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dailyindisb@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah www.dailyindependent.com.pk Gwadar

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ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and Chief of the Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir addressing the participants of Pakistan National Youth Conference.

Domki reaches Kech, reviews election arrangements

Caretaker Chief Minister pledges to conduct free & fair general elections in peaceful manner

Preparations made for general elections 2024 satisfactory; security arrangements being improved further in Balochistan

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan,

Mir Ali Mardan Khan has reiterated the government's resolve to conduct free and fair elections in peaceful en-He said that all the re-

sources are being mobilized for the general elections in Balochistan, and it would be ensured that the elections are conducted peacefully.

The Chief Minister was chairing a high level meeting held to review the election arrangements in Makran Division, at the Commissioner's office, Turbat on Wednesday.

The caretaker Provin-Tribal Affairs, Captain (Retd) Mir Muhammad are conducted in the Division peacefully.

part in the coming elections.'

Zubair Jamali, Inspector General of Police, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh, Additional Chief Secretary Home, Zahid Saleem, besides other concerned high ups.
The Chief Minister

was briefed about the preparations made for general elections to be held in Makran Division as elsecountry on February 8,

It was informed that all the necessary preparations have been finalized for conducting the elections in Makran Division.

The Chief Minister on the occasion directed to the concerned to make it sure cial Minister for Home and that free and fair elections

He said that we are firm to conduct the general elections in the province in peaceful and transparent

He said that the security of all election contesting candidates is being en sured in the province.

He also said that the law and order situation is betwhere in the province and ter than past in the province. However, the security arrangements are being improved further, he

> Meanwhile, while talking to media in Turbat, the Chief Minister said that all preparations are complete regarding elections in the province.

He also expressed satisfaction over the arrange-

124 candidates in run for 17 seats: Final list of candidates contesting election on reserve seats issued

Independent Report QUETTA: The final list of candidates contesting elections on the reserve seats of women and minorities in national Balochistan assemblies has

been issued on Wednesday. According to the Proincial Election Commissioner (PEC) Balochistan, Muhammad Farid Afridi, in all 28 candidates have been finalized for three seats reserved for women in the National Assembly from Balochistan.

Similarly, 63 candidates have been declared eligible for 11 seats reserved for women in Balochistan's provincial assembly while 3 candidates' papers finalized for three seats reserved for non-Muslims in the provincial assembly.

HC reserves verdict on PTI founder's plea against jail trail

ISLAMABAD (APP) The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday reserved its verdict on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder's plea challenging his jail trial in the Toshakhana and Al-Qadir Trust cases, following the completion of argu**Interior Minister** Gohar Ejaz on this arrival

> The Interior Minister was given a detailed briefing regarding the Ministry of Interior and its subsidiaries in the Introductory meeting with senior officers of the ministry.

The important portfolio was vacated after the resignation of Sarfraz Bugti as caretaker minster for in-

signed from the port-

folio for taking part in the Senior officials of the general elections of 2024. Ministry welcomed Dr.

ISLAMABAD: Relatives of Baluchistan missing persons stands in a queue waiting for boarding in a bus after the finish Sitting protest (Dharna) in front of National Press Club in Federal Capital.

PM for rejecting, collectively fighting enemies' propaganda against Pakistan

Pakistan's successes in the war against terrorism would not have been possible without the participation and support of the youth

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday affirmed that as responsible citizens, the people of Pakistan must reject and collectively fight the vicious propaganda on-slaught unleashed by the enemies against Pakistan in the recent past.

The prime minister, addressing the Pakistan National Youth Convention 2024 as the chief guest, said the youth could play a constructive role in dealing with this emerging national secuarmed forces in the fight them. Conveying the mes-

rity challenge provided they remained focused, and fact checked all details through authentic information from the state institutions rather than falling prey to the propaganda.
Chief of Army Staff

(COAS) General Asim Munir, NI (M), was the guest of honour. "We, as a nation, have fought the menace of terrorism most valiantly, offering unparalleled sacrifices," he said.

against the menace of terrorism with full commitment and professional excellence.

"Pakistan's successes in the war against terrorism would not have been possible without the participation and support of the youth who make 65% of our population," he added.

Addressing the conference, the COAS underscored that the youth were Pakistan's biggest asset, and Prime Minister Kakar all optimism of a brighter

sage of hope, the COAS asked the youth to shun despondency. He referred to the historic role played by the youth in creation and development of Pakistan and exhorted them to partake in building the nation through discipline, honest toil and a genuine quest for knowledge. He highlighted the power potential of Pakistan, the demographic dividend, immense mineral wealth, a creative corpus of

IT literate workforce, and



TURBAT: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki talking with mediamen regarding preparation of general elections

66 kids die of pneumonia across Punjab

in current month MULTAN (APP): A total of 66 kids died of pneumonia in public hospitals across South Punjab in the current month while 2,847 patients reported to health

Health Department South Punjab Spokesperson Assad Ullah Shahzad told APP on Wednesday that 41 deaths were reported from Children Complex Multan, nine from Bahawal Victoria Hospital Bahawal Victoria Hospital Bahawalpur, 14 from Allama Iqbal Teaching Hos-pital D G Khan, and one each from Sheikh Zayed Hospital Rahim Yar Khan and Sir Sadiq Abbasi Hos-pital Bahawalpur while no death was reported from Nishtar Hospital Multan by January 23 by January 23

He stated that as many as 556 pneumonia patients visited out patient departments and 2,291 admitted to Accident & Emergency wards, with 2,207 of them

recovered. It may be mentioned that pneumonia is an infection that inflames the air sacs in one or both lungs. The air sacs may fill with fluid or pus (purulent material), causing cough with phlegm or pus, fever, chills, and difficulty breathing. A variety of organisms, including bacteria, viruses and fungi, can cause pneumonia.

IMF to 'send' review mission to Pakistan after elections 2024

ISLAMABAD (INP): Following Pakistan's assurance to impose new taxes, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Wednesday 'decided' to send its review mission to Pakistan after election 2024, sources said

IMF will continue further talks on the Standby Arrangement programme with the newly elected government of Pakistan after highly anticipated general elections.
However, the "IMF

has not confirmed the schedule for conducting the second review". The last confirmation was made by the monetary fund in July 2023 which stated that the talks on the 2nd review will be held with the new gov ernment. International The

Monetary Fund has already made a \$1.9 billion disbursement out of the total \$3 billion under the ninemonth Stand-By Arrangement (SBA).

Sources said that newly elected government in Pakistan is expected to take full charge till the end of February 2024 after the general election

Solangi for improving fact check mechanism to counter misinformation

LAHORE (APP): Care- tained taker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi Wednes- intelligence, deep fake, voice day said that the mechanism for fact-checking will have to be improved in the cult to sift fact from fiction. arena of digital media to counter fake news and mis-

information Delivering his speech at the 2nd International Media and Communication Conference here, he said that the year 2024 was the vear of elections in different countries including Pakistan, India, Indonesia,

United States of America. He urged the media industry to play a responsible role as its responsibility was to protect the public interest. "Journalism is primarily about defending the public's right to know, Murtaza Solangi main-

The minister said the challenges of the digital age were also great as artificial cloning and misinformation

He said that besides the benefits of modern technology in media, there were many risks also involved.

He said that many tasks are being done by using artificial intelligence and voice cloning.

The fundamental principle of journalism was the gatekeeper system to verify the facts but the new media ignored gatekeeper"

In the era of artificial intelligence, deep fake, cyber cloning, he said it had become difficult to bring the truth to people, Murtaza Solangi opined.



