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SC suspends LHC order on election officers paving way for Feb 8 polls

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Supreme Court has nullified the Lahore High Court's order which suspended a notification issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) regarding the appointments of district returning officers (DROs) and returning officers (ROs) from within the bureaucracy, paving the way for timely general elections.

The apex court also ordered the ECP to issue the election schedule today.

The ECP challenged the LHC's order in the Supreme Court Friday evening. LHC's decision could potentially cause a delay in the general elections scheduled for Feb 8 next year.

A three-member bench, led by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, conducted hearing of ECP's appeal, with other members including Sardar Tariq Masood and Justice Mansoor Ali Shah.

The bench took up the appeal right away. During the proceedings, CJP Isa remarked that the Supreme Court won't allow anyone to derail democracy in the country.

At one point, CJP Isa questioned if elections could be stalled across the country just on the basis of a plea filed by PTI lawyer Umair Khan Niazi.

Directing Swati, an ECP lawyer, to read out the Nov 3 order of the apex court, which stressed for conducting the general elections on Feb 8, the CJP questioned, "Should

we proceed with a contempt notice? Barrister Umair Khan Niazi's [petition] constitutes a breach of the Supreme Court's directive."

The ECP, in its appeal, requested the Supreme Court to declare the Lahore High Court's order null and void.

A day prior, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) made the decision to approach the apex court in response to the Lahore High Court's suspension of its notification regarding the appointments of district returning officers (DROs) and returning officers (ROs) from the bureaucracy for the impending general elections.

Justice Ali Baqir Najafi of the Lahore High Court had suspended the ECP's Dec 11 notification of administering the Feb 8 general elections through bureaucracy in response to a petition filed by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

This prompted the ECP to halt the ongoing training of DROs and ROs.

On Thursday, during a consultative meeting, the ECP's legal team recommended approaching the Supreme Court.

Acting upon this advice, Chief Election Commissioner Sikander Sultan Raja held a crucial meeting today (Friday) with Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, with SC's Justice Sardar Tariq Masood and Justice Ijazul Ahsan, as well as Attorney General for Pakistan Masood Anwar, in attendance.



MUZAFFARABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a special meeting of the Cabinet of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Asim Munir called on Antony J. Blinken, Secretary of State during his ongoing visit to US.

COAS meets key US govt, military officials Pakistan, US agree to continue exploring potential avenues of bilateral collaboration

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir has called on key US Government and Military officials during his ongoing visit to the US including, Secretary of State, Antony J. Blinken, Secretary of Defence, General @Llyod J. Austin, Deputy Secretary of State, Victoria Nuland, Deputy National Security Adviser, Jonathan

Finer and US Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Charles Q Brown.

According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, matters of bilateral interests, global and regional security issues, and ongoing conflicts were discussed during the meetings.

Both sides agreed to continue engagement for

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Kashmir never was, nor will be part of India No one can dare cast an evil eye on Pakistan; change status of Kashmir: PM

Indian unilateral, illegal acts to further stimulate Kashmir freedom movement: Kakar

MUZAFFARABAD

(APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Friday, reiterating Pakistan's principled position and support on the Kashmir issue, categorically said that no one could dare cast an evil eye on Pakistan and that its desire for peace should not be misconstrued as weakness or hesitation to face any aggression.

"Pakistan is not a warring nation. But if anyone thinks that we are weak, shying away or hesitating, they should remove this misunderstanding. Muzaffarabad is not Gaza and New Delhi is not Tel

Aviv..No one can dare to kill 4,000 children here," he said in an interaction with the students of different colleges and universities of Azad Jammu and Kashmir during his two-day visit.

Expressing his confidence in Pakistan's defence capabilities in the context of the Indian aggression, he said though Narendra Modi and Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel had same attitudes, but they had different implementing capability and response mechanisms. To a question, the prime minister strongly rejected the rumours of any change in Pakistan's policy to follow suit India to merge the

AJK in it, he said, "No one can think of such a stupid act. Nobody can dare."

He said that the rumours were spread by the enemies to create misunderstandings and that Pakistan had a principled journey with the Kashmiris for decades, backed by the sacrifices of 90,000 people.

He said Pakistan had fought three wars with India on Kashmir and was ready to face any kind of aggression.

"Are we fighting the wars to make Kashmir (part of) KP (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa)? This is out

Continued on page 2

ECP to announce action plan in light of law, Constitution: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi said on Friday the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) would announce its action plan in the light of the Constitution and law.

Talking to the media outside the ECP he said under Article 218(3) of the Constitution, the only constitutional body responsible for conducting elections in the country was the Election Commission.

"We neither can question the Election Commission, nor we can supervise it, in fact, the Election Commission supervises the



RIYADH, SAUDI ARAB: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCJSC), General Sahir Shamshad Mirza exchanging views with Maj. Gen. Mohammed Al-Moghedhi, Secretary General of Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition (IMCTC) on the sidelines of the 2nd Meeting of IMCTC Chiefs of Staff of member states held in Riyadh.

Lashes out at dharna participants: People of Balochistan vehemently reject facilitators of terrorists: Jan Achakzai

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has stated that the people of Balochistan have vehemently rejected the facilitators of terrorists in the province.

In an official statement issued here on Friday, the Minister for Information said that the people have become aware that country's stability and survival should be our topmost priority. He asserted that the state's initiatives can't be hurt through long march and protests.

Particularly referring the long march, the caretaker Provincial Minister said that the long marchers want to blackmail the en-

3 cops martyred, 5 terrorists killed in Tank Police Lines attack

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): At least three police personnel were martyred and three others injured as unidentified terrorists attacked the Police Lines Tank on Friday.

According to police, a group of terrorists armed with sophisticated weapons stormed the police lines, which was retaliated by the police. A heavy exchange of fire continued for several hours.

Rescue 1122 Tank said its teams shifted the martyred cops, including Gohar Zaman (ASI), Ehsan (constable) and Abdul Rashid (constable) and the injured contables Ajmal Mukhtiyar and Shakhi Noor to the District Headquarters Hospital (DHO) after provision of first medical aid on the spot.

The Tank Police spokesman told APP that the operation was successfully completed with help of Pakistan Army and the situation was now under control.

PR decides to restore Bolan Mail for Karachi from Quetta from Dec 25

Independent Report QUETTA: The Pakistan Railways (PR) has decided to restore Bolan Mail for Karachi from Quetta from December 25, 2023.

According to a notification issued here by the Pakistan Railways, the Bolan Mail is being restored from Quetta to Karachi on December 25.

The notification mentioned that the Bolan Mail would run twice from Quetta to Karachi and vice versa.

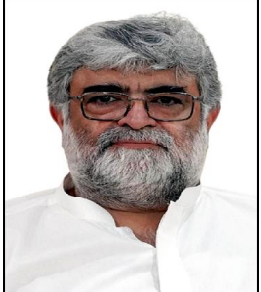
The operation of Bolan Mail had been suspended between Quetta-Karachi on August 25, 2023.

The rail service was suspended because of the railway track damaged due to heavy floods and rains in the Sibi and Naseerabad divisions.

Needless to mention here is that at the moment just one train i.e., Jaffar Express has been operating from Quetta to interior country.

CM appeals to nation to unite against nefarious designs of terrorists

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan



Domki has appealed to all Pakistanis to unite against the nefarious designs of the terrorists so as to end the menace of terrorism completely from the country.

This, the caretaker Chief Minister stated in an official statement issued here on Friday.

The statement marked the 9th anniversary of tragedy of Army Public School Peshawar being observed today.

Interior Minister inaugurates ANF Forensic Lab

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control Sarfraz Bugti, inaugurated the ANF Forensic Lab at the Anti-Narcotics Force Academy (ANFA) on Friday in the agency's Headquarters.

Secretary Ministry of Narcotics Control, Capt@ Munir Azam, and DG ANF, Major General Muhammad Aneeq Ur Rehman Malik, HI (M), warmly welcomed the chief

In the statement, Mir Ali Mardan Domki said that the nation has rendered great sacrifices as a result we are living in a peaceful environment.

While paying homage to the innocent Martyrs of APS Peshawar and their families, the caretaker Chief Minister said that the tragedy united the whole nation.

He said that the entire nation is starting by its security forces.

He said that the 16th December would always be remembered as the blackest day in the country's history. Mr. Domki said that the pain and grief of martyrs of APS Peshawar is still alive in our hearts as we didn't forget the gruesome tragedy.

The Chief Minister said that our topmost priority is to establish peace and we have to promote such an environment that guarantees peace.

guest, alongside the Police Liaison Officer and Police Consul from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China.

During the visit, Commandant ANFA provided insights into comprehensive counter-narcotics training programs.

Expressing gratitude, the minister thanked the Chinese delegates for their invaluable assistance in establishing the forensic lab.

Three Pak Navy officers promoted to rank of Rear Admiral

ISLAMABAD (APP): Three Commodores of the Pakistan Navy have been promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral with immediate effect on Friday.

Rear Admiral Mazhar Mahmood Malik was commissioned in Marine Engineering Branch of Pakistan Navy in 1992. The Flag Officer is a graduate of Pakistan Navy War College Lahore, National Defence University Islamabad and qualified Masters of Science in Mechanical Engineering from National University of Science and

Technology. Speaking on the occasion, the

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Christmas ceremony held at Governor House: Governor cuts Christmas cake, extends heartiest congratulations to Christians

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar participated in a ceremony held in connection with the Christmas at the Governor House on Friday.

The Governor cut the Christmas cake along with Ehtisham Jan at the ceremony.

Also present on the occasion were the males and females belonging to the Christian community.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor extended heartiest congratulations to the Christian community living in the province.

He said that we share joys of Christmas with the Christian community.

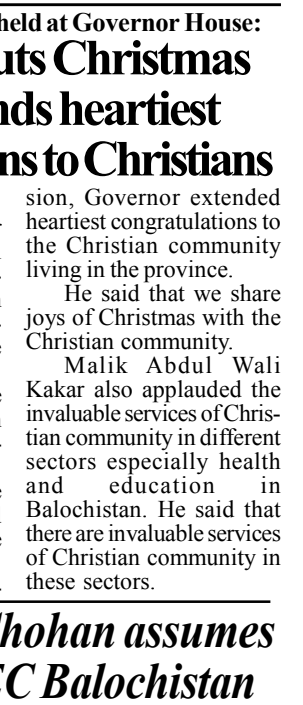
Malik Abdul Wali Kakar also applauded the invaluable services of Christian community in different sectors especially health and education in Balochistan. He said that there are invaluable services of Christian community in these sectors.

Ejaz Anwar Chohan assumes charge of PEC Balochistan

Independent Report QUETTA: The newly appointed Provincial Election Commissioner (PEC), Ejaz Anwar Chohan has assumed the charge of his post here on Friday.

Soon after assumption of the charge of post of PEC, Mr. Ejaz Anwar Chohan had introductory meeting with the officers of Election Commission in his office.

Addressing the officers, the PEC stressed that we have to work together for general elections. He asserted that no negligence would be tolerated in performing duties. The new PEC also ex-



horred the election officers to work with honesty and hard work. It may be mentioned here that Ejaz Anwar Chohan had been posted as PEC Balochistan replacing Sharifullah. Mr. Sharifullah has been posted as the PEC Sindh.



PM Kakar says Kashmir issue to be raised internationally with renewed vigour

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar Friday said that the government in consultation with the Kashmiri leadership would raise the Kashmir issue at the international forums with renewed vigour.

Kashmiri leadership which was confronting the brutality of Indian forces with bravery and fortitude. The Kashmiris' desire for freedom was very much alive and the whole Pakistani nation stood shoulder to shoulder with them, he added.

He held consultation with the Kashmiri leadership to forge a strategy to effectively raise the Kashmir issue at the diplomatic level and at international forums, he added.

Perth test 2nd day: Pakistan scores 132 runs for 2 wickets, 223 more runs requires

PERTH (Online): In response to Australia's 487 runs in the Perth Test, Pakistan scored 132 runs for the loss of 2 wickets at the end of the game on the second day while facing a deficit of 223 runs.

