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dailyindisb@gmail.com

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

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# **Cricketer Shahzad** promises to establish cricket Academy in Quetta

Caretaker Provincial Minister for Information praises Ahmed Shahzad for raising voice for inclusion of Quetta players in PSL

Independent Report QUETTA: The former international cricketer and member of national squad, Ahmed Shahzad has announced to establish his cricket academy in Quetta for nurturing young cricket

talent for the national and

ence along with the care-taker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai here at the Sikandar Jamali Auditorium in Civil Secretariat on Sun-

He said that he got lot of love and affection from Quetta, and he would re-



He said that he wants to bring his (Ahmed Shahzad) cricket academy in Quetta for he would be needing the land and infrastructure. S

The former international cricketer vowed to contribute to the development of cricket at the grassroots level, providing opportunities for talented youngsters to receive proper coaching and mentorship, potentially paving the way for future representation in national and international cricket.

Ahmed Shahzad was addressing a press confermain connected with it for rest of his life.

He said that the manner he was welcomed and treated is really memorable

He went on to say that the love he got from people of Quetta, he did not get anywhere, so he wants to do much for the people of Balochistan.

mentioned that there is a great potential of cricket among youngsters of the province, what had been lacking the desired opportunities for them to prove it



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki in a group photo with Caretaker Provincial Ministers and Advisors to luncheon hosted by Chief Minister.

# Perpetrators of May 9 incidents facing judicial process: PM

Says ECP would ensure that nobody should get the impression that any person was made a target for his political affiliation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Sunday said the incidents of May 9 were still being investigated and action should be taken against those involved in

Speaking in a private vision channel television programme, he said those who perpetrated the incidents on May 9 were fac-Ahmed Shahzad also ing the judicial process.

Many persons were still avoiding the courts and were in hiding, he said add-ing they should have surrendered before the law to avail their legal rights but now they would face ob-

political activities related to would elect their representhe elections. He said the Election Commission would ensure that nobody should get the impression that any person was made a target for his political af-filiation. To a question, he said the leader of the house and leader of the opposi-tion in the National Assembly agreed to his name and

caretaker prime minister.

He said he was supported by many people including his teachers to reach the level of attainment in

he was appointed as the

The prime minister once militants realized that

F) chief Maulana Fazlur

Rehman on Sunday reached

Kabul, Afghanistan to hold

talks on regional and secu-

rity issues amid a spike in

spokesperson, the JUI-F

chief – who is on maiden

visit to Afghanistan in

nearly 10 years – was wel-

comed by interim Afghan

Foreign Minister Ameer

then-president Hamid

merly Twitter), the JÙI-F

said Fazlur Rehman de-

Fazl last visited Af-

In a post on X (for-

According to party

cross-border attacks.

they would have to lay stacles in carrying out their said the people of Pakistan tatives on February 8 and his government would carry out a peaceful transfer of power to them.

By the morning of February 9, it would be known whom the people had elected, he observed.

He said the government of Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) failed to resolve problems of governance during its tenure as it lacked political maturity and got involved in confrontation with the institutions. Talking about the issues of Balochistan, he said

down their arms, the prob-lems would be settled. PM Kakar was of the

view that the sanctity of the state should be observed as it was above any individual. He said Pakistan lost

90,000 of its citizens in the war against terrorism but not even nine persons were convicted in courts for the deaths. The issue of terrorism could not be addressed, he said adding that horrific incident like an attack on the Army Public School occurred and personnel of law enforcement agencies citizens and politicians had been martyred since 2008.

### **Govt playing effective** role to restore peace & resolve public issues as per mandate, Domki Moreover, the Sibi-QUETTA: The caretaker Harnai railway section and

Independent Report Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that the interim government is playing effective role for restoration of peace and resolving the issues faced by the

masses, as per it's mandate. He said that the development projects pending for longtime are being executed. The inauguration of the communication project of the Quetta Development Package has been made while other ongoing projects would also be inaugurated under Quetta

taker provincial government launched the Health province under which more hospitals of the country.

Bolan Mail were restored while on the other hand, the computerized local and domicile certificates, heirs certificates and arms licenses were issued. These details were

shared by the caretaker Chief Minister while speaking on occasion of the luncheon hosted for the caretaker provincial ministers and Advisors here on Sunday

Mir Ali Mardan Domki said it has been our priority to complete collective nature projects for restoring law and order and Package soon.

The Chief Minister mentioned that the carementioned that the care-

The Chief Minister vowed that we would con-Card programme in the tinue to bring improvement in the governance and serve than 2.2 million families got the masses with sincerity the quality facilities in 1200 whatever possible in the available time.

Spokesman says:

# ECP secretary to resume duties after recovery

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Secretary of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Omar Hamid Khan, currently on medical leave due to health issues, will come back to his duties once he gets better.

In response to rumours surrounding the resignation of the ECP secretary, the ECP spokesman clarified that the Election Commission's work is being efficiently handled by the two Special Secretaries during the Secretary's absence.

Secretary Omar Hamid Khan is an intelligent and hardworking officer who has fulfilled his responsibilities admirably, the spokesman added.

He mentioned that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is operating seamlessly, ensuring continuous functioning even on holidays, with its offices diligently engaged in their tasks.

#### Bilawal says we will Fazal in Afghanistan Social media giants, services face disruptions take back Lahore of to discuss regional as internet **Bhuttos from Patwaris** security issues LAHORE (INP): Pakistan

KABUL (INP): Jamiat a high-level delegation of Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-party leaders, including party leaders, including Maulana Abdul Wasi, Jamaluddin. Salimuddin Shamzai, Aslam Ghauri and

During the visit, Fazlur Rehman will hold meetings with the Afghan Taliban leaders and discuss the regional and security situation, the state-

It is pertinent to mention here that the represenghanistan in 2013 and met tative of the Taliban government and Afghan envoy in Islamabad had officially invited Maulana Fazlur Rehman a few days ago to visit Afghanistan on behalf

practical steps to address

the outstanding issues

CSJ Peter Jacob stated that

public representatives associated with political parties

required public opinion and

support to introduce legis-

lation regarding any matter

concerning human rights, so that the public could keep

an eye on the progress of

political representatives

and convince them to take

steps to address the human

Executive Director of

faced by minorities.

# disrupted across Pak

ISLAMABAD (INP): Internet services were disrupted across Pakistan as users reported difficulties accessing popular social media platforms, including X, Facebook and YouTube on Sunday, Internet Monitor Downdetector said.

According to Downdetector, the social media platforms, especially the website versions have been down shortly after 5pm local time.

Users in major cities such as Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad began experiencing difficulties accessing social media sites shortly after 4pm. Additionally, users also complained about sluggish internet services.

A sharp rise in connection outages on YouTube, X and Facebook was seen in downdetector's graphs.

The reason behind the widespread disruption is yet not clear as the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has not issued any statement.

People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Chairman Bilawal said they were doing politics only for PPP's Zardari said he will take back Lahore of Zulfigar Ali Jialas, the white-clad class of the city, and the poor Bhutto to old politicians and Patwaris with the sup-Bilawal said Lahore

port of poor people of the don't need Patwaris and he Bilawal addressed a just wants the support of gathering of party workthe poor classes of the city ers in the National Asto quench their hunger. Bilawal also enthusiastisembly constituency NAcally added, "Ab Hum Un



Bilawal said the city of Lahore is not the Lahore of any businessman or a cricket player, it is the Lahore of Shaheed Bhutto and it is everyone's misunderstanding to scare the PPP [leadership and work-

K Ghar Main Ghus K Marain Gey" (Now we will punish them after entering their house)

He said he wanted to tell the old politicians that the victory in the elections was for Shaheed Benazir ers] by martyring its Jialas (workers) and Bibi Benazir Lahore only. Bhutto and the people of

## 11,000 teams formed to achieve target of immunization:

# Balochistan set to initiate seven-day anti-polio campaign to vaccinate around 2.6 million children

**Independent Report** 

QUETTA: Ali is set to initiate seven-day anti-polio campaign in Balochistan from today (Monday). The Coordinator

Emergency Operation Center (EOC) for Eradication of Polio in Balochistan, Syed Zahid Shah told that all the necessary arrangements have been finalized for the polio immunization campaign in the province.
According to the EOC

Coordinator, approximately 2.596 million children below five years of age would be administered antipolio vaccine in all districts of the province. In all 11,399 teams

have been formed to achieve the target of immunization in the province. These are included 9.116 mobile teams, 958 fixed site teams and 630 transit points teams

mentioned that all the anti-polio teams participating in the elections would be provided wholehearted security during the campaign.