LAHORE: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Murtaza Solangi addressing the Second International Media and Communication Conference at University of Management and Technology.

Election preparations reviewed in Rakhshan: **Govt.** machinery being mobilized for general elections, says CS Addressing the meet-

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan has stated that the government machinery is being mobilized for conducting free and fair elections in the province.

He said that every possible measures would be taken so as to conduct the elections in peaceful man-

The Chief Secretary was presiding over a meeting held to review the arrangements for elections in Rakhshan Division, in Kharan on Wednesday.

Those who were in present at the meeting were the caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Mir Zubair Jamali, Additional Chief Secretary Home, Zahid Saleem, Inspector General of Police, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh, Secretary Local Government, Noor Ahmed Pirkani, Commissioner Rakhshan, Shah Irfan Gharsheen, besides other concerned high ups.

ing, the Chief Secretary said that all preparations have been finalized for the elections in light of directives of the Election Commission f Pakistan. He said that his visit is

aimed at reviewing the arrangements for elections and mobilizing the government machinery for the same. He assured that every

possible effort would be made to ensure peaceful and transparent elections in the

He directed to the concerned officials to ensure availability of the basic facilities including water, electricity at the polling stations. The ramps should also be constructed at the polling stations to ensure that disabled persons may also cast their votes, add-

ing he stressed. Earlier, during the briefing, it was informed that the preparations are complete for February 8 elections in Rakhshan Division.

It should be noted that after the PTI was stripped of its iconic 'bat' symbol, most of the independents would comprise PTI leaders who are contesting the upcoming elections as independent candidates. Party leader Gohar Khan has also expressed fears of horse-trading and floor Positioning himself as an alternate to the PML-N and PTI, Bilawal had recently called on supporters of ex-PM Imran Khan to vote for him while their leader is in jail. In the 2013 elections, the PPP came second after PML-N, garnering 42 of the 342 seats up for grabs. In 2018, with 54 seats, it was runner-up to the parties of both Nawaz and Imran.

Would prefer to form

govt with independent

candidates if elected: Bilawal

LAHORE (INP): In an interview with Reuters in Larkana

Bilawal said, "You know, lots of independent politicians,

probably the highest (number) in our history, are taking

However, Bilawal ruled out joining hands with either contender saying he preferred to form a government with independent candidates. The PPP chairman spoke to Reuters in an interview during a gruelling four-week campaign that took him to more than 33 towns, while other parties began canvassing just last week.

SC stops JUI's candidate from contesting election from NA-252

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Wednesday dismissed the appeal of JUI's candidate Abdul Hafiz Loni and up held the verdict of election tribunal for rejecting his nomination papers from NA-252.

A three-member bench of the top court headed by Chief Justice Oazi Faez Isa heard the appeal of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI)'s candidate Abdul Hafeez Loni.

The top court rejected the appeal of JUI candidate Abdul Hafeez and upheld the decision of the Election Tribunal and Balochistan High Court. During the course of proceeding, the petitioner

lawyer adopted the stance

that his client has com-

pleted his sentence an-

ence. He prayed the court to allow Abdul Hafeez Loni to contest the elections. Chief Justice Qazi Faiz Isa noted that the petitioner has spent only 2 years and 2 months in jail while the NAB court had sentenced him to 10 years jail term along fine worth Rs 50 million. The chief justice remarked that the petitioner said that the accused has been out of jail for 8 years your client on payroll and didn't even pay the amount of fine.

The CJP further remarked that such people should not represent the people of Balochistan instead they should sit at home. Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar said that the property of the petitioner should be confiscated if he nounced in a graft refer- does not pay the fine.

COAS says

Purpose of social media, propaganda is to spread uncertainty, chaos, despair

Pakistan's forces always ready to tackle any kind of threat and conspiracy; Youth, guardians of the bright and sublime traditions of the nation and country

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir on Wednesday said youth were the guardians of the bright and sublime traditions of the nation and country, the epitome of Allama Iqbal and Quaid-e-Azam's

visionary leadership.

Addressing 'Pakistan National Youth Conference' at Jinnah Convention Center, he said: "It gives me great pleasure to address the future builders of Pakistan and Shaheen of Iqbal.'

stan highlighted the core issue that Islamic culture and civilization were different from Hindus in all respects and Muslims might not adopt Western civilization and culture. The youth, he said

The Army Chief said

the establishment of Paki-

should have immense confidence in their country, nation, culture, civilization and themselves. "The youth should be sure that they are scion of a great homeland and nation," he added.

PMLN will generate employment opportunities for youth after coming into power: Nawaz



(INP): PML-N Quaid, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif has assured to generate employment opportunities for youth after coming into

Addressing at a public gathering in Nankana Sahib today, he said PML-N aims at undertaking historical development work with a

SAHIB commitment to rebuild the country. Nawaz Sharif said serving the public is the manifesto of PML-N.

Nawaz Sharif Wednesday asserted that Pakistan plunged into crises after he was unjustly removed as the prime minister on false charges.

Continued on page 2

Dr. Gohar Ejaz assumes charge of caretaker



Caretaker Federal Minister for Industries and Production Division Dr. Gohar Ejaz HI, SI on Wednesday assumed the charge of caretaker Federal Minister for Interior.

in the Ministry of Inte-

Sarfraz Bugti had re-

tion.

Daily doice of Masse Independent

Political hustle bustle ahead of elections

As February 8 upcoming poll season approaches fast in the country, political hustle and bustle is seen in every nook and cranny of the country, including Quetta and different other parts of Balochistan, where almost every constituency is being festooned with colorful party flags and posters displaying according to code of conduct. What's important regarding the elections is that the interim government is firm to conduct the vital exercise on the given schedule despite some quarters had raised concerns about security matters, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. The caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has already formed a highlevel committee to ensure smooth conduct of general elections in the country. The seven-member committee, notified last week, will be led by the caretaker minister for maritime affairs and will include chief secretaries from all four provinces as well as the federal interior secretary.

the primary objective of the committee is to ensure the conduct of the 2024 general elections in a secure and peaceful environment. While nomination papers of candidates have already been filed and symbols allotted., the final lists of the candidates contesting elections on the national and provincial assemblies' seats have also been issued with the list of candidates in the election run on different seats reserved for women and non-Muslims in the assemblies. In this regard, all the necessary arrangements have been made especially to ensure the free, fair and transparent elections in peaceful and conducive environment, all over the country and so in Balochistan. An Election Cell has also been established within the Federal Interior Ministry for monitoring of security arrangements and law and order situation during the general election 2024 with representation from all law enforcement agencies. While on the other hand, social media during the current election atmosphere in the country was playing an important role in enabling the country's politicians to reach out to the voters and provide them with a platform to connect easily, according to a report aired by a private news channel. With passage of time, the printing and selling of election-related items has also picked momentum, and wholesalers and vendors have expressed happiness over the increasing demand and sales of party posters. As time passes and the general elections are drawing near, the political parties will continue their political wars on social media

As per the election drive, various corner meetings, political camps, and rallies have become routine matters in Quetta and different other parts of the province as elsewhere in the country. One can easily notice the portraits and stickers of different political leaders on rick

shaws, wagons, Suzuki pickups, cars, and private buses. These electioneering processes have seen widespread use among social media users, where enthusiastic youth are also campaigning for their preferred candidates. According to the political analysists, the upcoming general elections would be unique due to the increased number of young and female voters in the electoral list. The total registered voters in Pakistan are: 128,585,760. They are included: 73,207,896 voters in Punjab, 26,994,769 voters in Sindh, 21,928,119 voters in Khyber Pakhtunkhaw, 5,371,947 voters in Balochistan. While everything is in place, what's most important now is that the voters may come out in large number from their homes and vote for the country on February 8, 2024. It is significant to adhering to the directives of the ECP for ensuring free, fair and transparent polls in a secure and organized manner