104.5 overs when Mitchell Starc was also bowled by Amir Jamal for 12 runs. Immediately after the lunch break, Mitchell Marsh succumbed to a nervous nineties.

Dr Saif launches IRADA at NUST

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Science and Technology, Dr Umar Saif on Friday launched the Research and Development Agency (IRADA) at the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST).

Alvi advocates literature's vital role in society

LAHORE (APP): President Dr. Arif Alvi, while addressing the 1st Dr. Jamil Jalibi Adabi Award ceremony at a local hotel here on Friday, emphasised the importance of literature in fostering critical thinking.

Three Pak Navy officers promoted.

LAHORE and National Defence University Islamabad. The Admiral has a vast experience of Command and Staff appointments which include Command of P-3C aircraft Squadron and Commander Naval Aviation.

Defence University, Islamabad. The Admiral has an illustrious naval career, covering vast experience of various Command and Staff appointments.



QUETTA: Members of Search Committee briefed Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar about performance

No one can dare cast an evil...

Continued from page 1 of question," he commented and reiterated Pakistan's resolve of not budging an inch from its principled position.

PM vows to fight against terrorism till its complete end from country's soil

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar on Friday vowed to continue the fight against terrorism till its complete elimination from the country.

PCB signs ICC Champions Trophy 2025 hosting rights agreement

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Friday signed the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 hosting rights agreement with the International Cricket Council (ICC) at Dubai headquarters.

Fatima Sana's all-round show in vain as Kiwis win a thriller

ISLAMABAD (APP): New Zealand defeated Pakistan in a thrilling contest by one wicket at the Hagley Oval in Christchurch on Friday, taking an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match ODI series.

Pakistan, US agree to...

the positive role being played by Pakistani overseas community towards the country's progress and development.

TENDER NOTICE

The DIRECTOR GENERAL FARMS & FEED RESOURCES QUETTA invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. TSE-232412365991 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRAGOB. Tender Fee Rs. 1000/-

CAREER OPPORTUNITY AS DEPUTY MANAGER, TRANSFORMER RECLAMATION (DISTRIBUTION) WORKSHOP, SUKKUR IN BPS-18. Pakistan WAPDA Foundation (PWF) is running various projects for welfare of its employees under Managing Director (PWF). The Foundation is looking for an individual having dynamic personality with ability / capacity to improve its efficiency.

Continued from page 1 ploring potential avenues of bilateral collaboration in pursuit of shared interests. During the meetings with defence officials, counter terrorism cooperation and defence collaboration were identified as core areas of cooperation.

KARACHI: A view of damages after gas pipeline blast occurred at KMC Junkyard located on Nipa Chowrangi



KARACHI: A view of damages after gas pipeline blast occurred at KMC Junkyard located on Nipa Chowrangi

DIRECTOR GENERAL FARMS & FEED RESOURCES QUETTA. The Director General Farms & Feed Resources Quetta invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. TSE-232412365991 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRAGOB. Tender Fee Rs. 1000/-



SC seeks more record from FIA Nullification of money laundering case against Moonis Elahi

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has sought more record from FIA on its appeal against nullification of money laundering case against Moonis Elahi. Deputy Attorney General (DAG) said Lahore High Court (LHC) abolished the case by transgressing its powers. The hearing of the appeal was adjourned for indefinite period. A 3-member bench of SC presided over by Justice Sardar Tariq Masood took up for hearing the appeal filed against nullification of money laundering case in respect of Moonis Elahi Friday. DAG took the plea in the court including Moonis Elahi are accused in the case of money laundering through fake accounts. Justice Ayesha Malik remarked Lahore High Court (LHC) decision is a detailed decision. Several institutions including NAB have investigated their accounts. Justice Sardar Tariq Masood raised the question how can investigation be made repeatedly of one matter. DAG argued NAB was investigating matter of assets beyond known sources of income.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC), Fawad Hasan Fawad chaired a review meeting held at Ministry.

BISP holds discussion on promoting partnerships with civil society orgs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has organized a Round Table Conference at its headquarters, bringing together key stakeholders to promote collaboration between BISP, civil society organizations, and other NGOs. The conference, chaired by Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib, Chairperson of BISP, aimed to enhance partnerships for the betterment of needy families. Dr. Amjad Saqib welcomed the participants in his opening remarks, highlighting BISP's commitment to providing additional financial support to families in need. Dr. Amjad Saqib said that as the largest social safety program in the country, BISP plays a pivotal role in addressing the socio-economic challenges faced by vulnerable households. Dr. Amjad Saqib emphasized the importance of a newly launched savings scheme designed to instill a culture of saving among needy households. Dr. Amjad Saqib outlined a strategy focused on lifting needy families out of poverty and appealed to civil society and partner organizations to adopt the principles of Mawakhat, nurturing a sense of collective responsibility. Additional Secretary BISP, Dr. Tahir Noor, provided a detailed briefing on various BISP initiatives, including Benazir Kafalat, Nashonuma, Taleemi Wazaif, and undergraduate scholarships. Dr. Tahir Noor highlighted significant achievements, stating that 361.5 billion rupees have been distributed under the Benazir Kafalat program. He further disclosed that more than 55 billion rupees have been disbursed to 8.8 million children through the Taleemi Wazaif program. Additionally, 1.4 million pregnant, lactating mothers, and their children under 2 years of age are benefiting from the Nashonuma program to address the issue of stunting. Providing a glimpse into BISP's infrastructure, Dr. Tahir Noor mentioned the authentic data of 35 million households and the existence of 647 Dynamic Registry Centers across the country.

PBM initiates service transformation, bids farewell to traditional processes: MD

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) has removed human intervention and traditional bureaucratic hurdles or traditional red tape from all its service domains, Managing Director Amir Fida Paracha said Friday. Briefing media on the launching of World Bank's PMDT (Project Management and Tracking Design) in PBM and one-year performance, he said eliminating bureaucratic hurdles in Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal has expedited the processing of requests for various services, including medical aid, education support, cochlear implants, individual financial assistance, and more, through paperless e-filing. Utilizing digital systems enhances administrative efficiency, and a new Directorate for donation management has been established under the Bait-ul-Mal Act. Digitizing Women Empowerment Centers, Child Labor Rehabilitation Centers, and Pakistan Sweet Homes, the organization ensures secure payment transactions via a biometric system. The incorporation of gender, whistleblowing, and conflict of interest policies aligns with the Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety guidelines. PBM has adopted the PMDT score system, in line with recommendations from the World Bank and other international organizations, using paperless and digital processes to foster transparency in the institution and streamline service accessibility. Now, applications can be swiftly processed using electronic filing, eliminating the need for traditional paperwork, Amir Fida Paracha said. Since its establishment in 1992, PBM has transitioned from manual operations to embracing (electronic management information system) EMIS.



ISLAMABAD: Managing Director of Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal, Amir Fida Paracha, addressing a press conference at the organization's headquarters.

Islamabad police conducts special anti riots training course

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police carried out a special anti-riot training course for the policemen in order to prepare them about any situation related to peace and security. Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan attended the concluding ceremony of the course as chief guest while CPO Headquarters, CPO Law and Order and other senior police officers were also present on the occasion, police spokesman told here Friday. During the course, the police personnel demonstrated their skills to maintain peace, safeguarding public and private properties, confronting criminal elements and ensuring their arrests, while the use of water cannons and other advanced techniques were also demonstrated. Police officials successfully demonstrated techniques to effectively manage and control such situations. These formations were designed to equip police officials with ability to disperse any unlawful protests using various tactics, including line formations, roof formations, circle formations, V formations, water cannon formations, and special formations. ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan said that the special anti-riot training exercises were carried out to further elevate the preparedness of officers and officials to handle any potential law and order crisis effectively. The purpose of these training exercises is to modernize the training of police officers, ensuring ease and better facilities for the citizens, he added. He further emphasized that such training sessions would continue in the future to empower every officer and officials within the Islamabad Capital Police, allowing them to serve the community more effectively.



ISLAMABAD: Police officers participating in an anti-riot training course.

Akhuwat acknowledges donors' support for uplift of disadvantaged segments

ISLAMABAD (APP): Akhuwat successfully organized its Donors Get-Together on Thursday evening to acknowledge the unwavering support of its donors for the uplift of disadvantaged segments of society. The event served as a platform to propagate the profound message of Mawakhat. Founder and Chairman of Akhuwat, Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib expressed heartfelt gratitude to the generous donors whose unwavering support has been instrumental in driving forward Akhuwat's multifaceted initiatives. He acknowledged their pivotal role in shaping and uplifting communities through the lens of Mawakhat. In addition, Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib extended sincere appreciation to es-

Child marriage & gender-based violence Nilofar for enhanced media role in raising awareness

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) Chairperson Nilofar Bakhtiar on Friday stressed on strengthening the role of the media in raising awareness on issues related to child marriage and gender-based violence. She was speaking on the inaugural day of the Journalist Refresher Training Workshop on "Social Norms, Gender, Prevention and Health Consequences related to Child Marriage". The workshop has been organized by the NCSW in collaboration with the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Some 45 journalists from across Pakistan are being trained on different aspects and dimensions of the issue of child marriage. They are part of the National Media Fellowship (NMF), a flagship project of NCSW, that sensitizes the media on responsible reporting for the prevention and elimination of child marriage and gender-based violence (GBV). So far, two cohorts of 40 journalists each have been trained in two fellowship programmes in 2022 and 2023. Under the first programme, held in 2022, 162 media stories and two documentaries were produced on GBV, child marriage and impact of climate change on women. These stories were published through leading media houses and digital platforms in the country. After the completion of second round of NMF, more than 180 stories focusing GBV, and girls' and women rights are expected to be produced in 2024.



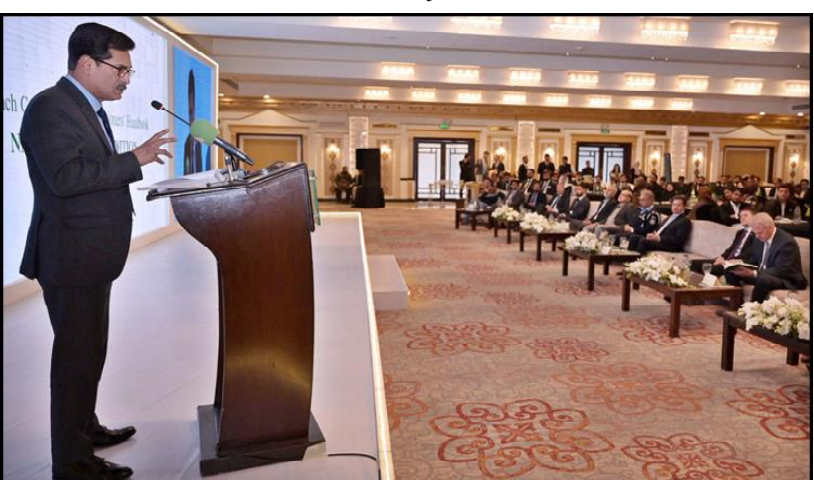
ISLAMABAD: Group photo of Federal Minister for Education Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi with students and other officials song during Sindhi Culture and Heritage Day by Haseeb Ahmad Chairman Sindhi Sangat at SZABIST.

AC City cracks down on beggar rackets, 23 netted

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a late-night sting operation, the Assistant Commissioner City, following the Deputy Commissioner's directive, launched a targeted sweep against professional beggars across the city subdivision. This decisive action netted 23 individuals, their pleas for alms replaced by the clanging of handcuffs, ICT spokesman Dr Abdullah Tabasum said on Friday. "Professional beggars exploit our compassion for personal gain," declared the ICT spokesperson. "These arrests send a clear message that Islamabad has zero tolerance for such organized begging rings." The apprehended individuals, identified as professional beggars, were whisked away to the police station. Meanwhile, any minor children found in their company were placed in the care of the Edhi Center, ensuring their safety and well-being. This operation is just the latest in a series of ongoing crackdowns led by Assistant Commissioners, demonstrating the city's unwavering commitment to combating the organized begging menace. One by one, these exploitative rings are being dismantled.

