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Feb 8 election to bring political stability, says PM

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Friday said that the general election on February 8 would bring political stability in the country.

an interview with a private television channel, said after the elections, the new government would work to achieve political and economic stability. He said his government

successfully achieved most

of the targets set by it and a white paper would be issued to enlist those suc-"The biggest challenges were economic issues," he said, adding the next government would have to work with the International

Monetary Fund and bring

reforms in the taxation sys-

tem to take the economy He said the government carried forward the process

ISLAMABAD (APP): of privatisation of stateowned entities, including Pakistan International Airlines (PIA). The process of privatisation was almost complete, he added.

The prime minister The prime minister, in said the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) led the effort to sign \$ 25 billion worth of memorandums of understanding with the United Arab Emirates and Qatar. The SIFC was formed by the previous government after enactment of a law in the Parliament, he recalled.

He said the social media would be regulated and some people would have to stop the wrong use of the medium.

The previous governments worked to control negative aspects of the social media and in future a "national firewall" through use of technology would be created to subdue the negative tendencies, he noted.



ISLAMABAD: The outgoing Ambassador of Tajikistan to Pakistan Ismatullo Nasredin called on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

President for greater cooperation on Islamophobia, science among OIC countries

Friday stressed the need for Asian neighbour. increasing cooperation He highlighted that among Islamic countries to overcome the issue of Islamophobia in the world. The president, in a meeting with outgoing Ambassador of Tajikistan to Pakistan Ismatullo Nasredin, who paid a farewell call on him, emphasized greater cooperation among the OIC member states in the areas of science and technology to meet modern-day chal-

He said that Pakistan attached great significance to its relations with fence.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Tajikistan as it was President Dr Arif Alvi on Pakistan's closest Central

> there was great potential to increase bilateral trade and economic cooperation that needed to be fully exploited. He called for exploring new avenues of economic cooperation for the mutual benefit of the two brotherly countries. President Alvi expressed satisfaction over the steadily expanding bilateral relations between Pakistan and Tajikistan in all areas of mutual interest, especially in trade, energy and de-



MULTAN: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addresses to his supporters during public gathering meeting as a part of Election Campaign in connection of the General Election 2024 coming ahead, in Multan.

PPP to bring CM from South Punjab if voted into power: Bilawal

MULTAN (INP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto on Friday pledged to bring chief minister (CM) from South Punjab if his party came to power in the upcoming general elections 2024 while outlining the party's plans for gover-

Addressing a public gathering in Multan in connection with elections 2024, Bilawal Bhutto who is contesting from Lahore NA-127 – urged the voters to support his party to end the "politics of hatred and division"

Highlighting the unprecedented levels of inflation and unemployment, the PPP chairman claimed, "At present, no party, except the PPP, has a comprehensive plan to tackle these issues. Other political entities are solely focused on elections for their own gains, neglecting the well-being of the people."

"I have personally crafted PPP's economic

upon assuming power will be their swift implementation to curb inflation and unemployment," he added.

Bilawal also lauded the sacrifices made by the military and police to eradicate terrorism but pointed out, The resurgence of terrorism today is a consequence of the social division sown by old politicians. It's time to bury the politics of ha-

The former foreign minister also said that 17 federal ministries had become redundant after the 18th Amendment, and would be abolished if his party came to power, adding that the Rs300 billion saved in this way would be utilised for the people's welfare through the kissan,

mazdoor and youth cards. Bilawal Bhutto also vowed to stop the annual subsidy of Rs1,500 billion for the elite, opting to impose taxes on capitalists to ease the burden on the



Interim Govt. determined to provide quality health facilities to masses at official level: Ali Mardan Domki

CT CM inaugurates freelance training programme in Mir Chakar Rind University; Says technical training being imparted to youth of province in different fields

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker

Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that the interim government is determined to provide quality healthcare facilities to the masses at public sector

The caretaker Chief Minister was speaking on occasion of the inauguration of Mir Hazoor Bakhsh Domki dialysis Unit, new ward of Pediatrics and Intensive Care Unit established in the District Head-quarter Hospital Sibi on Friday morning.
Mr. Domki reached

Sibi on one-day official visit to Sibi. He formally inaugurated the Mir Hazoor Bakhsh Domki dialysis Unit, new ward of Pediat-

ECP Balochistan

chief calls

Independent Report

OUETTA: The Provincial

Election Commissioner

Balochistan, Muhammad

Farid Afridi met the Inspec-

tor General of Police, Abdul

Khaliq Sheikh here at the

Central Police Office on

PEC offered fateha for the

departed soul of police cop

martyred in the firing inci-

dent took place at the Of-

fice of Regional Election

Commissioner Turbat the

sion, PEC paid rich tributes

to the martyr police cop saying that he foiled the at-

tack at the office of Elec-

tion Commissioner Turbat

there is a very important

role of police in conducting

the elections in peaceful

are resolute to make the ex-

ercise of elections peace-

CEO cancels

leaves of doctors,

paramedical staffs

in view of election

QUETTA (APP): Chief

Executive Officer (CEO)

Dr. Saeed Ahmed Mirwani

on Friday chaired a meet-

ing of hospital consult-

ants and doctors under

the implementation of

medical emergency regard-

ing the upcoming elec-

gency was imposed in the

hospital regarding the gen-

eral elections, leaves of

doctors, medical and para-

In this regard, instruc-

They were directed to

At the same time, in-

tions were issued to the

doctors and other staff of

take emergency measures

to deal with any unpleas-

structions were also given

to keep the ambulances on

standby. The administra-

tion was also directed to

ensure the presence of doc-

tors, paramedical staff and

all kinds of medicines in

the hospital, during the

the hospital.

ant incident.

meeting

medical staff were can

In the meeting, an emer-

Mr. Afridi said that

The IGP said that we

by sacrificing his life.

Speaking on the occa-

During the meeting, the

Friday.

other day.

rics and Intensive Care Unit in the DHQ Hospital.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister said that the government is endeavouring to provide quality healthcare facilities to He said that the pa-

tients suffering from the kidney diseases would get the facility of dialysis with establishment of dialysis unit at the DHQ Hospital In addition to this, the

children patients would also get the quality healthcare facilities with establishment of the pediatric ward in the Hospital, adding he believed.

Meanwhile the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has inaugurated the

freelance training programme "DigiBizz" in the Mir Chakar Khan Rind University Sibi on Friday.

While speaking at inauguration of the freelance programme, the Chief Minister said that technical training is being imparted to youth of all over of the province in different sectors.

He mentioned that the freelance digital programme has been launched in Quetta, Sibi, Zhob and

He said that better results could be acquired by imparting technical education to the youth.

The Chief Minister said that it is very necessary to provide guidance and opportunities to youngsters in the right direction.



QUETTA: A MoU being signed between BUITEMS and BRSP in presence of Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Big challenge to overcome severe energy crisis in Balochistan: Governor

We have to adopt scientific innovation, just because we would be able to overcome the energy crisis by adopting modern means

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that there is a severe energy crisis in the country including Balochistan, and it is a big challenge for us to over-

In this regard, we have to adopt scientific innovation, just because we would be able to overcome the energy crisis by adopting modern means.