He informed that no

fresh polio case been reported since January 2021. However, it is a matter of concern that the polio virus has been detected in the environmental samples of five districts including Quetta, Hub, Pishin, Chaman and Dera Bugti.

Syed Zahid Shah said that all available resources are being mobilized to eradicate the polio virus from the province.

He mentioned that Balochistan has been polio free province for last two years. In this regard, the sincere efforts made by the polio workers and other concerned have been re-

The EOC Coordinator markable, adding he com-

parents to ensure vaccination of their children against the virus in the upcoming campaign.

tems. Continuous vaccination campaigns and surveillance are vital in maintaining this disease-free status and working towards the ultimate goal of complete polio eradication.

Undoubtedly the absence of any reported polio cases in the province since January 2021 indicates the effectiveness of previous vaccination efforts and surveillance sys-

Therefore, it's important to continue such campaigns, raise awareness, and ensure that every child receives polio drops to sustain this positive trend and prevent any resurgence of polio in Balochistan.

KABUL: Ameer Jamiat-e-Ulema Islam (JUI) Maulana Fazal ur Rehman alongwith delegation meeting with Vice Prime Minister Afghanistan Maulvi

# Don't pay attention to rumours, ECP fully functional: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Sunday urged

the people not to pay attention to rumours. In a post on his social media platform X, the minister while sharing a press release of the Election Com-

Pakistan (ECP), said that the Secretary Election Commission was facing some health issues for sometime.

We pray to Allah for his complete and speedy recovery", the Federal Minister of Information said.

The minister said that ECP was fully functional and there was no crisis of



OUETTA: Senior Politician, Nawabzada Haji Lashkari Raisani cutting ribbon during the inauguration ceremony of Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA) Election Office, in Quetta.

# **Preliminary lists of polling** stations published by ROs in Balochistan

**Independent Report** QUETTA: The preliminary lists of the polling stations of respective election constituencies have been published by all Returning Officers in Balochistan on

by the Provincial Election

Balochistan, Ejaz Anwar

Chohan in an official state-

ment issued here on Sun-

Commissioner

voter or candidate can submit the objection on the preliminary lists of polling This was announced

stations to the District Returning Officers by January 11, 2024. The DROs would give judgments on the objections or suggestions by January 17, 2024. According to the PEC, the final lists of polling stations would be displayed before 15 days of the general elections.

#### Five killed in firing incident on passenger bus in

**Parachinar** 

ISLAMABAD (APP): At least four people, including a woman, lost their lives and three others were injured in a firing incident on a passenger bus in Parachinar, the Kurram District in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province According to the police spokesman, on Sunday, a passenger bus was heading from Parachinar to Kohat when unknown assailants carried out the attack, resulting in the killing of four people and injuring three others.

The injured were promptly transported to a nearby hospital for medical assistance.

This was not the first incident of gunfire on a passenger bus in Parachinar.

## 200% increase in bill but gas missing still

RAWALPINDI (Online): Despite the 200% increase in the price of gas for domestic consumers, the worst load shedding of gas continues in most parts of the country.

Government has increased the gas prices by almost 200% from November 1, 2023. After the implementation of this increase, consumers are now holding their hearts with heavy gas bills.

The recent increase in gas prices has badly affected the budget of the citizens. Consumers said that earlier the electricity prices made life difficult, but now the gas bills have made up for it and gas is becoming more expensive.

# parted for Afghanistan with of his government. Political parties urged to make efforts to address issues related to minorities' rights

Maulana

Maulana

QUETTA (APP): Center for Social Justice (CSJ) and Minority Forum Pakistan organized a public assembly titled "Effective Representation of Minorities in Elections" organized in Quetta as part of the mobilization and advocacy campaign launched in connection with the elections 2024. The event was joined by representatives of the

Lala Rauf

political parties including

Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party, Agha Gul from National Party, Anita Irfan from Pakistan Muslim League-N and representative from Jamiat Ûlema Islam-F who presented the position of their political parties regarding minorities rights and agreed to take

rights challenges, said a news release issued here the other day. Suneel Malik presented the findings of the manifest assessment report "Promises to Keep and Miles to Go" regarding the assessment of the Delivery of the Pledges about Minorities' Rights

OUETTA: Provincial General Secretary Mulim League (N) Jamal Shah Kakar along with other leaders lead the rally to launch of the Balochistan Election campaign.

# Daily Aoice of Masse Independent

# Commendable work

Thankfully, at least some of the checks and balances safeguarding the electoral process appear to be working as intended. There have been encouraging updates from all over the country about appellate tribunals reviewing and, in most cases, overturning the rejection of nomination papers by various returning officers.

Though the process is still ongoing, the tribunals have already cleared the path for scores of candidates who had previously been disbarred from participating in elections on various grounds. The rejection of papers, described in some contexts as 'wholesale' and 'based on flimsy reasoning' by observers, had disproportionately affected those who have been critical of the state, especially the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf. By the time the initial scrutiny was completed, most of the PTI's strongest candidates had been knocked out. This was followed by complaints that ROs in some constituencies had also withheld copies of their decisions, allegedly to prevent them from being appealed on time.

It now appears that many of those affected may have been right about being wronged. At least one judge hearing the appeals, Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir, is reported to have made remarks to the effect that the ROs in Islamabad and Rawalpindi had, in the majority of cases, rejected papers over petty issues which could have been resolved within five to 10 minutes in their offices. The question does arise as to why such hasty decisions were taken in the first place, but the affected candidates may take heart knowing that the appellate tribunals seem to be working independently and without fear or favour. As a result of the tribunals' decisions, many from PTI's top-tier leadership — what remains of it — are now back in the running. They include well-known names like Hammad Azhar, Atif Khan, Firdous Shamim Naqvi and Zulfi Bukhari, as well as other, less-prominent ones. Though appeals filed by some other big names have been turned down, the party remains committed to participating in the elections, and it seems it will find a way to make do.

The work of the appellate tribunals is commendable as it has restored a sense of fairness after the ugliness that marred the formal start of the electoral

From snatching of papers to abductions of candidates, instances of state interference had been widely documented, casting a dark shadow on the legitimacy of the upcoming polls.

With the tribunals acting sensibly, a significant portion of the controversies surrounding the pending election will now die down, allowing parties and candidates to focus on their campaigns and strategise for their wins. With both local and international analysts repeatedly underscoring that a free and fair election is the only way out of the crises Pakistan is mired in, any effort to ensure that the exercise remains free of controversy should be encouraged and celebrated.

# **Not a new normal**

adapted for infecting or re-

infecting us," writes

Topol. But, he offers some

good news: the latest

booster in the US "pro-

range of about 60 per cent

booster were protected

booster, so far. This is the

tragic face of health ineq-

isn't alone in its "state of

denialism and general re-

fusal to take simple steps

tion," writes Topol. Coun-

tries all over the world are

a need to resume testing,

data collection and public

guidelines (like masking)

backed by trusted science

filtration and proper ven-

tilation work against vari-

ants. When combined

with vaccinations and

testing, "we have layers

of defense that work ef-

matter how the virus

it all, not rely on only

one," writes molecular

biologist Dr Lucky Tran.

rapid test that checks for

SARS-CoV-2, RSV, Ad-

In fact, he recently

sources.