CDA removes encroachments from Bari Imam area

ISLAMABAD (APP): Capital Development Authority's (CDA) Anti-encroachment operation is on full swing in Islamabad and removed various encroachments from Bari Imam area. On the directions of Chairman CDA, the Enforcement Directorate with the support of Islamabad Police along with other departments and district administration conducted a mega anti encroachment operation against the illegal population established on the government land in Mohalla Thatti adjacent to Bari Imam.



ISLAMABAD: Secretary Interior Aftab Akbar Durrani addressing during the launching ceremony of the Practitioners Handbook Navigating Extrajudicial in Pakistan organized by Ministry of Interior at local hotel.

Kanwar Dilshad says: Election can take place till February 11

ISLAMABAD (Online): Former secretary Election Commission (EC) and advisor to care taker chief minister Punjab Kanwar Dilshad has said election can take place till February 11. "High court decision will make no difference of more days on election. To me election can be held till February 11, he said this in an interview with private TV channel here Friday. He went on to say accepting high court decision is constitutional obligation of EC. Training schedule has been withdrawn by EC following the decision of high court. Now larger bench will decide. EC will postpone election schedule for some days till its decision. Schedule will be issued after larger bench decision. He held high court judges had declined to provide services. Upon it EC hired services from bureaucracy. EC can take officers from executive or judiciary under its act. Therefore it has appointed officers from executive.

IHC declares NA-35, 36 demarcation null and void

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has declared the demarcation of the two National Assembly seats, NA-35 and NA-36, null and void. The Chief Justice of IHC, Amir Farooq issued the order on Friday. The court directed the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to redefine the constituencies after hearing all the parties again.

EC directs Ahad to file details of assets till Dec 18

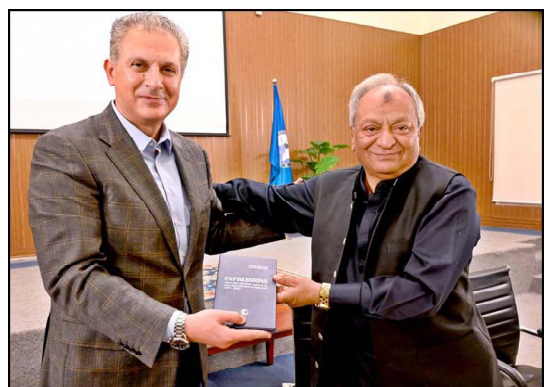
ISLAMABAD (Online): Election Commission (EC) has directed Ahad Cheema advisor to care taker Prime Minister to file the details of assets till December 18. Directive will be issued to remove him from his office if he fails to file details till the stipulated date. As per EC sources time has been given to Ahad Cheema to file details of his assets till December 18. It was made clear in the letter issued to Ahad Cheema on Friday by EC that a notice was issued to him earlier too for filing details of the assets. However details of assets have not been filed on prescribed form Bay so far. It has been made clear by EC that directives will be issued to remove him from his office if he fails to file the details of assets till December 18.

Police launches "Manadi" program for swift reunion

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Police have rolled out the "Manadi" program, a dedicated initiative aimed at reuniting missing children with their parents or families. The police force utilizes various social media platforms to disseminate information about missing children and those found unclaimed. Taking a hands-on approach, respective police stations shoulder the responsibility of facilitating the reunification process. During the tenure of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, among several distinctive initiatives, this particular step stands out as noteworthy in addressing the grievances of citizens, especially families whose children have been lost. The program goes a step further by sharing contact details of the police officers involved on social media, ensuring open lines of communication for concerned citizens. The concerted efforts of Islamabad Police are directed towards the safe return of these children to their families, emphasizing a proactive and community-oriented policing approach. The public response to the "Manadi" program has been overwhelmingly positive, with citizens lauding the initiative as a commendable step.

Envoy Afrasiab's unusual book "Expressions" unfolds historic accounts of Pak interaction with world

ISLAMABAD (APP): The unique publication of former Ambassador Afrasiab Mehdi Hashmi books' written by 'more than 140 Pakistani diplomats', since the establishment of the country in 1947.



The enclosures in the book include: writeups on important Pakistani diplomats and speeches related to Pakistan's foreign policy. Addressing the ceremony, Ambassador Afrasiab Hashmi said the motivation behind taking up the uphill task of collecting knowledge and compiling it into a book was the teaching of the Holy Quran and the Prophet (PBUH) for seeking knowledge not only as a source of illumination but also as a weapon for preservation of civilizations. "Books are important as Knowledge is important. authored on an unusual subject was launched here on Friday at the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) that revealed historical accounts of Pakistan's interaction with the world since its creation. Ambassador Afrasiab is a prolific writer, who has several books to his credit. He has served in the Pakistani Missions in Washington DC, New Delhi, Beijing and Vienna. He also worked as High Commissioner to Bangladesh and New Zealand. His book recently published by the National Book Foundation (NBF) is a compendium of over 400

IHC issues notice to ECP on petition against delimitation of NA-122 Lahore

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has issued notice to Election Commission (EC) on petition against the delimitation of NA-122 Lahore.

Chief Justice of Islamabad High Court (IHC), Aamer Farooq heard the petition of Citizen Karamat Ali sought a reply from EC on next hearing. Court said in its remarks that let the answer come till next hearing then we will look into the matter.

Nikkah case: Courtsummons Ex-chairman PTI on next hearing

ISLAMABAD (Online): District and Sessions Court Islamabad has summoned former chairman PTI on next hearing of Non shariah nikkah case against him and his wife Bushra Bibi. Senior civil judge of district and session court Islamabad Qudrat Ullah issued one page written order in connection with hearing of the case Friday. It has been said in the order one day exemption from attendance plea of Bushra Bibi is accepted. Bushra Bibi should file surety bonds worth Rs 50000.

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Independent
Saturday December 16, 2023

Weak cases

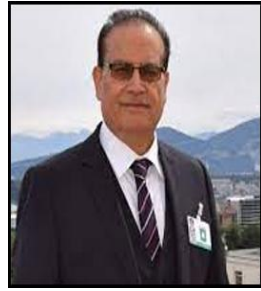
Hope dies every day in Pakistan. In 2015, Kasur's child sex scandal — a child pornography ring in Hussain Khanwala district had sexually exploited 285 minors — rocked the nation. On Wednesday — eight years after mass repulsion, protests and an HRCP fact-finding report, which stated that police inaction pointed towards collusion with criminals and found the role of political parties "very disturbing" — the Lahore High Court acquitted three convicts serving life sentences in the child abuse case. Their counsel said that out of six prime suspects, three had been released earlier and the remaining have been exonerated now. He claimed that they were not "conclusively identified" in the forensic tests of the video, the Anti-Terrorism Act sections were not applicable and medical reports did not corroborate the evidence. So, the moral of this story is an old one: the victims were betrayed by police and prosecution.

What should have happened after the horror unfolded was an immediate review of the law-enforcement plan to prevent feeble investigation and forensic inquiry by police. Moreover, prosecutors should have the legal authority to ensure that probes are executed according to the requirements of a case. And, as the agency taking the police's case to the courts, it should become mandatory for prosecutors to keep a record of their work for solid cases to be presented before lower legal fora. Ravaged by corruption and exploitation, police and prosecution, when representing the poor, either end up aiding criminals in hoodwinking the justice system or punish the innocent. To make matters dire, despite repeated incidents of monstrous abuse, the system remains untouched by any reform. The question is: as the progeny of hapless daily wagers, are Kasur's victims easier to overlook? Children, sans expression, authority and support to face abusers, form the most vulnerable section of society. For this reason, provincial and federal authorities must work harder to banish the curse of stolen innocence.

Army Chief's USA visit: Divergence to Convergence

By Qamar Bashir

Former Press Secretary to the President; Former Press Minister to the Embassy of Pakistan to France; Former MD, SRBC



Deeply concealed within the labyrinth of the US Embassy's website lies the US Integrated Country Strategy (ICS) for Pakistan, a document unearthed by a speaker at a round table conference hosted by the Pakistan Institute of Strategic Studies. This paper, dissected during the conference, delineates the fundamental priorities and objectives of US involvement with Pakistan spanning 2023-2027. It delineates crucial areas including combatting terrorism and violent extremism, advancing regional stability, integration, and security, fostering inclusive economic growth and sustainable development, alongside strengthening civilian democratic institutions and safeguarding human rights.

The timing of this conference held significant meaning, coinciding with the visit of Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff, General Asim Munir, to the US, where he engaged in meetings with top US leadership. The visit strategically aligned with a reprimand aimed at India, reflecting US discontent regarding the killing of Sikh political activists by alleged rogue agents of India's Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), first in Canada and later in the US. The visit also resulted in an official rejection of an invitation extended by Indian Prime Minister Modi to President Biden to attend India's Republic Day, an event that has now been diminished due to Biden's adamant refusal to participate. This development is perceived as a significant setback for India, which, without legitimate grounds, is endeavoring to position itself as a major global power.

The army chief's visit is perceived as a crucial step toward rebuilding and fortifying trust and cooperation between Pakistan and the US. However, the success of this visit hinges on tangible agreements forged and the willingness of both sides to address longstanding issues of mutual concern, which may carry different connotations for Pakistan and the US. The stated objectives of the visit encompass strengthening

military ties, bilateral defense cooperation discussions, intelligence sharing on regional security threats, and exploring avenues for potential collaboration. Pakistan seeks US support in countering threats from groups like Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in Afghanistan, while emphasizing economic cooperation and seeking assistance for its ongoing economic challenges. Urging a more constructive US role in stabilizing Afghanistan, discussions focus on countering regional threats and exploring investment and trade opportunities between both nations.

Discussions are likely to cover contentious issues straining relations between Pakistan and the USA, including the forced repatriation of Afghan refugees, Pakistan's relations with Afghan Interim Government, Kashmir issue, China Pakistan relations with emphasis on CPEC, engaging IMF, World Bank and International Financial Institutions, Russian Ukraine conflict. The US has vehemently opposed this, citing concerns about the refugees' safety and well-being. Stressing Afghanistan's instability and potential human rights violations, the US highlights Pakistan's obligations under international law to protect those seeking asylum. It firmly opposes the forced return of refugees, citing potential violations of international commitments.

The US holds deep suspicions regarding Pakistan's alleged support for the Taliban's interim government. Moreover, the US has voiced concerns about Pakistan's perceived lack of transparency and mistrust, casting doubt on its sincerity and the effectiveness of its cooperation. Pakistan is engaging the Taliban's interim government aiming for a cooperative relationship that prioritizes mutual interests, seeking moderation from the Taliban while averting Afghanistan's transformation into an extremist breeding ground. The stance remains dynamic, navigating complexities while emphasizing stability, human rights, and bilateral concerns in this evolving Afghan landscape.

Despite varying priorities and mutual distrust, the US must rely on Pakistan's declared Afghanistan policy and seek active cooperation. This collaboration aims to prevent militant and weapon

movement across the porous Pakistan-Afghanistan border, leveraging Pakistan's historical ties and economic influence to influence the Taliban positively. Additionally, the US seeks insights into Taliban activities and intentions, particularly concerning terrorist threats, aiming to promote regional cooperation and prevent Afghanistan from becoming a source of instability in South Asia.

The Kashmir issue has long been a delicate and intricate matter for the US focusing on fostering dialogue and diplomacy between India and Pakistan, advocating for peaceful resolutions of outstanding issues especially Kashmir. The stance underscores non-interference in internal affairs, recognizing Kashmir as a bilateral matter between India and Pakistan, refraining from taking a specific legal position or advocating for pre-defined solutions.

