia, forcing countries to find other energy solutions. The fourth is the advent of artificial intelligence, presenting new challenges to employment and labour markets. The report begins with a celebration of the triumphs brought by market power and globalisation, citing a radical reduction in poverty, a narrowing of inequality gaps, and an expansion of political freedoms since the 1990s. It scrutinises the optimistic beliefs of homeland economics advocates who argue it will create a safer, fairer, and more sustainable world. Challenging this view, the report predicts homeland economics may, in practice, lead to outcomes that are less secure, less equitable, and harmful to the environment. -- Courtesy Dawn

Law and the refugee

Eman Hassan Jugg

Pakistan has been home to nearly 3.8 million Afghans since Pakistan first started admitting Afghan refugees after the beginning of the Soviet-Afghan war in 1979. The most recent influx of about 600,000 Afghans into Pakistan was witnessed in 2021 after the Afghan Taliban seized power in Afghanistan.

In a recent shift in policy, the caretaker government in Pakistan issued an ultimatum to all undocumented, nearly 1.5 million, Afghan refugees to leave Pakistan by November 1, 2023. As a result, more than 200,000 of them have crossed into Afghanistan.

Since this decision has been made, there have been calls by the United Nations to not force out Afghans who are seeking refuge in Pakistan, stressing that Pakistan might be in violation of its international obligations and that it could also expose many Afghan families to the risk of persecution and other abuse by the Taliban rulers in Afghanistan.

There have been claims that Pakistan is allegedly in violation of the

principle of non-refoulement set out in Article 33(1) of the 1951 Refugee Convention. The convention states that: "No Contracting State shall expel or return a refugee in any manner whatsoever to the frontiers of territories where his life or freedom would be threatened on account of his race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion". A refugee for that matter has been defined in Article 1 of this convention as any person who, "owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality".

One of the concerns is that Pakistan has not yet ratified this convention nor its protocol. However, it must be stressed that this principle has now attained the status of customary international law binding on all states and has evolved as a norm of jus cogens since it is not subject to derogation. It is a peremptory norm of international law and this was reiterated in Resolution 48/116 of 21 December 1993 where the

United Nations General Assembly called upon "all states to uphold asylum as an indispensable instrument for the international protection of refugees, and to respect scrupulously the fundamental principle of non-refoulement."

This has also been codified in other treaties such as the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Article 3), the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Article 16), and in other human rights instruments that have been ratified by Pakistan.

Now the ultimate question remains whether Afghan refugees face the threat of persecution and torture upon their return to Afghanistan, at the hands of the Afghan Taliban. There is no absolute stance since there have been multiple contradictory claims from both sides. One instance that can be quoted here is of a female refugee facing deportation who told VOA that she left Afghanistan in 2022 and fled to Pakistan to ensure her family's safety.

There have been simi-

lar reports suggesting that women in particular left Afghanistan to escape the torture that the Afghan Taliban were inflicting on women and girls there. The UN human rights office has also claimed that: "We believe many of those facing deportation will be at grave risk of human rights violations if returned to Afghanistan, including arbitrary arrest and detention, torture, cruel and other inhuman treatment".

The other side contends that there have been no such reports of persecution or violence reported as of yet. Pakistan has ordered the return while respecting the due process of law and abiding by its international obligations. Afghan Taliban officials have denied charges of persecution against anyone who intends to return to their homeland, Afghanistan. They have instead shown a willingness to provide general amnesty for all Afghans by making arrangements to facilitate the Afghans. There have been reports that food, shelter and first aid camps are set up at their border.

Another pertinent point that must be considered while addressing this

issue is that, though the principle of non-refoulement is customary in nature, there are some exceptions under which the states have the authority to regulate the stay of refugees in their territory. Article 33(2) of the 1951 Convention on Refugees lays out two exceptions: one, in case of threat to the national security of the host country; and two, in case their proven criminal nature and record constitute a danger to the community. There is absolute clarity to the point that these must be given narrow interpretation to prevent states from acting with impunity and infringing the rights of refugees under the guise of a 'threat to national security'.

Considering the first exception, there is some room to believe that Pakistan had reasonable grounds to justify its policy. There have been growing security concerns in Pakistan as it has been claimed that Afghan nationals were directly involved in 14 of 24 suicide attacks carried out this year. Pakistan has witnessed a surge in terrorist attacks executed by the TTP. The group has also launched more than 300 attacks in Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa this year. The government's decision also came on the heels of the two blasts that took place in Mustang and Hangu city on September 29 this year and claimed the lives of more than 60 people.

There have been voices in the past against the interpretation that includes anti-terrorism measures within the scope of this exception. In that case, there has been a consensus that the proportionality test must be applied between the consequences for the refugees if they are forced to go back to their country, the seriousness of the crime committed, and the threat that it will pose to the host country.

Even if Pakistan is able to justify its actions under the provisions of international law, it still remains a fact that these hasty steps have led to the suffering of hundreds of thousands of people. This even includes those who have been born and raised in Pakistan, families who have established their businesses in this country, and who have lived here for years and years. -- Courtesy TheNews

The health-climate nexus

Zofeen T. Ebrahim

The clamour by scientists to look at climate change through the health lens is growing louder and more urgent. The numbers are there to justify it, they say. More people are dying annually from extreme weather events, including heatwaves, floods, zoonoses and water and vector-borne illnesses, than the usual infectious diseases. According to WHO, between 2030 and 2050, climate change is expected to cause approximately 250,000 additional deaths per year from undernutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and heat stress alone.

More than 3.8 billion people, that is half the global population, were exposed to extreme heat from June through August this year. Women, particularly pregnant women living in extreme poverty, bear the brunt of climate change. Studies carried out globally prove that exposure to extreme heat can lead to maternal and infant mortality and morbidity, including pre-eclampsia, pre-term births, stillbirths, etc.

Dr Ana Bonell, an academic clinician at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, is studying the nexus between climate change and maternal and child health. Sharing her findings at a pre-COP28 event in Karachi, organised by the Aga Khan University in collaboration with the Aga Khan Development Network and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network-Pakistan, she said: "When women's health improves, it's not just the baby's health that improves, but the entire community benefits. Women are not only agents of change but [also] custodians of indigenous knowledge."

Healthcare practitioners are also concerned about extreme heat leading to increased gender-based

violence. A study conducted in India, Pakistan and Nepal between 2010 and 2018 found that a one-degree Celsius rise in average annual temperature also led to a 6.3 per cent increase in incidents of physical and sexual domestic violence against 194,871 women aged 15 to 49.

Along with extreme heat, air pollution has had serious health consequences. A decade since the death of nine-year-old Ella Kissi-Debrah in London from an asthma attack (in 2020, her death was recognised by law as the first one due to air pollution), an overwhelming number of studies have shown that air pollution impacts human life at every stage — from foetal development to teenagers' cognitive abilities, to the mental health of adults. In fact, the nearly 60,000 studies, half of them published in the last 10 years, have led WHO to label air pollution as a global health emergency.

According to the University of Chicago's Air Quality Life Index, in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan, people can expect to lose about five years of their lives, on average, if the air remains polluted. While COPs (annual climate change summits) have always focused more on energy, medical professionals are steering global leaders' attention towards health, and demanding that it be put at the heart of climate policy. "It is the greatest threat of the century, after all," pointed out Dr Zulfikar Bhutta, founding director of the Institute for Global Health and Development and the Centre of Excellence in Women and Child Health at Aga Khan University. He added: "People need solutions for building resilience and adaptation to ward off the adverse climate effects in addition to mitigation, and at least cost."

And so, for the very first time, health has not

been elbowed out from climate conversations. In fact, a Health Day dedicated to Health, Relief, Recovery and Peace will be observed tomorrow (Dec 3) at COP28, being hosted by the UAE in Dubai, along with the much-trumpeted first-ever health ministerial meeting.

At the end of it, there will be a declaration on climate and health that will address adaptation within the health sector itself, which accounts for 4.4pc of global emissions. "Health systems will need a transformational shift in order to become climate-resilient, low-carbon-sustainable and equitable," Maha Barakat, the UAE's assistant minister for health and life sciences in the foreign affairs ministry, had said at the World Health Summit held in Berlin last October.

COPs are generally known to be too energy-focused. But COP28 comes with its own baggage. Take, for example, the controversial venue. Dubai, the world's seventh biggest oil producer with the fifth largest gas reserves, has risen on the wealth of fossil fuel. The COP28 president heads the UAE's giant state oil company and the state renewables business. There have been whispers that the event would be used to make oil deals.

Nevertheless, having emerged from their silos onto a global platform, health practitioners, especially in the South, need to do their homework. This requires overcoming data challenges and being able to come up with quality analyses to quantify the costs to society and the economy to demand access to funds. This COP, said Dr Bhutta, will also be a good time to demand the rebuilding and resilience of health systems in the Green Climate Financing and Loss and Damage funds. -- Courtesy Dawn

Linguistic maze

Nazir A. Jogezi

Language is a cultural container capturing a community's ideas, behaviour, and philosophy. A disconnect with language is tantamount to detachment from one's own culture, knowledge base, and intellectual advancement. Tragically, there are languages worldwide that are nearing extinction — leading to the imminent loss of cultural and intellectual heritage, as warned by Unesco.