The bad news is that

The United States



Muna Khan

I tested positive for Covid on the first day of the new year in New York. It is not an ideal start to the year, or holiday, but the period of isolation so far has brought many reflections.

that the pandemic is not hospitalisation in the

Last Sunday, the against JN.1 and other retechnical leader to the World Health ants." Even those who Organisation's Covid-19 had not gotten this response, Dr Maria Van Kerkhove, reaffirmed on from hospitalisations or X that Covid remains a visits to the ER. global health threat.

'[This new phase] is only 19pc of Ameri-cans marked by reduced impact have received the latest compared to the peak of Covid 19 a few years ago, but it's still a global health uities. threat and it's still a pandemic causing far too many (re)infections, hospitalisations, deaths and long covid when to reduce the risk of infectools exist to prevent

Yet this has not re- not acting on Covid miticeived the media attention gation strategies. There's it deserves

At the time of my writing, the United States is facing the second biggest surge of the pandemic according to data from the Centres for Disease Con-

The surge is expected to peak next week with an estimated two million infections per day and estimates that one in three fectively together, no people will get Covid. People must take precau- evolves. The key is to do tions, especially masking, but masks alone have become a divisive issue here. Many people cite "science" that claims masks posted an image of a are ineffective in preventing the spread.

This is why the enovirus, media's role in public M.pneumoniae, and in- ters. Until those that messaging is critical fluenza. It isn't approved matter take note and right now, yet its focus is on other issues.

Professor Eric provided this for free to Topol's op-ed in The Los the people!' Angeles Times on Thurs-But governments day should sound alarm like Joe Biden's are more bells for policymakers, certainly in the US, who "are still playing make-be-

interested in securing a second term and giving their ally Israel a free pass lieve" about the current to co--m-mit more atrociwave atop of high cases ties. "This passivity of the flu and respiratory re--inf-o---rces the illusion that the pandemic is The current JN.1 be--h-i--nd us when it's variant "has continued its actually raging," writes evolution with mutations Topol.

Since isolating, Topol's piece is one of the few I've come across on a mainstream media outlet about the dangers The most obvious is vided protection from this wave poses. Friends in Karachi say they're hearing about a rise in cases there, too. My chacha called a public hospital in Karachi to ask about boosters but was told there are none and no plans afoot to get them either.

At least protect the most vulnerable — the elderly, the poor, the immunocompromised. Relaunch the NCOC and resume data collection so it can be used to understand the virus and prepare strategies to combat it.

The journalist Ed Yong, who covered the pandemic in 2020, wrote about watching publications he once respected "become complicit in normalising a level of death once billed as incalculable.

In a piece for The We know masks, air New York Times last tion and proper ven-month he wrote: "In this status quo, people are expected to ignore the threat of infection, pay through the nose if they get sick and face stigma and ridicule if they become disabled. Journalism can and should repudiate that bargain.' Yong reminds us that Covid isn't just a health problem, it is a social one. Journalists must ensure this story is told and let people feel everyone's health matin most countries but take action. -- Courtesy "imagine if governments Dawn

# **Complex conflict**



Chaudhry

Three months into the war

in Gaza, thousands of Palestinians, including a large number of children, have been martyred by the Israeli Defence Forces. What is the end goal of Israel for which it has unleashed unprecedented death and destruction? Israel's stated objective is that it wants to destroy Hamas. This is not credible because Israel is meting out genocide-like collective punishment to all Palestinians, and not just Hamas. Is Israel's goal, then, to create a 'greater Israel' by forcibly pushing the Palestinians into neighbouring Arab countries or elsewhere? If that be the objective, Israel has certainly overestimated what its brutal force can achieve, and underestimated the resilience of Palestinians, who seem determined not to leave the land on which their ancestors

had lived for millennia. The Palestine-Israel conflict is a complex issue. One land, two claimants: Jews and Palestinians. Both cite history to consolidate their claim to the land. The roots of this conflict lie in the decision of the British in 1917, called Balfour Declaration, to settle the Jews of Europe in Palestine. Once a sufficient number of Jews had reached Palestine and displaced the local Arab population, the British took the matter to the UN in 1947, where it was agreed to have two separate states, Palestine and Israel. However, Israel has never allowed the two-state solution to work. Instead, it has imposed an apartheid-like occupation on the helpless Palestinians.

The issue also has an

state of Israel was created for the Jews of the world. The name itself comes from Hazrat Yaqoob (Jacob), the son of Haz-rat Ishaq, and grandson of Hazrat Ibra-him. Hazrat Yaqoob was also called Israel, and his descendants as Bani Israel. His successors included Hazrat Daud (David) and his son Hazrat Suleiman, both of whom built large kingdoms in this territory. Prophet Moses rescued the Bani Israel and brought them to this land from Egypt. All these Prophets are equally sa-

Muslim Palestinians the right to live in the lands which they hold in such holy esteem. Israel continues to justify its atrocities in the name of "self-defence". The Hamas action of October 7, 2023 did not take place in a vacuum as the UN secretary general had rightly remarked. The Palestinians are under brutal occupation. The Hamas action was

an act of resistance against

cred for Muslims. Add to

that the Masjid al-Aqsa,

which was the Qibla-i-

Muhammad (PBUH) as-

(Mairaj) from this mosque.

Israel has no right to deny

Heaven

cended to

the occupying force, which is permissible under international law. Israel's indiscriminate firing on Palestinian houses, schools, and hospitals has elicited massive protests not only in Arab or Muslim countries, but all across, including in the United States. Yet, Israel is not ready to listen to these voices. One reason for such a ferocious Israeli response could be that there is domestic criticism for not anticipating termination. Pakistan has the Hamas attack. Further, Netanyahu wants to look strong as his domestic popularity is declining. The firm support of the US may have also emboldened the Israeli leadership. Another reason could be that Arabs would recognise Israel. --

ideological dimension. The display enough unity to take tangible actions against Israel, such as boycotting Israeli products or even cutting off diplomatic ties.

Nevertheless, pressure is now mounting on Israel. The US cannot continue to ignore the loud calls of the international community for an immediate and permanent ceasefire. Some European countries, like the UK, stand with Israel, but their people are agitating against the relentless bombardment of civilians in Gaza. Israel is also suffering a heavy financial cost of the war. Many businesses have closed down in Israel. A major Awwal. Holy Prophet setback for Israel is that Arab-Israel the normalisation process has halted.

The US influence in

the Middle East has also

received a setback. The

Arab world, including the

Gulf countries, are now looking ever more inclined to explore other options for their security needs. The US has also been widely criticised for casting its veto, thus paralysing the United Nations from playing a role in stopping the war in Gaza, an objective supported by 153 countries of the world. It is high time for the Biden administration to revisit its unqualified support to Israel. Given the unwavering resolve of Palestinians, Netanyahu's dream of creating a greater Israel is not likely to succeed, but he and his right-wingers are surely destined to go into history books as the most ruthless and heartless regime. Pakistan has consistently supported the right of Palestinians to self-dealso not formally

recognised the state of

Israel. There have been

some voices in the coun-

try for doing so. How-

ever, after the recent war

in Gaza, there is even less

likelihood that Pakistan

# Commerce News

# **VP PBF says: Regional Trade** Agreements vital to reinvigorate growth

Business Forum (PBF), Chaudhry Ahmad Jawad has said that devising regional trade agreements among South Asian countries was need of the hour to improve the economic well beings of billions of people; though Pakistan's regional trade was below the desired level which needs to be seen in whole prospective before

said, international relations it is a common axiom that a state can change its friends but it cannot replace its geographical compulsions.