Pakistan's Kashmir expectations from the US are a mixed bag. They crave acknowledgement of the issue's international dimension, US-mediated dialogue, advocacy for Kashmiri self-determination, human rights pressure on India, and a balanced portrayal of the conflict. Neutrality, deep engagement with Pakistan, and action beyond just listening to India are also key. In essence, Pakistan wants the US to be a proactive and constructive player in resolving Kashmir peacefully, respecting Pakistani concerns, and seeking a lasting solution.

The US stance regarding Chinese involvement in Pakistan, particularly through initiatives like CPEC and military collaborations, is marked by apprehensions. It sees Chinese increasingly influence in Pakistan as challenges to US interests in the region, including Afghanistan and maritime security; worries about unsustainable debt and opaque financing within CPEC projects; unease about Pakistan's deepening military ties with China and the potential transfer of sensitive technology with potential military applications; and the perceived threat of upsetting the regional balance of power, possibly leading to instability. The US emphasizes the importance of transparency in CPEC contracts, encourages diversification of foreign partnerships to prevent overreliance on any single nation.

Pakistan's state policy toward Chinese relations and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) centers on fostering a robust strategic partnership with China while maximizing the transformative potential of CPEC for national development. This policy underscores the depth of the Pakistan-China alliance, prioritizing mutual support on core issues while harnessing CPEC's economic promise. Embracing CPEC as a game-changer, Pakistan positions it as pivotal for economic growth, job creation, and regional connectivity, emphasizing responsible management to safeguard national interests. Additionally, Pakistan aims for a balanced foreign policy, cultivating relations beyond China while nurturing cultural ties and remaining adaptable to evolving global dynamics.

The US wields significant influence over International Financial Institutions (IFIs), positioning them as potential tools to nudge Pakistan towards aligning with its strategic objectives. Through its sway over these institutions like the World Bank and IMF, the US prioritizes projects beneficial to its goals—such as regional connectivity and counterterrorism initiatives—compelling Pakistan to cooperate in securing vital funding. Furthermore, the US holds the power to impact Pakistan's global standing by leveraging assessments of creditworthiness and economic stability from IFIs. A negative evaluation could hinder foreign investment and access to credit markets, pressuring Pakistan to comply with US demands to avert potential economic isolation. Beyond financial clout, the US exercises soft power through leadership roles in IFIs, subtly influencing policy discussions, advocating its values, and diplomatically pressuring nations like Pakistan.

Pakistan's expectations from the US regarding engagement with International Financial Institutions (IFIs) like the IMF and World Bank revolve around seeking assistance devoid of stringent conditionalities or obligations. This encompasses favorable loan terms with lower interest rates and extended repayment periods, enabling economic reforms without hindering sustainable development. Additionally, Pakistan seeks technical expertise in critical areas, aiming for institutional strengthening and capacity building to manage debt responsibly and implement effective reforms. Moreover, it anticipates the US to advocate within IFIs for its development goals and international trade agenda, while also seeking public recognition of its progress, without attaching any strings or obligations to the support provided.

The US holds nuanced expectations from Pakistan regarding its stance on the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Primarily, the US urges Pakistan to publicly condemn Russia's invasion while reducing military ties, supporting humanitarian aid efforts, and diplomatically pressuring for a peaceful resolution. Additionally, countering Russian disinformation is expected. Recent but unconfirmed reports suggest that Pakistan might be providing non-lethal military assistance to Ukraine, potentially due to increased US pressures.

Pakistan's official stance on the Russia-Ukraine conflict embodies a nuanced approach that has evolved over time. Notably, Pakistan has consistently abstained from UN resolutions condemning Russia's actions, underscoring its pursuit of a diplomatic resolution. Emphasizing dialogue and diplomacy, Pakistan urges direct engagement between Russia and Ukraine while advocating

for the importance of respecting international law and territorial integrity without explicitly condemning the invasion. Additionally, Pakistan expresses concern for the humanitarian crisis resulting from the conflict and calls for unimpeded access to humanitarian aid to address the escalating situation.

USA expectation from Pakistan on Israel-Hamas conflict would be hands off or to support Israel in the ongoing Israel Hamas Standoff, whereas Pakistan expressed its unwavering commitment to supporting the Palestinian cause declaring that Pakistan has no intention to send troops to Palestine and expressing grave concerns about the ongoing humanitarian crisis infringed by Israel in Gaza advocating ceasefire and restoration of international aid.

In conclusion, the Army chief's inaugural visit to the USA is of paramount importance. With his pragmatic approach, he will be fostering convergence rather than divergence of views and strategies between Pakistan and the USA which are pivotal for the advancement of Pakistan's progress, regional stability, and global peace and development. He will find common ground with objectives regarding security, economic growth, regional stability, and humanitarian concerns for mutual prosperity. It goes without saying that aligning efforts, addressing differences, and cultivating cooperation stand as fundamental pillars for a constructive partnership that not only benefits both nations but also contributes significantly to fostering peace and progress in the region and beyond.

Through shared objectives and collaborative endeavors, Pakistan and the USA can pave the way for a more stable, prosperous, and peaceful future, both domestically and on the global stage.

CPEC has several planned projects in Baluchistan Mega project involves the construction of roads, highways, and other infrastructure in the province

By Syed Rizwan Shah

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a significant infrastructure and economic development project aiming to connect Gwadar Port in Pakistan to China's northwestern region of Xinjiang. There is many progress in various areas, construction of roads, railways, and energy projects has been ongoing. Several projects under CPEC have either been completed or are in various stages of development. Multiple energy projects, including coal, solar, and wind power plants, have been established to address Pakistan's energy shortage. CPEC aims to boost economic cooperation between China and Pakistan, encouraging investment, trade, and industrial development along the corridor. However, there have been challenges related to security, regional disparities, environmental concerns, and local community engagement. Balancing the benefits among different provinces and ensuring local participation have been ongoing concerns. CPEC remains a subject of both optimism and scrutiny due to its potential to significantly impact Pakistan's economy while also facing various challenges that need careful management. CPEC holds immense significance for Pakistan's economy. It's been touted as a game-changer, offering several potential benefits. The project is expected to spur economic growth by improving infrastructure, facilitating trade, and attracting foreign investment. It opens up avenues for job creation and industrial development. Pakistan has faced energy shortages for years. The energy projects under CPEC aim to address this issue by adding power generation capacity through various sources like coal, solar, wind, and hydroelectric power. By providing a

direct trade route to China and enhancing connectivity within Pakistan, CPEC can significantly reduce transportation costs and time, thereby boosting trade opportunities. The project aims to bridge regional disparities by focusing on the development of underdeveloped areas, potentially reducing economic disparities among provinces. CPEC has several planned projects in Baluchistan, Pakistan's largest province by land area. The province's strategic location is pivotal to the corridor, particularly due to the presence of the Gwadar Port. Here are some ways CPEC is expected to benefit Baluchistan. Gwadar is a centerpiece of CPEC. The development of Gwadar Port aims to transform it into a major regional economic hub, creating employment opportunities and boosting economic activity in the region. CPEC involves the construction of roads, highways, and other infrastructure in Baluchistan, connecting Gwadar to other parts of the country. This infrastructure development is expected to enhance connectivity and trade opportunities, benefiting the province. Special Economic Zones (SEZs) planned along the corridor, including in Baluchistan, aim to attract investment and set up industries. These zones have the potential to create jobs and stimulate economic growth in the province. Baluchistan has seen the development of energy projects under CPEC, such as the Qaid-e-Azam Solar Park, aimed at addressing the region's energy needs and contributing to the national grid. However, there have been concerns regarding the equitable distribution of benefits from CPEC in Baluchistan. Some locals have expressed apprehensions about potential exploitation of resources without adequate benefits reaching the local communities. Balancing development with the preservation

of local interests and ensuring that the province reaps tangible benefits from CPEC remains an ongoing challenge. Nationalist sentiments and movements can pose challenges to CPEC. In the context of Pakistan, nationalist movements in certain regions, including Baluchistan, have expressed concerns and reservations about the CPEC project for various reasons. Some nationalist groups fear that CPEC might lead to the exploitation of their region's natural resources without adequate benefits or compensation to the local population. There are concerns that the economic benefits of CPEC might not reach the local communities or could disproportionately benefit other regions, exacerbating existing disparities. Large infrastructure projects can have significant environmental implications. Some nationalists worry about the environmental impact of CPEC projects on their regions' ecology and livelihoods. There are fears that increased economic ties and infrastructure development might compromise the region's political autonomy or cultural identity. While nationalist sentiments might not necessarily pose a direct danger to the project itself, they can lead to social unrest, protests, or resistance against specific aspects of CPEC. Managing these concerns by ensuring transparency, engaging with local communities, addressing grievances, and creating inclusive development plans is crucial for the successful implementation of CPEC while respecting the concerns of various stakeholders. It's vital to address concerns about equitable distribution of benefits, environmental impact, and local participation. Ensuring that the benefits of CPEC reach the people of Baluchistan and that their concerns are taken into account is essential for the long-term success and acceptance of the project in the region.

Navigating the complex tapestry of peace in South Asia: A comprehensive analysis of conflicts and regional implications through the dimensions of peace perspectives & world power politics

By Ayesha Rafiq

In the complex world of international relations, South Asia unfolds as an amalgamation of conflicts and aspirations for the attainment of peace. Rooted in a history marked by the partition of British India in 1947, the region grapples with longstanding tensions between India and Pakistan, with the Kashmir issue epitomizing the historical discord that persists to this day. Territorial disputes form the nucleus of South Asian conflicts, and the contested region of Kashmir serves as a focal point, encapsulating the intricate interplay of identity, sovereignty, and geopolitics. This dispute not only fuels tensions between India and Pakistan but also draws in China as a key player, underscoring the multifaceted nature of regional challenges.

Beyond territorial strife, South Asia contends with deep-seated ethnic and religious fault lines, contributing to internal conflicts. The Rohingya crisis in Myanmar and the Tamil-Sinhala conflict in Sri Lanka highlight the fragility of peace within national boundaries, demanding an exploration of the intricate dynamics of identity politics, discrimination, and the quest for autonomy.

The specter of nuclear weapons further complicates the South Asian security landscape. India and Pakistan's possession of nuclear capabilities creates a delicate balance of deterrence, raising concerns about the potential for catastrophic conflict. Managing this precarious equilibrium necessitates a vigilant international community cognizant of the far-reaching global implications of any escalation in the region.

Economic interdependencies weave a contrasting thread into the fabric of South Asia. Despite conflicts, nations in the region are intricately linked by trade and cooperation, showcased through initiatives like the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). These endeavors emphasize the potential for shared prosperity when regional stability is achieved.

Soft power diplomacy emerges as a significant player in the pursuit of peace. South Asian nations leverage cultural and economic influence to foster goodwill and cooperation. Bollywood's global reach, India's IT prowess, and Pakistan's rich cultural heritage showcase the potency of soft power in building bridges in a region marked by historical animosities. The evolving geopolitical landscape introduces

yet another layer of complexity. China's assertive presence, epitomized by the Belt and Road Initiative, reshapes regional dynamics. Strategic alliances formed by South Asian nations in response to changing global power structures impact the balance of power within the region, adding layers of complexity to conflict resolution efforts.

As we navigate the labyrinth of South Asian geopolitics, the quest for peace demands a nuanced understanding of historical grievances, territorial disputes, ethnic and religious dynamics, nuclear deterrence, economic interdependencies, soft power diplomacy, and evolving geopolitical shifts. The interconnectedness of these dimensions underscores the need for the international community to actively engage in fostering dialogue and cooperation.

In conclusion, the lens of international relations offers insights into the delicate dance of power, identity, and cooperation. South Asia's potential for prosperity hinges on transcending historical animosities and forging a collective commitment to building a stable and harmonious region. — Student of National Defense University (NDU), Pursuing A Degree In Peace And Conflict Studies, Islamabad.



CM Baqar warns against artificial shortage of Insulin, ARV, anti-hypertensive drugs

KARACHI (APP): The Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (ret'd) Maqbool Baqar has said that there is no shortage of Insulin (Anti Diabetic), Anti-Rabies Vaccine (ARV) and Anti-Hypertensive Drugs in the province and directed the health department to ensure their availability in every government hospital.