Languages and their related cultures are either nurtured or eradicated by the educational system. An inclusive education system accommodates linguistic diversity. Prejudice and societal divides endure when linguistic hierarchies persist and are used as an instrument of subjugation.

There are three main components of language policy: language practices, language ideology or beliefs, and language management. The first includes the use of language in a variety of situations. The second refers to attitudes towards language in the pursuit of linguistic and non-linguistic objectives. The last entails making attempts to govern and promote certain languages via policies.

In Pakistan, which is a society of diverse nations and languages, a linguistic hierarchy has evolved, with English as the dominant language and Urdu as an emblem of middle-class identity, often seen as marginalising regional languages.

The prevalence of English-medium education exacerbates inequality, and separates the wealthy from the marginalised elements of society. This enhances socioeconomic inequalities and strengthens social binaries. Indigenous languages frequently take a back seat to English and Urdu in public school curricula and pedagogies,

denying youngsters an education in their own language, damaging cognition and critical thinking, and depriving them of their broader cultural heritage.

We may call this the 'language deprivation syndrome', though it is a clinical term with reference to those with impaired hearing. Due to the strong link between cognition and language, children who are deprived of their first language throughout early education exhibit poorer cognitive and linguistic development. Executive functioning (broadly described as mental skills that allow learners to plan, organise and solve problems) and language are related. Executive functioning can be impaired in children facing language deprivation.

Presently, a body of evidence demonstrates that early education in the child's native language is highly beneficial. The development of foundational ideas in children is enhanced when they communicate in their native tongue, as there are fewer obstacles to understanding. The likelihood of the successful acquisition of a second or foreign language (for example, Urdu and English) going forward, is greater when children attain literacy in their native tongue prior to the use of the second or foreign language as the instructional medium. For children, learning in their mother tongue improves their academic achievements, social growth, self-assurance, and capacity for critical analysis.

This is not to undermine English or Urdu as educational mediums. Everyone should have the right to choose. But these languages should not be presented as rivals to children's native

tongue or used to discriminate and socially polarise. Imposing Urdu as the medium of instruction on children who are more comfortable learning in their native language will create academic challenges and inequalities. In much the same manner, the use of English as the official lingua franca and elite language shows how language maintains authority and perpetuates societal divisions. The first address of the caretaker prime minister to his cabinet in English is an example of the supremacy given to the English language in Pakistan.

Again, this is not to diminish interactions and learning in English, which is the international lingua franca, as it opens doors to information that we may not be able to access in Urdu or indigenous languages. However, opening the information window to only the elite and using English for social status, to oppress others and to lessen the importance of other languages is the issue.

There is a need for equitable language policies and education systems, which are inclusive and respect all cultures in the best interest of society. Unsurprisingly, when a certain language is denied a role in the educational system, many parents respond by not encouraging its use at home, consequently losing the connection with cultural assets, knowledge and wisdom.

Language is more than just a means of communication; it relates to a person's sense of self, culture and daily life. Education itself is a way of living, and taking away language from one's education is to deny them their right to live. -- Courtesy Dawn

CM Baqar says: Our patriotism, love for nation, commitment to its welfare are tied to discipline

KARACHI (APP): The Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (Retd.) Maqbool Baqar has said we must remind ourselves that our patriotism, our love for this nation, and our commitment to its welfare are intrinsically tied to our discipline and devotion.

This he said while speaking at IBA Convocation-2023 at IBA Karachi on Saturday.

The CM said that the convocation symbolized

the culmination of years of relentless dedication and unwavering commitment. He said that it signified the transformative power of education, the beacon that has illuminated the path of students' future.

He said for over seven decades, IBA Karachi has been at the forefront of higher education. It all began in 1955 when the institute proudly collaborated with the renowned Wharton School

of Finance at the University of Pennsylvania. "Fast forward to today, IBA stands as a premier multidisciplinary institution, offering a spectrum of educational programs and the three distinguished schools, School of Business Studies (SBS), School of Economics and Social Sciences (SESS) and School of Mathematics and Computer Science

(SMCS) provide a comprehensive educational experience.

"We have gathered here today not merely as witnesses to an academic milestone but as torchbearers of the spirit of patriotism," the CM said and added that Pakistan has always kindled a fervour for national pride in our hearts. Baqar said, "It is not just a country; it's an emotion, a legacy, and a responsibility."



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman in a group photo with delegation of students from LUMS at Governor House.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam inaugurates Solar System at Kohat University of Science and Technology (KUST).

Governor felicitates 360 graduates, awards gold medals to 70 students of KUST

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali on Saturday awarded gold medals to 70 outstanding students of Kohat University of Science and Technology (KUST) for their remarkable achievements in the academic field.

The Governor in his address at the 14th Annual Convocation of Kohat University of Science and Technology, congratulated 360 graduating students who completed their bachelor's, master's, and Ph.D. degrees in various disciplines.

He extended his felicitations to the successful students, their parents and the faculty members present at the ceremony.

During the event, Vice Chancellor of Kohat University, Professor Dr. Sardar Khan, presented the annual performance report of the institution to Governor Ali, highlighting the achievements and progress made over the year.

Governor Ghulam Ali, in his special address, commended the cultural richness of Kohat district and emphasized the

historical significance of the region in political, cultural, religious, scientific, literary, cultural, and civilizational aspects.

He encouraged the youth to strive for their goals with determination and hard work.

Highlighting the importance of education, Governor Ghulam Ali stressed that educated youth play a vital role in enhancing the dignity and honor of both the individual and the nation.

He urged the graduates to face global challenges with modern knowledge and values.

CM Naqvi formally inaugurates Lahore Prime CBD Quaid District

LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Saturday formally inaugurated Lahore Prime CBD Quaid District.

Wide roads, excellent underground electricity system, latest sewerage and drainage system, uninterrupted water supply, awe inspiring horticulture and landscaping has been done at Lahore Prime.

Mohsin Naqvi visited the Central Business District (CBD) and inspected the main boulevard besides inspecting the whole route of the under construction boulevard from the Centre Point Gulberg up to Walton Road. He reviewed ongoing construction activities on the under

construction boulevard project. He directed to completed the project within the given time frame. He also visited Lahore Prime near Kalma Chowk and issued directions to improve the traffic system. Addressing the inaugural ceremony of Lahore Prime, he said that today such an era has been started which would change the skyline of Lahore, adding that Lahore Prime holds the status of a milestone with regard to infrastructure completion of CBD Punjab Quaid District. "We will make Lahore Prime an international business hub," Mohsin Naqvi stated that CBD has fulfilled its another promise. CBD prime was for those people who have already bought their plots.

Governor Punjab says: Most important purpose of education is to develop tolerance in oneself

LAHORE: A delegation of students from LUMS called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman here today at Governor House Lahore. The delegation comprised the students from the Law and Politics Society of LUMS. Governor Punjab welcomed the students to Governor House Lahore and informed them about the historical importance of Governor House.

Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that LUMS is a premiere educational institution in which analytical and critical skills of students are developed. He said that the most important purpose of education is to develop tolerance in oneself. Governor Punjab said that different people in a society may have different perspectives and opinions.

He said that one should respect and understand others' perspectives for peaceful co existence in a pluralistic society. Governor Punjab said that the young population of Pakistan is its biggest asset. He said that the young population of Pakistan is its biggest asset. He said that the young population of Pakistan is its biggest asset.

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Police arrest two outlaws in injured condition

HYDERABAD (APP): Police said that they have arrested two outlaws in injured condition after separate encounters.

First encounter occurred during patrolling with a dacoit gang near HESCO office, in result accused Malhar Ali was held in injured condition while his accomplice managed to escape.

Second encounter was occurred at Islamabad railway crossing in which Motorcyclists opened fire after being intercepted by the police in retaliation Police arrested an accused Lual Bux alias Laaloo Ghumrani with weapons while his accomplice managed to escape.

First Lady for greater participation of women in workforce

KARACHI (APP): While addressing the inaugural ceremony of Professor Shahida Kazi Women Complex at the Karachi Press Club (KPC), First Lady Begum Samina Alvi has called for taking steps to ensure greater participation of women in the workforce for their socio-economic empowerment.

She also stressed the need to provide a conducive and friendly environment for women, especially female journalists, at workplaces to increase women's inclusion in mainstream economic activities. Begum Samina Arif Alvi inaugurated the

inaugural ceremony was attended by President KPC, Mr Saeed Ahmed Sarbazi, Director General (PR) of Press Information Department (PID) Karachi, Ms Iram Tanvir, Secretary Press Club, Mr. Shoaib Ahmed, Chairman of Gohar Group of Companies, Mr Muhammad Hanif Gohar, and members of the Karachi Press Club. Addressing the occasion.

Governor takes oath to Muhammad Shah as caretaker minister

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Tessori administered an oath to Mohammed Ahmed Shah as a caretaker provincial minister in a simple ceremony held at the Governor House here on Saturday.

The Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh Justice (Retrd) Muqoob Baqar and Caretaker Provincial

Ministers attended the oath-taking ceremony, a Governor House spokesman said.

The Chief Secretary Sindh Muhammad Fakhr Alam performed the duties of organizing the ceremony.

Provincial secretaries, well-known poets, journalists and people from different walks of life were also present on the occasion.

Terrorist plan failed, arms, explosive recovered

PESHAWAR (APP): The Counter Terrorism Department took a timely action by failing an attempt of terrorism and successfully arrested Sulaiman of Mardan during a joint operation by security forces and CTD here on Saturday.

On identifying the arrested terrorist, a large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered, said an official of the CTD. Gunpowder was hidden in drums to plan a terrorist attack in the City.

Four killed, three hurt in road mishap

MULTAN (APP): At least four persons including two women were killed while three others sustained injuries after mini van and passenger bus collided due to tyre burst near Bangla Morr Jalal Pur road early Saturday morning.

According to Rescue officials, a passenger bus was suddenly collided with a Shujabad bound mini Bolan vehicle and a tractor trolley due to the tyre burst.

As a result, four persons were died on the spot while three others including a minor kid sustained serious injuries.

Upon receiving the information, the Rescue teams rushed to the spot and shifted the bodies and injured to Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Shujabad.

The deceased were identified as Aqeela Bibi w/o Abdul Rahman, Munir Ahmad s/o Manzoor Ahmad, Bushra w/o Asad Qurban and Qurban Ali s/o Shabbir Ahmad while the injured included Kashif.

Grand welcome for Nawaz's homecoming signals trust in democracy: Murtaza

HAVELIAN (APP): Former Federal Minister and leader of PML-N Murtaza Javed Abbasi Saturday has said that the people of Pakistan have rejected those implicated in the events of May 9. He expressed these views while talking to the media here.

Murtaza Abbasi further said that the return of the people's leader, Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, has sparked disapproval among citizens towards these external elements. He said that in a historic rally held in Lahore, the resounding success of the event underscores the public's unwavering trust in Mian Nawaz Sharif and the Muslim League.

Former federal minister said that the homecoming of Quaid-e-Awam Mian Nawaz Sharif has been met with warm receptions, especially in Hazara division, marking a jubilant occasion for the entire nation.

Abbasi emphasized that the massive turnout in Lahore to welcome Mian Nawaz Sharif was a testament to his and the Muslim League's popularity among the masses.

He highlighted that Mian Nawaz Sharif's return is poised to bring about a positive shift in the political landscape, particularly in an environment overshadowed by political disillusionment.



KARACHI: First Lady Samina Arif Alvi cutting ribbon to inaugurate Prof Shahida Kazi Women Complex at Karachi Press Club.

Promoting girl's education LG representatives urged to serve as 'Goodwill Ambassadors'

PESHAWAR: Elected public representatives at the local government level from across the province were urged to serve as 'Goodwill Ambassadors' for the promotion of girls' education in the province.

"Those personalities who have been honored by their respective communities to serve as leaders should also concentrate on the promotion of girls' education in their respective areas," they were told during a Provincial Local Government Summit on Girls Education.

The summit was organized by Blue Veins in collaboration with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), the Child Protection and Welfare Commission, and Education Champion Network Pakistan (PECN).

Provincial Caretaker Minister for Local Government, Amir Durrani, Mayor Charsadda District, Mufti Abdul Shakoor, elected representatives, employees of the LG department, and people from different walks of life attended the summit.

Welcoming the participants.

LHC: Imran Khan's applications scheduled for hearing

LAHORE (Online): In the Lahore High Court (LHC), petitions against cancellation of bails in other cases including Jinnah House attack of Chairman PTI on May 9 have been fixed for hearing.

According to the details, a two-member bench headed by Justice Alia Neelum will hear the case on December 4. Registrar's Office released cause list. It should be remembered that Chairman PTI has challenged the ATC's move to release the bails, while the former prime minister has requested the LHC to restore the bails.

Three theaters sealed for violation of code of conduct

KHANEWAL (APP): In a sweeping move, three theaters in Khanewal district have been sealed for blatant violations of the code of conduct.

The crackdown, led by Director Arts Council Multan, Syed Riaz Hamdani, targeted Neina Auditorium, Melody Auditorium, and Chaudhary Theaters, where stage dramas were found to be in breach of established guidelines.

Govt decides to ban Qingqi rickshaws

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab government has decided in principle to ban the Qingqi [motorcycle] rickshaws.

According to a press release, issued here on Saturday, Caretaker Punjab Minister for Transport Ibrahim Hassan Murad said that a 30-day warning had been given to Qingqi rickshaws and now a crackdown had been initiated against those making illegal motorcycle and loader rickshaws.

He said that rickshaws, which were not approved by the transport department, would be banned in big cities while in the second phase, an operation would be launched in small cities and rural areas. He made it clear that local manufacturing of Qingqi rickshaws would be banned in future, adding that the rickshaw manufacturing companies would be regularised besides registration of Qingqi rickshaws.

Various groups organize rallies to observe Sindhi Cap, Ajrak Day

LARKANA (APP): The people from various walks of life in Larkana district were taking out rallies, on Saturday to celebrate the traditional Sindhi Cap and Ajrak Day.

Leaders and workers and the members of various political parties, nationalist parties, NGOs, Members of the District Bar Association Larkana, Sindhi Media Forum, Arts Council of Pakistan, school students of various schools and CSS Coaching Center Larkana organized rallies to celebrate the Topi and Ajrak event here in Larkana.

The participants of the rallies addressing on the occasion said that all Sindhi people are united on sensitive issues of culture; they said that they would not tolerate any joke with Sindhi culture and traditions.

The speakers included President DBA Larkana Safdar Ghouri, Zafar Abro, Ashiq Pathan, Syed Jaweed Shah, Hanif Suhag, Ayaz Sario, and others.



KARACHI: View of damages after gas cylinder blast occurred at gas cylinder filling shop while rescue operation and investigation is underway, at Keamari KPT Gate No 15 nearby Khushboo Center in Karachi.

Commerce minister visits KSA to finalize 'Investment Related part of GCC FTA'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Dr. Gohar Ejaz, Pakistan's Commerce and Industries Minister, led an official delegation in Saudi Arabia comprising Secretaries of the Ministry of Commerce and Board of Investment (BOI) and officials from the Attorney General's Office.

He held parleys with the GCC's Chief Negotiator to finalize the investment-related part of the GCC Free Trade Agreement (FTA), said a press release issued here on Saturday.

The technical teams from the two sides held extensive discussions on

the remaining details of the investment chapter, including investment protection and facilitation.

They also discussed the potential impact of the FTA on bilateral trade and investment flows. "This is a major step forward in our efforts to strengthen economic ties between

Pakistan and the GCC," said Ejaz.

The investment chapter is an important part of the agreement, and we are confident that we can reach an agreement soon. The GCC FTA is expected to boost trade and investment between Pakistan and the GCC.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce and Industries, Dr. Gohar Ejaz, meeting with GCC's Chief Negotiator to finalize the investment-related part of the GCC Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

Algeria keen to promote trade and economic ties with Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Brahim Romani, Ambassador of Algeria on Sunday said that his country wants to develop strong trade and economic ties with Pakistan as both countries have good potential to cooperate with each other in many areas.

He said that Pakistan is one of the first countries to recognize Algeria and it is time that both countries should focus on improving business relations to achieve better results for their respective economies, said a press release issued here.

He said this while addressing the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI).

The envoy said that Algeria occupies important geographic location with abundant natural resources including mines like iron, lithium, uranium etc. and Pakistani investors should explore investment opportunities in his country to export their products to huge African market. He said that a delegation of Algeria would also visit Pakistan to attend

exhibitions in Lahore and Karachi.

He said that ICCI should also plan a delegation for Algeria to explore business opportunities. Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that bilateral trade between Pakistan and Algeria is quite low and both countries should make efforts to take it to at least US\$ 1 billion.

He identified cotton, textiles, construction material, chemicals,

LESCO detects 329 power pilferers in 24 hours

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) has detected a total of 329 connections from where the customers were pilfering electricity in all its circles of five districts (Lahore, Sheikhupura, Nankana Sahib, Kasur and Okara) on the 84th day of grand anti-power theft campaign.

The LESCO spokesman told media here on Saturday that the company has also submitted FIR applications against 329 electricity thieves, out of which 206 FIRs have been registered in respective police stations, while 20 accused have been arrested.

Grand anti-power theft operations against electricity thieves are being conducted on the directives of the Federal Power Division and the

LESCO Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Engineer, Shahid Haider these operations. The LESCO chief vowed that the operations would continue without discrimination until the complete end of electricity theft. The electricity pilferers as well as the LESCO officers and employees who facilitate them were also being brought to justice.

On the 84th consecutive day of the anti-power theft campaign, the spokesman added, large commercial consumers were also found involved in electricity theft and all of them were also disconnected and charged with detection units. Among the seized connections 06 were commercial, 04 agricultural and 319 domestic.