LAHORE (INP): Vice replaced, ideally a state should enjoy at least cordial relations with its surrounding states if not the best relations".

Talking to the members of FPCCI here on Sunday, Chaudhry Ahmad Jawad said that putting sustainable and growth, above all we must created a cycle of profligacy and austerity.

As the average annual economic growth between 2010 and 2023 has been lackluster, around 4 percent, and has been accompanied by a rise in Pakistan's total debt as a share of its GDP, from 55 If neighbours cannot be percent to 76 percent.



GILGIT: A vendor selling a traditional steel fire stove to the customer at his work place.

# **Shahid Rasheed says:** Pakistani businessmen milking masses against developed countries

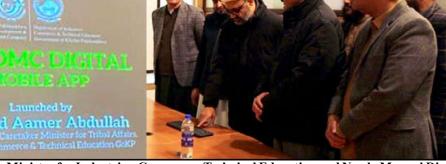
ISLAMABAD (INP): Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt has said that exploitation allowed to exploit the of rights of citizens was not allowed in developed countries but business in Pakistan was unthinkable without exploitation.

here on Sunday, he said that whose only aim was to key sectors and industries were operated without any regulatory oversight in allowing businessmen to rob the

poverty in the country.
Shahid Rasheed Butt

masses and promote

said that in developed countries, no business was people and if it was done, it was made an example but the majority of businesses in Pakistan were milking the masses. Irresponsible In a statement issued and greedy people, make money, exploit people in the name of business, as most of the big businesses were in their hands, he added.



KP Caretaker Minister for Industries, Commerce, Technical Education and Newly Merged Districts Affairs Dr. Aamer Abdullah formally launching Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KP-EZDMC) digital mobile app.

# Freelancers to now receive their payments through PayPal: Minister

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Dr Umar Saif on Sunday announced that freelancers would now receive their

payments through PayPal. In a video message, he said that it had been a longstanding demand of freelancers to have access to PayPal for easier payment receipt in

Pakistan. The minister clarified, While PayPal itself is not coming to Pakistan, an agreement has been reached where remittances would be channeled through

Silwat says:

**Business** 

**Facilitation** 

Centre to be

functional soon

FAISALABAD (APP)

Divisional Commissioner

community

Faisalabad.

PayPal via a third party."
"Under the newly devised freelancers will not need to open a PayPal account. Instead, individuals outside the country will make payments from their PayPal accounts, and the funds will be promptly deposited into the freelancers' accounts," the minister explained.

He said that under are the nation's first space broadcasting TV signals policy approved by the but communicating is cabinet, federal international companies would be allowed to Saif said that provide communication communication services

satellites. Saif said that satellite program, communication technology was advancing rapidly and many private companies in the world wanted to provide communication services through low-orbit satellites. "Satellites used to

be geostationary, far away from the land. They useful difficult because there is latency," he said.

services through low- and internet services could orbit communication be offered through low-

orbit satellites, which were relatively closer. He said that there had

been a lot of development

in this regard in the private

"So now it has become possible for communication services in

Pakistan to be provided through satellites and the private sector has this technology," he said.
He said the National

Space Policy would enable private sector companies "offer affordable internet services in Pakistan while enabling increased investment in our national space

# PIEDMC directed to submit report on 5000 acres **Rwp Economic Zone**

RAWALPINDI (APP): Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Liaquat Ali Chatta has directed the Punjab Industrial Estate Development Management Company (PIEDMC) authorities to complete the survey of the 5000 acres Economic Zone site on the Rawalpindi Ring Road and submit a report next week.

According to a Commissioner's office spokesperson, a delegation of PIEDMC during a meeting

presentation on the proposed Rawalpindi Ring Road Economic Zones and the facilities to be provided to the businessmen. The task of site

survey for establishing an economic zone on 5000 acres land along the Rawalpindi Ring Road had been given to PIEDMC Lahore, the Commissioner informed. The officers concerned were also instructed to arrange a visit of the PIEDMC delegation immediately to the site and Commissioner Rawalpindi provide them with all the Division Liaquat Ali Chatta gave a detailed chatta gave a detailed support.

# **KP-EZDMC** launches mobile app to facilitate investors

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Khyber
Pakhtunkhwa Economic
Unique kind of Zones Development and comprehensive and useful Management Company (KP-EZDMC)

Madam Silwat Saeed said launched a digital mobile app to make the services on Sunday the Business Facilitation Centre would be made functional soon of the company easily to facilitate the business accessible to investors and industrialists. The launching of the

Addressing an online digital mobile app is being meeting with caretaker considered a milestone Provincial Minister for towards the facilitation of Industries SM Tanveer, she investors and industrialists as said a state-of-the-art the required services, business facilitation centre facilities and information of was established at Commissioner's Complex to resolve business related initiative, issues speedily.

app for industrialization in the public sector. The app was formally launched by the KP Caretaker Minister for Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Dr Aamer Abdullah at the headquarters of KP-EZDMC, the other day, said an official press release issued here on Sunday. Besides, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) KP-EZDMC, Javed

Ìgbal Khattak, and other senior management of the the company would now be available on it. With this company were also present on the occasion. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has become

the first province in the here that the Provincial Caretaker Minister for Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Dr Aamer Abdullah had assigned this task of online availability of the services to the company, which has been achieved by the IT section of the company within a short period of two weeks. Addressing the launching ceremony of the app, the provincial minister appreciated the performance of the management and whole team of the company and termed it a visible step towards the facilitation of industrialists and investors

of the industrial sector in the

province

It is worth to mention

# 347 connections for gas theft LAHORE (APP): In a Islamabad the team relentless effort to curb gas theft, Sui Northern Gas connections on illegal

and Muslims could not Courtesy Dawn

SNGPL cuts off another

Pipelines Limited use of gas and amount (SNGPL) conducted a of Rs 0.30 million have series of targeted raids in been booked against gas Puniab. Pakhtunkhwa (KP), and Islamabad.

During the crackdown, around 347 unauthorised connections were disconnected, and fine of Rs 3.47 million were imposed. SNGLP's spokesperson told media here on Sunday, in Lahore, the regional team disconnected 13 connections on illegal use of gas while another 23 on use of compressor. In Rawalpindi and

Khyber theft cases. In Multan 25 connections were disconnected on illegal the use of gas while another

25 on use of compressor. The team also imposed fine of Rs 0.050 million against gas theft cases.

In Peshawar and Karak, the company disconnected connections on account of direct use of gas and illegal use of gas and also imposed fine of Rs 3.05 million against gas theft cases



KARACHI: A vendor is displayed fancy plants pots attraction for customers at his roadside setup Kumhar Wara area in Provincial Capital.

# Governor KP underlines important role of graduates in healthcare development

Governor Haji Pakhtunkhwa Ghulam Ali on Sunday recognized the important role of graduates in the ongoing development of healthcare and emphasized the importance of their contribution to the wider healthcare landscape.

convocation 2024 of Khvber Medical University (KMU)-IMS and Kohat Institute of Dental Sciences (KIDS).

He said that the role of medical and dental graduates play in shaping the wider health landscape is commendable Guest

Chief Governor Haji Ghulam Ali congratulated the graduates of Medical and Dental

Relief, Rehabilitation, and

Settlement Department

KPK Anayatullah Waseem

paid a visit to the Rescue

1122 district office in

Abbottabad on Sunday.

District Emergency Officer

Arif Khatak gave a detailed

overview of the emergency

services offered and the

collaborative efforts with

various departments to

ensure effective service

In discussions with the Rescue 1122 personnel,

highlighted that Rescue

1122 stands as a formidable

force equipped with

modern technology and a

committed to providing

equal and efficient

emergency services to the

residents of Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa. Rescue

personnel, possessing

The organization is

Relief

Waseem

practical

Secretary Anayatullah

dedicated team.