"I will not tolerate if any patient suffered due to artificial shortage or black marketing of the medicines," he told the health department.

The chief minister had received a complaint that there was an acute shortage of Insulin, ARV and anti-hypertensive drugs in the government hospitals and even in the market.

The CM in the light of the complaint got a detailed report about the

available stock of the medicines in the government hospital and in the market.

The health department told the CM that 2,955 vials, 84252 vials of Insulin and 2003,967 packs of anti-hypertensive were available in the government hospitals stocks and government hospitals.

The report regarding the availability of the said medicines in the open market said that 187,138 packs of anti-hypertensive drugs, 20,700 vials of Anti-Rabies Vaccine and 23,486 vials/pens of Insulin (Anti-Diabetics) were available in the open market.

The report said that two companies, M/s. Getz Pharma and M/s. Elli Lilly Pakistan were producing Insulin. One of the companies, M/s. Getz



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali in a group photo with delegation of Islamic Doctors Forum District Organization Khyber Pakhtunkhawa.

Governor KP agrees over forming of committee to streamline trade with Afghan

PESHAWAR (APP): After discussion over the issues creating hurdles in the smooth sailing of trade, it was agreed that a steering committee be constituted under the chairmanship of private sector stakeholders with representation from Frontier Corps, NLC, Afghan Consulate, DC Khyber and Custom Department as its members.

The committee should be notified by Governor KP and would meet on a weekly or monthly basis to take a review of issues about the Pak-Afghan trade.

The steering committee would work in the pattern of the Facilitation Committee formed at the Turkhem border for holding meetings of traders and stakeholders from Pakistan and Afghanistan sides every month. Earlier, the Coordinator of PAJCCI, Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi apprised the Governor about the working of PAJCCI under the dynamic leadership of its Chairman.

Naqvi inaugurates 5-day International Scientific Conference at KEMU

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi inaugurated the 43rd Annual 5-Day International Scientific Conference at King Edward Medical University (KEMU), here on Friday.

He visited stalls showcasing innovations by students and teachers, including the Brain Tumour Detector OCT Python and a laparoscopy simulator, developed by the King Edward researchers. He announced dedication of Mayo Hospital's surgical tower to Prof. Dr. Faisal Masood. Additionally, he announced his intention to recommend Dr. Maqbool Ahmed for a civil award, acknowledging his role in constructing the surgical tower with one-and-a-half billion rupees.

CM Naqvi inspected a home dialysis machine and locally manufactured surgical instruments for plastic surgery. He took keen interest in a special machine designed for sciatica pain. Overseas graduates of King Edward Medical College presented him with substantial donations for the medical college and hospital. Graduating doctors contributing to the institution received shields in acknowledgment. Vice Chancellor King Edward Medical University, Professor Dr. Mahmood Ayaz, expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister on behalf of students and faculty.

The CM emphasized the noble nature of the medical profession and commended the dedication of doctors, nurses, and paramedical staff, acknowledging their sacrifices and the risks they face daily. He recounted instances of doctors sacrificing their lives, citing the example of those who succumbed to the Congo virus in Balochistan while treating patients. Naqvi outlined ongoing hospital upgrades, targeting completion by January 31. Notable hospitals like General, Services, Victoria, and Holy Family are undergoing improvements mirroring the model set by Mayo Hospital. The comprehensive upgrade spans an area of 6 lakh square feet across various hospitals.



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi inaugurates 43rd International Scientific Conference at King Edward Medical University.

Jamal Shah for following Iqbal's teachings for resolving social issues

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage & Culture Syed Jamal Shah has said that the nation can move forward in the light of thoughts and teachings of Allama Muhammad Iqbal as creation of Pakistan was the result of his intellectual guidance which was acknowledged by the leaders of the Freedom Movement and especially by Hazrat Q u a i d - e - A z a m Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

He was addressing the International Iqbal Conference organized by Iqbal Academi Pakistan with a theme "Allama Iqbal and Nesad No" here at Aiwan-e-Iqbal on Friday. Justice @ Nasira Javed Iqbal, Prof. Dr Baseera Ambreen, Prof. Dr. Waheeduzzaman Tariq, Dr Abdul Rauf Rafique, Prof. Dr Faleeha Zehra Kazmi VC Home Economics University and other speakers also addressed the conference.

Caretaker minister paid rich tribute to the services of Allama Muhammad Iqbal and said that "we can resolve many of our social and national problems by following the teachings of our national poet".

He said that Pakistan was the country with 65 to 70 percent of youth, they must had awareness about Iqbal's teachings and services to the nation.

"In this conference of scholars, new angles of thoughts will be opened, Iqbal's thoughts will be promoted and new ways will be found for solving political, social and national problems", he added.

Jamal Shah further said that it was the efforts of our scholars that the tradition of understanding of Iqbal was progressing in a good way, adding that "we want to see Iqbal Academy, a national institution for the promotion of Iqbal thought."

No clue of two abducted friends

ATTOCK (Online): Police failed to get any clue of two friends belongs to Hazro town of Attock who fell in to honey trap and abducted by outlaws in Kachha area of Sadiqabad around one week ago.

Hassan Khan and his friend Zahid Khan, both native of Tajak village of Hazro were abducted after falling into a honey trap laid out by a Sadiqabad gang in Kachha area for sale of Suzuki van. Later on, the abductors make a call from one of the abductors to his family members and demanded a ransom money worth Rs 50 million for the safe release of the abducted persons. Although Hazro Police registered a case against the abductors but so far no clue of the abducted persons was traced despite the lapse of one week, causing unrest and fear of killing among the family members. The family of the victim maintained that the robbers were demanding a total of Rs 50 million.

Punjab Governor says: Permanent appointments on the statutory posts should be ensured

Independent Report
LAHORE: The Punjab Governor, Muhammad Balighur Rehman has approved summaries of various universities regarding appointments, nominations, and additional charge on various administrative posts as chancellor. On this occasion, the Governor of the Punjab has specially emphasized that permanent appointments on the statutory posts of Registrar, Controller of Examinations, and Treasurer should be ensured during the period of additional charge.

According to the details, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman has nominated Prof. Dr. Nasir Hayat, Department of Mechanical Engineering UET, as the Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University of Engineering and Technology for a period of three (3) years or till his retirement, whichever is earlier. Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman has nominated Professor Dr. Rubina Kamal, Principal Government Graduate College for Women, Margzar Colony, Lahore, as syndicate member of the University of Punjab for a period of three (3) years or till the completion of her term as Principal, whichever is earlier. Governor Punjab entrusted the additional charge of the post of Registrar, University of Health Sciences Lahore to Professor Dr. Sara Head, Department of Oral Biology, UHS. Governor Punjab nominated Prof. Dr. Javed Akhtar, Vice-Chancellor, Sahiwal University as a member of the Syndicate of Government College Women University, Faisalabad.

First Lady Samina visits Shalimar Garden

LAHORE (APP): First Lady Begum Samina Arif Alvi visited the historic building Shalimar Garden here on Friday. Walled City of Lahore Authority (WCLA) Director General Kamran Lashari, Amateur Gardeners' Club Chairperson Nousheen Sarfraz received the distinguished guest on her arrival to the UNESCO world heritage site. Samina Alvi was briefed in detail about the recent restoration and preservation activities carried out by the WCLA and presented pictorial documentation of the restoration work. The first lady commended the WCLA's commitment to preserving the heritage of Mughal era and expressed appreciation for the floral art showcased by the Amateur Gardeners' Club. Later, Kamran Lashari presented a shield to Begum Samina Alvi as a souvenir on behalf of both the WCLA and the Amateur Gardeners' Club.

PPP says standing firm on demand for polls on Feb 8

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has made a clear announcement to stand firm on its position of ensuring certainty of elections on February 8.

In a statement issued here on Friday, PPP Parliamentarians Secretary-General Syed Nayyar Hussain Bukhari has said the party is committed to its stance on February 8 elections, and the Election Commission must adhere to the date, set for the electoral process by the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court and the Election Commission should eliminate any ambiguity regarding utilisation of people's right to vote on the given election date. Bukhari also mentioned that the Supreme Court had declared that elections would take place on Feb 8 in any case.

He demanded that the perception of facilitation to any party of the civil administration under the supervision of the caretaker government must be removed. He said those elements want to delay elections through the delaying tactics who are not able to face people. The PPP is ready to engage with the public on its manifesto, programme, and performance in a systematic manner, Bukhari concluded.

Minister appreciates educational system, quality of Dar-e-Arqam

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Caretaker Minister for Industries, Commerce, Technical Education and Tribal Affairs of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Dr. Aamer Abdullah has appreciated the educational system and quality of Dar-e-Arqam Schools System Pakistan and Al-Ghazali Trust.

He was speaking during a meeting with the Directors of the nationwide network of Dar-e-Arqam Schools Pakistan and addressed to their national convention at Abbottabad.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dar-e-Arqam Schools Pakistan, Syed Waqas Jafferi, Directors Dr. Ishtiaq Gondal, Aamir Cheema, Dr. Muddasir, Regional Director Mohammad Haroon and Chairman Ghazali Trust Pakistan, Aamir Mahmood Jafferi, the heads of the school also attended the convention.

In the field of education, he has invited these institutions of the private sector to establish their schools in the newly merged districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa so the people of these backward areas could get quality education opportunities in the best educational institutions.

In his address to the convention, the caretaker minister emphasized strict adherence to our traditions and high moral character in order to move forward in education and practical life. He said that the education system of Dar al-Arqam Schools and Al-Ghazali Trust has been extended to the newly merged districts of the province. He said that the educational system of Dar-e-Arqam Schools and Al-Ghazali Trust should be extended to the newly merged districts of the province because these areas are in dire need of such facilities. The arrival of this facility in the erstwhile Federal Administered Tribal Area.

Sindh Police chief meets slain student's family, vows justice

KARACHI (APP): The Inspector General of Police (IGP) for Sindh, Riffat Mukhtar Raja, convened with the parents of Syed Murtaza Hussain, a NED University student who tragically lost his life in a recent robbery.

The meeting took place at the Central Police Office (CPO) in Karachi, where IGP Sindh also checked on the condition of the deceased's injured brother.

Expressing deep condolences and empathy, IGP Sindh assured the grieving parents of the police's commitment to conduct a thorough investigation, ensuring the perpetrators are brought to justice.

During the meeting, DIGP - East Ghulam Azfar Mahesar and SSP Investigation Ameer Saud Magzi updated the IGP on the ongoing progress in the case's investigation. Emphasizing the utilization of modern techniques and collected evidence, the police officials affirmed their dedication to swiftly resolving the case and bringing the culprits to account.

IGP Sindh extended prayers for the departed soul and the swift recovery of the deceased student's injured brother. The father of the late student shared poignant memories.

Drug peddler sentenced to 14 years in prison

ATTOCK (Online): A special court for the Control of Narcotic Substances (CNS) in Attock on Friday sentenced fourteen-year imprisonment to an accused involved in a drug smuggling case.

The accused Zaffar Shahzad - a resident of Sargodha was arrested by Attock Khurd Police during previous year in the case registered under section 9-C of control of narcotics substance act 1997 after recovery of hashish from his custody.

The additional Session Judge Attock after hearing the arguments of defense and prosecution counsels announced the verdict as the convicted was found guilty of having drugs, subsequently awarded 14-year imprisonment and fine worth Rs 0.19 million.



KARACHI: Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh Justice (ret'd) Maqbool Baqar presides over the meeting of Sindh Food Authority.

Dr. Aamir Abdullah says: Expansion of private educational institutions nationwide need of time

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Local Government, Industries, Commerce and Technical Education Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Dr. Aamir Abdullah underscored the pivotal role of private educational institutions on the national scale.

He expressed these views while addressing the convention of a private school network at a local hotel here Friday.