For the purpose, we have to adopt modern means to generate solar en-

The Governor was speaking on occasion of the ceremony of signing of memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS) and Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP), here

on Friday It may be mentioned here that the Vice Chancellor of BUITEMS, Professor Dr. Khalid Hafeez and Chief Executive of BRSP, Rahir Rasheed signed the MoU under leadership of the Governor Balochistan. Under the MoU, BRSP

would convert Balochistan Center of Excellent established in the BUITEMS on the alternative renewable solar energy by getting it rid of the conventional electricity system. On the occasion, Pro-

Chancellor of BUITEMS, Dr. Abdul Rehman Khan, Registrar Zahid Rauf and Professor Dr. Nazir Durrani as well as the Chairman BRSP, Malik Anwar Saleem Kasi, members board of Directors, Mrs. Roshan Khursheed Bharucha, Mrs. Roshan Nasrullah Baraich, General Manager Programmes, Dr. Shah

Nawaz Khan and Programme Coordinator Naseebullah Agha were also



Special Representative to the Prime Minister on Religious Harmony & Islamic Countries and chairman Pakistan Ullema Council Hafiz Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi offering special Dua for Rain after Namaz e Istasqa prayer on the special directions of caretaker Prime Minister, today's Friday observed to offer Namaz e Istasqa.

World Court orders Israel to prevent acts of genocide in Gaza

International Court of Justice fails to order ceasefire, says it would not throw out the case, as Israel requested; Pakistan welcomes provisional measures by ICJ in Gaza

Monitoring Desk THE HAGUE: The World

Court ordered Israel on Friday to prevent acts of genocide against the Palestinians and do more to help civilians, although it stopped short of ordering a ceasefire as requested by South Af-

While the ruling denied Palestinian hopes of a binding order to halt the war in Gaza, it also represented a legal setback for Israel, which had hoped to throw out a case brought under the genocide convention estab-

Holocaust.

The court found that Palestinians were protected under the convention, and that there was a case to be heard about whether their rights were being denied in a war that the court said was causing grievous humanitarian harm. It also called for Palestinian armed groups to release hostages captured in the Oct. 7 attacks that precipitated the

Palestinian officials largely hailed the decision.

lished in the ashes of the The Palestinian Foreign Ministry said it was a welcome reminder "no state is above the law". Sami Abu Zuhri, a senior Hamas official told Reuters the decision would contribute to 'isolating the occupation and exposing its crimes in

> Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that the court had "justly rejected the outrageous demand" to deprive Israel of what he called the "basic right to defend itself", by ordering it to halt fighting.



SIBI: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki addressing inaugural ceremony of DigiBizz Freelance Training Program

Section 144 imposed owing to security threats in Quetta

Independent Report QUETTA: In view of the 144 has been imposed in the provincial metropolis.

According to the care-taker Provincial Minister Information, Jan Achakzai, the section 144 has been imposed for two weeks in the metropolis.

Jan Achakzai said that public gatherings would not be held under the section

All the concerned departments and agencies have been directed to ensure protection of the life and property of the common

The caretaker Minister Information announced that it would be essential for all the political parties to get No-Objection certificate (NOC) before holding the public meetings in Quetta.

Jan Achakzai said that it is top priority of the interim government to maintain law and order in the province.

SC allows Sanam Javed, Pervaiz Elahi to contest elections

ISLAMABAD (INP The Supreme Court (SC of Pakistan on Friday al lowed five candidates of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), including incarcerated activist Sanam Javed to contest the upcoming general elections, slated for Feb 8, 2024.

Besides Sanam Javed, the top court approved appeals of PTI candidates Jmer Aslam, Major (retd) Tahir Sadiq, and Shaukat Mahmood Basra against returning officers' (ROs) decisions to reject their nomination papers from different constituencies.

A division bench com prising Justice Irfan Saadat Khan and Justice Muneeb Akhtar overturned the reection of PTI leaders' nomination papers by the Lahore High Court (LHC) and the election tribunal.

Meanwhile, the Su oreme Court also allowed incarcerated party president Pervaiz Elahi to contest the upcoming February 8 elections.

A three-member SC bench headed by Justice Mansoor Ali Shah allowed the PTI leader to contest the general election from the PP-32 constituency of Gujarat district

Elahi had filed a petition in the Supreme Court to seek permission to contest the general election.

No one can be restrained from contesting election on basis of abscondment: SC ISLAMABAD (Online): deprived of basic rights

Supreme Court (SC) while allowing PTI leader Umar Aslam to contest election security threats, section has remarked no one can be decide the election. Constopped from contesting testing election is fundathe election on the basis of being absconder.

A 3-member bench of SC presided over by Justice Mansoor Ali Shah took up the case for hearing Fri-

The counsel said nomination papers of Umar Aslam were rejected being absconder in May 9

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah remarked tell us where it is written the absconding

without law.

Justice Athar Minallah remarked people have to decide who will contest election and who will not and not the Election Commission (EC).

He further remarked let eople of Pakistan decide The petitioner who has come before us is not important. The rights of people are being affected. People have to conduct accountability and not the

Counsel for EC said person cannot contest election. How can any one be ballot papers work has been completed.

Nawaz pledges massive job & income opportunities to mitigate inflation effects



BUREWALA (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on Friday said that there had been great transformation since his ouster from power with massive inflation and price hike disrupting the social fabric of society and pledged to fully mitigate their effects by ensuring job and income opportunities for all following the mandate on February 8

Addressing a public meeting in Burewala, the thrice elected prime minister said that 'Roti' (bread), which was available for Rs 4 per piece during the last PNL-N government, was now priced at Rs 20, while the electricity bill of Rs 500 had now jumped to Rs 20,000, with no gas

Chairman PkMAP addresses corner meeting:

Free, fair and transparent elections necessary for changing fate of country Independent Report party also participated ar

QUETTA: The Chairman Pashtoonkhaw Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) Mehmood Khan Achakzai has stated that the free, fair and transparent elections are necessary for changing fate of the country. If fate of the country

fair and transparent elections would be necessary. PkMAP was addressing a corner meeting and reception arranged by the party's Shaldira unit on

has to be changed then free,

Friday. Besides Chairman, other senior leaders of the party also participated and addressed the public gath-

Mehmood Achakzai said that we want that general elections are conducted in democratic manner and there should be no element of of rigging in the same (elections)

Chairman PkMAP said that we believe in equality and as such equal treatment should be meted out with all the nationalities in country, he stressed

A large number of the party workers and other people participated in the

Daily doice of Masse Independent

Historic address of COAS to youth

The Pakistan National Youth Conference held at Jinnah Convention Center, Islamabad recently turned out to be a historic event mainly because of address of the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir to the youth there.

Indeed, it was a historic address delivered by the Army Chief. In his key-note address at the National Youth Conference, General Syed Asim Munir spoke passionately about the crucial role of the youth in shaping the future of Pakistan.

During the address, General Syed Asim Munir stated that he was greatly pleased to address the fu-ture builders of Pakistan. He further said that the purpose of creating Pakistan was that its religion, culture, and civilization were different from those of the Hindus in all respects, instead of the citizens adopting Western civilization and culture.

In his address, the Army Chief said that 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 the National Youth Conference. COAS said: "It gives me great pleasure to address the future builders of Pakistan and Shaheen of Iqbal."

The Army Chief said the establishment of Pakistan 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 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. He said Pakistan Army could fight against terrorists, but the cooperation of the entire nation was imperative in that

regard. The COAS said that the main objective of social media and propaganda was to spread uncertainty, chaos and despair, whereas social media news verification was critical as without research and positive thinking, society remained chaotic. Citing verses of the Holy Quran on disinformation, he said.