Farmers asked to complete sowing of late wheat varieties before Dec 10

MULTAN (APP): Agriculture experts have asked farmers to complete sowing of late wheat varieties before December 10 and where necessary they can opt for dry sowing to avoid extraordinary delay.

Agriculture spokesman, in a statement on Friday said farmers from irrigated areas should sow registered late seed varieties including Urooj-22, Dilkash-20, Bakhar Star, Anaj-2017, Zincol-2016, Johar-2016, Borlag-2016, Ujala-2016 and Faisalabad-2008.

Farmers should get seeds from Punjab Seed

Corporation or its registered dealers. Seeds should undergo anti-fungus treatment before sowing. Farmers should also sow at least two lines of canola per acre as it will save their wheat crop from Aphid and would also improve edible oil production. Two bags of Urea, two bags of DAP, a bag of SOP/MOP per acre be applied in weak fertile land. The combination of fertilizers should be 1.5 bags of DAP, 1.75 bags of Urea and one bag of SOP/MOP in medium fertile land while fertile land should get 1.25 bags of DAP, 1.5 bags of Urea and a bag of SOP/MOP.



MULTAN: Laborers are busy in spreading corn seeds for drying purposes at their Workplace.



KARACHI: Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (R) Maqbool Baqar speaks at the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) Convocation.

Pak businessman explores auto opportunities in Shanghai

BEIJING (APP): China has transformed itself to a global leader in advanced automotive technologies over the past few decades. Pakistan can benefit from these trends by collaborating with Chinese companies and staying updated on the latest technologies and trends in the industry, said Fahad Iqbal Butt, director of New Genuine Auto Parts at ongoing Automechanika Shanghai 2023 being held from 29 Nov. to 2 Dec.

With the goal of strengthening the presence of Pakistani companies in China and establishing new partnerships, he is confident that the expo will provide him with the platform to connect with potential suppliers, manufacturers and distributors.

He added that "I am

very impressed with the growth and development of the automotive industry in China, and we see great potential for cooperation between our two countries."

Having been doing business with China for almost two decades and visiting the expo eight times, he came over this year to develop new items related to agricultural or auto parts such as filters and bushings. He also met with several Chinese auto companies to discuss potential collaboration, focusing on areas such as parts supply and technology transfer. As an influential global service platform for the automotive industry showcasing automotive parts, repair, testing and diagnostic equipment and service supplies.



MULIAN: A vendor waiting for customers to sell beautiful dolls at his roadside setup.

PMEX holds Invest Expo 2023

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Pakistan Mercantile Exchange (PMEX) organised InvestExpo, featuring exhibitions by leading entities in the financial sector, including stock brokers, commodities brokers, mutual funds, insurance, and microfinance companies. The first-ever expo in Islamabad is a significant move towards the goal of encouraging safe investment alternatives and raising financial literacy.

The Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), Mr. Akif Saeed, inaugurated Invest Expo 2023. In his inaugural speech, Akif emphasized the importance of ensuring investor protection, stating that the SECP is committed to maintaining a fair and transparent marketplace through regulatory safeguards to instill confidence in investors.

He said that the SECP investor education program, Jamapunji, aims to improve financial literacy by providing individuals with the necessary knowledge to make informed financial

decisions. The expo is part of efforts to empower individuals with knowledge on diverse investment avenues, fostering financial literacy across Pakistan.

The event highlighted the variety of safe investment opportunities and provided a platform for dialogue and idea exchange to enhance the nation's financial landscape. Beside the expo, the event also inculcates insightful awareness sessions by market experts, focusing on investing in stocks, commodities, and mutual funds. Speakers shed light on the intricacies of insurance, takaful, and microfinance. The expo attracted a diverse audience, highlighting the growing significance of financial literacy in the country.

Strategic partners, including the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), Central Depository Company (CDC), National Clearing Company (NCCPL), Pakistan Stock Brokers Association (PSBA), Mutual Funds Association of Pakistan (MUFAP).

Suzuki van drivers create havoc in Abbottabad by overcharging fares

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Public transporters of Abbottabad city on Saturday have created havoc by blackmailing passengers of Harno, Nawan Shehr, Kakul village, Dehmatore, Mirpur, Jabriyan, and Malkpur as they were charging 70 rupees against the fare of 45 rupees only which was fixed by the Regional Transport Authority (RTA).

According to the details, in a recent development, a new fare schedule has been introduced under the supervision of the Additional Commissioner where Rs. 3.50 per kilometer has been fixed and unveiled in the presence of media representatives, municipal members and city stakeholders. The new fare structure was applicable to Suzuki vans traveling from Abbottabad to Ayub Medical Complex and

Abbottabad to Nawan Shehr. Suzuki drivers were refusing to take passengers on the same fare, leading to complications for individuals moving to various offices and students attempting to reach school. Responding to the intervention of the Suzuki Union in governmental affairs and actions taken against the drivers, the traffic police have filed cases against 19 drivers.

Ongoing operations aim to enforce government fare rates on public transport, particularly for Suzuki vehicles. Before the issuance of the recent notification, the government fare from Abbottabad to Complex and Abbottabad to Nawan Shehr stood at Rs. 37. However, Suzuki drivers were charging Rs. 40. Additionally, the fare from Sarban Chawk Abbottabad to Lady Garden or Sarban Chawk and DHQ.

Pak needs energy to boost GDP growth amid power production's crosscutting impacts: Musadik

ISLAMABAD (APP): Former Minister of State for Petroleum, Senator Musadik Malik on Saturday said, "Pakistan's 250 million people need energy, and the country do not have sufficient energy while utilisation of energy is also low, but its crucial to increase its GDP."

He said environment and energy production and utilisation are closely linked due to its crosscutting nature and multi sectoral impacts.

He was speaking at the Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI) organized first ever all parties' conference here to draw attention to the importance of high-level political commitment for urgent, synchronised, and decisive steps towards Just Energy Transition (JET) from fossil fuels to renewable sources of

energy. All major political party representatives participated in the event, and in total more than hundred participants attended the meeting.

Senator Malik while representing the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) said, "Due to air pollution only the rich can afford machines to clean air for themselves. We need to look at the complexity of the energy problem. Solar, run of the river, and wind hybrid solution can be very helpful", he added.

"Pakistan's dependence on fossil fuels for energy is not only a major cause of our growing import bill and the consequent balance of payment crisis but also of environmental degradation and climate change resulting in higher temperatures, more intense

smog in winters and increased frequency and intensity of natural disasters like floods", said Executive Director, CPDI, Mukhtar Ahmad Ali while inaugurating the all parties conference on energy.

"This situation calls for top-level political commitment for urgent measures to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and substantially increase the share of renewable sources of energy like solar, wind, small hydro in our overall energy generation and consumption.", he added.

"The political parties must commit to increase the share of green and clean renewable energy in the overall energy generation installed capacity to at least 35% by 2030, devolve the power generation, transmission, and distribution.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Three ships, BD Pioneer-1, Seaspan Beacon and Hafnia Tagus scheduled to load/offload Rice, Containers and Gas oil, berthed at Multi-purpose Terminal, Container Terminal and Oil Terminal respectively.

Meanwhile three more ships, MSC Damla, Big Breezy and Red Cosmos carrying Containers and Coal also arrived at outer anchorage of the port on Friday morning.

A total of 08ships were engaged at POA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them, container vessel Seaspan Beacon and edible oil carrier Bum Shin left the port on Friday morning and two more ships GCL Lazaro and Al-Dayyan are expected to sail on today afternoon. A cargo volume of 103,479 tonnes, comprising 79,521 tonnes imports cargo and 23,958 tonnes export cargo.

DRAP raids prohibited syringe manufacturing factory

ISLAMABAD (APP): Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) on Saturday raided prohibited traditional syringe manufacturing factory in Peshawar.

According to a spokesperson of Ministry of Health, a team of federal DRAP raided the warehouse of M/s Taj company in Peshawar.

DRAP Chief Executive Officer, Asim Rauf said that on the direction of Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan, the crackdown against prohibited and conventional syringes is going on across the country.

He said that a huge quantity of banned conventional syringes was recovered from the company warehouse. He said that M/s Taj company was manufacturing prohibited

conventional syringes.

Asim Rauf said that the step was taken after reporting the availability of banned traditional syringes. He said that directions have been issued to pharmaceutical companies to manufacture standard and approved syringes. He said that DRAP officers seized a large quantity of prohibited syringes from warehouse. He said that DRAP has started legal action against the accused.

He said that Dr Nadeem Jan is continuously monitoring the availability of conventional syringes in the market. Meanwhile, Dr Nadeem Jan said that the ministry is taking action against the people involved in heinous business.

He said that the government is determined to eradicate fake medicines from the country.



MULTAN: A large number of laborers are busy unloading onions on the delivery truck at the vegetable Market.

Customs collects over Rs 320m from anti smuggling crackdown

MULTAN (APP): Collectorate of Customs, Enforcement Wing has intensified its anti smuggling crackdown against smuggled goods, illegal godowns and dumping places by recovering different items worth over Rs 320 million in November.