The minister lauded the educational standards and system implemented by Dar-e-Arqam Schools Pakistan and Al-Ghazali Trust, recognizing their contributions to the advancement of education throughout the country.

Dr. Aamir Abdullah proposed the establishment of similar schools in KP districts, particularly in marginalized regions. This proposition was made during discussions with the directors of Dar-e-Arqam Schools Pakistan, a nationwide network of private educational institutions, in conjunction with their national convention.

While addressing the convention KP minister Aamir Abdullah shared personal experiences and commended the institutions for their significant role in education and practical life. He particularly praised the methodology adopted by Dar-e-Arqam Schools System to enhance their educational institutions.

Four get death sentence, life jail in double murder case

MULTAN (APP): A local court awarded death sentences to four accused on charge of killing two persons after committing a robbery at a house in 2019 in Multan.

Additional District & Sessions Judge (AD&SJ), Saira Noreen, pronounced the verdict of the case after the completion of the trial in which four accused named Gulam Shabir alias Shabu, Mureed Hussain, Gulam Mustafa alias Musti Nadeem and Nazir Ahmad were awarded death sentence. Apart from the death penalty, the criminals were also sentenced to life imprisonment. The court also ordered that all the criminals will also pay Rs 300,000 each as compensation to the heirs of the deceased and they will spend a further three months in jail in case.



KARACHI: Inspector General (IG) Sindh Riffat Mukhtar met the parents of Syed Murtaza Hussain, a student of NED University, who was killed in a robbery in the past few days, at the Central Police Office in Karachi.



PESHAWAR: Members of Civil Society are holding rally to pay homage to students of Army Public School (APS) during commemoration ceremony in connection of anniversary of deadly Army Public School massacre.



Governor SBP asks banks to enhance farmers' access to financial services

Independent Report
KARACHI: The Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Jameel Ahmed urged the banks to ensure easy, timely and hassle-free access of farmers to all financial services including credit, deposits and payments.

The ACAC meeting was attended by senior officials from federal and provincial governments, Presidents/CEOs of banks, members of provincial chambers of agriculture, representatives of regional farming communities and senior officials of SBP.

The Governor highlighted that despite various challenges including floods, the agriculture credit disbursements reached an impressive level of Rs1,776 billion during FY23, witnessing year-on-year growth of 25.2% and achieving 97.6% of the overall target of Rs1,819 billion.

He expressed hope for a strong recovery in the agriculture sector that would pave the way for a projected real GDP growth in the range of 2 to 3% in FY24. He urged the banks to intensify their efforts to not only meet but also surpass the target.



ISLAMABAD: The Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar presided over a meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet.



KATHMANDU: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry delegation led by President Md. Jashim Uddin call on Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal.

Pakistani delegation explores agri tech cooperation in Gansu

BEIJING (APP): A delegation of government officials and agricultural experts from Gilgit-Baltistan visited Lanzhou province of China and held exchange meetings with local enterprises to explore cooperation potentials.

The company also demonstrated the complete operational model of silage harvesting equipment that they plan to showcase and promote in Pakistan, which sparked great interest among the delegation members.

Subsequently, detailed discussions were held on future cooperation models and specific plans, resulting in a series of agreements. The delegation expressed their anticipation for substantial cooperation with Jinfeng Company in agricultural equipment, aiming to drive the modernization of agriculture in Pakistan.

Governor assures cooperation to textile mills association in resolution of problems

PESHAWAR (APP): A delegation of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Textile Mills Association here Friday called on KP Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali and informed him about their problems and issues.

The delegation that was led by Muhammad Kamran Shah informed the governor about their reservations relating to the increase in gas prices and urged him to raise the issue with federal authorities.

ECC allows signing of mediation agreements b/w K-Electric and govt entities

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the cabinet here on Friday decided to approve the proposal of Power Division for signing of the draft PPAA, ICA, TDA & Mediation Agreements between K-Electric and government entities.

On taking up the matter of approval of the draft PPAA, ICA, TDA & Mediation Agreements to be signed with K-Electric, the Ministry of Energy (Power Division) briefed the Committee on the observations made by the members of the ECC and provided the requisite

additional data on the working of CPPA-G. "After detailed discussion and deliberation, ECC decided to approve the proposal of Power Division for signing of the draft PPAA, ICA, TDA & Mediation Agreements between K-Electric & GoP Entities," the statement added. The cabinet committee also directed Power Division to present the matter related to KE's generation enhancement plan to the Cabinet Committee on Energy (CCOE), which should focus on reducing the cost of electricity as well as on the resultant subsidies.

CDNS realizes Rs 750 billion targets in fresh bond

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has achieved a target of Rs 750 billion in fresh bonds in the current fiscal year, from July 1 to December 14.

The CDNS surpassed the annual target and achieved the target of Rs 1.6 trillion in fresh bonds in the current fiscal year, the senior official of CDNS told APP here on Friday.

Hike in Customs Duty by FBR set to increase mobile phones prices

LAHORE (APP): Leading mobile phone brands in Pakistan are all set to increase the prices of their models after the FBR increased the Customs Duty on import of almost all models of mobile-phones, imported into the country.

ADB mission chief stresses collaborative efforts to enhance agri. mechanization

FAISALABAD (APP): Senior National Specialist/Mission Lead of Asian Development Bank (ADB) Ms. Noriko Sato has urged agricultural engineers to make collaborative efforts for enhanced agricultural mechanization, agricultural machinery standardization and testing for development in the country.

She visited the University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) and addressed a workshop on enhanced agricultural mechanization in Punjab, jointly arranged by the ADB, UAF, Punjab Agriculture Department and CABI [Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International].

PCCC, CAB Int'l inks MoU to boost organic cotton, IPM

MULTAN (APP): In a significant development, the Pakistan Central Cotton Committee (PCCC) and CAB International (CABI) have inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on pioneering research initiatives focused on promoting organic cotton and implementing integrated pest management (IPM) in the country.

Dr. Taswar Hussain Malik expressed his optimism about this partnership, emphasizing its potential to not only benefit local farmers but also contribute to the stability of the national economy.

Output of LCVs, Vans and jeeps down by 43.91% in five months

ISLAMABAD (APP): The production of Light Commercial Vehicles (LCVs), vans and jeeps in the country has witnessed a 43.91 per cent decrease during the first five months of the financial year 2023-24 against the output of the same period of last fiscal year.

Govt tightens belts to sail through winter gas shortage

ISLAMABAD (APP): As country's population continues to grow unhindered, the mounting number of households was exerting extra burden on the available gas resources with consumers often facing gas rationing.

The officials claim to tackle imminent energy scarcity head-on with an ambitious plan targeting a production and import goal of 1,958,820 tons of

LUMS energy institute launches report on energy efficient buildings

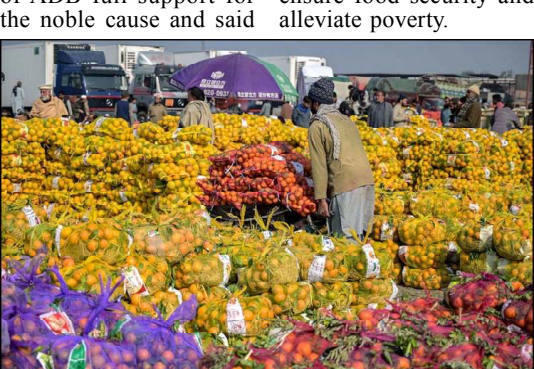
ISLAMABAD: In a milestone event, the LUMS Energy Institute (LEI), a research and capacity building centre with a focus on Pakistan's energy sector, has unveiled a report titled Sustainable Architecture: Advancing Energy Efficient Buildings.

The report addresses the acute energy challenge and how adopting energy-efficient practices in residential construction can drastically reduce loads.

While addressing policymakers, regulatory bodies, and key stakeholder, Dr. Fiaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director, LUMS Energy Institute, said, "Pakistan's expenditure of nearly USD 100 billion on power plants, predominantly for summer cooling loads, is unsustainable.



PESHAWAR: A delegation of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Textile Mills Association called on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali.



ISLAMABAD: A street vendor on his way carrying oranges on a wheelbarrow at Islamabad Fruit and Vegetable market.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi cutting ribbon during the opening ceremony of 3rd Pakistan International Property housing & Construction Expo-23 at Pak China Friendship Center.

LUMS energy institute launches report on energy efficient buildings

Pakistan's expenditure of nearly USD 100 billion on power plants: Dr. Fiaz

By adopting the energy-efficient practices we can reduce cooling loads by at least 50%, saving billions of dollars."

The seasonal variation in electricity usage, pronounced by cooling loads during hot

summer months, necessitates an additional 18,000 MW of power plant capacity.

Govt tightens belts to sail through winter gas shortage

Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) as our hydrocarbon reserves deplete by roughly 10% annually amidst escalating gas consumption.

The country is currently facing insufficient gas production to meet the demand, with local gas reserves depleting by approximately 10 percent annually.

present caretaker set-up had to bear the brunt of these policies. However, the minister assured to acceleration of exploration activities to meet the requirements of domestic, commercial and industrial consumers.

Israel-Hamas fighting convulses Gaza as US seeks protection of civilians

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO/GAZA: Israeli and Hamas forces battled throughout Gaza on Friday, witnesses said, suggesting Israel's ground offensive was meeting stiffer resistance as the U.S. pushed its ally to alter a war strategy that has inflicted a huge civilian death toll.

Residents in the small enclave reported fighting in Shejaija, Sheikh Radwan, Zeitoun, Tuffah, and Beit Hanoun in north Gaza, east of Maghazi in central Gaza and in the centre and northern fringes of the main southern city of Khan Younis. Hospitals in Deir al-Balah, Khan Younis and Rafah reported a new influx of dead and wounded early on Friday including two children. Four people were



Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg attends the Future protest outside the Parliament in Stockholm, Sweden.

Germany to stop accepting imams from Turkiye

Monitoring Desk
BERLIN: Germany will stop accepting imams sent from Turkey and instead train the Muslim clerics on home soil in a bid to encourage integration, the interior ministry said on Thursday.

An agreement has been reached with the Turkish-Islamic umbrella group DITIB to phase out foreign imams and train 100 a year in Germany to replace them, the ministry said in a statement.

DITIB is the largest

Tel Aviv not to resume Gaza prisoner talks in Qatar

Monitoring Desk
TEL AVIV: Israel has canceled a planned trip to Qatar by the head of its foreign intelligence service to restart talks on a potential second prisoner release deal with Hamas, CNN reported on Thursday.

Mossad director David Barnea will not travel to Doha, where previous talks on the release of prisoners held by Hamas in Gaza have taken place, the source said.

The Israeli war cabinet, led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, decided to cancel the trip and negotiations with senior officials will not resume in Qatar.

Prince Harry's phone hacking victory is a landmark in the long saga of British tabloid misconduct

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: Prince Harry's victory against Mirror Group Newspapers on Friday over what a British judge called "habitual" illegal activity is a landmark moment in the long and twisting saga of lawbreaking by Britain's tabloid press.

Judge Timothy Fancourt ruled that Mirror newspapers had hired private investigators to snoop for personal information and engaged in illegal phone hacking for well over a decade.

It's the latest chapter

More asylum seekers rush to Finland from Russia before border closure

Monitoring Desk
HELSINKI: The Finnish Border Guard on Friday said more than 200 asylum seekers have entered Finland from Russia since the Nordic country reopened some border crossings on Thursday to allow travel between the two countries after a two-week total closure.

The Finnish government said on Thursday afternoon it would again shut the border from 1800 GMT on Friday, this time for one month after the inflow of asylum seekers restarted as soon as the border restrictions were relaxed.

Some 900 asylum seekers from nations such as Kenya, Morocco, Pakistan, Somalia, Syria and Yemen entered Finland from Russia in November, an increase from less than one per day previously, according to the Border Guard.

Biden staffers demonstrate outside White House for Gaza ceasefire

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: In an unprecedented move, political appointees and Biden administration staffers gathered in front of the White House on Wednesday, urging President Joe Biden to support a permanent ceasefire in Gaza.

