nachenacht

dailyindisb@gmail.com

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

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The Federal Cabinet on

Wednesday approved the

reconstitution of its com-

headed by the law minis-

being done on the recommendation of the Ministry

of Interior. The position

became vacant after the

resignation of the previous

head of the committee,

chaired by Caretaker Prime

Minister Anwaar-ul-Hag

Kakar, also approved reguralisation of 227 daily-

The cabinet meeting,

Sarfraz Bugti.

The reconstitution is 2018.

Ph: 2841470/2841473 Vol: XIX No. 01, Jamadi-us-Sani 28, 1445 AH Thursday January 11, 2024, Pages 04, Price Rs. 15

mittee on missing persons Public Service Commission



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting of the Caretaker Federal Cabinet.

Ethnic parties using issue of missing persons for elections:

SC report on missing persons silences many voices including liberals, pro-Indian journalists & foreign trolls: Jan Achakzai

Caretaker Minister for Information says "report of Commission has closed the propaganda shops of many, and let's see what new logic they bring"

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has stated that the ethnic parties are exploiting the issue of missing persons for the upcoming elec-

These ethnic parties have not only used the issue of missing persons in the past, rather they are doing the same at present, and would do so in future

The Minister Information denounced the propaganda being made regarding the missing persons of the province.

The Minister Information was addressing a hurriedly called press conference at Quetta Press club on Wednesday.



The Minister Information particularly referred the statement of Baloch Yakjehtri Committee activist, Dr. Mah Rang Baloch in which she had alleged that more people have been picked up and kidnapped by authorities

parts of Balochistan over the last two days

The Minister re jected these allegations and asked her to produce any report with facts and share with the institutions as they are working and would be in



ISLAMABAD: Incharge Health Emergency 1122 Sindh Brig. Tariq and Health Emergency 1122 Punjab Dr. Rizwan Naseer meeting with Caretaker Health Minister Balochistan Dr. Amir Muhammad Khan Jogezai.

at the Governor House on

it is difficult task to rid the

public sector universities of

the financial hardships and

make them economically

self sufficient. However,

the issues being faced by

the universities would be

overcome soon after cre-

ation of new resources of

income generation with as-

sistance of the government

and at the university level.

that we have to ensure wise

use of financial arrange-

ments and human resource

we would succeed in trans-

ferring the conventional

power system on the solar

in all public sector univer-

hand, assistance and guid-

ance of the concerned au-

thorities is also being taken

for bringing the additional

land of the universities un-

der cultivation, he added.

sities of the province.

to reach our destination.

The Governor stressed

He was confident that

While on the other

He said that at present

Wednesday.

Comprehensive strategy being followed to address financial issues of varsities: Governor

Independent Report OUETTA: The Governor

Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that we are pursuing a comprehensive strategy to resolve the financial issues being faced by all public sector universities in the province. But, it is a fact that the long-standing dream of bringing

Balochistan at par in the education sector with the wholehearted assistance of government. We also have to generate new resources for reducing the expenditures and increase income at the university level. The Governor said that

the assistance and guidance of the concerned experts is being sought for shifting the electricity system of all public sector universities on solar system and bringing additional land available in the premises of universities under cultivation.

The Governor was speaking to different delegations who called on him



PESHAWAR: Tehreek-e-Insaf(PTI) Lawyers are celebrating after the Peshawar High Court verdict in favor of the party intra-party elections and electoral symbol of bat, at High Court in Peshawar.

PTI founder Imran Khan out of election race

LAHORE (INP): Justice Tariq Nadeem of the appellate tribunal of the Lahore High Court (LHC) Wednesday upheld the returning officer's verdict rejecting PTI founding chairman Imran Khan's nomination papers for constituency NA-122.

Imran's nomination papers were rejected from NA-122 (Lahore) and NA-89 (Mianwali) on December 30

The verdict issued by the RO for NA-122 stated that the papers were rejected or

"moral" and other grounds In the detailed decision the election officer quoted the judgment of the additional session judge (Islamabad) that established the conviction of the respondent related to the offense of moral tur-

11 family members found dead in Lakki Marwat

LAKKI MARWAT (INP) A total of 11 bodies, including children and women have been found in a house located in the town of Takhti Khel, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) on Wednesday.

According to police statements, the discovery was made by the brother of the deceased household's head upon his return. The initial investigations by the local police suggested that the unfortunate incident is believed to happened two days ago from the consumption of a toxic substance mixed in the food.

Supreme Court Justice Mazahir Naqvi resigns amid pending reference

ISLAMABAD (INP): Su- Recently, a 3-member Supreme Court Justice preme Court bench dis-Mazahir Ali Akbar Naqvi has tendered his resignation to the President, citing the decision as a result of the challenging circumstances surrounding his position. Justice Naqvi expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve in both the Lahore High Court and the Supreme Court but stated that continuing under the current conditions is unten-

The resignation, once approved by the President, will leave two vacancies in the Supreme Court.

preme Judicial Council.

missed a request for an injunction on the council's proceedings. Justice Naqvi had pre-

of Education and recom-

mended by the Federal

in line with the Islamabad

High Court's decision of

of the Supreme Court Karachi Registry building,

the cabinet on the recom-

mendation of Ministry of

Law and Justice as en-

dorsed by the Supreme

Court Building Committee,

approved the transfer of

federal courts and tribunals

It approved the sum-

across the city.

For the construction

viously submitted a detailed response to the show cause issued by the Supreme Judicial Council, denying the allegations against him. He emphasized that while the council can receive information, it lacks the authority to act on any complaint against a judge

In his comprehensive reply, Justice Naqvi argued that the council's orders are in violation of established It is noteworthy that a rules, contending that indireference against Justice viduals providing informa-Mazahir Naqvi is awaiting tion to the council should consideration by the Su- not play a role in the proceedings as per the rules.

PML-N candidate for NA-258 Aslam Buledi injured in bid on life

Independent Report QUETTA: The former Provincial Minister and candidate of PML-N for NA-258, Aslam Buledi was seriously injured by unknown armed men in main city area of Turbat on Wednesday evening.

According to the reports reaching here, Aslam Buledi was on routine walk on the main road in Turbat city when some unknown armed assailants approached and restored fire targeting him.

As a result, Buledi sustained at least two bullets on his body, he fell down

The area police and administration rushed the sport and shifted him to the teaching hospital Turbat.

In the meantime, the armed assailants fled from the scene leaving him in the pool of blood. He was provided imme-

diate medical assistance and later shifted to Karachi for further treatment. Meanwhile, search was

started for arrest of the assailants. However, no arrest could be made till ours going to the press. Aslam Buledi had

fielded his nomination pa-pers on ticket of PML-N



shal (retd) Farhat Hussain Khan cuts ribbon to induct A320 aircraft into PIA fleet at Islamabad International Airport.

Two candidates allowed to contest elections:

BHC reserves judgment on CPs of Rubina Irfan, Shoaib Nausherwani, Faiq Jamali Division Bench of High Cour issues notice to

parties on petition of Mir Jamal Raisani **Independent Report**

QUETTA: The division

bench of Balochistan High Court (BHC) reserved the judgments on the constitutional petitions about contesting elections filed by Ms. Rubina Irfan, Shoaib Nausherwani and Mir Faid Jamali, here on Wednesday.