Human smuggling

Azwar Shakeel

Though rampant, human smuggling in Pakistan remains poorly documented. Only when a tragedy occurs does the issue take centre stage. A nationwide crackdown was announced after a hundreds of Pakistani migrants capsized off the last June. Yet, interest in the issue and sympathy with the victims waned just as fast as it rose. Lack of sympathy

stems from lack of awareness, particularly of the human rights violations that take place during a migrant's journey. Human smuggling is considered consensual, as opposed to human trafficking, which features coercive practices such as bonded labour and sexual exploitation. Here, we endeavour to explain the factors driving irregular migration, the annual number of migrants, popular routes, operations of smuggling networks, and the Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) role. We also identify human rights violations, and the reforms required to address them.

According to estimates, over one million irregular migrants cross international borders annually. In Pakistan, the figure varies between 80,000 to 100,000. Most migrants are from Punjab. Cities such as Gujrat, Gujranwala, Phalia, Mandi Bahauddin, Kharian, Jhelum, Mirpur, and Sialkot serve as major catchment areas. Due Quetta, from where they to its low cost and ease are sent to Iran, Turkiye, of movement, the and Europe by other Balochistan-Iran-Turkiye agents along the way. route, with onwards The operations remain travel to Europe via the seamless, with each Mediterranean Sea, is the most popular. Other routes include sea travel from Gwadar to Iran through the Arabian Sea, and onwards to Turkiye and Europe. On the Rs100.000 to Rs1.500.000 pricier side, there's legal

Dubai, followed by ir- ie, mode of travel, com-

of opportunity, poverty, tempts, and documentaand insecurity remain the primary drivers pushing people out. Pressures of traditional masculinity is fishing boat carrying another prominent push factor. Many young men leave to be able to earn southern coast of Greece more and support their families. It is established that factors driving irregular migration are not just absolute deprivation, but also relative deprivation. The sense that one would be better off in some other country serves as a pull factor. Migrants also leave because they see countries like Turkiye or Libya as stepping stones to Eu-

Smugglers operate

network

on the basis of an

organised

model. Each smuggling ring comprises a series of sub-networks: each subnetwork consists of agents and sub-agents. The sub-networks are co-dependent. A typical smuggling network operates as follows: subagents in Gujrat recruit migrants, and bring them to the agent, who will stipulate the conditions of travel and the costs involved. The agent from Gujrat contacts an agent from Multan and shares the names of the migrants via a text message. All agents operate under an alias. The Multan agent receives the migrants at a designated spot and facilitates onwards movement to agent responsible for the operations of the smuggling ring within their

The journey can cost anywhere from pricier side, there's legal air travel from Karachi to on the terms of the deal,

own territory.

regular migration to fort of travel (front seat Turkiye or Libya, and on- or trunk of the car, below wards to Italy or Greece. or above the deck on a Unemployment, lack ship, etc), number of at-

> The FIA is the lawenforcement agency tasked by law to crack down on smugglers and safeguard the rights of migrants. But it is seen as complicit in the entire process. Officials ignore the actions of smugglers in return for kickbacks. Considering the complexities involved, transnational operations of this magnitude would not be possible without the knowledge of the FIA. Corruption among law-enforcement officials is common to all countries where human smuggling rackets thrive. Smuggled Somalis, Ethiopians, and Kenyans, have all recounted witnessing public officials accepting bribes from smugglers.

Smugglers exploit desperate and vulnerable individuals. The migrants are misinformed and deceived about the dangers and actual costs involved. They are also abused, beaten, and robbed along the way. Those who are unable to pay are tortured. The houses in which they are kept along the way are overcrowded and unhygienic. Law-enforcement agencies do not protect them and the states through which they pass shirk their responsibilities, disregarding international humanitarian laws.

To address these rights violations, we must first reframe the narrative. Migrants must be treated as victims, and not in a manner that implies criminality. International and domestic antismuggling laws must be made human rights-centric. But most importantly, we must address the state's failure to protect and provide for its citizens, compelling migrants to leave. -- Courtesy Dawn

Genocidal collusion

Mahir Ali

Whether he's trying to crack a joke or pretending to be serious, Joe Biden's octogenarian visage is permanently contorted into a grimace. That may have something to do with all the lies he has felt obliged to spout since Oct 7; from the nonsense about having seen pictures of beheaded babies to the recent assurance that the Israeli prime minister does not reject every variant of a two-state solu-

Netanyahu has clearly telegraphed the opposite, knowing full well that the deviation from the official narrative of his neo-fascist state's Western supporters will not interrupt the steady supply of lethal weaponry and blood money. The US has lately sought to give the impression that it is advising restraint, but that alleged advice

goes unheeded. Biden has stood out as an unequivocal pro-Zionist since he entered the US Congress more than 50 years ago, and serving as an accessory to genocide won't shift his dial. It's equally clear that this stance is steadily diminishing his chances of re-election in November. Donald Trump, arguably an even bigger fan of Israel, holds a personal grudge Netan-yahu. He may not get many votes from disenchanted Democrats, but his opponents may well opt for third-party

candidates. The liberal American intelligentsia deems a second Trump presidency to be detrimental to the prospects of the American empire. Since the Korean War in the 1950s and Vietnam in the next decade, the US has stood out as what Martin Luther King described as the paramount perpetrator of violence in the world.

extermination campaign would be virtually impossible for Israel to continue without the steady supply of US weaponry and largesse. America could halt the genocide at a stroke. But neither the White House nor much of the Congress seems to have any interest in pushing for peace.

The mealy-mouthed rhetoric from the US and its acolytes about a twostate solution conveys a whiff of absurdity after decades of sponsoring Zionist designs on Pales- But even a limited extinian territories. The change of fire serves as greets any suggestion tion from the genocide that anyone other than a Zionist is also a human the being worthy of the same announ-ced in advance rights and protections is beginning to lose its

This phenomenon

stretches back decades, and it should have been laughed out of existence when the Israeli embassy and its devotees successfully strove to demolish the socialist leadership of the British Labour Party under Jer-Corbyn. emy His wretched successor, likely to be the next prime minister of Britain, hasn't uttered a word that could conceivably be con-

strued as critical of Israel. The relentless destruction of Gaza and the mass murder of its inhabitants has expanded to the Red Sea and beyond. Biden says the attacks on Yemen will carry on, even though they aren't deterring Houthi efforts to halt Israeli-aligned shipping in solidarity with Gaza. Iran, meanwhile, has lashed out militarily at targets in Iraq, Syria and Pakistan, ostensibly to demonstrate

Disinclined to hold back, Israel has carried out assassinations against Hamas and Hezbollah targets in Lebanon, and murdered

its challenged regional

That verdict is re- a bunch of Iranian Revoflected in Gaza, where the lutionary Guard advisers in Damascus. Iran has vowed to retaliate against the outrage in Syria, but is disinclined to directly take on Israel or the US — there have been reports of backchannel contacts with the latter.