More than three dozen participants, including political appointees, administration staffers, and civil service career staff, attended the vigil during the early evening, concealing their identities with sun-

14 Indian MPs suspended for security breach protest

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: The curious security lapse in the Indian parliament took a curiouser turn on Thursday when the ruling party used its majority to expel 14 opposition MPs for demanding a statement from the home minister on the incident.

Four persons were placed on a 7-day remand for Wednesday's security breach after two men from the group jumped into the Lok Sabha from the visitor's gallery and released yellow smoke from canisters while shouting anti-government slogans. The other two released yellow smoke outside the parliament building.

The house first suspended five opposition MPs from different parties and later added another nine to the list. Reports said one of the MPs suspended was not even in Delhi when the opposition vociferously demanded an explanation from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.



Passengers of an Allegro train from St Petersburg, Russia, walk at the railway station in Helsinki, Finland.



European Council President Charles Michel delivers remarks to journalists in the European Council atrium ahead of an EU leaders' dinner at the European headquarters in Brussels.

Communications blackout as starving Gazans being bombed to dust

Monitoring Desk
GAZA: Israel pounded the length of the Gaza Strip on Thursday, killing families in their homes, even as a US envoy told Israel Washington wanted the war to end "as soon as possible".

Internet and telephone services were cut across the war-torn Gaza Strip on Thursday, the Palestinian telecommunications company Paltel said, while the UN warned of the possibility of a "breakdown of civil order" in the Gaza Strip as aid organisations have struggled to get supplies to desperate Gazans.

Hunger and desperation are driving people to seize humanitarian aid being delivered from the sole point of entry at Rafah, while many are forced to beg for bread, paying 50 times more than usual for a single can of beans and slaughtering a donkey to feed a family.

The UN humanitarian office OCHA said on Thursday that limited aid distributions were taking place in the Rafah area, close to the border with Egypt, where almost half of Gaza's population of 2.3 million is now estimated to be living.

Palestinian prime minister says US must seek a 2-state solution. Israel vows to fight

Monitoring Desk
GAZA: The Palestinian prime minister said in an interview Thursday that the Biden administration must now "walk the walk" and take specific steps toward what has been an elusive two-state solution, including by applying pressure on Israel. But in Israel, the defense minister said destroying Hamas will take several more months.

The United States has shielded Israel against growing international calls for an immediate cease-fire.

11 Iran police killed in attack claimed by militant group Jaish al-Adl

Monitoring Desk
TEHRAN: At least 11 Iranian police officers were killed in an attack overnight by militant group Jaish al-Adl (Army of Justice) on a police station in the south-eastern province of Sistan-Baluchistan, an official told state television on Friday.

A number of assailants were also killed in a shootout that ensued with the security forces, the channel reported.

"In the terrorist attack on the police headquarters in the town of Rask, 11 policemen were killed, and others were wounded,"

US House launches impeachment inquiry against Biden

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The US House of Representatives voted on Wednesday to formalise an impeachment inquiry into President Joe Biden, escalating Republicans' battle with Democrats ahead of the 2024 election in a move Biden himself slammed as a "baseless" stunt. Republicans, seizing on Biden's son Hunter's controversial international dealings, have yet to provide evidence of corruption by the president, and the Democratic-led Senate would be unlikely to convict him even if the inquiry did lead to an actual impeachment trial.



Current and former members of President Biden's staff call for a ceasefire in Gaza, outside the White House.

Indian court allows survey over mosque-temple dispute in UP

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: In a move that could impact the general elections in India next year, the Allahabad High Court on Thursday allowed a petition demanding that a court commissioner be appointed to inspect the Shahi Idgah mosque in Uttar Pradesh's Mathura, reported Live Law.

The petitioners have demanded full ownership of 13.37 acres of land around the mosque, claiming that it is the birthplace of Hindu deity Krishna, the Scroll news portal said.

Denmark remands six in custody after foiled terror attack

Monitoring Desk
COPENHAGEN: Danish prosecution authorities said Friday that six people had been remanded in custody overnight after a police swoop they said prevented a terror attack.

Police have not given any details about the target of the alleged plot but said late Thursday that there was no direct link to the arrest the same day of four suspected Hamas members in Germany attacked against Jewish targets in Europe.

Israel had said on Thursday that the suspects in Denmark were acting "on behalf of Hamas," which has not been confirmed by Danish authorities.

"Six people were remanded in custody overnight until January 9 — four of them in absentia. One person has been released," the Danish prosecution service wrote on X, without providing further details.

Suspects can be remanded in custody in absentia in order to obtain an international arrest warrant, which suggests the four may be abroad.

The proceedings were held behind closed doors and no details of the case have been made public.

Danish police said Thursday that they had arrested three people in Denmark.

EU agrees to open membership talks with Ukraine

Monitoring Desk
BRUSSELS: European Union leaders granted Ukraine a major political win on Thursday by agreeing to start membership negotiations at a time when its counter-offensive against Russia's invasion has failed to make major gains and US military aid has become more uncertain.

Diplomats and officials in Brussels said the unexpected green light for talks took place as Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, who had for weeks said he would block such a deal, agreed to leave the room, knowing the other leaders would go ahead and vote.

Orban confirmed that he had abstained from the vote at the EU summit on what he called a "bad decision".

It was unclear at this stage what exactly he had been getting in return.

Such an unusual way to approve a decision, especially such a major one, is unheard of in Brussels, even for a place where diplomats have long been very creative about how to strike deals.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky welcomed the decision.

"This is a victory for all of Europe. A victory that motivates, inspires, and strengthens," he said.

Hungarian PM Orban blocks EU aid for Ukraine after membership talks agreed

Monitoring Desk
BRUSSELS: Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban on Friday blocked \$55 billion (€50 billion) in EU aid for Ukraine, after leaders side-stepped his opposition to agree to open talks with Kyiv on joining the bloc. A crunch summit in Brussels broke up after a day of wrangling as the Hungarian authoritarian leader refused to greenlight funding to help prop up Ukraine's government over the next four years.

Orban called for unblocking all of the still-frozen funds from the European Union for his country, before considering lifting his veto on further aid to Ukraine.

"This is a great opportunity for Hungary to make it clear that it should get what it deserves. Not half,

Denmark and Germany announce arrests of terror suspects, including suspected Hamas members

Monitoring Desk
COPENHAGEN: Denmark and Germany announced Thursday arrests of several terror suspects, including alleged Hamas members suspected of plotting attacks on Jews and Jewish institutions in Europe over the ongoing Israel-Hamas war.

The announcements were issued separately and it was unclear how the arrests were connected and if they were the result of coordinated actions, or even possibly one operation spanning the continent.

Danish police said three people were arrested across Denmark while a fourth person was detained in the Netherlands on suspicion of plotting to carry out "an act of terror".

Officials in Copenhagen did not provide any details beyond saying the arrests had "threads abroad" and were "related to criminal gangs," singling out the banned, predominantly immigrant gang Loyal to Familia that had long been behind feuds, violence, robberies, extortion and drug sales.

Former Philippine president Duterte denies making death threat

Monitoring Desk
MANILA: Former president Rodrigo Duterte has denied he threatened to kill a congresswoman and urged state prosecutors to refrain from filing criminal charges against him, according to a deposition made public on Friday.

House of Representatives Deputy Minority Leader France Castro has alleged Duterte threatened her life twice in recent months and asked state prosecutors to charge him.

Duterte sent a written deposition to a Manila prosecutor on Monday after the official summoned him and Castro to present witnesses and supporting documents relating to the first alleged death threat, the justice department said.

"There was never any deliberate intent on my part to single out and threaten complainant Castro," Duterte said in the deposition, a copy of which was released to the press by the department's National Prosecution Service.

Sudan's RSF advances on Wad Madani as eight month-old war spreads

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: Sudan's army was trying to hold off attacks by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) on Friday near Wad Madani, a major city that had been sheltered from fighting and taken in hundreds of thousands of civilians during eight months of war.

Clashes in the area, about 170 km (105 miles) southeast of Khartoum, threaten to open a new front in a conflict that has displaced nearly 7 million people, left the capital in ruins and triggered waves of ethnically driven killings in Darfur.

A takeover of densely populated Wad Madani, where some government and aid services have relocated, would likely trigger massive displacement and deepen a humanitarian crisis in which the United Nations is warning of famine-like conditions in areas directly affected by the conflict.

On social media, some shared photos of people packing up belongings while others asked about safe routes out of Wad Madani.

Residents in Khartoum and other cities have reported rape, looting, arbitrary killing, and detention by RSF forces.

The RSF, a paramilitary force that has recently gained momentum with takeovers of major cities, has said it is trying to protect civilians. It said in a statement on Friday that it was seeking to destroy army strongholds and that citizens in Wad Madani and surrounding El Gezira state should be reassured.

Witnesses said that RSF soldiers had reached Um Eleila, 15 km from Wad Madani, but that the army had deployed on a bridge that separates the two areas and army planes were seen overhead. Witnesses in Wad Madani said they could hear explosions but there was no fighting inside the city.

Um Eleila town contains fuel depots that could aid the RSF in its campaign.



LAHORE: President Dr Arif Alvi addressing the passing out ceremony of 46th Specialized Training Program of Pakistan Administrative Service.

APHC acknowledges Pak continued support for Kashmir cause

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has said that Pakistan's continued political, diplomatic and moral support has been a source of great encouragement for the people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir in their just struggle to secure their right to self-determination.

The APHC spokesman, in a statement issued in Srinagar, hailed the Pakistan Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, for representing the aspirations of the Kashmiri people in his address to the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, yesterday, Kashmir Media Service reported on Friday.

He maintained that Pakistan has always advocated the resolution of the

Kashmir dispute in accordance with the Kashmiris' aspirations and the relevant UN resolutions but this objective could not be achieved due to India's intransigent attitude. The spokesman urged the international community to put pressure on India to reciprocate Pakistan's efforts to settle this lingering dispute to ensure permanent peace in the region.

Meanwhile, the occupation authorities locked the Central Jamia Masjid and Bemina Imambargah in Srinagar for the 10th consecutive week and prevented people from offering Juma prayers. The authorities feared that the Juma congregations at these places of worship could turn into anti-India and anti-Israel demonstrations.



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Asim Munir interacted with the Pakistani overseas community in a reception hosted by Embassy of Pakistan during his ongoing visit to US.

SC issues written order pertaining to Z.A. Bhutto reference

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court (SC) on Friday issued a written order regarding the hearing on a presidential reference pertaining to the sentence of former prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

The order said: "The reference No. 1 of 2011 was filed by the President of Pakistan under Article 186 of the Constitution with regard to the late Mr. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's criminal trial and conviction.

A number of hearings took place till 12 November 2012, but thereafter the Presidential Reference was not fixed in Court. This Reference remains pending, therefore, it merits determination as early as possible."

It said Mr. Farooq H. Naek referred to an application filed on behalf of Mr.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the grandson of the late Mr. Bhutto and states he wants to be represented herein. We are informed that there is only one surviving daughter of the late Mr. Bhutto and he has eight grandchildren.

The application is allowed and learned Mr. Naek may represent Mr. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and assist this Court. If Mr. Bhutto's daughter and any of his grandchildren also want to be represented, they may engage counsel, the order said.

It said the Attorney-General for Pakistan was asked whether any of the successive Presidents or the federal government sought to withdraw the Reference or wants to do so now, and the AG stated that this was not done nor is this sought to be done now.



QUETTA: Caretaker Home Minister Captain (Retd) Muhammad Zubair Jamali meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

AKDN visits Gwadar to explore cultural heritage

QUETTA (APP): A delegation from the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) paid a visit to Gwadar, exploring the historical cultural heritage under the reconstruction initiative by the Gwadar Development Authority (GDA).

AKDN statement issued on Friday said the delegation highlighted the significance of GDA's project for the preservation and development of Gwadar's ancient cultural heritage.