The division bench of the High Court comprising Mr. Justice Rozi Khan Baraich and Mr. Justice Ejaz Swati heard the election petitions against the decisions of Appellate Tribunals.

Ms. Rubina Irfan, Mir Shoaib Nausherwani and Mir Faiq Jamali had challenged the decisions of Appellate Tribunals against rejection and acceptance of

their nomination papers. Meanwhile, the twomember bench of High Court allowed two candidates Salahuddin and Noorullah to contest elections against the decisions of Appellate Tribunals.

The candidates had challenged the decisions of Appellate Triibunals. Moreover, the High

Court also heard the petition of PPP's leader and candidate Mir Jamal aisani the same day.

The division bench issued notices to both the parties and postponed hearing for Thursday (today).

wage teachers as proposed mary regarding the mission of the govern-by the Federal Directorate operationalization of the ment till the complete eradioperationalization of the ment till the complete eradi-Livestock and Dairy Development Board so as to fulfill the legal requirements

> chief executive, in line with the decisions of the ficials protecting the polio Islamabad and Balochistan dent in Bajaur. The cabinet gave in principle approval to the Cannabis Control and personnel and said the State Regulatory Authority Ordinance 2024 and for-

Committee for Legislative

warded it to the Cabinet

Cabinet approves reconstitution of

committee on missing persons

Approves regularisation of 227 daily-wage teachers; PM vows to continue anti-polio mission till its complete eradication

for the appointment of

high courts.

cation of the crippling dis-The meeting offered Fateha for the security of-

eradication team who were martyred in a terrorist inci-The prime minister paid tribute to the martyred

would not forget their invaluable sacrifice for the ber, 2023. homeland. He said the officials

sacrificed their lives for the PM Kakar vowed to safety of future genera-

He said the terrorists could not deter the resolve

of the nation to fight polio. The cabinet approved the decisions of the Economic Coordination Committee taken during the meetings held on 13th, 15th

and 20th December, 2023. The cabinet gave approval to the decisions taken by the Cabinet Committee on State Owned Enterprises on 28th Decem-

It approved the decisions taken by the Cabinet Committee on Legislative Cases in a meeting held on



QUETTA: A delegation led by former Federal Minister Agha Hassan Baloch meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Dr Amir Jogezai says

Emergency training center Balochistan to enhance physical, mental abilities

Health Minister Dr. Amir modern style and handling Jogaizai said that train-Muhammad Khan Jogaizai of other issues. On this ing of emergency centres said that training of emer- occasion, it was decided 1122 personnel in gency centres 1122 person nel in Balochistan would enhance the physical and mental abilities.

In any emergency, these trained personnel could handle any type of situation specially on road accident, he expressed these views while talking to Health Emergency 1122 Sindh In-charge Brigadier Tariq and Health Emergency 1122 Pioneer Punjab Dr. Rizwan Naseer who called on him at a local ho-

tel in the capital. In the meeting, the functioning of Emergency Centers 1122 in Balochistan was also discussed in detail including mutual cooperation, provision of modern

Solangi savs

Current situation

in country better

than 2008, 2013

elections period

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Caretaker Federal Minister

for Information, Broad-

casting and Parliamentary

Affairs Murtaza Solangi on

Wednesday reiterated the

commitment that general

elections would eventually

be held on February 8 in the

said that in the past elec-

tions were conducted even

in the worst conditions.

years 2008 and 2013.

He said that the gov-

ernment had been in con-

stant contact with the

Election Commission of

Pakistan since the first

meeting of the Caretaker

communication with ECP

was underway on the daily

basis and his visit was part

of the routine communica-

tion process. He said he

had not met the Chief Elec-

tion Commissioner Raja

mism that security situa-

tion in the country would

further improve in the com-

of Foreign Affairs and the

ECP would provide in-

formation regarding the

foreign media teams' arrival

in Pakistan for election cov-

He said that Ministry

He expressed the opti-

Sikandar Sultan.

ing days.

The minister said the

Cabinet.

Murtaza

Talking to the media, he

Balochistan Caretaker training of personnel with Muhammad that both support to make Emergency centers 1122 fully functional in Balochistan.

In this regard, all possible measures would be taken for the training of personnel and provision of equipment. Arrangements would

also be made to impart regular training to Balochistan personnel in emergency centres of Sindh and Punjab, where training would be provided relating to medical aid, rescue, trauma and first aid service to deal any emergency situation on

Speaking on this occasion, Balochistan Caretaker of personnel lindispensable.

(APP): equipment, equipment and Health Minister, Amir Baloc would provide all possible crease their physical and mental abilities and in any emergency situation, these personnel would

bring improvement while dealing public by using advanced method for assis-Apart from this, he said

steps would be taken to make the Emergency Centers in Balochistan fully functional. He said that hundreds of people were victims of road accidents in the province every year, and for their timely medical assistance and rescue. the functioning of emergency centers and training of personnel has become

Earlier, the lawyers of

PTI and Election Commis-

sion had completed their

arguments last day. During

the hearing, Qazi Javed

Advocate said in his argu-

ments that my client was

the former district general

secretary of PTI, who was

found out from the media

that intra-party Elections

are taking place. He wanted

PTI gets back bat symbol as PHC annuls ECP decision

PESHAWAR (Online): Peshawar High Court (PHC) after hearing arguments in PTI intra-party election and election symbol case annulled the decision of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and restored the bat election symbol of PTI. The court said that as

a political party, PTI is entitled to the election symbol of the bat, and the election symbol should be

ECP's decision of De-Solangi cember 22 is unconstitupointed out that the current tional. PTI intra-party elecsituation in the country tion certificate should be was much better than the released on the website.

The case was heard by a two-member bench comprising Justice Ijaz Anwar and Justice Syed Arshad Ali of the PHC, in which the lawyers of the parties objecting to intra-party election of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) gave

to participate in the election but was not given the opportunity. Justice Ĭjaz Anwar said that he did not say that the intra-party elections should be conducted again. If the Election Commission annulled the intra-party elections, then you should have called for re-elections.

If you were from the party, then you should have objected to withdrawing the party symbol, but you did not, to which Qazi Javed said that we were not given a chance in the elections and went to the Election Commission against it.



HUB: View of site after traffic accident due to over speeding and break failed, at Uthal.

Daily Joice of Masse, Independent

Maulana's mission

If one of the main purposes of JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman's visit to Afghanistan was to convince the Afghan Taliban to rein in the banned TTP and prevent the terrorist group from using Afghan soil as a launchpad for anti-Pakistan activities, either the message did not get through, or the TTP are in no mood to listen.

The maulana received official protocol upon his arrival in Kabul and on Monday met the 'Islamic Emirate's' Prime Minister Mullah Hassan Akhund. Incidentally, on the day the maulana was meeting the Taliban leadership, the TTP launched a murderous assault on policemen escorting polio vaccinators in Bajaur. At least six police personnel were martyred in the attack.

Mullah Akhund also brought up the issue of Afghan migrants' expulsion from Pakistan with the maulana, decrying the allegedly 'cruel' treatment meted out to his compatriots by this country.