"Allah Almighty says: 'O believers! If a transgressor brings news, you should firstly confirm it'. The establishment of Pakistan was just like the Tayyaba state (referring to Islamic State of Medina), that were founded under the sublime banner of Kalimae-Tayyaba, the Army Chief said. "Allah Almighty has blessed Pakistan with abundant natural resources. agriculture and young manpower," he added.

He said that a Muslim always offered gratitude to Allah Almighty for patience in turbulent and good times adding, "Our forces are always ready against any kind of threat and conspiracy. If Pakistan exists, so we do, if there is no Pakistan then we are noth-

He said that Pakistan would not compromise on its sovereignty. "We need to have full faith in the bright future of Pakistan and maintain the legacy of our ancestors," he added.

He urged the youth for having full faith in the bright future and maintaining the legacy of the ances-

During the address of COAS, the students kept on raising slogans of Pakistan Army Zindabad, Paki stan Zindabad and Quaid-e-Azam Zindabad.

Rogue India and Benevolent China

By Qamar Bashir

Press Secretary to the President(Rtd); Former Press Minister at Embassy of Pakistan to France; Former MD, SRBC



The inauguration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya on January 22, 2024, is a highly abhorrent and agonizing event, particularly for the Muslim community in India and globally. The event was a symbol of the neglect of secular principles in the Indian Constitution and a disregard for the religious and communal sentiments of Muslims. The demolition of the Babri Masjid in 1992 and the subsequent legal and political developments leading up to the temple's inauguration are a painful and humiliating chapter in the Muslim history. The Ram Temple, for many, will remain a symbol of ongoing agony and a deep sense of injustice, reflecting broader tensions and challenges in the multicultural and multi-religious fabric of

Indian society. Pakistan has raised concerns in international forums such as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the United Nations about the agonizing crime of building the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, describing the event as a symbol of growing majoritarianism in India. It highlighted the event as an affront to the Muslim community and expressed apprehensions about the safety of mosques, churches and worship places of other religious minorities in India. It called upon international organizations to ensure the protection of Islamic heritage sites and uphold the rights of minorities in India.

But the list of Indian state sponsored crimes are countless not only within

India, in the region and dian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIO J&K) into a large prison. It persecutes religious, linguistic and ethnic minorities with impunity. It intimidates neighboring countries, foments border disputes with almost all neighbors. It is suppressing genuine and bonafide separatist movements by use of brute force and has resorted to a global killing spree with total impunity. India's actions in IIOJ&K particularly following the revocation of the region's special status, have drawn international scrutiny and criticism. Human rights organizations including Human Rights Watch (HRW) and Amnesty International (AI) have documented a range of serious rights violations in the region.

assembly, alongside the suspension of internet and telecommunication serand HRW also highlight a crackdown on media and civil society, with cases of relentless interrogation of journalists, lawyers, and human rights defenders, as well as arbitrary travel bans and detentions. The rampant and arbitrary use of laws like the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), Public Safety Act (PSA), and Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFŠPA) has led to pre-trial detentions and arrests without judicial review, coupled with unlawful killings lacking accountability. These developments have damaged

India's reputation as a

state committed to ethical

practices and human

These include arbitrary

detentions, a communica-

tions blackout, and severe

restrictions on freedom of

movement and peaceful

rights, drawing parallels to historical instances of oppression and leading to significant international

end here, HRW and other Gorkha National Liberainternational HR organizations have recorded mistreatment of religious minorities under the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s government. They have documented horrendous Incidents of communal violence, such as the outbreak in Nuh district in Haryana, where state retaliation against Muslim residents, including illegal property demolitions and detentions, lynching, raping and mob killing. In Manipur, inter-community violence led to deaths, displacement, and destruction of property. There are countless incidents of violence and discrimination against religious minorities, including Muslims and Christians, with some states implementing "anti-conversion" laws and others engaging in actions like property demolitions without legal authorization. The Universal Periodic Review process by the United Nations Human Rights Council has raised serious con-

gious minorities and marginalized communities like Dalits and Adivasis. The state sponsored majoritarianism in India has created wide spread discontentment amongst the populace belonging to minority groups which has given rise to over twenty five separatists and insurgency movements including the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA), National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN), Bru National Liberation Front (BNLF), Mizo National Front (MNF), Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front Hizbul Mujahideen, Khalistan

cerns over regression in

human rights under the

Modi government, with

increased attacks and dis-

crimination against reli-

Liberation Force (KLF), Babbar Khalsa International (BKI), Kamtapur Liberation Organization

tion Front (GNLF). Belligerent and hegemonic India does not enjoy good relations with any country of the region. It has border disputes with China along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), which resulted in increased tensions and military buildups from both sides. The India-Nepal dispute, reignited by India's road construction in a region has become politically charged, fueling nationalist sentiments in Nepal. During Doklam Standoff (2017) Bhutan and India armies came face to face when India started building hydro electric projects to divert water which was a lifeline for Bhutan. India was ward off only when China sided Bhutan. Maldives has been wary of India involvement in its internal affairs specially India's effort to change the Islamic character of Maldives has resulted in downgrading the relations. Earlier, Indian hegemonic designs were con-

fined to the region, but now emboldened by its economic upsurge and becoming darling of the USA as a counterbalancing force to China, it has enlarged its criminal ambit globally. Several countries are raising allegations about its involvement in extraterritorial activities. Canada has accused India of being involved in the killing of Sikh leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar. This was followed by the United States implicating India in the assassination of another Sikh leader, a development significant enough to influence President Joe Biden's decision to cancel a planned visit to India as the chief guest for the Republic Day celebrations. In the aftermath, India invited French President Emmanuel Macron to fill this role, a decision that was soon overshadowed by controversy when India revoked the visa of a ry. (KLO), Bodoland long-serving French jour-passes a vast and diverse to take decisions which The story does not People's Front (BPF) and nalist. Adding to these range of development serve its vested interests.

kistan has recently accused India of being behind the killing of Pakistani citizens on the basis of tangible evidence of India's involvement. These incidents point to a growing concern about India's foreign policy and its actions on the international stage, reflecting a shift from regional to broader global implications. China, as a global power, presents a contrasting approach in its regional and international relations compared to India. With its status as a nuclear power, the world's second-largest economy, significant military capabilities, achievements in space exploration, and industrial prowess, China has adopted a strategy of collaboration and support with its neighbors. The country is heavily investing in infrastructure projects across the region, including the construction of roads, highways, ports, bridges, and airports followed by deeper cooperation in space exploration, research and development, education and health, mining and agriculture and industrialization. This investment is part of a broader strategy to enhance regional connectivity and economic development. Furthermore, China has shown a willingness to provide financial support to neighboring countries in times of need, often extending generous loans and financial aid. These efforts have fostered strong relationships with

diplomatic challenges, Pa-

policies China's global investment strategy, particularly under its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), encom-

most of its neighbors.