Addressing a news conference here Friday, Collector Customs, Syed Imran Bukhari along with Additional Collector Shah Faisal and Deputy Collector, Maryam Jamila informed that non-duty paid (NDP) vehicles, foreign currency, smuggled petrol, precious metals and mobile phones worth over Rs 320 millions were seized in last month which was 266 percent increase in terms of value compared to the corresponding period of previous financial years.

Export of items used for making weapons being checked

FAISALABAD (APP): Strategic Export Control Division (SECDIV) Deputy Director Hafiz Wasif Mehmood has said the federal government had taken measures to check export of gadgets, chemicals and software programmes, which could be used in development of weapons.

In a meeting with the office-bearers of Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) here on Friday, he said some parts were also used in the industrial sector and hence the government had not outright banned its exports, but the process had been regulated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through SECDIV.

He said Pakistan was strictly following the steps taken at the global level to control production of weapons of mass

destruction. "In this connection, every country has been directed to establish its own control system," he said and added that no one could unintentionally export such items. He said that most of these controlled items are also used in the industrial sector and hence a system has been evolved to keep check on it, without clamping complete ban on its exports. He said that SECDIV is organising the awareness sessions all over the country to sensitise the concerned sectors to avoid the export of items which could also be used in the production of weapons of mass destruction. He said that industries are sprawling all over the country and SECDIV could not reach all of them, hence we are using the platform of chambers.

COP28: US touts climate leadership as oil and gas output hits record

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: US Vice President Kamala Harris sought to claim the mantle of global climate leadership for the United States on Saturday in a speech to the COP28 summit, listing a slew of initiatives to cut emissions and harness renewable energy in the world's largest oil and gas producer.

The address came on the second day of back-to-back speeches by world leaders at the conference in Dubai, where nearly 200 nations are hashing out an international approach to tackling global warming and debating whether fossil fuels should maintain a role in a future energy economy.

Two years ago, President Joe Biden stood on stage at COP26 and made a declaration of ambition: The United States of America will once again be a global leader in the fight against the climate crisis," Harris said. "Since then, the United States has turned

ambition into action." She listed the more than \$400 billion in subsidies provided by the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act, Biden's signature climate law, which has triggered a flood of clean energy investment. She also announced a new \$3 billion pledge to the Green Climate Fund, which helps developing countries combat global warming.

On the sidelines of the conference, the United States also unveiled new measures to curb emissions of the powerful greenhouse gas methane from oil and gas operations.

"Today, we are demonstrating through action how the world can and must meet this crisis," Harris said.

The United States, the world's second largest greenhouse gas emitter behind China, has seen a surge in investment for clean energy projects ranging from solar farms to wind tur-

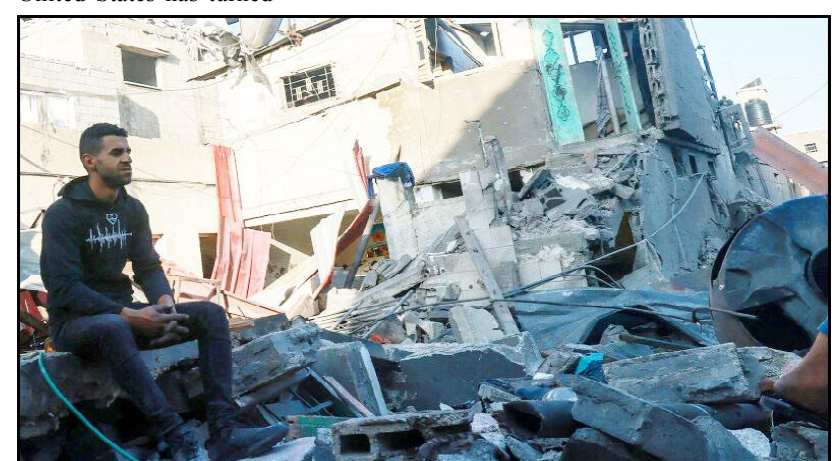
bines and electric vehicle battery factories in recent years.

But it has also grown into the globe's biggest producer of oil and gas - the main source of climate emissions - following a technology-driven drilling boom in the sprawling Permian Basin in Texas and New Mexico.

That awkward coincidence underscores one of COP28's most contentious questions: Can the world's response to climate change involve continuing use of fossil fuels?

Among the decisions nations must make will be whether to agree, for the first time, to gradually "phase out" fossil fuels and replace them with renewable energy sources.

Harris told the conference that the United States supports phasing out of "unabated coal" use, but she did not mention other fossil fuels.



Palstinians inspect a building damaged during Israeli bombardment in Rafah, on the southern Gaza Strip

Myanmar pro-democracy fighters battle to take state capital

Monitoring Desk
LOIKAW: Myanmar pro-democracy fighters in a battered pickup truck drive past abandoned and bombed-out houses in the eastern city of Loikaw, on their way to the front lines of the battle to capture their first state capital from the junta. "Our soldiers are from Loikaw township and it's the main reason we are motivated. We all are doing our best with the hope of going back to our homes", said Lin Lin, their leader.

He belongs to one of the dozens of "People's Defence Force" groups (PDFs) that sprung up across Myanmar to fight the military's 2021 coup and are now determined to capture Loikaw and deal a blow to the country's rulers. PDFs and allied ethnic minority groups have been battling the Myanmar army

for weeks in and around Loikaw, a city nestled in lush hills and home to around 50,000 people in eastern Kayah state.

Thousands of residents have already fled air attacks, artillery bombardments and urban battles, PDF fighters said. Earlier this week, the streets were silent apart from the sounds of sporadic artillery fire. "At the moment the military is on the defensive," said Lin Lin. The junta is reeling from an offensive by three ethnic minority groups along the rugged northern border with China that has captured several towns and blocked vital trade routes. This offensive, dubbed "Operation 1027" after the date it was launched five weeks ago, is the biggest challenge faced by Myanmar's army since it seized power.

UK PM Sunak says he discussed migration plan with Rwanda's Kagame

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said he discussed plans to deport asylum seekers to Rwanda with President Paul Kagame as he finalises his response to a block on the policy in the Supreme Court in London.

Sunak's government has said it is working on a new treaty with Rwanda, as well as new domestic legislation, after the UK's top judges ruled the policy unlawful last month.

Asked by reporters what he discussed with Kagame on the sidelines of the COP28 climate conference in Dubai, Sunak said he was "confident" about his government's proposals but the two leaders wanted to get the details of the scheme right.

"We're finalising the arrangements we have with them. It was good to check in with him on that, and reiterate... our commitment to making the partnership work," Sunak said at a press conference.

"Paul and I have forged a very strong relationship over this issue. He's keen to work very constructively with us."

Brazilian state launches mandatory tracking of cattle to stop deforestation

Monitoring Desk
SAO PAULO: Brazil's Para state, which leads the country for the highest levels of Amazon rainforest destruction, will launch a mandatory program to track cattle in a bid to crack down on related deforestation, a partner in the project said on Friday. Cattle pasture is the most common initial use for deforested areas in the Amazon and neighboring Cerrado savanna, a practice that faces strict legal limits but continues illegally in Brazil, the world's biggest beef exporter.

The government of Para state in northern Brazil will announce the program at the U.N. COP28 climate summit on Friday, according to The Nature Conservancy, a global conservation advocacy group working on the project.

The state government established the program in a decree published on Monday and sets the target of

individual tracking of all 24 million cattle in Para by December 2026.

Cattle ranching in Brazil is linked to nearly 24% of global annual tropical deforestation and approximately 10% of total global greenhouse gas emissions, the conservancy said.

Para has Brazil's second biggest cattle herd behind the west-central state of Mato Grosso, according to government data.

The conservancy said the program will offer incentives for ranchers to join the traceability system to ensure compliance with the new law, without giving details on incentives.

"In a state larger than France, Spain and Norway combined, with over 24 million cattle on more than 295,000 farms, the program brings a new approach to ensure continued reductions in deforestation and associated greenhouse.

Iran says two revolutionary guards killed in Israeli attack in Syria - state media

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: Two Iranian Revolutionary Guards members who served as military advisers in Syria have been killed in an Israeli attack, Iranian state media reported on Saturday, in the first reported Iranian casualties during the ongoing war in Gaza.

A Revolutionary Guards statement did not give details of the attack. Syria earlier said its air defenses repelled an Israeli rocket attack against targets in the vicinity of Damascus early on Saturday.



President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan meeting with President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan on the sidelines of the COP28 Summit at Dubai's Expo City

Israel bombards southern Gaza as residents fear new ground offensive

Monitoring Desk
GAZA: Israeli war planes and artillery bombarded the south of the Gaza Strip on Saturday, hitting mosques, homes and close to a hospital, after the collapse of a truce in the nearly two-month-old war between Israel and Hamas.

Residents feared the barrages were a prelude to an Israeli ground operation in the south of the Palestinian territory which would bottle them up in a shrinking area and possibly try to push them into neighbouring Egypt.

The Gaza health ministry said at least 193 Palestinians had been killed

and 650 wounded since the truce ended on Friday morning - adding to the more than 15,000 Palestinian dead since the start of the war.