Maulana Fazl, who was accompanied by a delegation, also had Pakistan's top diplomat in Kabul with him during his engagements, indicating that the JUI-F chief's visit has state sanction. According to media reports, Mullah Akhund assured the JUI-F chief that his government bore no malice towards Pakistan, while adding that they would not let Afghan soil be used against

The Afghan Taliban have long denied that their country is being used by terrorist groups to target regional states, while Pakistan has firmly argued that the TTP have havens on the other side of the

While maulana sahib's efforts are welcome, questions arise about how effective these will prove to be in actually bringing down militancy. It should be remembered that in 2022, a delegation of Pakistani Deobandi ulema, led by Mufti Taqi Usmani, made a similar trip to Afghanistan and met both the Afghan Taliban as well as the TTP leadership.

While the Pakistani divines were received with great reverence in Afghanistan, their visit failed to dampen the TTP's appetite for violence against this country. Even if Maulana Fazl is able to convince the Afghan Taliban that controlling militancy is in Afghanistan's interest, will Kabul's rulers be able to rein in their ideological comrades in the TTP?

At the end of the day, both the Afghan Taliban and the TTP — though bound by ideology and worldview — are two different organisations, with separate leadership structures.

For the Taliban, the marching orders are received from the Kandahar-based Mullah Hibatullah Akhundzada, while the TTP has its own hierarchy. The Taliban can and should apply pressure on the TTP to stop attacking Pakistan.

But while some militants may be reverential to the clergy, ultimately they are free agents, and not bound by the usual rules of engagement. Therefore, the days ahead will tell if Maulana Fazl's mission has been a success.

One of a kind



Mahir Ali

Across almost six decades of investigative journalism, John Pilger unsparingly torchlit many of what George W. Bush described as "the darkest corners of the world", relentlessly exposing the reaching outlet at ITV, realities edited out of the mainstream Western ports, interviews and media's distorted narra-

speaking truth to power Blair years, British media may have been sulfied by overuse, but Pilger stands out among those who se- lenges from the British esriously made the effort and, in the process, made Department and CIA, and a discernible difference.

It's hard to know where to begin in evaluat- the dilemma of the Israeliing his multifarious—and occupied territories in the multimedia — contributions to reportage. I first of documentaries titled encountered him, indirectly, in the 1980s when are separated by almost ITV in Britain re-broad- 30 years, illuminating how groundbreaking 1970s cently re-watching the documentaries. It's hard to second of these docube sure, but most probably mentaries, I was reminded the first one I viewed was of Pilger's interview tech-The Quiet Mutiny, an account of small but conse- probably found repulsive, quential revolts among Âmerican troops in Viet- regime's nam that invariably went unreported in the US.

further reports on Vietnam and Cambodia, in the latter case notably a soulshattering report on the aftermath of the depredations decreed by the Khmer Rouge, Year Zero: cluding Balo-chistan and The Silent Death of Cambodia. As an evewitness to the consequences of tions as a forensic invesgenocide, he was inevitably appalled when the US stretched from South Afand China conspired in a rica, Palestine and Iraq to they resented the fact that Bangladesh and the abit was Vietnamese forces surdity of 'India shining', that had liberated Phnom as well as Myanmar, East Penh. Pilger, who died on Ti---mor, the US (he wit- ways he was one of a kind

in Sydney in 1939 and of Robert F. Kennedy city's press corps as a teenager before travelling to Europe, beginning with Italy. The Reuters news agency was his first wav station in London, from where he moved on to a 20-plus year residency at was elevated to the post of chief foreign correspondent. Pilger's days at the

Mirror were numbered once Robert Maxwell acquired the tabloid, but he found a potentially widerwhich hosted his film resome of his longer documentaries. Beleaguered as The concept of it was in the Thatcher and or at least sections of it — stood up to the chal-

tablishment, the US State even the Israel lobby. Pilger latched on to

early 1970s, and his pair Palestine is Still the Issue some of his little has changed. Renique with subjects he notably the Israeli official spokespeople: his tone never got belligerent, but This was followed by his questions gave them just enough rope to ex-

There are some conflicts to which Pilger did not turn his attention, in-Kashmir, which is a pity. And his area of operatigator across the decades cover-up only because the cre-a--tion of

pose the absurdity of their

contentions

joined the Australian from metres away), Nicaragua, Venezuela, the Czechosl-ovak Republic and Ukraine, among other regions. His laser-focus on his native Aus-tralia related chiefly, but not exclusively, to the horrendous treatment of the the Daily Mirror, where he colonised continent's indigenous population, and he devoted several documentaries (and thousands of words) to the subject. Not surprisingly, he also delved extensively into the woes of his adopted country, and his last documentary reflected on a subject that had bothered him for at least half a century: the creeping privatisation and spiralling neg-lect of Britain's vau-nted National Heal--th Service.

> roudly acknowled-ged, Pilger belon-ged to a long line of Western journalists who have defied the odds often their own governments and their allies to sift the truth from propaganda or PR, and to report what they see, notably Martha Gellhorn, Wilfred Burchett, Paul Foot, Robert Fisk and Seymour Hersh.

As he would have

Pilger wasn't perfect and very occasionally succumbed to the leftist disease of glossing over the inadequacies or repressive tendencies of regimes justifiably opposed to the long arm of American imperialism. In my humble opinion, it's possible to point out the flaws of the Ortega regime 2.0 or the cruelty of the mullaheracy in Tehran without lapsing into the "Washington consensus", without losing sight of the hypocrisy that unfailingly guides the US worldview. But Pilger was

prit in this sense. He leaves behind a visual and written legacy that will serve humankind for decades, and although he wasn't alone in his endeavours, in many the eve of 2024, was born nessed the assassination -- Courtesy Dawn

at most a peripheral cul-

Neoliberal approach



Nazir A. Jogezai

advent neoliberalism has been marked by the transition from an administrative state, which was previously accountable for both the economy and human welfare, to one that empowers multinational corporations. This transition implements systems and ideologies that reshape individuals into economic entrepreneurs and transfer accountability for domains such as tive, education, healthcare, and

than a mere revival of liberal principles that regard self-sufficiency and independence as prerequisites for self-respect, self-esteem etc. Rather, it signifies a disregard for collective responsibility for the vulnerable and marginalised and an emphasis on enterprise and the capitalisation of existence via calculated investments and actions. The public service

institutions that initially implemented the novel modes educational institutions and universities. But the implementation neoliberal policies has significantly transformed

and role of education

within society.

Academic institutions, including schools and universities, are undergoing significant changes to cultivate subjects who bear the responsibilities of entrepreneurs and operate in schooling and continuing through higher education.

underperformance of young individuals on international standardised tests, or their failure to complete secondary education, constitutes a policy issue as it imposes an economic burden on the nation. Put chical simply, the lack of success exhibited by young individuals in their pursuit of education is perissue, given that education is primarily regarded as economically signifi-

edu-cation is unproducexcessively uni-oni-sed, indifferent to the needs of its stu-This represents more dents, devoid of accountability, and inaddevelopment of human capital. Neoliberal strategies have included market practices such as the chartered status of failing schools in the United States and their quasimarketisation in other countries. Public-private partnership (PPP) initiatives, such as voucher programmes, serve as a means to reduce the burden of the state in terms of public education. of Lack of investment in governmentality were education and indifference to the deteriorating quality of education contribute to the desire for PPP. As a consequence, an alternative approach the discourse, structure, is to propose the framework of neoliberal education, institutions strive to create the illusion that they are fulfilling the expectations of their "clients". This is aclives. As a result, policy exam-oriented instruccurrently frames and tion, allocating additional justifies education as a support to students venue for constructing deemed likely to perform tesy Dawn

human capital and foster- well on assessments, ating economic productiv- tracting academically suity beginning from early perior students who will elevate the school's standing, and reallocating resources away from students with special needs