China's approach reflects

its ambition to position it-

self as a benevolent and co-

operative regional leader,

contrasting with percep-

tions of India's criminal,

unethical, hegemonic and

belligerent state sponsored

projects across various regions. In Pakistan, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) represents a significant commitment with an investment of \$65 billion. The strategic partnership with Iran, valued at approximately \$400 billion over 25 years, spans numerous sectors, reflecting China's deep economic involvement in the Middle East. In Afghanistan, China focuses on infrastructure and mining with an initial investment of \$7 billion. The relationship with the Maldives has been strengthened in 2024 with an investment portfolio of \$ 1,57 Billion. China's investment in Sri Lanka, including the Hambantota development, amounts to \$4.5 billion. In Africa, Chinese investments range from \$126 billion to \$273 billion, emphasizing its substantial economic presence on the continent. The Middle East North Africa (MENA) region sees China's involvement reach \$6.7 billion in investments with a significant trade volume. In Central Asia, Chinese investments lie between \$35 billion and \$60 billion, highlighting strategic interests in this region. Europe experienced a massive range of investments from \$1 trillion to \$3 trillion, covering various economic activities, while Latin America saw investments between \$150 billion and \$250 billion, indicating China's expanding global influence and diverse economic partnerships. These extensive investments reflect China's ambition to enhance global connectivity, create win-win situations, increase the capacity, capability and resource base of its partner and bring about prosperity across the board without bringing regime changes and meddling into the internal affairs of its

partners, without having

any desired to use its invest-

ment to force the partners

to take decisions which

Commerce News

FBR Chairman praises Customs Dept KP for increasing tax revenue

Chairman of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), Malik Amjad Žubair increasing tax revenue besides countering illegal trade and contraband goods. Addressing as a chief guest in a function Customs Peshawar in role of partnership within connection International Customs Day, Chairman FBR said the theme of this year of international trade and the International Customs ensuring "customs engaging traditional and

partners

Day of customs was a Tiwana here Friday highly testament to the essential laundering and great praised Pakistan Customs role customs plays in responsibilities rest on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for fostering global trade, Pakistan Customs officials world. organized by Pakistan highlighted the important

with the customs community, kitty. emphasizing collaborative efforts for the progress of enhanced cooperation in the global customs arena.

Malik Amjad Tiwana advancement has created said that the International extra challenges such as the menace of money ensuring financial security to utilize technology and upholding legitimate effectively for countering economic trade in the all kinds of smuggling and illicit trade besides This year's theme promoting better service delivery and increasing

> He thanked Pakistan Customs Peshawar for organizing an impressive function in connection with International Customs Day. The smartly turned-out Malik Amjad said contingent presented a

tax revenue for Govt

Malik Amjad Tiwana who also paid a visit to Yagdgar Shuhada at Customs House Peshawar where he laid a floral wreath.

Chief Customs Pakhtunkhwa, Saeed Akram said that during the first half year of the current financial year, the KP Customs Department has collected Rs21569 million of customs duty against a collection of Rs13,423 million during the corresponding period of the last fiscal year. "This is 60per percent increase in revenue collection year



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman and others cutting cake on the eve of new Chinese year organized by Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



LAHORE: US Consul General Kristin Hawkins in a group photograph during signing ceremony between Jullundur (Pvt) Ltd. Pakistan and Agmor Inc. USA.

Kristin oversees seed technology agreement

LAHORE (APP): The name 'NEB'. United States Consul General to Lahore Kristin First Purchase Agreement K. Hawkins on Friday oversaw agriculture seed technology distributorship signing ceremony between a Pakistani firm Jullundur and US based Agmor at a local hotel on Friday.

Under the agreement, products with the brand food security.

The distribution and

was signed between Kyle Robert of Agmor and Usman Bashir of Jullundur

Speaking on the occasion, US Consul General Kristin Hawkins welcomed the agreement, Agmor Inc. USA will sell adding that the organic seeds to Jullundur collaboration is a (pvt) Ltd. Agmor Inc. is a testament to long-standing Montana based company commitment of the US which deals in the government to help manufacturing and export Pakistan fight climate of organic fertiliser change and challenges to

Shipping activity at **Port Qasim**

KARACHI Shipping activity reported at the Port where four ships namely, Cosco America, MSC Adu-V, Sea Elegant and Nord Anthem carrying Containers, Chemicals Coal, berthed at Container

Terminal, Engro Terminal

and Bulk Cargo Terminal,

respectively

today morning

Thursday. Meanwhile a Bulk Cargo carrier 'Pacific Merit' is also arrived at outer-anchorage of the Port Oasim to unload Coal

Weekly inflation falls by 0.14 pc ISLAMABAD (APP): year, the SPI for the The weekly inflation combined consumption

on Friday. According to the PBS data, the SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 318.55 points as compared to 319.00 points during the

measured by the Sensitive group in the week under Price Indicator (SPI), review witnessed an witnessed a decrease of increase of 43.79 per cent. 0.14 per cent for the The weekly SPI with the combined consumption base year 2015-16 =100 groups during the week covers 17 urban centres ended on January 25, the and 51 essential items for Pakistan Bureau of all expenditure groups. Statistics (PBS) reported The SPI for the lowest consumption group up to Rs. 17,732, decreased by 0.33 percent and went up to 313.09 points from last week's 314.12 points. The SPI for consumption groups from Rs. 17,732past week. 22,888, Rs. 22,889-29,517;
As compared to the corresponding week of last above Rs. 44,175.

NESPAK achieves **UN 2030 SDGs**

LAHORE NESPAK, a leading global consultancy firm, has taken a significant step towards achieving the United Nations' 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by securing five projects and signing two Long Term Agreements (LTAs) with the United Nations Office for

Project Services (UNOPS). It was stated by Zargham Eshaq Khan, Managing Director NESPAK, in a press statement issued here on Friday. The LTAs,

awarded to NESPAK, span across the Asia Region and Pacific/Oceania Region, leading to the firm's presence in its 40th country, Papua New Guinea. In a groundbreaking move, NESPAK has actively pursued projects contributing to the UN's SDGs both within Pakistan and globally.

The comprehensive LTAs with UNOPS cover a wide spectrum of initiatives aimed at sustainable development, with a particular focus on infrastructure

OGRA urged to ensure safety standards as petrol pumps, storage facilities LAHORE (APP): The Oil of prime concern.

Regulatory Authority our industry, and ensuring interaction standards and regulations facilities. In a letter written to OGRA Chairman Masroor Khan, OMAP Chairman Tariq Wazir Ali requested him to treat the matter as a top priority and should implement it across the board as being a matter

across the industry. One Marketing Association of Pakistan (OMAP) has foremost, safety is of petrol pumps, which asked Oil and Gas paramount importance in serve as critical points of (OGRA) to ensure safety compliance with rigorous consumers and petroleum safety standards is crucial products. We urge OGRA compliance at petrol to protecting both our to conduct regular pumps and storage employees and the inspections of petrol communities in which we pumps to ensure operate. We commend compliance with safety OGRA's efforts in protocols, including proper establishing and enforcing maintenance of equipment, safety regulations, but we adequate fire safety believe there is still room measures, and employee for improvement to further training in handling enhance safety measures emergency situations.

Gold rates up **by Rs.400**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.400 and was sold at Rs.214,200 on Friday in the local market compared to its rates of Rs.213,800

on last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat also increased by Rs.342 to Rs.183,642 from Rs. 183,300 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat declined to Rs168.338 from Rs.168,024 respectively, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

SECP proposes anti harassment measures for listed companies

and Exchange Commission (Code of Corporate issued here on Friday.
Governance) Regulations, These policies w public 2019 for consultation. The proposed amendments

directors

ISLAMABAD (APP): In companies to implement a bid to promote safety robust anti-harassment and respect in the policies that align with the workplace, the Securities protection against harassment of women at of Pakistan (SECP) has the Workplace Act, 2010, issued draft amendments and relevant provincial to the Listed Companies laws, said a news release

These policies will uphold the rights and well-being of all employees, fostering a more inclusive require the board of and equitable work of listed environment.