(APP): Colleges and Gold praised the important role Khyber Medalists. He appreciated Haji their unwavering KMU in shaping the future unwavering dedication to medical knowledge and their outstanding efforts.

Highlighting importance of the convocation, the Governor thanked VĆ KMU Prof. Dr. Ziaul Haq, Principals He said this while and all the attendees for addressing the first annual making the event a making the event a memorable gathering for teachers, proud graduates, parents and distinguished guests.

During the ceremony, Governor Haji Ghulam Ali announced that 286 students were awarded MBBS and BDS degrees.

He termed awarding gold medals to 200 students as a great honor for colleges, KMU, and their parents.

Anayatullah Waseem

emphasized the active

involvement of Rescue 1122 in Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa under the

leadership of Director

General Rescue 1122, Dr.

ensuring the provision of

services around the clock

in a manner that reflects a

well-organized daily

1122 collaborates with

security forces, district

administration, and other

institutions to implement

a comprehensive policy

aimed at delivering services

to the public.

Moreover, Rescue

The organization

tirelessly,

Khateer Ahmad.

operates

Secretary of Relief pays

visit to Rescue 1122

office in Abbottabad

ABBOTTABAD (APP): timely and optimal

healthcare workforce.

He said that these graduates will use their tireless efforts and ability to raise the quality of healthcare not only in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa but in the whole of Pakistan.

Vice Chancellor KMU Prof. Dr. Zia ul Haq, in his welcome speech, described the participation of Governor Pakhtunkhwa and other distinguished guests in this convocation ceremony as wonderful.

He also acknowledged continuous support from parents congratulated the all medical and dental graduates.

#### 29 cases referred to drug court

FAISALABAD (APP) The District Quality Control Board (DQCB has referred cases of 29 clinics to drug courts for further proceedings.

During its meeting held with Deputy Commissioner (DC) Abdullah Nayyar Sheikh in the chair, the Board heard 56 cases and issued warnings to owners of 18 medical clinics whereas cases of nine clinics were adjourned to the next meeting as record of these cases was no completed yet.

#### 5 children hospitalized for suffocation

FAISALABAD (APP) Five children of a family were hospitalized due to suffocation in the Sammundri police limits

The administration of A Rescue 1122 spokesman said here on Rescue 1122 is also taking diverse measures to Sunday that a family had enhance the welfare and lighted a fire in their house to beat the cold but well-being of its personnel, ensuring a promising and knowledge, strive to deliver secure future for them.



PESHAWAR: A delegation of 30-members tribal elites of merged District Mhomand meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali.

# Feroze Shah pays homage to Kargil Hero Captain **Karnel Sher Shaheed**

**Independent Report** PESHAWAR: In a solemn and respectful visit, Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel, the Caretaker Minister of Information and Public Relations of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, undertook a detailed visit to the shrine of the revered Kargil war

Khan Shaheed Nishan-e-During the visit, Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel laid wreaths, recited Fatiha, and documented his

hero, Captain Karnel Sher

the opportunity, he conveyed, "It is my good fortune to recite Fatiha at the martyr's grave. Such brave individuals bring immense joy to the lives of nations. minister also extended

condolences to the family of Captain Karnel Sher Khan, emphasizing the profound significance of he sacrifices made by the

'Captain Colonel Sher Khan Shaheed is the pride of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the only son who courageously earned

# CM orders early completion of Children Hospital upgrade

**Independent Report** LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister

Mohsin Naqvi paid a detailed visit to the Children Hospital and reviewed progress on the upgradation work of the medical facility. On the direction of

the CM, upgradation work in the emergency, main corridor and other wards of the hospital has been expedited. The chief minister inspected the main corridor, reception counter and checked the quality of work and directed to ensure quality along with undertaking preventive measures in the electricity and air conditioning wiring work. He directed to

completion of tiles installation work in the main corridor.

Mohsin Naqvi lauded the performance of the Secretary Communication & Works, Secretary Health and their team on undertaking swift work in the main corridor. He met with the labourers working late night and commended them for working with diligence. He issued directions for early completion of the ongoing upgradation work.

Mohsin Naqvi said that task for the provision of better facilities in more than 100 hospitals of Punjab would be Punjab

complete the wiring work in three days and early "The whole team is striving The whole team is striving day day and night to accomplish this task. The fruit of hard work with a noble intention would definitely be passed on to the people," he maintained. The Secretary C&W and Secretary Health gave a briefing about the work being done under the upgradation project. He said that installation of tiles and finishing work had

> Provincial Minister for Information Amir Mir, Secretary C&W, Secretary Health, Commissioner Lahore, Commissioner and officials concerned were also

been started

# reflections in a the only s commemorative book. courageously Expressing gratitude for Nishan Haider.

foggy morning, Zakir Khan, an impoverished fruit seller, starts his rickshaw journey from his mud house in the outskirts of the provincial metropolitan

Peshawar's fruit market hoping to purchase apples, guavas, bananas, and other fruits on reasonable rate to support his eight- member family.

Assisted by his son Asadullah Khan, the 65year-old vendor, donned in traditional attire – woolen Chadar and Chitrali cap, starts his day with Fajr prayer and after having breakfast, rushes to Chamkani fruit market in Peshawar expecting to get fresh fruits through open auction on reasonable fruits many customers just reduction of prices of prices and anticipates a ask about prices of apple, guava and banana to profitable sale in the local different fruits and return celebrate the event with

After purchasing

fruits, he unloads his fruitspacked rickshaw at his hand cart in Pabbi fruits market at Nowshera after covering 15-kilometer distance from Peshawar and working till night. "I have been associated with the painstaking fruit seller business since my childhood and recently my two sons Arifullah Khan and Asadullah Khan have started assisting me to sell all stock before night," he

said 'It is an extremely challenging business and sometimes he suffers financial losses in case fruits are not sold on time,' he said, adding that due to exorbitant prices of the empty handed.

'Last year, citrus of Khanpur tehsil of Haripur and Manki Sharif of Nowshera districts was available at Rs180 per dozen that has now jumped to Rs 250 per dozen in local market with start of new year while apples per kg were sold at Rs 200 per last year against Rs 250 this year making difficult to continue this hard earned business due discouraging response of consumers and poverty," he said.

Breaking shackles of poverty through welfare projects

"I have come to purchase fruits for birthday party of my granddaughter, but the prices were sky-high this morning and will come again at night hoping for

great pomp and show," said Riazul Haq, a retired teacher while talking to APP at Pabbi fruit market.

Complaining about soaring prices of fruits and vegetables with the start of the new year in the local market, he said that district administration failed to regularly check fruits prices at market and take strict action against price hikers and hoarders. "Poverty is

mother of all social ills including illiteracy, corruption, street crimes, drugs addiction and unemployment besides creating socio-economic imbalances in the society," said Professor Dr said Muhamnad Naeem, former Chairman Economics Department, University of Peshawar.

said

thousands of youth were being graduated by the public and private sectors universities every year and could not find suitable jobs due to our outdated education system and lack of coordination between government departments. educational institutions and industries in terms of jobs creations, as result, increase in poverty ratio in recent years.

Professor Naeem while quoting a World Bank report said that the poverty ratio has raised from 34.21 per cent in 2022 to 39.41 per cent in 2023, pushing 12.5 million people below poverty line. He said that Pakistan labour market was vet to recover fully from the 2022 devastated floods, COVID-19 pandemic and shabby that economic situation.

> livered about 218 of the 737 Max planes worldwide, the company told AFP.
> US-based Alaska Air-

lines grounded all 65 of its Boeing 737 Max 9 planes

on Friday after a flight car-

rying 171 passengers and

six crew was forced to make

an emergency landing.

The National Transportation Safety Board

(NTSB) said a sealed-over door panel had opened and

had departed from Portland

International Airport and

was still gaining altitude

when the cabin crew re-

ported a "pressurisation

issue", according to the

The plane quickly returned to Portland and

there were no major inju-

Alaska Flight 1282

come off mid-flight.