Israel has vowed to wipe out Hamas once and for all, saying that the group poses a threat to its very existence and it is acting against foe bent on its destruction.

Throughout Saturday morning, a steady stream of wounded people were carried into the Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, with some people even receiving treatment laying on the floor.

The head of the Inter-

national Red Cross said the renewed fighting was intense.

"It's a new layer of destruction coming on top of massive, unparalleled destruction of critical infrastructure, of civilian houses and neighbourhoods," Robert Mardini told Reuters in Dubai.

With conditions inside the Hamas-ruled enclave reaching "breaking point", in Mardini's words, the first aid trucks since the end of the truce entered Gaza through the Egyptian side of the Rafah crossing on Saturday, Egyptian security and Red Crescent sources said.

Trump must face lawsuits over Capitol attack, US court says

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: A US appeals court ruled on Friday that Donald Trump must face civil lawsuits over his role in the Jan 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol by his supporters, rejecting the former president's claim that he is immune.

A panel of the US Court of Appeals for the district of Columbia found that Trump was acting "in his personal capacity as a presidential candidate" when he urged his supporters to march to the Capitol on the day of the riot. US presidents are immune from civil lawsuits only for official actions.

The ruling clears the way for Trump to face lawsuits from US Capitol police officers and Democratic lawmakers seeking to hold Trump responsible for the violence by his supporters during the riot, which was an attempt to overturn his 2020 election defeat. The case is one of several civil and criminal challenges facing the frontrunner for the Republican nomination to challenge Democratic President Joe Biden in next year's election.

The unanimous decision focused only on whether Trump could be sued, and said nothing about the merits of the cases themselves.

Author denies naming UK royals in 'racism' row

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: The author at the centre of renewed racism claims against Britain's royal family has denied naming members alleged to have asked about the skin colour of Prince Harry's son.

Copies of the Dutch language version of Omid Scobie's Endgame had to be pulped after the names of two senior royals allegedly involved were included.

They are alleged to have asked about the skin colour of Prince Harry's son Prince Archie before he was born. Harry, the younger son of King Charles III, is white while his wife, Meghan, is mixed-race.



U.S. Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates Martina Strong and Minister of State for Advanced Technology of the United Arab Emirates Sarah bint Yousef Al Amiri welcome U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris as she arrives to attend the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates

UN Security Council lifts arms embargo on Somalia government

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations Security Council unanimously voted on Friday to remove the final restrictions on weapons deliveries to Somalia's government and its security forces, more than 30 years after an arms embargo was first imposed on the country.

The council put the embargo on Somalia in 1992 to cut the flow of weapons to feuding warlords, who had ousted dictator Mohamed Siad Barre and plunged the Horn of Africa country into civil war.

The 15-member body adopted two British-drafted resolutions: one to remove the full arms embargo on Somalia and another to reimpose an arms embargo on al Qaeda-linked al Shabaab militants.

The resolution lifting the arms embargo spells out "for the avoidance of doubt, that there is no arms embargo on the Government of the Federal Republic of Somalia."

It also expresses concern about the number of safe ammunition storage facilities in Somalia.

Pope's condition improving but will stay indoors to be on safe side, Vatican says

Monitoring Desk
VATICAN CITY: The health of Pope Francis, who is suffering from a lung inflammation, is improving but he will read his Sunday message indoors from his residence to be on the safe side, the Vatican said on Saturday.

A statement said the 86-year-old pontiff had no fever and was continuing anti-biotic treatment.

He normally reads the message from a window of the Apostolic Palace overlooking St Peter's Square.

Madagascar leader wins presidential vote, constitutional court says

Monitoring Desk
ANTANANARIVO: Madagascar's incumbent president, Andry Rajoelina, was declared the winner of the Nov 16 election by the country's High Constitutional Court, which handed him a third term after dismissing various challenges to provisional results.

"Andry Rajoelina is elected as the president of the republic of Madagascar and is taking his functions as soon as the swearing (in is conducted)," said court head Florent Rakotoarisoa. He received 58.96% of the votes cast, the court said.

The challenges to the

electoral body's provisional count that were dismissed included one from the runner-up, lawmaker S i t e n y Randrianasoloniaiko. He got 14.39% of the vote, according to the court.

Ten out of 13 candidates boycotted the poll but their names were already on the ballot, leaving them to share the rest of the votes cast. "The election took place peacefully, and it is proof that democracy in Madagascar and the Malagasy people have reached political maturity," Rajoelina told journalists outside the courtroom.

Some 170 Rohingya land in Indonesia in latest boat arrival

Monitoring Desk
JAKARTA: Some 170 ethnic Rohingya people arrived in Indonesia on Saturday, head of a provincial fishing community said, in the latest boat arrivals in recent weeks that have brought more than 1,000 from Myanmar's Muslim minority to the country.

When seas are calmer between November and April every year, members of the persecuted minority leave on wooden boats for neighbouring Thailand and Muslim-majority Bangladesh, Malaysia and Indonesia.

Qatar seeks rapid international action to stop violence

Monitoring Desk
DOHA: Qatar on Friday urged swift international action to stop violence in the Gaza Strip after renewed Israeli bombardment of the territory at the end of a truce which the Gulf emirate mediated.

The Qatari foreign ministry, in a statement, said it stresses that continued bombing at the end of the pause "complicates mediation efforts and exacerbates the humanitarian catastrophe in the Strip, and... calls on the international community to move quickly to stop the violence."

It added "its condemnation of all forms of targeting civilians, the practice of collective punishment, and attempts to forcibly displace and displace citi-

zens of the besieged Gaza Strip, and its demand for an immediate ceasefire."

The emirate added it was "committed, along with its mediation partners, to continuing the efforts that led to the humanitarian pause, and will not hesitate to do everything necessary to return to calm".

Iran blamed Israel and the United States for a resumption of fighting in the Gaza Strip.

"After killing more than 15,000 Palestinians, the Zionist vampires have started a new round of killing under the continued support of the American government," Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani said in a post on X, formerly Twitter.

Guatemala Congress strips electoral judges of immunity in troubled transition

Monitoring Desk
GUATEMALA CITY: Guatemala's ruling-party-led Congress on Friday stripped four electoral judges accused of fraud of their immunity from prosecution, in a move critics fear is aimed at blocking President-elect Bernardo Arevalo from taking office next month.

The move by Congress is seen as an attempt to appoint judges who oppose Arevalo's election and is the latest in a series of measures that could hinder the transition of power. The moves have sparked international condemnation and nationwide protests.

Arevalo's anti-corruption platform helped spring him to a shock landslide victory in August elections.

Since then, the Guatemalan attorney general's office has investigated Arevalo's political party and the electoral court and has sought to strip Arevalo of immunity, accusing him of complicity in a takeover of the capital's San Carlos University last year.

In a Friday vote, 108 of 160 congressional deputies voted in favor of stripping magistrates Irma Palencia, Ranulfo Rojas, Gabriel Aguilera and Mynor Franco of their immunity. All those judges except for Palencia, have left the country, immigration authorities said. The judges are accused of committing fraud and breach of duty for using a software state prosecutor said was "overpriced" to transmit preliminary election results.

Orlando Blanco, a representative for the VOS political party, said the objective was to name anti-Arevalo judges. "They want to ignore the electoral results and they need the electoral court to abide by that decision," Blanco said. The Guatemala office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights said the move to strip the judges of immunity adds to "a long list of very worrying actions" which appear designed to undermine the electoral process and rule of law.

US says it's ready to 'pause' sanctions relief for Venezuela unless further progress seen

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The White House said on Friday it was prepared to "pause" sanctions relief for OPEC member Venezuela in coming days unless there is further progress on the release of Venezuelan political prisoners and "wrongfully detained" Americans.

Speaking after a deadline for Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro to meet certain commitments, White House national security spokesperson John Kirby said the U.S. welcomed an announcement on Thursday that opposition presidential candidates barred from public office would be able to appeal to Venezuela's highest court.

But he said the Venezuelan government needed to do more or else Venezuela would risk a U.S. freeze on some relaxed sanctions unveiled in mid-October in response to a deal between Maduro and the country's opposition on holding a 2024 presidential election.

Any "snapback" of partially lifted U.S. sanc-

tions would mark a major shift from President Joe Biden's new approach toward Venezuela.

In the most significant lifting of tough Trump-era sanctions, Washington issued a six-month general license authorizing U.S. transactions with Venezuela's vital oil and gas sector and a second license authorizing operations of state gold mining company Minerven. It also removed a U.S. prohibition on secondary-market trading of Venezuelan sovereign bonds.

Washington had vowed to reverse that sanctions relief unless the Venezuelan's Socialist government took steps by the end of November to release political prisoners and three Americans it considers unlawfully jailed, and also lift public-office bans on opposition candidates.

Thursday's announcement by the Venezuelan government and opposition, which opened a path that could enable opposition politicians to run.

Historic Mexico church becomes capital's largest shelter for weary migrants

Monitoring Desk
MEXICO CITY: A historic Mexico City church has morphed into the capital's largest migrant shelter, with hundreds of sleeping mats stacked high inside and a growing tent city clustered around it where many await news before resuming their risky trek north.