Hopefully, the deescalation following the Balochistan stoush will avert future belligerence. Tehran purportedly attacked a 'takfiri' outfit that had claimed credit for terrorist activity in Iran; Islamabad hit back. 'antisemitism' slogan that an unfortunate distracunfolding in real time in Gaza by the Israeli leadership and telegraphed by the victims, which is being resisted in international forums by South Africa, Chile and Mexico rather than any Arab or Mus-

> lim states Israel can be guaranteed to ignore any interim advice on a cessation of its brutality from the International Court of Justice, and it could take years for the ICJ to pronounce a verdict on Johannesburg's charge.

> There have been other genocides since the UN convention against them was established in 1948, the same year that Israel came into existence and apartheid was formalised in South Africa. But perhaps the worse aspect of the current outrage is the blind refusal of the perpetrators to recognise that, for more than 70 years, they have sought to recreate for the Palestinians, in superficially different ways, the experience of the European Jews in the 1930s-40; from the ubermensch mentality to lebensraum. The pattern of humanity's reluctance to acknowledge remains rich in barely challenged reprobates. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Effective implementation of bold reforms imperative to usher new era of development: Dr. Shamshad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar Wednesday said that effective implementation usher in a new era of

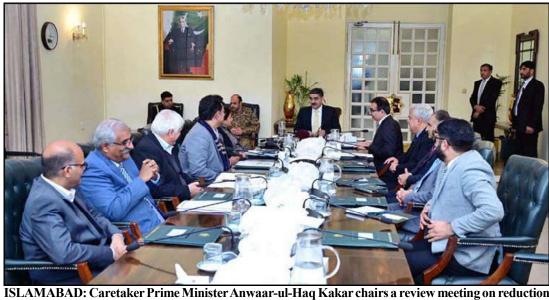
institutional, governance, and structural constraints, campus here.

of this goal, however, is vulnerability of Pakistan's contingent upon addressing critical underlying global shocks.

mentioned is unsustainable he said during a seminar on fiscal policy due to revenue "Pakistan's Economic gaps and unproductive Crisis: Challenges and the Way Forward," organized non-sustainability has by NUST Institute of enhanced government recourse to public debt economy; and fifth, the Pakistan's economy with Crisis: Challenges and the expenditure; second, fiscal of bold and ambitious Policy Studies (NIPS) at recourse to public debt reforms was imperative to the University's main which has increased; third, climate shocks as the global development and prosperity in the country.
The accomplishment The acco even more volatile and extreme in the decades

The first area, he increase in temperatures by 1.3 to 4.9 percent by 2090; fourth, the lack of innovation and diversity in the rest of the world.

Dr. Shamshad further stressed five critical areas of reforms essential to reducing Pakistan's vulnerabilities and fostering sustainable growth that included.



of the energy sector's circular debt.



Federal Minister MNFS&R Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik alongwith Ms. Jessica Mudjitaba-Fernandez, Program Manager USDA, Mr. Keith Metzner, USAID, Chairman PARC, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali & Mr. Babar Ehsan Bajwa, CABI's Senior Regional Director, Asia, presiding a dialogue on regulatory harmonization in Pakistan for Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) and

FPCCI & EFP meet GSP+ compliance and SDGs discussed: Saquib

Independent Report KARACHI: Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, Acting President FPCCI, has said that the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) and Employers' Federation of Pakistan (EFP) have agreed, in principle, to converge their policy advocacy; skills on human rights; labor development & awareness rights; environmental and research & development resources to enable Pakistan to continue to capitalize on its GSP+ status with the where

new EU parliament and EU review

Commission will be in place by June 2024; and, there might be some review or policy changes in rules

framework for Pakistan's GSP+ status. Mr. Squib Fayyaz Magoon, Acting President FPCCI, explained that Pakistan should remain on course on EU requirements standards and good governance. These are principally the four areas where Pakistan's European Union (EU) as performance comes under

Rupee gains 12 paisa against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistani Rupee on Wednesday witnessed an appreciation of 12 paisa against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs279.67 against the previous day's closing of Rs279.79. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs278.9 and Rs280.9 respectively. The price of the Euro decreased by 83 paisa to close at Rs304.20 against the last day's closing of Rs305.03, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

circular debt energy sector ISLAMABAD (APP): reduction in the circular

PM for effective, durable

strategy to do away with

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday directed the Ministry of Energy to formulate an effective and durable strategy to do away with the circular debt of the energy sector.

chairing a meeting to discuss the strategy to reduce circular debt of the energy sector, said all the

He participants of the meeting

that soon after coming to the power, the caretaker government took measures for economic revival and was taking all-out steps to The prime minister, reduce the circular debt. He said the antipower theft operation had

led to an enhanced recovery of the electricity stakeholders would have to dues of the power put in collective efforts for distribution companies. country.

SBP Multan chief says: SBP software application prepared to receive account holders complaints

Independent Report MULTÂN: Chief Manager State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Multan, Javed Iqbal Marth has said that the central bank has prepared a software application to enable account holders to file

complaints against banks. He was speaking at a ceremony organized by the Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) with industrialists notably MCCI president Mian Kashid Iqbal, former Khawaja president Hussain, Muhammad

Naveed Ahmad Chughtai, Saleha Hassan, and others were present, according to a release issued by MCCI

on Wednesday.
The SBP Multan chief said that account holders mostly do not speak against banks despite having complaints, however, added that the new software application would facilitate them to do so whenever they have any problem relating to the bank and it would trigger a process to resolve their grievances.

Draft regulations of bio-pesticide policy to be submitted before cabinet

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Minister for National Food Security and Research, Dr Kausar Abdulla Malik on Wednesday said that draft regulations of biopesticides policy had been finalized and would be submitted before the federal cabinet for approval to promote the use of bio-pesticides in the

Addressing a high-level "dialogue on regulatory harmonization in Pakistan for MRLs and bio-

PSX stays bullish, gains 368 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend Wednesday, gaining 368.21 points, a positive change of 0.57 percent, closing at 64,822.43 points against 64,454.22 points the previous trading day. A total of 479,982,148 shares valuing Rs.22.501 billion were traded during the day as compared to 425,709,896 shares valuing Rs.24.995 billion

issues related to aflatoxin and make the local agriculture commodities more resilient to capture the international

organized by the Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) in collaboration with USID, USDA and CABI to share the outcome of joint reliance on costly collaboration to mitigate the fertilizers, which consume adverse impact of aflatoxin costly inputs in local agriculture products, electricity and gas.

pesticides", the minister said besides measures taken to that the use of bio-pesticides mitigate its negative impact would help mitigate the on exports of rice, maize,

wheat and fruits. The minister said that due to the presence of micro-toxin elements, the exports from the country The event was remained under regulatory pressure and expressed the hope that the promotion of bio-pesticides would help overcome such challenges besides reducing

APTMA chairman briefs US consul general on Pakistan's textile sector

Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) Chairman (Northern Zone) Kamran Arshad briefed Ms. Kristin K. Hawkins, United States consul general in Lahore, on the prospects and needs of Pakistan's textile sector so as to find more ways and means to foster bilateral trade and economic relations between the two

APTMA

LAHORE (APP): All Chairman Ahmad Shafi former chairmen Adil Bashir and Hamid Zaman, and Secretary General Raza Baqir, along with senior members of APTMA representing leading textile groups, were also present.

They discussed the enormous potential to work together in the field of cotton and textile, besides expanding trade and investment relations in Vice other focused areas.