# International News

# **On Orthodox Christmas** Putin vows to back soldiers who 'defend' Russia

**Monitoring Desk** Vladimir Putin vowed on

the eve of Orthodox Christmas to back soldiers who "with arms in hands" defend Russia's interests, ordering his government greater support of those who fight and calling on his people

to be merciful and just. "Many of our men, our courageous, heroic guys, Russian warriors. even now, on this holiday, defend the interests of our country with arms in hand," Putin said at a late

An elderly woman puts ballot paper inside a ballot

box after casting her vote in the morning during

the 12th general election in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Global food prices eased

10pc in 2023, says Food

and Agriculture Organisation

families of Russian sol-MOSCOW: President diers who have died in Ukraine.

Russia lunched its full-scale invasion on Ukraine in February 2022, in what Kyiv and its Western allies said was an unprovoked imperialistic land grab.

Nearly two years later, the war, which has killed thousands and displaced millions, has shifted to increased air strikes at each other's territories as both sides have struggled to make significant gains along Saturday meeting with the frontline.

State television Russian leader attending with a small group of families of soldiers killed an intimate midnight service, known as the Divine Liturgy, later on Saturday at a chapel at his residence in Novo-Ogaryovo outside Moscow.

There was no call from Putin this year for a ceasefire in Ukraine to coincide with the holiday which many Orthodox Christians celebrate on Jan. 6-7 - as was the case a year ago.

#### **Americans** divided on US role in Mideast crisis

**Monitoring Desk** WASHINGTOŇ: A recent

Gallup survey shows that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is rapidly becoming unpopular in the United States, so is the war he has unleashed on Palestinian civilians in Gaza The survey's assess-

ment of Americans' views on Netanyahu, who faces charges of fraud, bribery, and breach of trust are getting increasingly unpopular. Netanyahu's unfavourable rating of 47 per cent surpasses his favorable rating of 33pc, marking a significant reversal in trend since 2019.

Republicans continue to view him more favorably (55pc), while Democrats (14pc) and independents (30pc) show lower favourability.

The poll, conducted from Dec 1 to Dec 20, 2023, provides insights into public opinions on the level of US engagement, ap proval of Israel's mili tary actions, and perceptions of support for Israel and the Palestinians.



outside Moscow, Russia.

# Gaza has simply become 'uninhabitable', says UN

**Monitoring Desk** GAZA STRIP: Israel bombed southern Gaza on Saturday as the UN warned that the besieged Palestinian territory has been rendered "uninhabitable" by three months of war.

Top Western diplomats were in the region as part of a fresh push to boost the flow of aid into Gaza and address mounting fears of a wider conflict.

The Egyptian Red Cr-e-scent on Friday said 1,200 water purifiers, 100 oxygen cylinders, one oxygen generator, 1,000 solarpowered items, 24 power crisis.

generators and 418 medical supplies had been blocked by Israel from reaching Gaza since the conflict started. The fighting, triggered by the October 7 attacks on southern Israel by Hamas, has sent tensions soaring across the region, and shows no signs of abating with the conflict entering its fourth month.

Civilians in the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip have borne the brunt of the violence as the scale of the destruction has triggered mass displacement and a deepening humanitarian

## North Korea's Kim Jong Un sends sympathy messages to Iran, Japan: KCNA Year's Day is nearing

**Monitoring Desk** SEOUL: North Korean

leader Kim Jong Un sent messages of sympathy to the leaders of Iran and Japan on Saturday, state media said, after the countries were hit with deadly bombings and earthquake respectively this week

Two bomb blasts in Iran claimed by Islamic State killed nearly 100 people on Wednesday, while the death toll in Japan's devastating earthquake on New

Kim expressed condolences to Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida with the hope that affected areas would be restored to stability soon, according to state media KCNA.

He also expressed sympathy to Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and reaffirmed North Korea's stand in "opposing all sorts of terrorism", KCNA

#### Jordanian army says it killed 5 drug smugglers in clashes on the

Syrian border **Monitoring Desk** AMMAN: The Jordanian army said Saturday that it killed five drug and weapon smugglers and arrested 15 in a day of clashes with armed groups of smugglers attempting to cross into Jordan from Syria. The army statement said the clashes broke out before dawn be-

tions "that practice smuggling and rely on systematic infiltration operations.' **EU Council President Michel** says to step down in July

tween Jordanian border

guards and armed organiza-

**Monitoring Desk** BRUSSELS: Belgian politician Charles Michel has announced he will step down as European Council president after running in the European Parliament elections set for June. The surprise move will heighten speculation about who will be the next EU leaders as negotiations begin for a new round of top jobs in November. EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen of Germany, who like Michel was ap-pointed to her post in 2019.

# US regulator orders inspections on some Boeing 737 MAX 9 planes after panel blows out mid-flight

**Monitoring Desk** WASHINGTON: The US

air safety regulator said on Saturday that it had grounded some versions of Boeing's 737 Max 9 jets pending inspections, causing dozens of flight cancellations a day after a panel blew out of one of the planes over the western US

state of Oregon. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) "is requiring immediate inspections of certain Boeing 737 Max 9 planes before they can return to flight", the agency said on X It added that around

171 aircraft worldwide would be affected, with each inspection taking four to eight hours. Alaska and United Airlines fly the largest number

of Max 9 planes, while ries. Turkish Airlines has a smaller fleet. As of Sunday, all three

airlines had grounded their jets for inspection. Boeing has so far de- ceiling.

Images posted on so-cial media showed a side panel of the plane blown out, with emergency oxygen masks hanging from the

# Italian foreign minister calls for formation of **EU** army

**Monitoring Desk** ROME: The European Union should form its own combined army that could play a role in peacekeeping and preventing conflict, Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani said.

In an interview with Italian newspaper La Stampa, Tajani said that closer European cooperation on defence was a priority for the Forza Italia party that he leads.

"If we want to be peacekeepers in the world, we need a European military. And this is a fundamental precondition to be able to have an effective European foreign policy," he said in an interview published on Sunday.
"In a world with

powerful players like the United States, China, India, Russia - with crises and a European from the Middle East to sion president.

the Indo-Pacific - Italian, German, French or Slovenian citizens can only be protected by something that already exists, namely the European Union," he added. European defence co-

operation has risen up the political agenda since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine almost two years ago. However, efforts

have been more focused on NATO expansion, with EU nation Finland joining the alliance last year and Sweden also on track to become a member.

Tajani also said the 27-nation EU should streamline its leadership and have a single presidency, rather than the current structure of a European Council president and a European Commis-

The index fell to 118.5, the lowest since February 2021, down 1.5pc from November and 10.1pc from December 2022. The overall in-

**Monitoring Desk** 

UNITED NATIONS: Glo-

bal food prices experienced

a notable decline in 2023,

further easing concerns

over food inflation world-

Agriculture Organisation

(FAO) reported on Friday

that its Food Price Index

(FFPI) concluded the

year over 10 per cent be-

low its December 2022

The UN Food and

dex for 2023 was 13.7pc lower than the average value for 2022. Notably, the international sugar price index was the only one higher over the year, despite experiencing a significant drop of 16.6pc in December due to increased sugar production in Brazil and reduced use of sugarcane for ethanol

production in India. The Cereal Price Index saw a 1.5pc increase in December 2023, driven by rising prices of wheat, maize, rice, and barley, primarily due to shipment limitations faced by exporters.

# Federal Govt to be contacted for approval of WB's proposed projects from ENEC, says caretaker CM

**Independent Report** QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that the federal government would be contacted for approval of the projects proposed with cooperation of World Bank in the irrigation sector from ECNEC

This would ensure implementation on the WB's projects without any delay. The caretaker Chief Minister was presiding over the meeting about ongoing development projects in irrigation department here on Sunday.