The noisy, makeshift migrant hub located just blocks behind the president's downtown offices is the latest sign of Mexico's struggle to handle record migration from across Latin America.

The Catholic church's activist pastor has for years opened its doors and spacious nave to the homeless or otherwise marginalised, including drug addicts and sex workers.

But lately the number of migrants has swelled to over 3,000 on one record night two weeks ago - 1,300 inside and another 2,000 outside in tents - as

word of the safe space spread.

The church is a way station for migrants as most wait for unpredictable appointments with US border agents through a mobile phone app.

In a policy change, the United States now says migrants must sign up for appointments on the app to approach a legal port of entry or face a higher bar to seeking asylum, in a bid to reduce unlawful crossings. "The journey has been very difficult. In my country, you're always dealing with an economic crisis. There isn't work, lots of companies have closed, we had the hurricanes, and then there are the gangs," said Eva Alvarez, a Honduran mother. She spoke while waiting in line off the side of the church ahead of dinner, along with her ram-bunctious smiling sons, 8-year-old Dominick and 12-year-old Eyder.

UNSC puts end to mission in Sudan

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: At the request of Sudanese authorities, the UN Security Council on Friday ended the world body's political mission in the African country ravaged by more than seven months of fighting between two rival generals.

Following a letter from Khartoum demanding an immediate end to the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS), the Security Council adopted a resolution terminating its mandate as of Sunday.

Starting Monday, a three-month transition period would begin to allow for the departure of UNITAMS personnel and the transfer of its tasks to other UN agencies "where appropriate and to the extent feasible."

The UN mission in Sudan employs 245 people, including 88 in Port Sudan, as well as others in Nairobi and Addis Ababa. UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric confirmed last month. Fourteen of the council's 15 members adopted the resolution, while Russia abstained.

"Let me be clear. The United Kingdom would not have chosen to close UNITAMS at this moment," said Britain's deputy UN envoy James Kariuki, whose country drafted the text.

Added US envoy Robert Wood: "We are gravely concerned that a reduced international presence in Sudan will only serve to embolden the perpetrators of atrocities with dire consequences for civilians."

President underlines need for special efforts to include PWDs in all walks of life

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi has urged the government organizations and civil society to make special efforts for the inclusion of persons with disabilities (PWDs) in all spheres of life.

"We need to create an enabling and friendly environment for PWDs by providing them inclusive education, healthcare facilities, employment based on their skills and abilities, and implementing job quotas," the president said in a message on the occasion of 'International Day of Persons with Disabilities', being observed on December 3.

The president said that they commemorated a day dedicated to honouring the inherent dignity and impactful contributions of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).

The United Nations' theme for this year's International Day of Persons with Disabilities, "United in Action to Rescue and Achieve the SDGs For, With, and By Persons with Disabilities," advocated for dedicating ourselves to building an inclusive society," he added.

On the day, they acknowledged the exceptional strength and unwavering resilience of persons with disabilities who had progressed in life despite their disability, he added. The president opined that almost 15% of the world's population suffered from some form of disability.

"Unfortunately, 80% of this population lives in developing countries, including Pakistan, where the population of PWDs is estimated to be almost 12%, an alarming figure. Pakistan remains committed to its mission to eliminate societal barriers that obstruct their journey to success. Our goal is to facilitate them to achieve their utmost potential through equitable access to opportunities in life," a press release quoted the president as saying.

Together, they aimed for progress, empowerment, and holistic support for persons with disabilities, adding "This entails providing education, training, rehabilitation, and access to information and communication technologies, meeting the demands of the contemporary world."

Through these initiatives, the president said they strived to protect the sanctity of life for PWDs, cultivating a culture that values the inherent worth and capabilities of each individual.

He said that we have to demonstrate national unity and consensus for ensuring protection of the life and property of the masses and establish sustainable peace.

The Governor was speaking to the participants of public peace Jirga in Huramzai Syedan, Pishin district on Saturday.



DUBAI: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar participates in the Global Stock Take Event on Means of Implementation.

Governor says: Protection of life & property, elimination of crimes to pave way for peace & development

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that the protection of life and property of masses and elimination of crimes would pave the way for peace and development of the province.

He said that we have to demonstrate national unity and consensus for ensuring protection of the life and property of the masses and establish sustainable peace.

The Governor was speaking to the participants of public peace Jirga in Huramzai Syedan, Pishin district on Saturday.

A large number of district political leaders, religious leaders and tribal elders were present in the Jirga.

The Governor said that no one would be allowed to sabotage the peaceful situation of Pishin district.

He asked the district to mobilize all available resources to foil nefarious designs of the criminal elements and those spreading fear and harassment without any discrimination.

The Governor said it is matter of pleasure that different political organizations are agreed on development of area and public service at the district level.

He said that it is responsibility of the district administration to take concrete measures for protection of the life and property of the masses.

He also asked the administration to take elites in confidence for improving the situation in district.

Also present on the occasion were commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafaqat, Deputy Commissioner Pishin Jumma Dad Mandokhail and Deputy Commissioner Kila Abdullah, Zakir Ali.

PM Kakar, Syrian PM ask Israel to stop brutal use of force on Palestinians

DUBAI (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and Prime Minister of Syria Hussein Arnous on Saturday asked Israel to stop the brutal use of force on the Palestinians; ensure ceasefire; facilitate humanitarian assistance; and resolve the Palestinian question in line with UN Security Council resolutions.

They also reviewed the bilateral relationship and agreed to enhance the frequency of bilateral political exchanges to foster understanding between the leadership and the brotherly peoples of the two countries.

The two leaders also expressed the commitment to strengthen bilateral cooperation in diverse fields including economic, cultural and tourism besides agreeing to revive the Joint Ministerial Commission.

They also reviewed the bilateral relationship and agreed to enhance the frequency of bilateral political exchanges to foster understanding between the leadership and the brotherly peoples of the two countries.

During a meeting held here between the two leaders on the sidelines of COP 28, the two sides discussed the ongoing Israeli violence against Palestinian people and called on the international community to take meaningful notice of the situation.

They also reviewed the bilateral relationship and agreed to enhance the frequency of bilateral political exchanges to foster understanding between the leadership and the brotherly peoples of the two countries.

Jan Achakzai felicitates UAE government, people on their 52nd National Day

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Caretaker Minister for Information extended heartfelt congratulations to President Sheikh Muhammad bin Zayed Al-Nahyan and the people of the United Arab Emirates on the occasion of the National Day.

In a statement issued here on Saturday, Minister Achakzai expressed deep admiration for the remarkable progress and achievements of the UAE under the visionary leadership of Sheikh Muhammad bin Zayed Al-Nahyan. He commended the enduring spirit of unity, innovation, and prosperity that characterizes the nation.

Jan Achakzai highlighted the strong and friendly relations between Pakistan and the UAE, emphasizing the shared values and common goals that bind the two regions. He conveyed best wishes for continued success, peace, and prosperity to the leadership and citizens of the United Arab Emirates.

As Balochistan joins in celebrating the UAE National Day, Minister Achakzai affirmed the commitment to fostering and strengthening the bilateral ties between Pakistan and the UAE for mutual benefit and for the region.

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QUETTA: Senator Kamran Murtaza Advocate addressing a ceremony of joining of Lawyers Panel at Balochistan High Court Bar.

Abdul Wali Kakar calls for economically empowering persons with disabilities

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stressed the need to economically empower the persons with disabilities in the society.

He also emphasized upon implementing the quota of jobs allocated for the disabled persons in the provincial and federal government departments.

In a message issued on occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities being observed today (Sunday), the Governor said that he knows that the whole family happens to be in pain and hard situation if there is any disabled person in a family.

He said that the life of disabled persons can also become miserable because of the lack of desired facilities and unsympathetic behaviours of the people in society.

Under the given circumstances, the all members of the family of disabled persons especially the parents deserve appreciation who care them passionately, the Governor mentioned.

He said that behaving good with the disabled persons is necessary for healthy and civilized society besides keeping it alive and moving on.

NA speaker says: Elections only option to avert economic crisis

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf reiterated on Saturday that only timely, 'free and fair' elections could avert the current economic and political crises in the country.

"There is no other option but to conduct elections, as if the political system collapsed, everything would be controversial," he told a private news channel.

He was confident that general elections would be conducted on February 8, as the country could not bear the burden of another major political crisis.

Ashraf maintained that the political dynamics have changed; people have rejected 20 dissident members of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf in the recent by-elections.

"Today's voter is not an old voter; you cannot make them fools in this age of social media; they are monitoring every development closely. The ballot will go in favour of the party that wins their confidence," he said.

He said the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) had never enjoyed a level playing field; however, it is ready to surprise in Punjab in the general elections.

To another query, the NA speaker said the PML-N leaders should focus on their politics as people like Attaullah Tarar were damaging the party's repute.

China gifted 25 lightning detectors to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): China has supplied Pakistan with 25 weather detectors valued at \$1 million to establish a very low frequency (VLF/VF) lightning network.