Critics frequently

consult the works of

th-eorists such as Fou-

cault, who delineates the

instruments of disciplin-

ary authority as hierarobservation. normalising jud-gement, and their amalgamation within a procedure known as the examinaceived as an economic tion. Nor-m--alising judgement creates a consistent benchmark for every learner, whereas hierarchical A similar argument observation oversees posits that public and controls conduct. Curriculum standardised examinations employ these instruments to quantify and regulate individuals by delineating their worth equate in fostering the in relation to a predetermined standard. This sta-n-dardised appro-ach e x a c e r b a t e s ineq-u-a---lities and has ad--v-erse effects on tea-ching, learning, and institutional cult-u--re. It compromises inclusion in terms of identities, ideologies, ethnicity and history from the outset. Fur-the-r-m-o--re, it undermines holistic human development, erodes the capacity for critical thinking, and most significantly, transforms education into an afterthought rather than something that originates from individual and societal requirements. This mode of education also strengthprivatisation of public ens social dichotomies education. Within the and empowers those in authority and the privileged. For continuous attempts to improve education, the emphasis should not be solely on its economic methods complished through vari- and ramifications, but ous means, such as stra- rather on the broader soevery aspect of their tegically prioritising cial welfare through public ownership and the promotion of diversity

Commerce News

EU keen to enhance cooperation with Pakistan in various fields, including trade: Ambassador

Ambassador of the EU was continuing support European Union H.E Dr. Riina Kionka, Wednesday said that the EU is keen on enhancing cooperation with Pakistan and focusing on exploring more avenues of trade, and investments in multiple sectors like information technology, surgical instruments, entrepreneurs, education and textile industry.

interview with a private seeking more potential

ISLAMABAD (APP): news channel said that the for better outcomes to Pakistan's economic development, adding, that the bonds between the two nations are much older which is cementing with each passing day.

Answering question educational cooperation, she said our institutional partnerships between universities of EU and Pakistan in the field of science and technology In an exclusive and higher education are under the EU's flagship

adding, that EU application for 2024 scholarships is open for Pakistani students, they can apply for different study fields through EU program and enjoy their higher full funded studies about in European countries.

She said that highest highest-ever number of Pakistani students have been scholarships to study in European universities program this year.



MULTAN: Deputy DS Railway Saima Bashir cutting the ribbon during the opening ceremony of the inauguration of the dining sleeper of Bahauddir

Commissioner directs to ensure smooth fertilizer's supply among farmers

Commissioner Aamir Khattak ordered to ensure a smooth supply of fertilizers to cope with its body, he asked to increasing demand among expedite measures for

urea's prices beyond the purchasing limit of upcoming general election, Amir Khatak directed to requisite authority to divisions across the complete all-out country.

MULTAN (APP): Local arrangements to carry out the needful.

Extending cooperation' to the EC marking places of polling Chairing a meeting stations by choosing the here Wednesday, he dedicated staff to maintained not exceeding conduct the poll smoothly.

farmers. Regarding the compromising on the code preparation for the of conduct of the Election Commission to hold free and fair elections in the

Gold rates decline by **Rs.300**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.300 and was sold at 216,100 on Wednesday compared to its sale at Rs.216,400 on last

trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs. 257 to Rs. 185,271 from Rs.185,528 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold wen down to Rs.169,832 from Rs.170,067 the Al Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.



shield to Dr. Jeanette Forbes, Scottish Chambers Ambassador for Pakistan. Mr. Asif Inam & Abdul Mohamin Khan, VPs FPCCI; Mr. Khurram Ijaz & Mr. Shakil Ahmed Dhingra, former VPs FPCCI and other prominent business personalities were also present on the occasion.

Minister says: EV charging stations to come up at 50 locations of Punjab province soon

ISLAMABAD (APP): will be distributed among Provincial Transport Minister Ibrahim Hassan Murad Wednesday said that Punjab was making a big push for electric vehicles in controlling environmental pollution where over 50 charging stations will soon be set up at various points of the province. Talking to a private news channel, he said that CM had issued the first E-Rickshaw three-wheeler market is the license while providing most ripe market right now

graduate university students, adding, 2,000 electric three-wheeler bikes will also be granted to special individuals free of interest.

He said that the government's historic initiative aims to become a manufacturing hub for electric vehicles, EV batteries, and components, adding, that the electric over 10,000 electric bikes for electrification.

SNGPL replaces 254 km outdated gas pipeline at cost of Rs 709m last year

outdated gas pipeline in last fiscal year 2022-23 at a cost of Rs 709 million to address

complaints Deputy Chief Engineer Operations SNGPL Multan region, Hussain Zafar, while talking to APP here on Wednesday said that the department had conducted scanning of areas

MULTAN (APP): Sui across the region after every Northern Gas Pipelines three years to examine the Limited (SNGPL) has replaced 254 kilometres He said that the the outdated lines were replaced after scanning. He said that the scanning process was leakage underway at various places to check the pipelines.He informed that they have set target to replace 235 kilometres outdated gas line for current fiscal year as Rs 510 million would be spent on the replacement of lines.

Workers' remittances record \$2.4 bn inflow in Dec

ISLAMABAD (APP) The overseas workers' remittances recorded an inflow of US\$2.4 billion during December 2023, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Wednesday said.

In terms of growth, during the month under review, remittances increased by 5.4 per cent on month on month basis and 13.4 per cent on year on year basis.

Rupee gains 10 paisa against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistani Rupee on Wednesday witnessed an appreciation of 10 paisa against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs281.12 against the previous day's closing of Rs281.22. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs280.5 and Rs283 respectively. The price of the Euro decreased by 94 paisa to close at Rs307.16 against the last day's closing of Rs308.10, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

Business community representatives meet **SM Tanveer**

Independent Report

representatives of business community of Lahore and Faisalabad met Caretaker Provincial Minister for Industry and Commerce SM Tanveer, here on Wednesday.

Problems being faced the industry were discussed during the meeting. The delegation congratulated the minister on success of United Business Group in the election of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI). The minister said, 'We have to solve business community problems together. By promoting the industry, the direction of the economy will be corrected. The economy

when the wheel of the

and inclusion. -- Cour-

industry will move."
SM Tanveer said due to efforts of the government and the hard work of farmers, production of cotton had doubled this year. The government would also achieve record production of wheat.

One-window facility had been given to investors for setting up new factories.

After Lahore, he said, Business Facilitation Centers (BFCs) were in the final stages of completion in five major cities including Faisalabad. He said the success in election of the Federal Chambers was a manifestation of confidence of the business community in leadership of UBG.



ISLAMABAD: Laborers cutting wood into pieces for selling purpose at his workplace in the Federal Capital.

DC Khyber assures Businessmen dealing in Pak, Afghan trade of facilitation for smooth sailing of trade

PESHAWAR Deputy Commissioner Khyber, Sanaullah Khan has said the government believes in the facilitation of businessmen and keeping in view the prevailing harsh economic situation it is need of the hour to take all possible measures for the smooth sailing of trade and commerce in the country.