Punjab Governor says: **Automotive industry long** been important part of the global economy

Independent Report LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Rehman/ Chancellor attended the Engineering Center, and opening ceremony of 1st Automotive Engineering Conference at University of Engineering and Technology Lahore today and

as Chief Guest. Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman, while addressing the ceremony, stated that it is very important to embrace technology in the modern era. He said that he truly appreciates Vice Chancellor UET Lahore, Professor Dr. Nasir Hayat, Professor Dr. Naveed modern lifestyle.

Independent Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa government

has urged the federation to

(NMDs) of the province in the upcoming 13th national five-year plan (2024-29).

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker

Minister for Newly

Merged Districts Affairs,

Industries, Commerce and

Technical Education, Dr.

Aamer Abdullah in this

regard, has forwarded

suggested projects to the

Planning Commission

Islamabad pertaining to

communication and works,

KP govt for special focus

on merged districts

in five year plan

give special attention to the and other sectors in NMDs

newly merged districts that will be included in

Ramzan, Dean Faculty of Dr. Ali Hussain Kazim, Director of Automotive organizers whose tireless together experts and automotive engineering.

and research shared in this positive impact on the the automotive industry has long been an important part of the global economy, and is also a symbol of

trade and IT sector

industrial development

energy, agriculture irrigation, health, education

PSDP under five years new

communication projects

construction of Peshawar,

Mohmand, Bajaur and

Motorway has been included.

rehabilitation of existing

trade corridors in NMDs.

at a cost of 10 billion

rupees is also included in

Similarly

four-line

plan, says a handout.

Timergara's

maintenance

these proposals

Mechanical Engineering, automotive industry is a flourishing industry in the world, which is providing employment opportunities to millions of people. efforts have brought Governor Punjab further said that electric vehicles researchers in the field of are one of the important elements in shaping the "I hope that thoughts future of the automotive sector. He said that in view conference will have a of the challenges of climate change, the world is moving future of the automotive towards eco-friendly industry," he said transport, and Pakistan is Governor Punjab said that not an exception. Governor Punjab expressed hope that the researchers and experts involved in this

Thursday January 25, 2024

Training session held to combat dengue

conference will find

different ways.

RAWALPINDI (APP) Chief Executive Officer of the District Health Authority Dr Ijaz Ahmed Khan Wednesday said that the best anti-dengue measures were taken by the administration last year to control the spread of the fatal virus.

He expressed these views while addressing the pre-dengue season refresher training session of the field staff of the Metropolitan Corporation Rawalpindi

The CEO said that the purpose of conducting predengue season refresher training was to prepare oneself for anti-dengue



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman/Chancellor in a group photo with participants during the opening ceremony of 1st Automotive Engineering Conference at University of Engineering and Technology.

Governor KP for ensuring compliance of 2% admission quota for minorities in varsities

Punjab govt pledges

full support to GCT trust

expansion to deprived areas

Education here, he establishment of 166

emphasised the government's charitable schools in

commitment to providing underprivileged areas of

PESHAWAR Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ghulam Ali has said that compliance over two percent minority quota for minorities in public sector universities of the province will be ensured.

He expressed these

views during a meeting recently held at Governor House with a delegation of Organizations (CSOs) representatives under the chairmanship of Qamar Naseem, Programme Manager of Blue Veins organization.

Other members of the delegation included Muhammad Rizwan, Provincial Coordinator all these courses

Independent Report

LAHORE: Punjab Health

Minister Professor Dr Javed

announced unwavering

support for the renowned

Sindh-based non-profit

Green Crescent Trust (GCT)

to extend its educational

Speaking at an event on the International Day of

services to Puniab.

Akram

Wednesday

National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) and Sana Ahmad. Programme Coordinator, Blue Veins.

During the meeting, Governor Haji Ghulam Ali was informed that in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa there are 27 public sector universities administration is bound to abide by the decision taken by the government of providing two percent quota to minorities in admission for different courses and degrees Similarly, all the government colleges offering Associate Degree Programme are bound to provide one per cent quota for minorities in

in rural and deprived areas.

The ceremony saw Lahore-

based businessmen and

industrialists endorsing

GCT's initiative to enrol

100,000 out-of-school

children in Sindh by constructing 250 schools in

Dr Akram praised GCT's 29-year journey,

Sindh with an enrollment

remote regions.

acknowledging

hospital Dasu. **ATC** moved for shifting Sheikh Rashid to hospital

RAWALPINDI (Online): Petition has been filed in Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) seeking court's order to shift former interior minister Sheikh Rashid to hospital being indisposed.

3 die, van

carrying

laborers met

accident

took place at Uchhar

Nullah. Three persons died on the spot while seven

teams rushed to the scene

on information and started

injured have been shifted to

district headquarters

The police and rescue

The dead bodies and

were injured critically.

rescue activities.

Petition said Sheik Rashid be shifted to government hospital. He is indisposed and no one is allowed to meet him. It has been requested

in the petition court should order for medical check up of Sheikh Rashid due to his sickness summoning report in this The petition has been

filed in ATC led by Judge

CM Punjab chairs 37th cabinet meeting

Independent Report LAHORE: The 37th Punjab cabinet meeting, which was under chairmanship of Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi on Wednesday, approved special allowance for doctors of Dera Ghazi Khan Institute of Cardiology and dissolution of board of directors of the Bank of Punjab.

It sanctioned release of funds to widen the road leading to Bibi Pak Daman shrine and decided that widow of former Punjab chief secretary Abdullah Sumbal should be given possession of allotted house at GOR-1 immediately.

UPPER KOHISTAN (Online): As many as 3 Re-issuance of Punjab people died when a van carrying laborers met an accident in upper Kohistan. The tragic incident

Healthcare Commission (Amended) Ordinance, 2023 and approval of appointment to the posts order situation.

of presiding officers in Punjab Labour Courts in Sahiwal and Faisalabad were granted along with nomination of presiding officer for District Consumer Court Lahore and constitution of Punjab Wildlife Management Committee. Amendments to Punjab Delegation of Financial Powers Rules. 2016 were approved as well. Provincial ministers, advisers, chief secretary, IGP, Advocate Genera Punjab and administrative secretaries attended the

meeting.
Meanwhile, Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the head office of Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) at Ourban Lines late at Tuesday night where he chaired an important meeting regarding law and



LAHORE: Inspector General Police Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar presenting keys of home to relatives of police martyred.

World Bank country director calls on CM KP

PESHAWAR (APP): A delegation headed by Country Director World Bank Najay Benhassaine called on caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice ® Sved Arshad Hussain Shah here at Chief Minister's House on Wednesday and discussed with him matters of mutual interest with special focus development projects being executed in the province with the financial assistance of the World Bank.Caretaker cabinet members Barrister Feroz

spokesperson to Chief Minister Brigadier ® Syed Mujtaba Tirmizi and Additional Chief Secretary P&D Syed Imtiaz Hussain Shah were also present on the occasion. The meeting discussed the matters related to completion of ongoing development projects being implemented with the assistance of World Bank. Prospects of mutual cooperation in the near future especially Jamal Shah Kakakhel, Syed development projects for Masood Shah, Engineer merged districts were also

Nadeem Durrani, Di

Najeeb Ullah, Dr. Syed

Sarfaraz Ali Shah

land, funding, and trained teachers for GCT's schools of over 31,000 children. the ceremony on the eve of World Education Day at Peshawar University. International News

Russia accuses Ukraine of killing 65 of its own POWs by shooting down plane

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali addressing

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Russia accused Ukraine on Wednesday of deliberately shooting down a Russian military transport plane carrying 65 captured Ukrainian soldiers to a prisoner exchange in what it called a barbaric act of terrorism that had killed a total of 74 people. The Russian defence ministry said six Russian crew members and three Russian soldiers had been on the Ilyushin Il-76 military transport plane shot down near the Russian city of Belgorod near the Ukrainian

"The Ukrainian leadership was well aware that, in accordance with estab-

servicemen would be transported by military transport aircraft to the Belgorod airfield today to be exchanged," a ministry statement said.