The primary aim is to enhance the lightning warning capabilities of the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) and mitigate the impact of lightning-related disasters on both lives and properties.

Zahid Rafi, Director of the Seismology Division at PMD told Gwadar Pro that these detectors are deployable across various regions in Pakistan where lightning poses a threat to life and property.

"This contribution from China is a valuable gift that Pakistan will be utilizing for the first time. The collaboration underscores the importance of Sino-Pak partnership in bolstering preparedness and response capabilities," he added.

Regarding the detectors, an MoU was signed between PMD and the Institute of Electrical Engineering of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (IEECAS) in September 2023 in Beijing.

Youth can play key role in country's development, prosperity: Jamal Raisani

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Caretaker Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Nawabzada Jamal Khan Raisani on Saturday said that youth can play a key role in the development and prosperity of the country by being a part of positive activities.

Addressing the closing ceremony of Youth Festival organized in Quetta, he said the future of the country is in the hands of the youth and Balochistan has immense potential to move forward.

He said the youth should devote their time and capabilities to positive activities and development of the country and their province.

The First Youth Festival started off on November under the auspices of the Sports and Culture Department in order to engage the youth in different sports and other healthy activities to enable them to play role in the development of the country. The purpose of the Youth Festival is to improve the skills of the youth of Balochistan and to engage the young folk in positive activities.



MUZAFFRABAD: Chief of Jamaat e Islami Sirajul Haq addressing to protesters during a march to express their solidarity with Palestinians, in the city.

Bilawal meets Baloch leaders, officials

QUETTA (Online): PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has met by separate delegations of leaders, organizational officials and workers of PPP Balochistan. The political and electoral situation of Balochistan was discussed in meetings.

Hazara community members dressed Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in a traditional cap and shawl. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari met to Baba Ghulam Rasool Imrani, Babu Amin Imrani, Mir Rauf Rind, Agha Shakeel Durrani, Mir Naseebullah Marri, Sardar Muhammad Hosni, Mir Liaquat Lahri, Mir Asghar Rand, Mir Khalid Jamali, Haji Malik Shah Gureji, Sardar Sarfaraz Domki.

Along with them Mir Sanaullah Jatak, Hayat Khan Achakzai, Haji Qadir, Haji Anwar Ronjhu, Nadeem Ahmad Khan, Ainnuddin, Nasibullah Shahwani, Naveed Tajik, Agha Shah Hussain, Qasim Achakzai, Isa Khan Chingizi, Hadi Askari, Sharif Palari, Sanjay Kumar, Shehzad Shahwani, Paras Malani, Yaqub Ziaratwal, Faizan Khan, Siraj Imrani, Aftab Imrani, Shakeel Hosni, Jahangir Baloch, Ali Musani, Vijay Kumar, Zahid Shahri, Dr. Ismail, Muhammad Hashim, Mir Zulfikar Lahri, Ali Raza Lahri, Sher Muhammad Damar, Mir Duran Khosa, Mir Amjad Khosa, Mir Hotman Baloch, Mir Obaid, Shah Gorgeji, Mir Zahoob Biliidi, Tahir Mehmood Khan also met. Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari was accompanied by Chingiz Jamali, Rozi Khan Kakar, Sarbuland Khan Jogizai, Nawab Sanaullah Khan Zehri, Haji Salahuddin Zehri and others.



QUETTA: PMAP Chief, Mehmood Khan Achakzai warmly welcome by his supporters upon his arrival for attend public gathering meeting on the occasion of 50th death anniversary of the Shaheed Abdul Samad Khan Achakzai.

Most wanted TTP terrorist arrested at Mardan region

PESHAWAR (APP): The security forces arrested most wanted terrorist associated with banned Tahirik e Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in Mardan region during successful operation and saved Peshawar from a major terrorism incident.

A security official told APP on Saturday that the terrorist has made important revelations and on his confessions, a huge cache of explosives used in detonators, explosive materials and arms was recovered from Khyber. The TTP terrorists were planning terrorist attacks in Peshawar that was foiled after the successful operation.



DUBAI: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar meets with the Prime Minister of Syria Mr. Hussein Arnous on sidelines of high level segment.

In'tl community's response to existential challenge of climate change to define future: FM

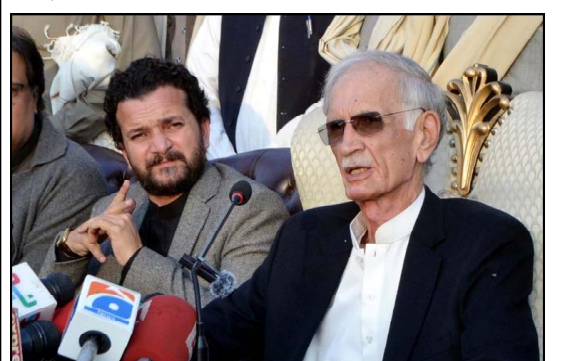
DUBAI (APP): Caretaker Foreign Minister Jilani Abbas Jilani on Saturday said that the future of humanity would be defined by the response of the international community to the existential challenge of climate change. He highlighted that all the countries had a significant stake in enlarging the ambition and accelerating the implementation of the commitments and pledges made for climate action.

The foreign minister represented Pakistan at the G77 & China Leaders' Summit on Climate Change held during the ongoing COP28 World Climate Action Summit, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release. Noting that last year at COP27, the G-77 and China, under Pakistan's chairmanship collectively scripted history by acting in unison to secure the establishment of a fund for loss and damage, the foreign minister underscored the need to bring similar solidarity and unity to achieve the Group's objectives in all areas of climate change - mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage and climate finance.

While emphasizing the need to keep the goal of 1.5 degree Celsius alive, Caretaker Foreign Minister Jilani called on the developed countries, consistent with the principles of Equity and CBDR, to take lead in accelerating climate actions, including the implementation of mitigation actions.

The foreign minister represented Pakistan at the G77 & China Leaders' Summit on Climate Change held during the ongoing COP28 World Climate Action Summit, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release. Noting that last year at COP27, the G-77 and China, under Pakistan's chairmanship collectively scripted history by acting in unison to secure the establishment of a fund for loss and damage, the foreign minister underscored the need to bring similar solidarity and unity to achieve the Group's objectives in all areas of climate change - mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage and climate finance.

While emphasizing the need to keep the goal of 1.5 degree Celsius alive, Caretaker Foreign Minister Jilani called on the developed countries, consistent with the principles of Equity and CBDR, to take lead in accelerating climate actions, including the implementation of mitigation actions.



PESHAWAR: Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Parliamentarians Chief, Perviz Khattak addresses to media persons during press conference held in Peshawar.

PML-N body suggests seat adjustment, not alliance with PML-Q

LAHORE (INP): PML-N ticket committee has suggested seat adjustment instead of an alliance with the PML-Q in upcoming general election, sources said on Saturday.

"The party committee has advised the leadership for adjustment on some seats with the PML-Q," party sources said.

The report has been prepared after preliminary interviews of the PML-N tickets aspirants.

The ticket committee has suggested adjustment on one or two seats with Chaudhry Shujaat led PML-Q.

Sources said that the seat adjustment with Chaudhry Wajahat and Hussain Elahi has also been

opposed. "National Assembly ticket committee has suggested seat adjustment instead of an alliance with the PML-Q in upcoming general election, sources said on Saturday."

The committee has recommended allotment of the PML-N ticket to Nawabzada Ghazanfar Gul in Chaudhry Wajahat's constituency. The party body has also backed PML-N's Haji Nasir on the MPA seat instead of Shafay Hussain.

According to sources, PML-Q's Tariq Bashir Cheema also aspires seat adjustment with the PML-N from Bahawalpur.

Sources said that PML-N's Pervaiz Elahi or a family member will contest election against Salik Hussain.

Security forces conducted 127 intelligence-base operations, killed 47 terrorists

PESHAWAR (APP): The security forces conducted 127 intelligence-based operations and killed 47 terrorists during these operations, said a month-long report of operations against terrorists issued by the security forces here on Saturday.

Security forces conducted 127 intelligence-based operations during a month and killed 47 terrorists during these operations conducted in Khyber, Dera Ismail Khan, Lakki Marwat, Bannu, North Waziristan, Tang, South Waziristan and Chitral. In the operation against the terrorists, a huge amount of arms and explosives were recovered. During one month, 3,580 SMGs, 1,673 miscellaneous ammunition, 5,580 rifles, 422 heavy machine guns.



QUETTA: Muslim League (PML-N) Provincial President, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail addresses to media persons during press conference held at Quetta press club.

Newly elected PTI chief says people's voices should be heard

ISLAMABAD (INP): Newly elected PTI Chairman Gohar Ali Khan has urged the Supreme Court to get the party's rights back. Talking to the media after being elected the party chief on Saturday morning, the lawyer also requested the chief justice of Pakistan not to return his official vehicles.

He further said that the people's voices should be heard, adding that this time they would be. He added that he would fulfil his responsibilities as the successor of the PTI founder.

Since 1960, no election has been scrutinised as much as the PTI's, Khan maintained.

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