He expressed these views while talking with a Chairman All Pakistan.

dealing in Pak-Afghan trade, according to a press statement issued here on Wednesday. The delegation was led

by the Coordinator Pak-

delegation of businessmen

Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI), Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi. Other participants of the delegation included Former VP of SCCI, Engr. Manzoor Ellahi, Vice

Naqvi lays foundation stone of | GOR-9 project at DHA phase 9

Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi laid the foundation stone of GOR-9 project at DHA Phase 9,

here on Wednesday. A total of 29 houses would be established for the officers of the Punjab government at GOR-9 and for this purpose 56 kanals of land has been allocated.

Addressing the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of GOR-9, the CM stated, "Earlier, we laid the foundation stone for the construction of residences of low ranked residences.'

employees have to wait for a long time in order to acquire their residences, he said. "We are striving that the officers should not have to wait for their residences" he added. Mohsin Naqvi apprised that 29 houses are going to be constructed in GOR-9. Hopefully, the residences would be built before the stipulated 15 months timeline. "We are making a

foundation stone for the near the Mall Road so that construction of official the shortage of official residences can be fulfilled" The government he said. He said the problems increase manifold due to non-allocation of houses for the staff members and government officers, apprising that concrete measures would be taken with regard to shortage of residences in coming 10 to 15 days High-Tech design smart houses are being built in GOR-9, he apprised. The problem of residences would be resolved with the establishment of GOR-9,



ABBOTTABAD: Deputy Commissioner Abbottabad, Khalid Iqbal presiding over the polio review meeting for anti-polio campaign, in Abbottabad.

Rawalpindi police launch Pak's first regular school classes for transgenders

RAWALPINDI (APP): In transgender individuals had a major development, the Rawalpindi police have launched regular school catering specifically to the transgender population of

classes. conducted at Islamia Higher Secondary School in Liaquat Bagh, have garnered support from the district administration and the Education Department.

A spokesperson for the Transgender Protection the Rawalpindi police told media on Wednesday that 52 beyond education.

1500 liter adulterated milk wasted MULTAN (APP): A team of

food watchdogs disposed of about 1500 liters of substandard milk after been enrolled in these special holding picket at one of the classes, emphasizing the significance of providing main external routes of the city. Team of food watchdogs education as a fundamental disposed of about 1500 liters right. This initiative is of substandard milk after aligned with the broader efforts of the Rawalpindi holding picket at one of the police, which recently main external routes of the city.The checking was conducted at different established Pakistan's inaugural Transgender external and internal routes Protection Center, he added. The spokesperson highlighted the of the city early in the morning under the multifaceted approach of supervision of Director Operation South of Punjab Food Authority (PFA) Shahid Maggssi.



PESHAWAR: A representative delegation of Lecturers appointed under a Project in Government Colleges meeting with Governor Khyber Pakȟtoonkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali.

Governor urged to rehabilitate lecturers appointed under projects in merged districts

PESHAWAR (APP): A informed that about 42 delegation of lecturers of lecturers have been colleges situated in newly suspended by the merged districts called on Managing Unit Higher Khyber Paktunkhwa Education Department. Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali here Wednesday and urged him to rehabilitate lecturers appointed under various projects.

comprised of districts, including Kurram, Waziristan, FR Bannu, Khyber, Kohat, Mirali

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor assured cooperation to the delegation and directed the

ous projects. secretary of higher The delegation was education and Chief Secretary to resolve the

He urged lecturers to work with dedication and Dara Adam Kail, and said that lecturers would Alizai. The governor was not the removed.

Passing out ceremony held for 96 prison staff's success

HARIPUR (APP): The participants of the ceremony, Passing out ceremony was held at the Prison Staff Training Academy in Haripur on Wednesday marking the successful completion of training for 96 prison staff members.

event encompassed foundational training for jail warders, along with advanced courses for the promotion of head warders and chief paid warders. Inspector General

(DIG) of Prisons Hazara Division, Muhammad Naeem Khan, graced the occasion as the special guest. Aamir Khan, Superintendent of Central Jail Haripur, also attended the academy's event. Addressing the programs.

Academy Commandant Amin Shoaib extended heartfelt congratulations to the graduating prison staff. provided comprehensive overview of the academy's performance

and achievements during the

training period.

DIG Naeem Khan while addressing the ceremony emphasized the pivotal role of training in enhancing the capabilities of prison staff and the academy's contribution to this process. He assured that funds and

crucial necessary facilities would be promptly provided to further bolster the

training

Two-day book fair inaugurated at Lower Dir

PESHAWAR (APP): The

District Administration, National Book Foundation, Youth Department and Town Municipal Administration jointly arranged a two-day book fair for youngsters in Lower Dir on Wednesday.

Deputy Commissioner, Wasil Khan and Assistant Commissioner, Dr. Nida Iqbal inaugurated the book festival that was the first event of its kind in Lower Dir.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that the event was arranged to invite attention of the youth towards benefits of book reading.

3 killed, ASI injured in encounter

FAISALABAD (APP): Three under-custody accused were killed while an Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI) received multiple injuries during a police encounter in the area of Sadar police station.

Police spokesman said here on Wednesday that Sadar police had caught three accused including Akhlaq alias Akhlaqo Don, Waqar alias Qari residents of Chak No.189-RB Gidari and Shehbaz alias Moota resident of Chak No.113-RB Badhumali few time ago over their involvement in a murder cum attempt to murder case. The police was carrying these accused for investigation and

AJK PM orders for early arrest of accused of UK based local expatriate

Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has taken strong notice of the recent cold-blooded murder of a young Kashmiri expatriate by unknown assailants near Islamabad international airport soon after his arrival from the United Kingdom.

The Prime Minister directed the AJK Chief Secretary to stay in touch with the IG Punjab Police to ensure early arrest of the absconding accused, according to an official handout issued here late

here that the slain youth,

MIRPUR (AJK): (APP): hailing from AJK's Dadyal town of expatriates in Mirpur district, was gunned down by unknown attackers near Islamabad international airport on his return from abroad.

The AJK premier expressed his profound grief and sorrow over this tragic incident and extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. The Prime Minister has also directed the Chief Secretary of Azad Kashmir to contact the IG Punjab police to ensure the immediate arrest of the accused and the safety of passengers on It may be mentioned their return from foreign countries.



LAHORE: Visitors and staff are taking interest in the pictures during exhibition at Lahore College for Women University regarding the oppression on Palestinian people.

ANF seizes 65 kg drugs in seven operations

Gunmen in Ecuador

storm TV studio in

wave of gang violence

RAWALPINDI (APP): Interchange Attock. Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting seven operations across the country managed to recover 65 kg drugs and arrested 12 accused including four women, an Headquarters spokesman here on Ŵednesday.

He informed that 28.8 kg hashish and 1.2 kg opium were recovered from the possession of

an accused netted near Chungi No. 26. 10.5 kg hashish was

8 kg heroin and 2.2 kg Ice drug were recovered from two suspects near Sangjani Toll Plaza Islamabad.

8.4 kg hashish was recovered from two suspects near Bahria Phase Town Islamabad.

In fifth operation, 5 kg hashish was recovered from Khar border area in Khyber. In sixth operation, 1.1 kg hashish was recovered from an area in Gilgit while in 7th operation, 175 ecstasy recovered from the tablets were recovered possession of six accused from the possession of including four women an accused near Labor recovery of case property. arrested near Burhan Colony Peshawar.