"According to an earwas to take place in the afternoon at the Kolotilovka checkpoint on the Russian-Ukrainian border," it said.

"By committing this terrorist act, the Ukrainian leadership has showed its true face. It disregarded the lives of its own citizens." Russia's foreign ministry called the shooting down "a

Mykhailo Podolyak, a Ukrainian presidential ad-

lished practice, Ukrainian viser, told Reuters: "Comments will come a little later. Time is needed to clarify all the data.

Video posted on the Telegram messaging app by Baza, a channel linked to Russian security services, lier agreement, this event and verified by Reuters, showed a large aircraft falling towards the ground near the village of Yablonovo in the Belgorod region and exploding in a vast fireball.

> Ukraine's GUR military intelligence spokesperson Andriy Yusov told the Radio Svoboda outlet that a prisoner exchange had been planned for Wednesday, adding: "It's not taking place at the moment.'

Donald Trump closes in on Biden rematch after New Hampshire win

Monitoring Desk IASHUA: Donald Trump on the key New Hampshire primary on Tuesday, moving him ever closer to locking in the Republican presidential nomination

and securing an extraordi-

nary White House rematch

with US President Joe With around 80 per cent of votes counted, Trump's winning margin hovered at about 11 percentage points, but his sole remaining challenger Nikki

Haley vowed to fight on. Trump, 77, attacked Haley in a rambling victory speech and said that when the primary contest reaches her home state of South Carolina, "we're going to win easily.

Trump's address was loaded with his trademark ominous warnings about immigration as he continued to lie about winning the

In her speech, Haley insisted the race was "far from over" and told supporters that Democrats actually want to run against



Idriss Deby attend a meeting at the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia.

Former Taiwan ally Nauru re-establishes diplomatic ties with China

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: China and Nauru re-established diplomatic ties on Wednesday, after the tiny Pacific island nation unexpectedly severed relations with its now former ally Taiwan in a move the United States described as "unfortunate". The Pacific has become a source of intense competition for influence between Washington which has traditionally viewed it as its backyard, and Beijing, which has targeted Taiwan-

ese diplomatic allies there.

During a ceremony in Beijing, China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi and his Nauru counterpart Lionel Aingimea formally signed a document to restore bilateral relations, with ties at the ambassadorial level resuming with immediate effect.

According to the document Nauru recognises that there is "only one China in the world" governed by the People's Republic of China and that Taiwan is an inalienable part of China.

Fire in China's Jiangxi province kills 39 **Monitoring Desk** out disclosing how many.

BEIJING: A fire at a street shop in Xinyu City of Jiangxi Province has killed 39 people and injured nine, Chinese state media and the local government said on Wednesday, adding that some people were still

The fire broke out in the afternoon on an underground floor of the shop on Tiangongnan Avenue in the Yushui district, said the local fire response emergency headquarters, according to the

Ĉhina Daily media outlet. The injured were taken to hospital, a government statement said, with-

Thick, black smoke could be seen spewing from shops on the street level and engulfing surrounding buildings in video footage on the social media platform Weibo

According to state broadcaster CCTV News, there was an Internet cafe located below ground level and a training institution upstairs in the building where the fire broke out.

After the latest deadly fire in the country, China's President Xi Jinping demanded that all efforts be made to curb accidents and ensure people's safety.

US Navy says **USS John Finn** conducted transit in Taiwan Strait **Monitoring Desk**

BEIJING: The United States Navy said its USS John Finn destroyer transited through a corridor in the Taiwan Strait on Wednesday that was "beyond the territorial sea of any coastal state," according to a statement.

"John Finn's transit through the Taiwan Strait demonstrates the United States' commitment to upholding freedom of navigation for all nations as a principle," the U.S. Navy said in its statement.

Russian missile barrage kills eight, sows panic in Ukraine **Monitoring Desk**

KYIV: A wave of Russian missiles hit Kyiv and other Ukrainian cities on Tuesday, killing eight people and wounding dozens as new panic spread among ex hausted residents.

Rescue workers in Khar-kiv - Ukraine's second city that is near Russia's border — hauled survivors from smouldering piles of rubble as apartment blocks were set ablaze and toppled by the strikes, journalists reported

rejection of a two-state solution threatens global peace **Monitoring Desk** such a large number of Pal-UNITED NATIONS: The estinians inside without United Nations chief any real sense of freedom,

Ahmed Jan, Engineer Aamir discussed on the occasion.

UN chief warns that Israel's

warned Israel on Tuesday that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu 's rejection of a two-state solution will indefinitely prolong a conflict that is threatening global peace and emboldening extremists everywhere.

In his toughest language yet on the Israeli-Hamas war, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told a ministerial meeting of the U.N. Security Council that "the right of the Palestinian people to build their own fully independent state must be recognized by all, and a refusal to accept the two-state solution by any party must be firmly re-

The alternative of a one-state solution "with by-side in peace.

rights and dignity ... will be inconceivable," he said.Guterres also warned that the risks of regional escalation of the conflict 'are now becoming a reality," pointing to Lebanon, Yemen, Syria, Iraq and Pakistan. He urged all parties 'to step back from the brink and to consider the horrendous costs" of a wider war. Netanyahu's rejection of a Palestinian state in any postwar scenario opened a wide rift with Israel's closest ally, the United States, which says the war must lead to negotiations for a two-state solution where Israel and the

Palestinians can live side-

North Korea fires cruise missiles off west coast, Seoul says

Monitoring Desk SEOUL: North Korea

fired multiple cruise missiles towards the sea off its west coast on Wednesday, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said, in the latest sign of heightened tensions on the Korean peninsula.

The missiles were fired at around 7 am (2200 GMT on Tuesday) and the launches were being analysed by South Korean and US intelligence, the JCS said in a statement. Further activities

by the North were being monitored, the JCS said. The latest firing of missiles by Pyongyang comes as the South Korean Navy's special warfare unit was taking part in training along the east coast in Gangwon Province bordering the North for 10 days.

The training was aimed at strengthening operational readiness following North Korea's recent artillery firing near a disputed maritime border and weapons tests, the JCS

said. Pyongyang said it tested a solid-fuel hyper-sonic missile with intermediate-range earlier this month in a move that was condemned by the United States, South Korea and

The isolated North has also demolished a major monument in its capital that symbolized the goal of reconciliation with South Korea on the orders of leader Kim Jong Un, who last week called the rival a "primary foe" and said unification was no longer possible.

Satellite imagery of Pyongyang on Tuesday showed that the monument, an arch symbolizing hopes for Korean reunification which was completed after a landmark inter-Korea summit in 2000, was no longer there, according to a report by NK News, an online outlet that monitors North Korea. Reuters could not independently confirm that the monument, known informally as the Arch of Reunification, had been demolished.

Iraq condemns latest U.S. strikes as 'irresponsible escalation? **Monitoring Desk** militias linked to its secu-

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Minister

of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Nauru Lionel

Aingimea shake hands after signing a Joint Com-

munique on the Resumption of Diplomatic Rela-

tions between China and Nauru, at Diaoyutai State

Guesthouse, in Beijing, China.