Communication to foster global understanding: Governor

Independent Report

Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that in the realm of media, communication plays a pivotal role in shaping societies and fostering global understanding.

He gave this message at the concluding ceremony of the 2nd International Media and Communication Conference organised by Punjab University Department of Communication and Media Research and University of Management and Technology.

On this occasion, Chairman PHEC Prof Dr. Shahid Munir, PU VC Prof Dr Khalid Mahmood, Rector UMT Dr Asif Raza, Leads University VC Dr conference has been a

Pakistan at Aiwan-e-Iqbal.

RAWALPINDI (Online):

Aleema Khan sister of PTI

worrisome situation that

judges are not caring how

awarded illegal sentence to

Chief Justice of Pakistan

(CJP) Qazi Faez Isa that

our appeal be heard, she

Nadeem Ahmad Bhatti, DG testament PEMRA Ikram Barkat. Director School of Prof Dr Nosheena Saleem, Dean School of Media and Communication Studies. UMT Dr Anjum Zia, researchers, eminent journalists, alumnus, faculty members and a large number of students were present.

Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that intersection of academia and media is crucial for and fostering innovation and he believes the insights gained here will pave the way for a more informed and interconnected world. He stated that the

LAHORE: Caretaker Federal Minister for National

Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah presiding over

the Governing Body meeting of Iqbal Academy

Judges not caring

how the case is

running: Aleema

the case is running.

Judge Dilawar

PTI founder was arrested

Amount 15 illegally.

PTI founder. We say to Election Commission has

said this while talking to media men outside Adiala was suspended by high court judge Aamir Farooq.

that judges are not caring judgment

case is running how. It suspended.

She went on to say was also joke that

commitment to exploring the dynamic landscape of Communication Studies media in the 21st century. He said the diverse

perspectives shared by esteemed speakers from around the world have undoubtedly contributed to a wealth of knowledge that will guide our future endeavors. He said the recommendations and discussions from this conference will serve as a roadmap for enhancing nurturing critical thinking media communication practices, promoting ethical journalism, and addressing the evolving challenges in this digital age.

Dr Shahid Munir said that the transformative power of technology.

46 children died of pneumonia in three hospitals in city so far

PESHAWAR (APP) With the increase in the severity of the cold, the infection is becoming viral, and so far, 46 children have died of pneumonia in three major hospitals in the

Hospital officials told mediamen here on Friday that pneumonia was affecting children with low immunity, and a total of 46 children died of pneumonia in three hospitals in the city, including 20 patients each in Lady Reading and Khyber Teaching Hospitals and six in Hayatabad Medical

Complex. The hospital's officials said that more than 700 children affected by pneumonia are being brought to OPD on a daily basis, and more than capacity children are being treated at Lady Reading Hospital.
"Most of the

affected children belong to adjoining areas," the officials confirmed.



PESHAWAR: Group photo after the meeting of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali with the representative delegation of Young Doctors Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at Governor House.

Governor urges doctors to work with dedication, assure cooperation to solve problems

PESHAWAR Khyber Haji Governor Pakhtunkhwa, Friday Ghulam Ali reiterated his commitment to address the problems of young doctors urging them to serve the ailing community with utmost dedication professionalism.

He was talking to a 15-member delegation of Doctors the Young Association that called on of cooperation and

Adnan, Dr.Karamat and Dr. Khan.The Mudassar delegation apprised the governor about their issues including depriving them of training and inadequate facilities of induction in Post Graduate Medical Institute.The governor listened to their concerns patiently and assured them

(APP): him at Governor House. Assistance. He said that the significance of doctors Dr. Faisal Barakzai, Dr. could not be undermined owing to their profession adding their problems would be addressed promptly with the help of the provincial government.

He also urged doctors to work compassionately to help out ailing community and treat them politely abiding by the principles of their principles

Punjab to introduce first social welfare policy: Minister

Independent Report LAHORE: Caretaker Punjab Health and Social Welfare Minister Prof Dr. Javed Akram revealed on Friday that the provincial government would introduce its first social welfare policy.

Addressing a dialogue on the policy draft at LUMS here on Friday, he highlighted the significance of the initiative for enhancing departmental services and performance. The minister, attending as the special guest, emphasised the presentation.

policy's potential for welfare of people. Secretary Social Welfare and Baitul-Mal Zahoor Hussain outlined plans for seeking cabinet approval postconsultation.DG Social Welfare and Baitul-Mal Mudassar Riaz Malik underscored the policy's alignment with Pakistan's Constitution, existing laws,

international

agreements. Stakeholder, including Amin Bait ul Mal Jubir Ghani, participated in

Killers get death penalty on two counts

FAISALABAD (APP): A sessions court handed down death penalty on two counts to each of five convicts for killing former president District Bar Association and his driver.

According to the prosecution, five accused including Suleman, Sajjad, Abdullah, Naeem and Hasan Ali shot dead former President District Bar Naveed Mukhtar Ghumman and his driver Binyamin over an old enmity on January 10, last year.

Batala Colony police registered a case and submitted challan in the court.

Jamal chairs Iqbal **Academy governing** body meeting

Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and on Friday that the guidance Academy, a national governing body members would help the academy pursue its mission of promoting Iqbal's works and messages among the in a better way. young generation.

governing body here at Aiwan-e-Iqbal, he said that it was due to efforts of that scholars tradition

(APP): understanding of Iqbal's works was progressing in a good way, adding that all Culture Jamal Shah hoped concerned want to see Iqbal and recommendations of institution for promotion the Iqbal Academy of Iqbal's thoughts, more of Iqbal's thoughts, more strong and active and in this regard it would be provided all kinds of support so that it could play its role

The governing body Presiding over a members offered Fateha on meeting of the Iqbal the demise of renowned Academy Pakistan scholar, former member governing body Prof Dr Rafiuddin Hashmi and paid him tribute over his services regarding Iqbal Studies.



RAWALPINDI: SAPM Jawad Sohrab Malik lays foundation stone of new academic block of

LHC stops planting of palm trees along highways, motorways

LAHORE (APP): The underpasses in the city, Lahore High Court (LHC) criticising on Friday stopped planting of palm trees along

highways and motorways. Justice Shahid Karim passed the orders while hearing petitions, filed by Haroon Farooq and others against ineffective measures for controlling

During proceedings, Environment Protection Department director general appeared before the court and submitted that palm trees were ineffective barriers against pollution, adding that they did not prove successful on Islamabad motorways and highways.

The court questioned

unconventional lighting that malfunctioned on the first day. The court also stressed the urgency for water conservation and observed that there were predictions about water scarcity by 2026-2027, envisioning a future where water tankers become a common sight in Lahore.

The court addressed the provincial law officer and asked what steps had been taken by the Water and Sanitation Agency for installing water

To which, a member of the Judicial Water and **Environment Commission** stated that a one-year timeline had been given for the bizarre renovation of installing water meters.

International News

Gaza's Health Ministry blames Israeli troops for deadly shooting as crowd waited for aid

seems as if they have been

given date that they have

to announce decision at

such and such date. Judge

Dilawar awarded sentence

on August 15 illegally.

disqualified PTI founder.

What punishment was

awarded by Judge Dilawar

She went on to say i

Monitoring Desk

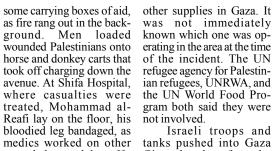
RAFAH: Gaza's Health Ministry and witnesses said Israeli troops opened fire as a crowd of Palestinians gathered for humanitarian aid in Gaza City on Thursday, killing at least 20 and wounding dozens.