International News

Maldives upgrades ties with China amid pivot from India

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: China and the Maldives upgraded their relationship on Wednesday during newly elected President Mohamed Muizzu's first state visit to Beijing, following a campaign in which he cast China's regional rival India as a threat to sovereignty.

Chinese President Xi Jinping, speaking at the Great Hall of the People, called Muizzu "an old friend" as the Asian giant set the stage for further investment in the Indian Ocean archipelago by agreeing to a "comprehensive strategic cooperative part-

nership".

"China and the Maldives' relations are facing a historic opportunity to carry forward the past

ture," Xi told Muizzu, Chinese state media reported.

Muizzu took office in November, after winning on his "India Out" campaign platform under which he called New Delhi's huge influence a threat to sover-

His government has since asked dozens of locally based Indian military personnel to leave while talking up opportunities for Chinese investors despite being heavily indebted to

Relations between India and China nosedived after soldiers from both sides clashed in the western Himalayas in June 2020, resulting in the death of 20 Indian soldiers and four Chinese troops.

By upgrading ties with the Maldives, China is setting the stage for further investment in a region where India has already seen another neighbour, Sri Lanka, gravitate towards China. During the talks, President Dr Muizzu expressed gratitude for China's significant role in the Maldives' economic success ... and infrastructure development," a statement from his presi-

Arabia and India.



People accused of invading and taking over television station TC with weapons and forcing staff to lie and sit down, lie handcuffed on the floor in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

US, British forces shoot down 21 drones and missiles fired from Yemen

WASHINGTON (INP): American and British forces shot down 18 drones and three missiles Tuesday that were launched by Yemen's Iranbacked Huthi rebels toward international shipping lanes in the Red Sea,

the US military said. The attack came a week after 12 nations led by the United States warned the Huthis of consequences unless they immediately halted firing on commercial vessels—

in support of Palestinians in Gaza, where Israel is battling militant group

"Iranian-backed Huthis launched a complex attack of Iranian designed one-way attack UAVs... anti-ship cruise missiles, and an anti-ship ballistic missile from Huthi-controlled areas of Yemen into the Southern Red Sea," the US Central Command (CENTCOM) said in a

dential office read following the meeting, adding that "20 key agreements between the two countries" were signed. The Maldives owes China \$1.37 billion, or around 20 per cent of its public debt, according to World Bank data, making Beijing its biggest bilateral creditor ahead of Saudi

Israel in the dock as International Court of Justice takes up genocide case

South Africa face off at the UN's top court from Thursday, after Pretoria accused Israel of "genocidal acts" in Gaza, charges the Israelis have dismissed as "blood libel". In an 24 pages gib bel". In an 84-page submission to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), South Africa urged judges to order Israel to "immediately suspend its military operations" in Gaza. South Africa alleges that Israel "has engaged in, is engaging in, and risks further engaging in genocidal acts against the Palestinian people in Gaza". Israel has angrily hit back at the accusations, with government spokesman Eylon Levv

as "absurd blood libel". Top officials from the two countries will face off in the ICJ's Great Hall of Justice housed in the extravagant Peace Palace in The Hague.

vowing to fight the South

African case he described



sign key agreements in Beijing, China.

Hezbollah targets Israeli base to avenge Lebanon killings

BEIRUT (INP): Lebanon's with "several suicide Iran-backed Hezbollah drones" group said it targeted a command base in northern Israel on Tuesday in retaliaof its commanders and a Hamas leader.

Hezbollah said the atsponse to the killings of top field commander Wissam Tawil on Monday and Hamas deputy leader Saleh

The Shiite Muslim movement, a Hamas ally, said in a statement that it had targeted the "enemy's northern command centre"

on October 7. al-Aruri on January 2. Tawil—the highest-

Pentagon reviews Secretary Austin's not disclosing his hospital stay

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: Both the White House and Pentagon said Monday they would look into why President Joe Biden and other top officials weren't informed for days that Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin had been hospitalized. A Pentagon spokesman pointed to one reason: A key staffer was out sick with the flu.

aircraft" had crashed at one

The Israeli military confirmed that a "hostile tion for the killings of one of its bases in the north, and said that "no injuries or damage were reported". Hezbollah and its

tack was part of its re- arch-foe Israel have been exchanging near-daily fire across the border since the Israel-Hamas war broke out

ranking Hezbollah member was killed since October - was buried in his south Lebanon home vilnorthern command centre" lage of Khirbit Silm on in the Israeli city of Safed Tuesday.

Judges question

Even as the Biden administration pledged to look into what rules or procedures weren't followed, it maintained its silence

about why Austin had been hospitalized for a week. Late Monday, the Pentagon issued an update saying

Austin "is recovering well. Some Republicans have demanded Austin's resignation, but the Pentagon said he has no plans to step down.

Austin, 70, went to the hospital on Dec. 22 for what the Pentagon press secretary called an "elective procedure" but one serious enough that Austin temporarily transferred some of his authorities to his deputy.

Holy Quran desecrated in Jharkhand

RANCHI (INP): The Hindutva members des-ecrated and burned the pages of Holy Quran in the Indian state of Jharkhand.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the incident occurred when the Hindutva members who mostly belonged to RSS, BJP, VHP and Banjrag Dal burned the pages of the Holy Quran in a field near Fatehpur Bazar mosque in Jamtara district. The atrocious action aimed at inciting the religious tensions has been reported before the upcoming state elections.

As news of the incident quickly spread, Muslims strongly condemned the heinous act.

Trump's immunity claim in poll subversion case **Monitoring Desk**

WASHINGTON: A Washington appeals court questioned Donald Tru-mp's claims that he is immune from criminal charges for trying to overturn the 2020 election, as the former US president on Tuesday warned he could prosecute Joe Biden if he returns to the White House.Trump looked on as his legal team sought to convince a panel of three judges that former presidents should not be prosecuted for actions they took in office.

Daniel Noboa to name 22 gangs as terrorist organisations to be hunted by the military. Police eventually rescued the TV staff and ar-

rested the 13 men who burst into TC's studio during a live broadcast with longrange guns, grenades and dynamites, according to witnesses in the coastal city of Guayaquil.

ECUADOR: Gunmen with explosives stormed a TV

station on-air in Ecuador on

Tuesday during a wave of

violence around the nation

that prompted President

Elsewhere in Ecuador, at least seven police officers were kidnapped and there were several explo-

Thank God, we are alive, because it was an extremely violent attack," said Jorge Rendon, deputy director of the news program that was interrupted.

state of emergency on Monday in response to prison violence including hostage-takings of guards by inmates — and the apparent escape of Los Choneros gang leader Adolfo Macias over the weekend. In a revised decree on

lence, declared a 60-day

Tuesday, Noboa declared nearly two dozen gangs terrorist groups, including Los Choneros.

The government has said the violence is a reaction to Noboa's plan to build a new high security prison for gang leaders.