The Additional Chief

velopment, Abdul Saboor Kakar, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Rashid Razzaq Khan, Secretary Irrigation, Hafiz Abdul Majid and other concerned high ups participated in the meeting. The Secretary Irrigation briefed about different development

projects including those of World Bank. Addressing the meeting, Chief Minister stressed that it is very necessary to start implementation on the projects of irrigation other line departments so as to ensure correct use of the available resources timely.

In this regard, a special committee led by the Additional Chief Secretary development would ensure implementation on the projects after preparing suggestions, he said.

He also directed to propose projects for overcoming the depletion of underground water table. Moreover, the correct

use of available resources should also be ensured to meet the public requirements in irrigation sector under master plan. The Chief Minister

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister directed to take steps for bringing improvement in performance of also directed to complete all BDA by decreasing the nonthe schemes of public imdevelopment expenditures so portance including Bhag

scheme within the minimum

possible time so that the

local people may benefit

from them. Meanwhile, the

caretaker Chief Minister

also chaired high level meet-

ing of Balochistan Devel-

opment Authority here the

same day. The Chairman

BDA briefed the meeting

about overall performance

of the Authority besides the

issues being faced by it.



Pakistan Navy Ship escorting merchant vessel in Arabian Sea. Pak Navy deploys warships

QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domk chaired a meeting to review ongoing projects of Irrigation Department.

# Minister says ethnic conflicts to benefit country's enemies

ISLAMABAD (INP): slain relatives, the protest-Nawabzada Jamal Raisani said on Sunday that people belonging to different ethnic backgrounds lived in

participants of the protest demonstration organised by Balochistan Shuhada Forum outside the Islamabad Press Club.

Holding placards in their hands inscribed with that militant outfits like slogans in the favour of their BLA exist in Balochistan.

ors shouted slogans against India at the top of their

He said a conspiracy had been hatched to create He was addressing a rift between different ethnicities in the country. "Have we ever realized that the blood that sheds as a result of this conspiracy benefits our enemies," he added. The minister said

# Senator Abdul Qadir welcomes decision of restructuring FBR

man Senate Standing Committee on Petroleum and Resources and Economic fer posting issues in FBR Muhammad Abdul Qadir performance of the instituon Sunday welcomed the tion. decision of the restructuring of FBR to make it able

to achieve the goals. In a statement issued here, he said that another major challen fee for the FBR is to increase the

scope of the tax net. He said that over a million people do not pay tax at all, adding that unless they are brought into the tax net, it will not be possible to achieve the revenue col-

lection targets He said that a policy board consisting of bureaucrats, technocrats and tax experts should be formed which would be able to achieve the goals for the coming years by examining

OUETTA (APP): Chair- all the complexities. Abdul Qadir said political interference and trans-Senator are adversely affecting the

> The FBR's Policy Board will be consisted on highly qualified experts to run the tax authority in a professional manner, so that the tax collection authority can be run in a professional manner, he said.

> The Chairman Standing Committee said that the tax machinery would be divided into FBR and FBC. The officers appointed at the district level should ensure 100 percent tax collec-

tion in anyway, he added. He said the promotions and rewards for the best and poorly performing officers in achieving tax collection targets should be implemented



CHARSADA: President Awami National Party (ANP) Aimal Wali Khan addressing public those who joined party at NA-125 during election

# Hassan Zehri says: PPP has made great sacrifices for democracy

**Independent Report** HUB: Senior leader and spokesperson of Pakistan People's Party Asif Ali Zardari and nominated candidate for Balochistan Assembly PB-21 Hub Mir Ali Hassan Zehri has strongly condemned the resolution presented in the Senate to postpone the

He said in a newspaper statement that the resolution presented in the Senate is a conspiracy against the upcoming elections and democracy. Mir Ali Hassan Zehri strongly opposed the proposed resolution and said that the anti-democratic resolution is the personal wish of Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani.

He wants to postpone the elections through their supporters. Mir Ali Hassan Žehri said that Pakistan Peoples Party created the environment for the elections and PPP was the only political party that fought for the elections while other parties wanted to escape from the elections. Resolution presented in the Senate is against democracy. Mir Ali Hassan Zehri

said that Pakistan Peoples Party has made great sacrifices for democracy and those who block the way of democracy and kill the blood on democracy. He said that tense conditions and weather have been mentioned in the resolution, so it can be seen that the conditions in the last elections were much more serious than today's conditions, but still the elections were held.

If such so-called justifications continue to be presented, then elections cannot be held. The Supreme Court has also confirmed the date of the elections on 8th February and the elections will be held on the decided date and Pakistan Peoples Party will win. PPP workers continue their preparations vigorously.

# SC 9-member larger bench to hear ZAB presidential

reference today ISLAMABAD (Online): A 9-member larger bench headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faiz Isa will hear the Zulfikar Bhutto presidential reference on January 8 (today). Notices have also been issued to the parties for this. On the other hand, last week, the People's Party submitted a 108-page written response to the presidential reference against the death sentence of former Prime Minister Zulfigar Ali Bhutto in the Supreme Court. Lawyer Farooq H. Naik submitted to the Supreme Court on behalf of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. The written reply includes references to various books and also the details of the interview of former Chief Justice Naseem Hasan Shah. Along with the USB and CD of the interview of Chief Justice Naseem Hasan Shah, transcripts of the said interview in English and Urdu have also been submitted.

#### 460,881 illegal Afghans returned to their homeland

ISLAMABAD (INP): Repatriation of illegal foreign nationals including Afghans to their homeland is continuing in a dignified and safe manner.

The repatriation operation utilized 23 vehicles to transport 200 men, 164 women and 329 children back to Afghanistan.

As per details, 693 il legal Afghan nationals returned to their country during past 24 hours, taking the total number of returned immigrants to

23 vehicles were used to transport 200 men, 164 women and 329 children to Afghanistan.

The apex committee of the National Action Plan (NAP) in a meeting on October 3, chaired by Caretaker PM Anwaarul Haq Kakar gave a deadline to all foreign nationals living illegally in the country until October 31 to leave voluntarily or face deportation.

#### Traffic accident in Mastung claims life of woman, several injured

QUETTA (APP): One woman was killed while several people were injured on Sunday in an accident on the national highway in the Mastung area of Quetta.

According to a private news channel, a wedding convoy met with a tragic incident as one of the cars overturned, resulting in the loss of a woman's life and leaving several individuals injured, including women and children. Upon receiving the

rescue teams swiftly reached the scene The body and injured were promptly shifted to nearby hospitals and rescue

distress call, both police and

operation was started. According to rescue officials, the condition of six individuals is reported to be critical, Preliminary investigations suggest that the wedding convoy, en route from Quetta to Mangochar, faced the unfortunate incident due to high-speed cir-

Pakistan-bound ship from Saudi Arabia in the Red Sea. "Pakistan Navy is

in Arabian Sea to ward off

attacks by Houthi rebels

Last month, Yemen-

based Houthi rebels had Sea, have deployed their also claimed an attack on a According to the spokesman for the Pakistan Navy, these ships are conwell aware of its national stantly patrolling in order responsibility in maintain-

KARACHI (INP): Paki- tries," the spokesman has

stan Navy, after recent in- elaborated.

cidents of breach of mari-

time security in the Arabian

to ensure the protection of

Pakistan's trade routes. He has informed that the navy is also conducting aerial surveillance of these routes. "The purpose of patrolling is not only to ensure the safety of Pakistani ships but also those

ment noted. Last week India announced it had deployed three warships in the Arabian Sea after a drone hit an "Israel-affiliated" merchant vessel about 200 nautical belonging to other counmiles (370km) off the coast

of the western state of Gujarat. No casualties were, however, reported in the attack, which the US blamed on Iran, which the latter dismissed.