The Israeli military said it was looking into the reports. The Associated Press could not independently confirm the details of what happened.

Witnesses and health officials said the shooting took place at a roundabout on Gaza City's southern edge, where a large crowd had gathered for distribution of food. Footage posted online and confirmed to have been taken on the main road near the roundabout showed hundreds of people fleeing,

as fire rang out in the back-ground. Men loaded wounded Palestinians onto took off charging down the avenue. At Shifa Hospital, treated, Mohammad albloodied leg bandaged, as medics worked on other wounded around them. He City shortly after the said Israeli troops fired into

A number of aid agencies distribute food and



the crowd. We were going to get flour ... young people were martyred and other young people were injured," he said. Health Ministry spokesperson Ashraf al-Qidra said 20 people were killed and 150 others wounded by the shooting.



ground invasion began in

October and have been bat-

tling Palestinian militants

there for nearly two

months. The military says

it has largely dismantled

Hamas in northern Gaza but

is still facing pockets of re-

sistance, and large swaths

of Gaza City and surround-

ing areas have been reduced

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: President Emmanuel Macron was guest of honour Thursday for India's pomp-filled annual military parade, in a state visit aimed at bolstering France's strategic ties with the world's fifth-

largest economy.

The annual Republic Day event in the heart of New Delhi is a highly choreographed spectacle featuring tank columns, fighter jet fly-pasts, acrobatic motorbike stunts and mounted camel units. This year it coincides with a two-day diplomatic tour that reflects a growing partnership between India and France, after Macron hosted Prime Minister Narendra Modi at last year's Bastille Day celebrations in Paris. Macron has pushed for greater French involvement in the Asia-Pacific at a time when Washington and its Western allies are courting India as a military

and economic counter-

weight to China.



sures against Israel following accusations by South Africa that the Israeli military operation in Gaza is a state-led genocide, in The Hague, Netherlands.

Ukraine invites China's Xi to 'peace summit'

Monitoring Desk KYIV: Ukraine has invited

Chinese President Xi Jinping to participate in a planned "peace summit" of world leaders in Switzerland, a top diplomatic adviser to President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said, as Russia's invasion approaches its second anni-

China has close ties with Russia and has refrained from criticising its invasion of Ukraine but has also said the sovereignty and territorial integrity of

help mediate the conflict. 'We are definitely inviting China to participate in the summit, at the highest level, at the level of the President of the People's Republic of China," the adviser,

Ihor Zhovkva, told Reuters

in an interview this week. "China's participation will be very important to us. We are working with the Chinese side. We involve our partners in the world so that they convey to the Chinese side how important it is to participate in

all countries must be re- such a summit. **King Charles admitted** to London hospital for prostate treatment

Monitoring Desk

LONDON: Britain's King Charles went into hospital on Friday to have planned treatment to address an enlarged prostate, Buckingham Palace said, joining his daughter-inlaw Kate who is recovering from surgery.
The king was pictured

arriving with his wife Queen Camilla at the private London Clinic in west London. where Kate, the Princess of Wales, is also having treatment after undergoing abdominal surgery last week. A royal source said Charles had visited Kate ahead of his own treatment. 'The king was this morning admitted to a London hospital for scheduled treatment," Buckingham

Palace said in a statement. "His majesty would like to thank all those who have sent their good wishes over the past week and is delighted to learn that his diagnosis is having a positive impact on public health awareness." Last week the palace that Charles, 75, would undergo a "corrective procedure" for a benign condition which was common among men over 50.

US assails Israeli attack on UN facility in Gaza

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTÖN: The United States has condemned the Israeli assault on a UN facility in Khan Yunis, emphasising the protection of civilians and the need to respect the sanctity of UN facili-

"You've heard me say it before, you've heard [Secretary of State Antony Blinken] say it before [... civilians must be protecte and the protected nature of UN facilities must be re spected.

Japanese craft makes successful, pin-point Moon landing **Monitoring Desk**

TOKYO: Japan's "Moon Sniper" craft made a pinpoint lunar landing despite last-minute engine problems, the space agency said on Thursday as it released the first images from the mission. A photo taken by a mini-rover showed the boxy yellow lander sitting intact at a slight angle on the rocky grey surface, lunar slopes rising in the distance.

The unmanned Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM)—dubbed the "Moon Sniper" for its precision technology.

Canada to re-start Turkey arms exports

Monitoring Desk ISTANBUL: Canada and

Turkey have reached a deal to restart Canadian exports of drone parts in exchange for more transparency on where they are used, and it would take effect after Ankara completes its ratification of Sweden's NATO bid, two sources told Reuters.

After 20 months of delay, Turkey moved swiftly this week to endorse Sweden's membership in the Western military alliance, including a parliamentary vote and presidential sign-off, leaving Hungary as the sole ally yet to

Turkey is expected to send the final documents to Washington as soon as Friday, which would clear the tus as a NATO ally.

way for Canada to immedithat it adopted in 2020, the two sources said, requesting anonymity.

The agreement was reached in early January after months of talks, said one person familiar with the process. A second person familiar with the plan said the sides agreed it would take effect after Sweden's ratification was complete.

Turkey's foreign ministry declined to comment.

Canadian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Charlotte MacLeod told Reuters that while the export controls currently remained in place, Ottawa aimed to resolve the issue with Turkey given its sta-



Ecuadorean authorities place drug packages in a container, as part of the more than 20 tons of seized drugs to be destroyed at an undisclosed location, in Ecuador.

Trump opens up lead over Biden in rematch many Americans don't want

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: Donald

Trump leads Democratic President Joe Biden by six percentage points in a Reuters/Ipsos poll that showed Americans are unhappy about an election rematch that came into sharper focus this week.

The nationwide poll of 1,250 US adults showed Trump leading Biden 40% to 34% with the rest unsure or planning to vote for someone else or no one. The poll had a margin of error of three percentage points.

That represented a gain for Trump after a

Reuters/Ipsos poll conducted earlier this month showed him and Biden tied, though a nationwide survey does not capture the subtleties of the electoral college contest that will be decided this fall in just a handful of competitive states.

As Trump handily beat his sole remaining pri-mary challenger, Nikki Haley in New Hampshire on Tuesday, some 67% of respondents polled Monday through Wednesday said they were "tired of seeing the same candidates in presidential elections and want someone new.'

Injured people receive treatment in Gaza City's Al-Shifa hospital, following a reported Israeli strike, that according to Gaza's Health Ministry, killed at least 20 and wounded more than 150 as they waited

China-US talks: Taiwan reports Chinese 'combat patrols' it seeks to assert sovereignty

Monitoring Desk TAIPEI: Taiwan's defence ministry said it detected 23 Chinese air force planes operating around Taiwan and carrying out "joint combat readiness patrols' with Chinese warships on

Friday, ahead of high-level China-US talks in Thailand. China, which views Taiwan as its own territory, has over the past four years

regularly sent warplanes and

warships into the skies and

waters around the island as

claims that the Taipei government rejects. Taiwan's defence ministry said that starting around 4 p.m. (0800 GMT) on Friday it had detected 23 Chinese aircraft including Su-30 fighters and drones operating off north-ern and central Taiwan and

to the island's southwest. Thirteen of those aircraft crossed the Taiwan Strait's median line, or areas close by, working with Chinese warships.