"They have created a wave of violence to frighten the populace," said Admi-ral Jaime Vela, head of the joint command of the armed forces, adding that the decree made the gangs military targets. Prison transfers of gang leaders have historically led to violence, with Noboa, who took of-fice in November promis-

SFJ besieges Indian consulate in San Francisco with Indira Gandhi float

Monitoring Desk SAN FRANCISCO: Pro-Khalistan Sikh for Justice (SFJ) blocked and besieged the Indian Consulate in San Francisco, challenging India's National Investigation Agency (NIA) team visiting America with a float depicting the assassination of Indira Gandhi by Satwant Singh and Beant

Hundreds of SFJ activists took part in the blockade and the rally. The Khalistan freedom car rally marked the 35th anniversary of the martyrdom of Shaheed Satwant Singh and Shaheed Kehar Singh as it journeyed from Berkeley Marina to the Indian Consulate in San Francisco, said

With over 1,000 vehicles, the rally commenced at Marina Berkeley, proceeding towards the San

Francisco Indian Consulate. The participants exuded enthusiasm as they passionately chanted slogans in support of Khalistan. The Khalistan Freedom Car Rally, organized by the secessionist group SFJ ahead of the Khalistan Referendum voting on 28th January in San Francisco, serves as a stark reminder to Modi that 'Violence begets violence.' Simultaneously, as reported by Indian media, an NIA team is currently in the United States.

Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, General Counsel of SFJ, pointed out that Modi, who instigated the cycle of violence through the orchestrated assassination of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, should be mindful of the historical response of Sikhs to the violence unleashed by the Indian state on Oct 31, 1984.



Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick addressing a seminar on "US policies on the issues of Kashmir and Palestine" Organized by Area Study Center for Africa, North and South America, Quaid-e-Azam University in Islamabad.

Mushaal highlights double standards in global discourse on Kashmir & Palestine

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick on Wednesday highlighted the prevailing double standards in the global discourse on Kashmir and Pal-

She was addressing a seminar on "US policies on the issues of Kashmir and Palestine", organized by Area Study Center for Africa, North and South America of the Quaid-e-Azam University.

The event, which saw

LAHORE (APP): An appellate tribunal on Wednes-

day dismissed an appeal

against acceptance of nomi-

nation papers of Pakistan

Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz

Sharif for National Assem-

bly constituency NA-130

(Lahore). The tribunal

comprising Justice Ahmad

Nadeem Arshad announced

the reserved verdict and

upheld the decision of the

returning officer. The tribu-

nal had reserved its verdict

on an appeal after hearing

arguments of the parties on

Reza Amiri Mughaddam, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Ambassador Ali Sarwar Nagvi, and Ambassador Naila Chohan, drew a significant audience comprising students, media profes-

civil society. Mushaal said the world appeared to be divided between those who supported the oppressive regimes and those who advocated for the rights of the oppressed

sionals, and members of

In the contemporary global landscape, she added, participation from distin- moral values and principles guished speakers including took a back seat to eco-

Mahaz chief Advocate Ishtiaq Chaudhry had filed

the appeal, challenging the

acceptance of Nawaz Sharif's nomination papers.

He argued that the return-

ing officer erroneously ap-

proved Nawaz Sharif's pa-

pers, contrary to factual

evidence. He requested the

tribunal to reject the nomi-

nation papers of Nawaz

Sharif. Meanwhile, the tribu-

nal also dismissed an appeal

against acceptance of nomi-

nation papers of PML-N

Vice President and Chief

Organiser Maryam Nawaz

Tribunal dismisses appeals

against nomination papers

of Nawaz, Maryam

Ambassador of Iran in Pa- nomic opportunities power dynamics, and ma terialistic gains.

She pointed out the shifts in the United States policies towards Kashmir and Palestine, which, she said, were dictated by their own strategic interests rather than a steadfast commitment to democratic principles, human rights, and the right to self-determina-

Mentioning the escalating deterioration of the global human rights situation over time, she lamented that genocide had seemingly become an unfortunate new norm in international af-

German **Political Counselor** meets Senate's Opp Leader

ISLAMABAD (Online) Ms. Janine Rohwer, Political Counselor at the German Embassy, called on Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, Senator Dr. Shahzad Waseem, ir Islamabad today.

Matters of mutual interest took center stage as the two sides deliberated on enhancing the bilateral relationship between Germany Pakistan.

Dr. Shahzad Waseem emphasized Pakistan's deep appreciation for its ties with



QUETTA: A delegation led by former Federal Minister Agha Hassan Baloch meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

Qureshi moves LHC against rejection of nomination papers

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan announced his decision re-Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Vice Chairman Shah Mehmood Oureshi on Wednesday challenged the decision of rejection of nomination papers by the appellate tribunals in the Lahore high Court (LHC) while the party founder's legal team is preparing to move the

The PTI founder's team announced that it would appeal against the decision of returning officer who rejected his papers from National Assembly constituency NA-122 which was dismissed by the appellate tribunal. Justice Tariq Nadeem jected.

served on Tuesday and upheld the verdict of the returning officer.

Meanwhile, PTI vice chairman and former foreign minister Qureshi on Wednesday challenged rejection of his nomination papers from three constituencies by a tribu-

A three-member bench headed by Justice Ali Baqar Najafi will hear the plea.

It may be recalled that Qureshi's papers from Punjab Assembly constituency PP-218, and National Assembly constituencies NA-150 and -151 were re-

KU, SBK Women's varsity Balochistan ink MoU for academic collaboration

KARACHI (APP): The their knowledge and expe-University of Karachi (KU) and Sardar Bahadur Khan (SBK) Women University of Balochistan signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for academic collaboration between the two varsities of

both provinces. Vice Chancellor KU Professor Dr Khalid Mahmood Iraqi and the VC SBK Women University Professor Dr Sajida Naureen inked the MoU at the VC Secretariat on Wednesday. According to the MoU, the KU's departments of Education and Food Science and Technology, and Dr A. Q. Khan Institute of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering would facilitate the students and faculty of SBK Women University in the first phase and later other departments and centers of the University of Karachi will be included to share veloped countries.

riences with the students and faculty of SBK Women University.

The KU KIBGE and DFS&T would arrange lab training for the students of SBK Women University, and they would also be guided about the bio-safety, risk management, and onhand training of various lab equipment.

The KU and SBK Women University have also agreed to arrange webinars, seminars, and joint research, besides student and faculty exchange.

On this occasion, KU Professor Dr. Khalid Mahmood Iraqi said that without increasing the literacy rate, we cannot achieve our goals. The only way for Pakistan to move forward is by investing in the education sector and without investing in it, we cannot join the ranks of de-

Four dead bodies recovered from **ECP office** in Kandhkot

KHANDKOT (INP) Bodies of four persons were recovered from the room of the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) office in Kandhkot, reported on Wednesday.

According to the district health officer (DHO), all four of them, who worked at the office, died due to gas leakage while they were asleep at night.

Police shifted the bod ies to hospital for the postmortem.

PTI founder, Bushra Bibi not indicted in marriage case ISLAMABAD (APP):The

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder chairman and his wife Bushra Bibi were not charged in the alleged illegal marriage case on Wednesday due to the latter's absence.

Senior Civil Judge Qudratullah heard the case. Bushra Bibi's lawyers pleaded for a one-day immunity for not attending the hearing on medical grounds. which was accepted by the court. The case was subsequently adjourned till Janu-

ISLAMABAD: Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmed Qureshi talking with journalists during a meeting. two terrorists killed

Two terrorists were killed in an exchange of firing with security forces in Lakki Marwat.