BAGHDAD: Overnight US strikes on Iraqi militant groups that are part of the country's formal security forces showed "clear determination to harm security and stability in Iraq," a spokesperson for Iraq's Minister Prime Mohammed Shia al-Sudani

said on Wednesday. Iraq, a rare ally of both Tehran and Washington which hosts 2,500 US troops and has Iran-backed

rity forces, has witnessed escalating tit-for-tat attacks since the Israel-Hamas war erupted in October.

The Pentagon said the US had carried out strikes on three facilities linked to Iran-backed militias including Kataib Hezbollah after a weekend attack on an Iraqi air base that wounded US forces. "This unacceptable act undermines years of cooperation, blatantly

2020 election. violates Iraq's sovereignty her former boss

President calls for education emergency to enroll 26m out-of-school children

President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday called for the enrollment of around 26 million out-of-school children in the country through drastic measures including education emergency, double shifts in educational institutes and utilizing the mosque for teaching pur-

The president, addressing an event in connection with the World Education Day, also suggested a mechanism to engage the newly graduated and intermediate students for teaching the out-of-school children, offering them a sti-

Additionally, he also advocated the promotion of online education, besides extending the facilities to doctors, engineers, and trained workforce in the country to discourage the

trend of moving abroad.

He said the alarming figure of 26 million out-of-school children was worri-

some for the country and exemplified other countries including Sri Lanka and Bangladesh where children enrollment was around 98 to 100 percent.

He said the educating the children was of paramount importance to produce a skilled and qualified workforce, not merely the laborers. Lauding the contribution of the partner organisations, the president said the country should take advantage of their services for benefit of the future generations.

He informed the gathering that since Pakistan's inception, around 55,000 schools were built and the enrolment of out-of-school children required another 50 000 schools which was extremely difficult, considering educational budget of the provinces. In such a scenario, the out-of-box solutions were a must to cope with the challenge, he

LAHORE: Caretaker Federal Minister of Communications, Shahid Ashraf

Expressing satisfac-

tion over the performance of TTC, the Minister said

that technical education

happens to be surety of

educational and economic

of development is faster in

He said that the pace

He strongly believed

that not only the issue of

unemployment can be over-

come but the country can

also be put on path of de-

velopment and prosperity

by decorating the younger

generation with the techni-

all available resources for

promotion of technical

education in the province.

need of skilled human re-

source in different coun-

exams centers. She said, if

any student is found cheat-

ing, his result would be can-

found assisting the student

during exams, the disciplin-

ary action would be taken

BBISE has gradually

shifted from a manual sys-

tem to digitalization and the

people would get better fa-

in

Balochistan government

was leaving no stone

unturned to end menace of

cheating being reported

during exams, she said.

'We will have to fight to-

gether to discourage copy

ing system for the bright

future of the students,

cilities

against him, she warned.

If any class IV staff is

Abida Kakar said that

tries of the world

He pledged to utilize

He said that there is

cal education

nical education by making | mat about the overall func-

stability of any society.

Chairing the meeting at Chief Secretary Office.

Caretaker Minister for Finance says:

Govt taking measures for

promotion of technical

education in Balochistan

He exhorted the the countries which paid

He hailed the estab- it part of it's routine and

youngsters to learn skills attention towards the tech-

shment of sub office of the generalized education.

QUETTA: Needy people are taking warm clothes

from Wall of Kindness (Diwar-e-Meharbani), near

BBISE finalize

arrangements for annual

matric exams on Feb 20

Commissioner office in Quetta.

Balochistan Board of Inter-

mediate and Secondary

Education (BBISE) Con-

troller, Abida Kakar on

Wednesday said that

matric exams would start

from February 20 and in

this regard, all necessary

preparation has been

made to conduct the exam

in a peaceful environ-

Talking to media here, she said that during the

examination, if any super-

visory staff tried to sabo-

tage the examination pro-

cess, strict action would be

said that all the photostat

shops will remain closed and

mobile phones would not

During the exams, she

taken against him.

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker

Provincial Minister for Fi-

nance and Revenue, Amjad

Rasheed has stated that the

interim provincial govern-

ment is taking measures for

promotion of technical

education in the province.

Overseas Employment

Corporation and believed

that it would have far reach-

ing results in time to come.

speaking on occasion of the

visit of Technical Training

Center here on Wednesday.

Shoaib Anwar Shirazi

briefed the visiting Minis-

ter about overall function-

visited different sections of

the Center and reviewed its

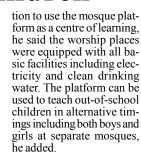
ing of the Center.

Amjad Rasheed was

The Principal TTC

Meanwhile, he also

along with education.



President Alvi lauded the Benazir Income Support Program for its contri-butions to child and mother's health and suggested to link financial assistance with the enrollment of out-of-school children.

Highlighting the ratio of 15-20 percent of Dyslexia disease in the country, he appreciated the measures taken for the suffering children.

The president also said the enrollment in higher education after intermediate was around 10-12 percent in Pakistan as compared to 24 percent in neighboring countries.

DG PDMA

calls on

Chinese CG

in Karachi

Independent Report

UETTA: The Director

eneral Provincial Disaster

Management Authority (PDMA) Jahanzaib Khan

called on the Chinese Con-

sul General, Mr Yang

Yungdung in Chinese Consulate, Karachi on Wednes-

During the course of meeting, DG PDMA briefed the Chinese diplo-

tioning of the Authority in

PDMA assured every pos-

sible cooperation to DG

PDMA for enhancing ca-

pacity of the Authority be-

sides putting it on modern

China ready

to work with

Pak to upgrade

CPEC: Wang

BEIJING (APP): China on

Wednesday said it was ready to work with Paki-

trust, and expand prac-

tical cooperation," Chinese Foreign Ministry

Spokesperson Wang Wenbin said during his

regular briefing on a question by APP correspondent.

ECP unveils

final list of

ten minority

seats in NA

SLAMABAD (APP)

The Election Commission

of Pakistan (ECP) has un-

veiled the ultimate compi-

lation of ten minority seats

within the National Assem-

of candidates from different parties, with 10 repre-

senting Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N),

5 from Jamiat Ulema-e-Is-

lam (JUI-F), 2 from Tehreek-e-Labbaik (TLP), 7

from Pakistan People's

Party (PPP), 4 from

Jamaat-e-Islami, and 3 from

Mutahidda Quomi Move-

The final list consists

in the new era.

Speaking to the DG



pushes for 2-state solution

(APP): :A senior Pakistani diplomat has called for "concrete steps" by the United Nations to stop the Israeli slaughter of the people in Gaza, as he underscored that a lasting end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can only come through a two-state solu-

"It is now time for the Security Council, for the entire membership of the United Nations, to consider measures by which to reverse this wanton rejection of peace," Ambassador Munir Akram told the 15member body on Tuesday, referring to the repudiation of the two-state formula by

NATIONS complete cessation of hos-tior Pakistani tilities, full access to humanitarian assistance for the besieged population of Gaza, and international protection for the Palestinian people," he said in a high-level Council debate on the Middle East crisis.

Tuesday's meeting featured more than 60 speakers, including many ministers, who discussed the need for a humanitarian ceasefire, the urgency with which to scale up aid, the importance of pursuing a two-State solution and the imperative to avoid further regional escalation.