MUZAFFRABAD: Students of school and college hold placards during protest as they observe Indian Republic Day as Black Day during an anti-Indian protest in the city, to show their solidarity with people of Indian-administered Kashmir.

Minster urges political parties to prioritize education in their election manifestos

Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindhi on Friday urged all the political parties to prioritize education and governance agenda in their election manifestos for the next five years to improve the quality of education in the country. We need to focus on developing educational infrastructure, improving learning system, framing sustainable policy and initiatives as well as ensuring training of teachers and enrollment of out of school children to achieve objectives of quality education for all, he underscored.

The minister expressed the views while

presiding over meetings during visits to the regional offices of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) and Inter Board Coordination Commission (IBCC) at Karachi and talking to media persons on the occasion. The minister visited different sections of the regional offices where he received the briefing on the working, role, functions and issues being faced and future strategies of the organizations. Madad Ali Sindhi ob-

served that over 25 million out of school children, the dilapidated condition of public sector educational institutions, disconnection between teachers and parents, non-utilization of ear-

marked funds and other issues indicate that the education sector could not get proper attention of political parties in the past and remained excluded from their manifestos while bureaucracy also failed to play a positive role in the regard. Now it has been inevitable that whichever political party comes into power after the upcoming general elections must dedicate its five year term to improve the education in Pakistan as it was the only option for development of the country, he maintained and emphasized that people should also urge their representatives for taking measures in the regard.

The minister said that

during the short tenure of the caretaker government, he had adopted a proactive approach to improve the educational standards and deal with the issues and 20 out of 50 schools of federal capital were selected for reforms. Those educational institutes were being transformed as model schools with provision of missing facilities and improvement of their management, he said and added that the caretaker government was also focusing on universities and boards and measures were taken to resolve their issues while chairmen of educational boards were directed to improve the system and ensure transparency in examination and assessment processes

PM told PTA revenue surges to Rs 850b; access to cellular services reaches 90pc

ISLAMABAD (APP): lion comparing the last year Chairman of Pakistan Telecommunications Authority (PTA) Major General (Retd) Hafeezur Rehman on Friday called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar here.

In the meeting, the PTA chairman presented to the prime minister the annual report 2023 of the

The prime minister PTA's revenue increased by 17 percent to Rs 850 bil-

while the access to cellular services in the country had reached 90 percent.

The PTA chief said that the number of cellular consumers had touched 192 million and high-speed broadband users reached 130 million during 2023.

The prime minister lauded the services of the PTA chairman and his team was informed that the in extending mobile phone and Internet services to the

'Pak effectively highlighting Ram temple issue at every global forum': Munir Akram versally recognized and re-Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United

gionally important sacred

sites, meetings with high level UN representatives

were also being conducting to highlight the issue. The ambassador said that Pakistan urged the top official for the U.N. Alliance of Civilizations to play gross rights violations in their active role for the protection of Islamic sites in

> The OIC Ambassadors had also acknowledged the importance of the issue, he said, adding, we were writing letters to seek uredged.

gent intervention for the protection of religious sites

He further said "We are also demanding action plan over protection of reigious sites," adding, Indian friendly countries also needed to mobilize more diplomatic efforts to control Hindua-like policies in India. He said UN officials were encouraging Pakistan' efforts for raising Kashmir cause at world forums, adding, the right of the Kashmiri people to self-determina-

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Interior Minister and Commerce Dr. Gohar Ejaz &

Federal Minister for National Health Dr. Nadeem Jan visited PIMS Hospital.

Kashmir Day: Public holiday announced on Feb 5

Nations, Ambassador Munir Akram Friday

strongly condemned the re-

cent consecration of 'Ram

Temple' on the demolished

Babri Mosque's site and

expressed commitment for

effectively highlighting the

IIOJK and temple issue at

news channel, he said that

the Organisation of Islamic

Cooperation (OIC) coun-

tries were supporting the

Talking to a private

every global forum.

ISLAMABAD (INP): The federal government has declared February 5 (Monday) a public holiday on the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day, stated a notification issued on Fri-

The State of Pakistan will observe a one-minute silence at 10am on February 5 (Monday) – public holiday – in a show of solidarity with the people of Kashmir in their struggle for freedom from India, according to the no-

Feb 8 polls

Ameer Bahadur Khan,

Khan and announced ANP's

Punjab. Bashir Ahmed, the

chairman of the Hazara

Welfare Association, has

also pledged support for

development, Mubshir

Laal, the former president

of Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf

Ravi Town, has joined IPP.

Laal, along with his party

workers, will actively par-

ticipate in the election cam-

paign for Abdul Aleem

Khan in the NA-117 con-

stituency.

In another significant

on February 8.

Kashmiris observed **India's Republic Day** as Black Day

Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) and across the world observed India's Republic Day as a Black Day amid complete strike in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) in protest against India's persistent denial of their right

to self-determination. According to Kashmir Media Service, call for the observance of the Black Day was given by the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) and other Hurriyat organizations.

In the occupied territory, a complete strike was observed, while anti-India demonstrations and rallies planned in Azad Kashmir, Pakistan, and various world capitals. Jailed APHC Chairman Masarrat Aalam Butt and incarcerated senior leader Shabbir Ahmed Shah, both detained in India's Tihar jail, reiterated the call for a Black Day in every corner of the territory. APHC leaders and affiliated parties condemned India for

a reign of terror, including

widespread repression, fre-

quent cordon.

Pakistan's UN envoy, WIPO DG discuss promoting IP ecosystem in Pak

ISLAMABAD (APP) Pakistan's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva Bilal Ahmed had a meeting with Director General World Intellectual Property Organization (WPIO) Daren Tang and discussed ways and means to promote IP ecosystem in Pakistan.

During the meeting, the envoy appreciated the DG's people-centric vision, WIPO's ÎP projects in Pakistan and IP awareness programmes for youth besides incentivizing a culture of innovation.

Illegal weapons

recovered

QUETTA (INP): The Anti-

Narcotics Force (ANF), in

a targeted operation against

drug trafficking has recov-

ered a significant cache of

weapons along the coastal

belt of Gwadar. The opera-

tion, carried out in the

Padizar area, unfolded

when an ANF team ob-

served individuals unload-

ing goods near the shore-

line. Despite the team's

prompt response, the sus-

pects managed to escape in

the cover of darkness.

Upon inspecting the ship-

ment left behind, the ANF

discovered a trove of so-

phisticated weapons, lead-

Among the seized items were 259 9mm Glock

pistols. The ANF spokes-

person highlighted that

these operations exemplify

the agency's unwavering

commitment to addressing

threats to national security.

extending beyond counter-

narcotics efforts. This suc-

cessful mission underscores

the crucial role of ANF in

safeguarding the region,

demonstrating their deter-

mination to combat multi-

faceted challenges endan

ing to their confiscation.

Siraj seeks electoral support of public for JI's candidates in Hyderabad

Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Sirajul Haq has urged the people to cast their votes over the election symbol scale (Tarazoo) if they want accountability of the corrupt rulers. Addressing the party's public meeting in Latifabad here on Friday Haq vowed to change dispensation of government which replicated the Western governance model and to replace it with an Islamic system if JI formed the

"We don't accept the monarchy of 2 political families in Pakistan," he inhuman Israeli onslaught.

time of Pakistan Muslim establish a public sector League-Nawaz, Pakistan Peoples Party and Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan was over, adding that his party would form the government after the February 8 polls.