Urban Development Specialist of GDA, Tariq Rand, provided the delegation with briefings on various developmental projects undertaken by GDA. The delegation, led by AKDN's

Business and Technical Analyst Aqdas Hussain, included the Vice Principal of Gwadar Institute of Technology, Hamad Ahmed, and the Executive Engineer from GDA, Qazi Kashif.

The delegation expressed interest in projects related to business and educational opportunities for women, community development, construction of public facilities in the Demi Zer, training programs, women entrepreneurship, and women's inclusion in the fishing industry. The delegation conveyed their enthusiasm for collaboration in these diverse projects, emphasizing cooperation for future endeavors.

Asif Durrani says Despite crises, Pakistan will continue to assist & protect Afghan refugees

GENEVA (APP): Highlighting that Pakistan is still hosting over 1.4 million Afghan refugees, a senior Pakistani diplomat has called on the world community to continue providing Islamabad with the necessary support to take care of them. Speaking at the Global Refugee Forum (GRF), Pakistan's Special Representative for Afghanistan, Asif Durrani said that Pakistan, for over four decades, shouldered the global responsibility of hosting, protecting, and assisting Afghan refugees.

"We reaffirm this pledge to Afghan refugees, who enjoy equal access to basic facilities of life at par with Pakistani citizens," he

told the Forum, the world's largest international gathering on refugees and host communities.

"This is despite the fact that like many other developing countries, Pakistan continues to grapple with the triple crises of food, fuel and inflation," Ambassador Durrani said. "We sincerely hope that the international community will continue to demonstrate its responsibility by providing sustained and adequate support to Pakistan as a host country," he added. In his opening speech, UN refugee agency (UNHCR) chief Filippo Grandi told delegates that a record 114 million forcibly displaced,

around the world, represent a "crisis of humanity".

The Global Refugee Forum — co-hosted by UNHCR and Switzerland and convened by Colombia, France, Japan, Jordan and Uganda—brings together member states, civil society, financial institutions, private companies and more than 300 refugee advocates. Setting the tone for the discussion, Grandi said that 114 million "represents the number of refugees and displaced people whom persecution, human rights violations, violence, armed conflict, serious public disorder have forced from their homes: 114 million shattered dreams, disrupted lives, interrupted hopes."

PNSTUGHRIL visits Salalah Port in regional maritime security patrol

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Navy Ship TUGHRIL Friday visited Salalah Port of Oman for logistics and fueling on the return journey to Pakistan after completion of routine operational deployment at Gulf of Aden, as part of Regional Maritime Security Patrol.

During the stay at the port, the Commanding officer of the ship met with senior naval officials of Oman as part of Naval diplomacy and discussed matters of mutual interest, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

PM assures financial assistance to AJK govt for completion of road network

MUZAFFARABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Friday said the federal government would extend every possible financial assistance to Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) for completion of development works in the area.

Chairing a special meeting Azad Jammu and Kashmir cabinet, he stressed that the road network between AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) was crucial to ensure connectivity.

PM Kakar said the government would provide assistance on the construction of Shuntar Tunnel connecting AJK and GB, the Murree-Muzaffarabad Expressway, and the Manshra-Muzaffarabad-Mangla-Mirpur Expressway.

He said the federal government would instruct its ministries to complete the projects relating to AJK on a priority basis.

The prime minister also emphasized to benefit from the tourism potential of AJK. PM Kakar said his visit to AJK was aimed at reiterating the stance of the State of Pakistan about the internationally recognized disputed status of Jammu and Kashmir.



OMAN: Officials of Oman navy visit Pakistan Navy Ship TUGHRIL at Salalah Port of Oman.

Gwadar Trade & Investment Forum to be held on Monday

GWADAR (INP): Gwadar Trade and Investment Forum 2023 is all set to be held from December 18-19 at the newly inaugurated Huafu Exhibition Center in Gwadar Free Zone.

Co-organized by China Overseas Ports Holding Company and Gwadar Port Authority, the Expo is the third of its kind in Gwadar. The first day of the event will feature Blue economy while the second day will highlight the potential of petrochemical business in Gwadar Free Zone. To tap the potential of aqua culture, fish farming and fish processing, Haixintian Pelagic Fisheries Company Limited will promote the sector through the event.

It has already planned to establish a cold storage in Gwadar Free Zone, perhaps one of the largest in Pakistan, with a capacity of 5000 metric tons and equipped with state of the art machinery with an objective to cater to international transshipment and aqua culture needs of the international market.

East Sea Group has already submitted its proposal to establish a petrochemical complex in North Free Zone.

PTI activist Khadija Shah's remand extended further; handed over to Police

Independent Report QUETTA: The Anti-Terrorist Court (ATC) Quetta has extended remand of the activist of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) Khadija Shah and handed her over to the police for seven more days here on Friday. The PTI activist Khadija Shah was produced in the ATC comprising the Judge Mr. Saadat Khan Bazai on completion of three-day remand by the police.

The Police investigation officer pleaded the court to extend remand of Khadija Shah for 14 days on the plea that certain investigations and interrogation are required in the case.

However, the ATC judge accepted seven days remand and handed over her to the concerned police.

It may be mentioned here that Khadija Shah is nominated in case of provocation of the PTI workers on May 9 in Lahore.

The Police investigation officer pleaded the court to extend remand of Khadija Shah for 14 days on the plea that certain investigations and interrogation are required in the case.

However, the ATC judge accepted seven days remand and handed over her to the concerned police.

It may be mentioned here that Khadija Shah is nominated in case of provocation of the PTI workers on May 9 in Lahore.

FC Balochistan North sets up one day free medical camp in Khost area of Harnai

Independent Report QUETTA: The Frontier Corps (FC) Balochistan (North) set up one-day free medical camp in Khost area of Harnai district the other day.

According to the reports, over 300 patients were provided free medical treatment facilities in the medical camp.

The patients were included 129 male, 43 female and 131 children of different ages.

The patients approached the camp were also provided the free diagnostic facilities including of sugar test, blood pressure, malaria and other tests.

Free meal was also served to the patients treated at the medical camp. In addition to this, ration bags were also distributed among the deserving persons there. Meanwhile, area notables, patients and other local community have hailed the free medical camp and termed it a big relief for them.

Serving humanity gives real happiness, Dr Alvi tells passing-out officers

LAHORE (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi urged bureaucrats on Friday to be responsible, responsive, empathetic, accountable and efficient to keep the public governance and institutional effort well-aligned with the community's welfare. He was speaking at the passing-out ceremony of the participants who completed 46th Specialized Training Programme at the Civil Services Academy. He said that no doubt that institutes like the Civil Services Academy impart training and give skills to the participants which help them enhance their working. He said that unity of purpose could be linked with an organisation to obtain focused goals. Giving an example of Pyramid of Giza [largest Egyptian pyramid, which served as the tomb of pharaoh Khufu], the president said it was an outcome of skills and focused goals. "Learning skills also keeps you motivated in the

right direction," he added.

Arif Alvi said that balance should be maintained between needs and wants, adding that the world was confused about happiness. "Some relate happiness with wealth, but happiness is more about identifying what gives you fresh breath," he explained. He declared that serving humanity provides one with real and long-term happiness. He said looking at the downtrodden people also creates compassion. Efforts should be made to strengthen and practise morality in more appropriate manner, he advised.

President Alvi said will was required to overcome challenges, which the country was facing. He said there was love deficit in the world and unfortunately hatred was on the peak. He said it was very unfortunate that world looks at the downtrodden segments in a negative way.

He emphasised eliminating hatred and added that wealth did not change fate of any country, and proper leadership was of utmost significance. He said that tools and techniques which bureaucrats learn actually help them find moral anchor.

President Dr Arif Alvi said our beloved Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) taught us about forgiveness, which was need of the hour. He said Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddiq (RA) emphasised being humble, offering prayers, keeping doors open for others and maintaining one's standard of living equal to others, adding that these traits were most important for better working of an executive. The president said that atrocities being inflicted in Gaza were shocking and added that now things could not be left to vested interests.



QUETTA: Chairman Senate Mir Sadiq Sanjrani, Senator Nawabzada Khalid Khan Masgi, Sardar Saleh Bhotani, Naseebullah Bazai and Roz Jan cutting Christmas cake

PTA, FIA joint operation busts illegal SIM issuance racket

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) joined forces with the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Cyber Crime Centre to conduct a successful raid on a mobile phone company franchisee in Lahore.

The operation targeted the illegal issuance of SIM cards, a practice that poses serious threats to national security said a news release.

During the raid, the PTA Zonal Office Lahore, assisted by FIA operatives, seized 13 Biometric Verification System (BVS) devices and a laptop as crucial pieces of evidence.

The joint team apprehended one individual on the premises, who is currently under investigation by the FIA.

The collaborative effort was initiated after PTA filed a complaint with FIA, providing critical information about the unauthorized sale of SIM cards through the identified channel.

PTI escaping from elections: Ahsan Iqbal

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-N Secretary General Ahsan Iqbal said on Friday that February-8 had been announced for holding general election in the country, and whole nation was looking forward to it.

Talking to the media here, he said that the PML-N was preparing for elections and meetings of parliamentary boards were continuing on daily basis. He regretted that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had hatched a conspiracy and filed a petition to delay holding of elections. He said the PTI was escaping from polls process.

DC Hub raided water hydrant, two water thieves apprehended

HUB (APP): Deputy Commissioner Hub Munir Ahmed Musyani on Friday raided the water hydrant and held two persons involved in water theft and handed them over to Sakran police.

According to the DC office, during the raid, machines, and tanker tyres were seized while two tanker drivers escaped from the scene.

DC said that the government machinery will conduct raids from time to time on hydrants involved in water theft.

Shaukat dismissal case: SC issues notice to Faiz Hameed others

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has issued notice to former DG ISI Gen (Retd) Faiz Hameed, Brig (Retd) Irfan Ramay, former chief justice Islamabad High Court (IHC) Anwar Kansi and former Registrar SC Arbab Arif in former judge Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui dismissal case.

A five members larger bench of SC presided over by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa took up the case for hearing Friday.

At the inception of hearing CJP inquired are the allegations of Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui correct. Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui was dismissed on the speech delivered by him on the basis of these allegations. Give reply are your allegations correct. Are those generals whom you want to make respondents wanted to come to power themselves in general election 2018.

The CJP remarked if the allegations of Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui are correct then those generals were

wanting to become facilitators of some one. Who was that person for whom they were facilitating.

Counsel Hamid Khan said his allegations were correct.

The CJP remarked you are making the facilitators beneficiary. Real beneficiary is some one else. You have not mentioned real beneficiary in the petition.

You have made facilitators respondents and why you have not made beneficiary respondent.

CJP remarked is army an independent institution or it is subordinate to some one. Who runs army.

Counsel Hamid Khan said army is subordinate to government. Counsel Salah ud Din Ahmad said Nawaz Sharif was ousted by pressurizing judicial system.

The CJP remarked who benefitted from it. Was this done to benefit Sindh Bar or Islamabad bar.

Justice Jamal Mandokhel remarked the issue is this allegation is there to use judicial system.



MASTUNG: Caretaker Provincial Health Minister Dr. Amir Muhammad Khan Jogezi visiting different sections of Shaheed Nawab Ghouse Bakhsh Raisani Hospital and District Women & Child Hospital. Caretaker Provincial Minister for Excise and Taxation Prince Ahmed Ali and Deputy Commissioner Mastung Abdul Razzaq Sasoli are also present.

GoB blacklists firm for non completion of public projects

QUETTA (APP): Kuchlak. However, despite having received the advance payment for initiating work on the projects, the government contractor failed to complete the projects.

The firm blacklisted, will be deemed disqualified and will not compete in any government contracts for 36 months.

It may be mentioned here that Secretary C&W Qambar Dashti had warned stern action against contractors for the inordinate delay in any projects being carried out in the province.

He also issued directives to officials of the C&W department to ensure that uplift projects launched in their respective areas are completed within the stipulated time.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over meeting of Land Evaluation Committee