Exporters around the world are in trouble these days because of a spate of attacks on coming maritime peace and ormercial vessels by Houthi der in the region," the staterebels in the Red Sea.

The rebels who have vowed to avenge the massacre of Palestinians at the hands of Israeli forces, have said they will target any ship passing through the Red Sea that are bound for



QUETTA: National Cricketer Ahmed Shahzad meeting with Caretaker Provincial Minister for Information Jan Achakzai. Provincial Information Secretary Imran Khan and DGPR Balochistan Muhammad Noor Khetran

# Shehbaz resolves to restore masses and investors' confidence

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan and the upcoming elections Muslim League-Nawaz President (PML-N) Shehbaz Sharif said on Sunday that his party will take all-out steps in a bid to control ballooning inflation.

The former prime minister held a meeting with the party leaders separately. Prominent among those who met Shehbaz Sharif were Khawaja Saad Rafique, Khawaja Salman Rafique, Mian Javed Latif, Atta Manika, Afzal Khokhar, Mohsin Ranjha, Zulfiqar Bhatti, Sardar Irfan Dogar, Malik Saif ul Malook Khokhar,

Chaudhry Tufail Jutt, and Ashraf Jutt. On this occasion, mat-

were discussed. Expressing thoughts, Shehbaz Sharif

said, "We will take revolutionary steps to address the masses' problems. "Only Nawaz Shari

had fulfilled the promises with the masses. With the exception of the PML-N, all the political parties had decieved the masses, hehbaz Sharif said.

He expressed his resolve to restore the confidence of the masses and investors. "We will come up with a balanced economic policy," he added.

Few days back, PML N President Shehbaz Sharif directed the party leadership to unveil the economic agenda with the masses.



Malook meeting with President PML-N and former Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif.

# Verdict reserves on Imran's appeal against rejection of nomination papers

Election Tribunal established in Lahore High Court Rawalpindi Bench, the verdict was reserved on the appeal against the rejection of the nomination papers of former chairman PTI Imran Khan, which will be heard on January 10. According to the details, Justice Chaudhry Abdul Aziz heard the appeal while Barrister Ali Zafar represented the former Chairman PTI.

At the beginning of the hearing, Justice Chaudhry Abdul Aziz asked Barrister Ali Zafar how long will it take you to complete your arguments? To which he replied that I need 45 minutes to complete my arguments.

Barrister Ali Zafar, opening the arguments, told the court that the court has to decide what the crime is qualification.

LAHORE (Online): In the in moral turpitude, I will divide my arguments into three parts. Barrister Ali Zafar said that this case is different from the moral turpitude case. Justice Chaudhry Abdul Aziz remarked that the moral tribute should be discussed first. The tribunal asked whether the details of the items taken from the coffin were given. We are not discussing the merits of the Tosha Khana case here, the money obtained by selling Tosha Khana's items was stated? Barrister Ali Zafar replied that yes it was

> Earlier, while talking to the media outside the Lahore High Court Rawalpindi bench, PTI's lawyer Ali Zafar said that it is not moral turpitude, it is a misdeclaration, it cannot be transferred to dis-

# Wife of Jam becomes would contest from NA-257

**Independent Report** QUETTA: As the election process moves on, the can-didates contesting polls are becoming active in Balochistan province as elsewhere in the country.

In Balochistan, some female candidates have also come on the forefront to contest and venture the elections.

Among them is also the wife of former Chief Minister and leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, Jam Kamal Khan,

Ms. Maria Jam Kamal.

Ms. Maria Jam Kamal is going to contest elections from NA-257 after her husband Jam Kamal decided to contest polls from two constituencies of the provincial assembly i.e., PB-21 & PB-22.

Maria Jam Kamal has submitted her nomination papers as an independent candidate.

Needless to mention here is that it is for the first time that any family member of Jam Kamal and that her wife is taking part in the general elections.

#### Tragic accident on Hazara motorway takes 6 dead, 8 injured

HARIPUR (APP): At least six persons died and eight others were injured when a passenger van was struck by construction machinery working on the Hazara motorway for maintenance work near the Shah Maqsood interchange, at the same time, another passenger coaster hit the van.

According to the details, a devastating accident unfolded on the Hazara Motorway near Shah Maqsood, two vehicles from Manshera en route to Lahore. The collision involved a flying coach, a speeding passenger van, and construction machinery, resulting in the loss of six lives and leaving eight individuals injured.

The Rescue 1122 Haripur conducted a onehour operation, successfully extricating individuals trapped in the vehicles fol-lowing the collision.

# **SIFC** efforts to boost economic stability in Pakistan: Nauman

ating the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) efforts, the business community said on Sunday that the revolutionary measures in the Information Technology field could stabilise the economy of the country in a befitting manner.

The initiatives and steps taken by the SIFC in its recent meeting, especially in the field of Information Technology will enhance exports from 40 to 50 percent exports.

The se were the views expressed by renowned

ogy Company of Pakistan-Pakistan Tech Entrepreneurs Investor and Information Technology Startups-Nauman Saeed while talking to a delegation of Pakistani investors Sun-

He said Pakistan's IT industry has great potential to expand their business and our startups need to be able to attract bigger investments. Offering his services, Nauman Šaeed said that his forum is ready to submit suggestions and ideas in the field of Information Technology to boost

# **ECP** releases list of preliminary polling stations for constituencies

Election Commission of Pakistan has released the preliminary list of polling stations for casting public votes in constituencies across the country.

According to Election
Commission of Pakistan's spokesperson, the list of preliminary polling stations according to constituencies has been published, voters and candidates of the constituency can submit objections or suggestions on the preliminary polling list till

DROs will give verdict on these objections and proposals during January 12 to 17. Election Commission spokesman said that after the decisions on the objections filed on the preliminary lists, the final list of polling stations will be issued 15 days before the general elections.

It should be noted that elections will be held across the country on February 8. Nomination papers have been submitted by the candidates for the general elections.

participate in the upcom-

Tehreek-e-Insaf's social me-

dia activist Sanam Javed's

appeal against rejection of

nomination papers was dis-

missed, with which she was

out of the electoral field as

the Election Tribunal up-

held the verdict of the Re-

turning Officer (RO) to re-

ject the nomination papers

judge of Appellate Tribu-

nal, Justice Tariq Nadeem,

gave a verdict on Sanam

Javed's appeals, in which

the Election Tribunal re-

jected Sanam Javed's ap-

peal against the rejection

of Sanam Javed's papers

from NA 119, 120 and PP

Javed's papers, the objec-

Regarding Sanam

In this regard, the

of Sanam Javed Khan.

Meanwhile, Pakistan

ing general elections



SHIKARPUR: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Shikarpur, Dr. Muhammad Imran Khan along with Rangers Colonel visiting Kacha area where they started search and targeted operation against the criminals.

# Tribunal dismiss appeal, Hammad Azhar, Sanam out from electoral field

LAHORE (Online): After Election Tribunal and to the Returning Officer, the Election Tribunal has also rejected the appeals of Pa-kistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Hamad Azhar and Sanam Javed, maintaining the decision of the Returning Officer to reject the nomination papers and both the candidates have been disqualified from the elec-

According to the details, Justice Tariq Nadeem upheld the decision of the returning officer against the former federal member of the National Assembly Hamad Azhar and dismissed the appeal against the rejection of the nomination papers of NA-129 of the President of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Punjab. Hammad Azhar's in-

eligibility to contest the election will remain after the appeal from the Election Tribunal is dismissed.

Leader of Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaaf has announced to approach the Supreme Court of Pakistan against this verdict of the

tion said that she signed on December 21 and the papers were submitted before the Returning Officer on December 22. Sanam Javed mentioned a joint account in nomination paper.



**QUETTA: Church Missionary Trust Association** President, Peter Hami addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club.