He maintained that

H Y D E R A B A D Punjab and Sindh, respectively, for 3 decades but their performance had remained dismally poor. Haq also criticized PML-N's chief Mian Nawaz Sharif and PPP's Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for their efforts to become elected as the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

"The people of Pakistan are brave but their leadership is in the hands of wards," he asserted.

He claimed that JI was the only political party which practically supported Palestinians when they were facing brutal and

The JI's Ameer asked university or an advanced tertiary care hospital in Hyderabad during the last 15 consecutive years of their government?

The people were deceived in the name of Karachi-Hyderabad motorway," he alleged.



Chakar Khan Rind University

against the polling staff had been found absent from who remained absent from the training sessions being the training process continconducted for the upcomued in different parts of the ing general elections. province. The PEC said that all ANP to support DROs have been directed **IPP** in mental action has been to ensure attendance of the Punjab for

According to the PEC Balochistan, the departstarted against the absentee staff in different parts of the province It was mentioned that

SPL is a welcome

initiative: Aseefa

KARACHI (APP): Former Sindh Premier League is a

tial possessed by the life. The nation will elect

youngsters of Sindh to the the right people this time

province.

ISLAMABAD: Chairman PTA, Major General (R)

Hafeez-ur-Rehman calls on Caretaker Prime Min-

226 staff found absent in various districts:

Departmental action initiated

against absentee polling staff,

maintains PEC Balochistan

Independent Report Kachhi district, 107 absen-

ister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

QUETTA: The Provincial

Muhammad Farid Afridi

has stated that departmen-

tal action has been initiated

Balochistan,

action was taken against 15 immediate su absentee polling staff in their service.

President Asif Ali Zardari's

daughter Aseefa Bhutto

Zardari has said that Sindh

Premier League (SPL) will

not only convey the poten-

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the SPL

nation, but also the entire around.

tee staff in Khuzdar, seven Election Commissioner of Usta Muhammad, 70 of Killa Saifullah district and 27 of Chaman district. These polling staff appointed as the presiding

officers and polling officers

polling staff in the training sessions. He also directed to take strict action against the absentee staff including immediate suspension from

welcome initiative in the

were capable of reaching

new heights in all walks of

Ouaid-e-Awam Shaheed

Zulfikar Ali Bhutto taught

the spirit of service.

people of PB-44.

He said that people of

the circle would make it

successful by sealing the

The youth of Sindh

Aseefa said that

ECP decides to make SMS service 8300 free of charge from Monday next

AHORE (INP): The ISLAMABAD (Online): Awami National Party Election Commission of (ANP) has committed its Pakistan (ECP) has decided support to Istehkam e Pato make SMS service 8300 kistan Party (IPP) candifree of charge from Mondates in the upcoming polls day next. The announcement was made by ECP's Spokesperson, Syed Nadeem Hyder, Additional the general secretary of ANP Punjab, met with IPP Director General Nighat President Abdul Aleem Sadique, and the Project Director of Project Mandecision to support IPP in agement Unit whilst par-

ticipating in Suno FM

can check details of their constituencies and polling stations by sending the number of their computerized identity cards to 8300.

The ECP officials said the voters are required to bring their Computerized National Identity Cards (CNICs) to the polling station for voting. A vote can be cast even if the CNIC is expired or using the token issued for the issuance of a



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Local Bodies Sheikh Mehmoodul Hassan meeting with Caretaker Provincial Health Minister Dr. Amir

gering the nation. circle on Jan 30 QUETTA (APP): The 11 am to 1 pm. Executive

Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) will organize an open court (Khuli Kehchari) online for the consumers of Loralai and Killa Saifullah circles on January 30, 2024 (Monday) to address their complaints related to the electricity issues

press release issued here on Friday, Superintending Engineer QESCO Loralai Abdullah Shah will find out the complaints of customers on telephone number 0824-400029 and mobile number 03198088024 from Engineers, Revenue Officers and Circle SDOs of Loralai and Killa Saifullah Divisions will also be present in the online open court. The QESCO has asked the consumers of Loralai Circle including Loralai, Duki, Ziarat, Mekhtar, Musakhel, Rakhni, Kohlu, Zhob, Killa Saifullah and Muslim Bagh

Mainly partly cloudy weather forecast for **Balochistan** QUETTA (APP): The Met Office has forecast mainly partly cloudy weather conditions in most parts of the

province with a very cold situation in the northern parts. Fog is likely to remain in southeastern districts during the next 24 hours. However, isolated light rain and drizzle may occur in Makran and its surroundings. According to the Met Office, the minimum temperature in Quetta was recorded at 5.5 degree centigrade and -01.0 degree centigrade in Kalat on Friday.



Muhammad Raheem Awan meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

Yousafzai says "Provision of facilities in Balochistan historic achievement of Jam"

Independent Report

JTHAL: The former Chief Minister Jam Kamal Khan is a progressive Nawab and political leader and provision of the basic facilities to the people in all districts of the province is his historic achievement. This was stated by the

leader of Jam Group, Umarzada Khan Yousafzai while speaking on occasion of launch of the election campaign in Revenue Colony, Uthal on Friday.

Mr. Yousafzai praised initiatives of the former Chief Minister Jam Kamal and said that he (Jam) had implemented the projects during his three and half years tenure. These projects are visible on

Jam Kamal Khan is the farsighted and public friendly political leader, who took practical steps for development of the province and prosperity of the people. Following these initiatives, Jam Kamal Khan has great respect and status in the province and the people value him a lot from the core of their heart, Umarzada Khan Yousafzai added. He further said that no can deny the services rendered by Jam Kamal for the province.

Also present on the occasion were the leaders of Group Akram Jam Khaskhaili, Master Imam Bakhsh Seemab, general councilor Habibullah, Sabir Hussain, Jamil Ahmed besides others.



HYDERABAD: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Siraj ul Haq rising hands with party leaders to showing solidarity during a public meeting (Jalsa) in the city.

here as a chief guest on Fri- the nation that Pakistan day night, she said that the belongs to everyone. Lehri requests people to make successful BNP's candidate from PB-44

OUETTA (APP)- A social activist of Killi-Jio Mir Abdul Rahman Lehri on Friday requested the people of Killi-Jio to seal the axe on February 8 and Balochistan National Party (BNP)'s candidate PB-44 Haji Mir Waheed Lehri.

dedicated to the people and

axe. He said that after his success there would be a successful complete change in the PB-44 area saying that youth would get employment and peace and order situation In his statement iswould be established in the sued here on Friday, he said entire area. He said that we that the leader of BNP's have always done the polinominated candidate for tics of principles and we PB-44 Mir Abdul Waheed were doing it and we would Lahri has a personality implement the vision of the



Memon speaks during a ceremony to mark International Customs Day.

PTI's Senator Saifullah Abro joins PPP KARACHI (INP): PTI Senator Saifullah Abro

called on Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and expressed his trust in his leadership. On the occasion, Senator Saifullah announced to withdraw from the election race in NA-194 constituency and promised to support candidate of Pakistan People's Party. Abro was elected as senator on PTI's technocrat seat from Larkana for March 2022 to March 2027 term.

PTI candidates from Sukkur announced to quit lection race to support akistan Peoples' Party candidates in the district. PTI nominated candidate from NA 200 Noman Islam Sheikh planned to withdraw election race and support PPP senior leader Khurshid Shah.

Muhammad Khan Jogezai. **QESCO** to hold online open court under Loralai

According to the Circle Engineer Syed

to contact the Superintending Engineer QESCO directly on the above mentioned telephone numbers on Tuesday for registering their grievances through the online office and for their

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