Deploring Israel's defiance of world opinion, Ambassador Akram said, 'If the Israeli leadership

CPEC phase; engaged with China for next one: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday said that having achieved the first phase of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Pakistan was benefiting from its early harvest projects while remaining engaged with China to execute the next phase. "We have already achieved the CPEC's first phase and we are benefiting from its early harvest projects. We are entering the second phase. We do need more deliberations when it comes to the sec-ond phase," he said in an interview with China Global Television Network (CGTN) during his visit to Davos to attend the World

and air connectivity around

Economic Forum.

other," he remarked. connected."

He said CPEC's second phase required road

prime minister highlighted Pak, Russia sign MoU on cooperation in sports, physical culture

kistan and Russia on Wednesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at enhancing bilateral cooperation in the fields of sports and physical culture. The MoU was signed between Pakistan's Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination and Sports Ministry of Russia, Pakistan's Embassy in Moscow said on its X account. The document was signed by Pakistan's Ambassador to Russia Muhammad Khalid. the industrialisation the economic revival, the

"Both sides are engaged and we have developed a lot of connectivity road, air and rest of connectivity corridor. We are benefiting from the ecosystem of doing trade with one an-

lated the Chinese economy, Prime Minister Kakar said, am always sanguine about it. There are 1.5 billion consumers and 1.5 billion producers... How can you divorce 1.5 billion people from 8 billion people? It has to remain

He said being a huge marketplace, both China and the world were interested in each other.

Questioned about his government's priorities, the

transformation of technology and taxation reforms.

He said Pakistan was the middle ground amidst the discourse between Global North and South, and other conflicts

Domestically, he said, Asked how he articu- the government needed to earn more and spend less.

The prime minister said that Pakistan should remain focused on taking the advantage of opportunities in the region, including the Belt and Road Initiative and the relocation of Chinese

He advocated the policy envisaging to encourage business and provide them electricity on competitive price to help the businesses produce competitive goods for export to the international market.



QUETTA: Accountant General Balochistan Nasrullah Jan meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

Farooq urges people to make successful to NP on Feb,8 by votes

QUETTA (APP): National Party (NP)'s candidate from PB-46 Haji Farooq tional Party is an educated Shahwani on Wednesday said that people should make successful the National Party on February 8 through their votes for interest of Balochistan. He expressed these views while addressing at corner meeting at

Hazargnaji area. A large number of people including party workers attended the meeting. A member of Provincial Working Committee of National Party and a nominated candidate from PB-46 Haji Farooq Shahwani said that the Na-

tional Party was a party that was politically serious rivations of Balochistan.

Balochistan. During the last five years, the members of the Nationalist Political Party elected from the areas received development funds worth billions of rupees, which instead of being spent for the development and prosperity of the people of the respective areas were used for their interest, he claimed.

He said that the people of Saryab today were deprived of all basic facilities, people should make Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch and National Party successful to end the dep-



QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafqaat and Executive Director Forum for Dignity

approach the relevant court for relief during the period. Initiatives Uzma Yaqoob signing a MoU. **FDI ED meeting with Commissioner: Special measures stressed for** making easy access of female voters to polling stations

Commissioner office, FDI ink MoU to conduct awareness session in educational institutions

Independent Report

Director of Forum for Dignity Initiative (FDI) Ms Uzma Yaqoob along with Ms Shayan Imran had meeting with the Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat here on Wednesday.

During the course of meeting, the matters about preparations of the upcom-

the voting process were discussed.

They also discussed the accessibility of women, disabled persons and transgenders to the polling stations.

The meeting stressed maximum participation of women voters in the polling stations

For the purpose, easy access of women should be ensured, it was further stressed

APP adds: The Office of Commissioner Quetta Division has inked a Memorandum of Understanding with Forum for Dignity Initiatives to conduct awareness sessions in educational

ing general elections, institutions of Quetta Diwomen representation in vision regarding the kind treatment and attitudes towards persons with disabilities, transgender and women.

Commissioner Quetta Division Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat and Executive Director Forum for Dignity Initiatives (FDI) Uzma Yaqoob signed the agreement.

The Commissioner's Office and FDI will collaborate to engage the youth of Quetta Division in climate education, innovation, policy and leadership.

According to the plan, educational institutions in the provincial capital will be selected to hold sessions on climate action.

to end Israeli Gaza slaughter;

"We hope the Council will be able, finally, to adopt a resolution demanding a "General Assembly." Baseless things are threat

for freedom of expression, journalism: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (Online): tion minister Murtaza Solangi has said baseless things are threat for freedom of expression and journal-

He said this while talking to media men here He indicated that 2024

is year of election in different countries. The elections are taking place in Pakistan, India, US and Indonesia, General election is go-

ing to be held on February 8 in Pakistan while elections are taking place in Indonesia after one week. Election in US will be held in Nothreat to freedom of expression and freedom of media. we talked of propaganda of Hitlar era and today we are talking of this

He held the threat of

evening Vloggers has come

fore due to different reason

in Pakistan. Millions of

views come on their base-

less things. This is serious

News room will have to make fact check depart-

Mobile are in the hands of 150 million people

in our country. It has become hard to bring truth



Afridi gets

protective

bail in 2 cases

ISLAMABAD (APP)

The Islamabad High Court

(IHC) on Wednesday

granted protective bail to

PTI leader Shehryar Khan

Afridi in two cases and

stopped the police from

arresting him till February

6. Justice Mohsin Akhtar

Kayani heard the case of

Afridi seeking protective

bail in two FIR registered

in Kohat against him. The

court accepted the bail

against surety bonds worth

Rs 20,000 and stopped the

police from arresting the

petitioner. The court also

instructed the petitioner to

QUETTA: Principal Technical Training Center Shoaib Anwar Sherazi briefed caretaker Provincial Finance Minister Amjad Rasheed during his visit of center

Health Secretary directs to take action against unregistered &

stan to upgrade the China-Pakistan Economic Corri-dor (CPEC) and accelerate substandard private hospitals the building of an even closer China-Pakistan com-QUETTA munity with a shared future Balochistan Health Secretary Abdullah Khan on "China stands ready to work with Pakistan to Wednesday directed the Healthcare Commission to deliver on the important take strict action against common understandings unregistered hospitals and between the leaders of substandard private hospithe two countries tals to improve and regudeepen political mutual

late services of private hos-The Secretary instructed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Healthcare Commission to take steps to meet the stan- drug inspectors.

dards of the hospital for the interest of patients, said a press release issued here.

He said that measures were being taken to improve treatment quality in hospitals of the province saying that no compromise would be made on the standard of the hospitals. The secretary said that the Health Department was taking steps to regularize the sale of medicines which would be regularly monitored by

Crackdown against defaulters & electricity pilferers continues

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) continued its crackdown against the defaulters of electricity utility bills and those involved in the pilferage of electricity all over the

According to the spokesman of QESCO, at least 321 power connections of the defaulters were disconnected on non-payment in different circles of Quetta, Pishin, Loralai, Sibi, Khuzdar and Makran. Moreover, 59 shunt and tempered meters were The spokesman of QESCO informed that Rs. 2.656 billion have so far been recovered from the defaulters of utility bills in

the province.

The hefty amount has been recovered from over 161,319 defaulting consumers during the special ongoing campaign of QESCO. In addition to this, a

total of 556 FIRs have so fare been registered against the power pilferers in the province. It may be mentioned

here that 1178 written applications have been submitted in different police stations of the province.

also removed and replaced ment (MOM). be allowed in and around the with the new ones in Quetta

KHARAN: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan and Caretaker Home Minister Captain (retd) Mir Muhammad Zubair Khan Jamali presiding over a meeting regarding preparation for upcoming general elections

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