According to the ISPR, the troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location as a result of which two terrorists namely Aftab Malang and Masood Shah were killed.

were also recovered from them. However, during intense exchange of fire, two soldiers; Sepoy Muhammad Afzal and Sepoy Ibrar Hussain having fought gallantly, embraced Shahadat.

tion is being carried out to eliminate any terrorists found in the area as the Security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipevolved in numerous ter- out the menace of terrorism rorist activities against from the country and such the security forces as sacrifices of our brave further

Zubair Jamali takes notice of Turbat firing incident

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali has taken notice of the attack on the political leader, Aslam Buledi in Turbat. According to an official handout issued here on Wednesday the Minister Home sought report of the firing incident from Deputy Commissioner Kech. He also ordered to form special teams for arrest of the culprits involved in the incident.

He directed the concerned authorities to give exemplary punishment to the culprits

ensure worldwide health security

response during emergen-He stressed the need for a strong, visible, active surveillance and tiered public health laboratory system that was integral to early detection, response, and mitigation. He also called for

strategies for an effective

Caretaker Prime Minister

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on

Wednesday stressed the

for global funding that

could support nations in

need, ensuring that no one was left behind, in the glo-

bal pursuit of health secu-

rity. "The call for a suffi-

ciently funded, widely sup-

ported country medium-

term road-map, as high-

lighted in the International

Health Regulations Core

Capacities evaluation, reso-

nates globally. We must in-

vest in open, transparent,

and multi-sectoral pro-

cesses to strengthen buy-

in and commitment at all

levels," the prime minister

said while addressing the

inaugural session of the

first-ever two-day Global Health Security Summit

portance of enhancing co-

ordination in the health sec-

tor beyond borders, Prime

Minister Kakar said "One

Health" approach, recog-

interconnectedness of hu-

man, animal, and environ-

mental health. "Our com-

mitment should extend to

establishing global frame-

works that facilitate infor-

mation sharing, joint re-

the Global Health Security Summit.

Independent Report

QUETTA: Strong protest

was observed against the

low gas pressure and in-

creased utility bills of

metropolis on Wednes-

Marriabad and adjacent ar-

eas staged protest against

the issue of gas and its util-

ity bills outside the Re-

gional office of SSGC at

cluding women lodged pro-

test against the issue force-

fully condemning the SSGC

in in front of the SSGC of-

fice. They not only con-

demned the SSGC admin-

The protestors in-

They also staged sit-

Samungli road.

for the issue.

The dwellers of

Strong protest against low

gas pressure, increased

utility bills in Quetta

the Sui Southern Gas very critical of the SSGC

Company (SSGC) in the on its failure to resolve the

nized

Highlighting the im-

need to explore mechanisms

collaboratively working towards establishing international standards for food safety, harmonizing regulations to ensure the highest level of protection for populations worldwide. 'A cross-sectoral approach to managing antimi-

crobial resistance requires international collaboration," he said adding "We need a unified front against antimicrobial resistance, with coordinated efforts to develop and enforce global standards for the responsible use of antibiotics and infection prevention," he remarked

Highlighting the need of collective response to address external and internal health challenge, he said no state in the world could meet the health challenges all alone Likewise, he said the internal challenges posed by population growth, rapid urbanization

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar addresses

istration but also de-

nounced the provincial gov-

ernment for not taking any

issue of low gas pressure in

the company for sending

hefty amount bills to the

consumers. They con-

demned the slab system in

the utility bills which

Meanwhile, the pro-

They appealed to the

caused additional financial

testors also marched from Samungli road to the High

Chief Justice High Court to

Court against the issue.

take notice of the issue.

burden to them.

The protestors were

They also criticized

action against the issue.

ISLAMABAD (APP): search, and collaborative and climate change could not be dealt with by a country alone.

'New diseases, like COVID-19 and climate-induced incidents such as the historic floods of 2022 in Pakistan, are disrupting our citizens' health and causing social and economic impacts. While the developed world has systems in place to timely respond to such health emergencies, a similar ideal system is lacking in the developing world as health systems are relatively weak," he added.

The prime minister said the COVID-19 pandemic had taught us invaluable lessons about the importance of collaboration. preparedness, and a unified response. "It is in this spirit that we convene today, not merely as representatives of our respective countries. but as overseers of global health security."
He called for estab-

lishing a shared vision of the world where health security was not a privilege but a universal right and where the strength of a nation's health systems was measured not only by its capacity to respond to crises but also by its ability to prevent, detect, and mitigate health threats.

ECP directs

authorities to

provide voter

info via SMS

ISLAMABAD (APP)

The Election Commission

of Pakistan (ECP) has in-

structed the relevant au-

thorities to provide detailed

information on voter regis-

tration status and constitu-

ency details for national and

provincial assemblies on

8300. According to ECP spokesperson, the eligible

voters can verify their reg-

istration status on the voter

lists by sending their Com-

puterised National Identity

Card (CNIC) number to

8300. Upon sending an

SMS to 8300, an automated

response will provide de-

tails, including the electoral area's name, block code, se-

rial number, National and

Provincial Assembly con-

stituency numbers, district

name, electoral region name.

PM for establishing global fund to | **SC** maintains deaths sentence to Musharraf in high treason case

SLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Wednesday maintained the death sentence of former president Pervaiz Mushraf while upholding the verdict of the special court in the high treason

The apex court said neirs of former president didn't pursue the case despite the repeated notices, hence the appeal was dismissed. The apex court also turned down the verdict of Lahore High Court (LHC) in which it had terminated the special court.

It noted that the special court announced the sentence to Pervaiz Musharraft on December 17, 2019 and he filed appeal in SC on January 16,

Petitioner's lawyer Salman Safdar informed the court that former president

, 2023 and his appeal was fixed for hearing on November 10, 2023. The lawyer told the court that he had conveyed several messages to the family of ex-president to pursue the case but he received no response.

The court further said that it had served notices to the legal heirs of Pervaiz Musharraf at their available addresses in Pakistan and abroad. The notices were also published in the newspaper, it added.

A four-member bench, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa and comprising Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Amin ud Din Khan and Justice Athar Minallah, heard the case. It may be mentioned that the LHC had terminated the special court after declaring it against the



OUETTA: Women residents of Marriabad stating a sit-in against non-provision of gas in front of SSGC office.

Privatization Commission approves structure for 51pc stake sale in PIA

Privatization Commission Board, chaired by Minister Fawad Hasan Fawad, has greenlit the transaction structure for the sale of a 51% stake in Pakistan International Airlines (PIA). Ernst & Young-led consortium presented the proposal, suggesting the sale of the majority stake along with the division of PIA's assets and liabilities. Despite the government's eagerness for foreign buyers, legal hurdles have surfaced, preventing the sale of a substantial number of shares to overseas investors Government sources reveal that ner once legal complications are resolved, emphasizing a sale with management control. The caretaker

ISLAMABAD (INP): The due to pending dues of 281 billion rupees. The matter, now approved by the board, will be presented to the Privatization Committee of the Cabinet before reaching the caretaker federal cabinet.

The advisory report, currently incomplete, lacks the valuation of PIA's assets, with a deadline set for the third week of January.

Financial advisers recommend granting the new buyer the option to terminate employees after one year, with proposals to extend this period to three vears. Additionally, it is suggested to consolidate at least 51% of shares have non-core assets and liabilireceived approval, with ties in a holding company, plans to involve a local part- making the federal government responsible for debt and interest payments.
Financial advisers

propose transferring 640 government's endeavors to privatize PIA face a hurdle holding company.

Over Rs. 2.56b recovered from 1,50,450 defaulters as QESCO drive continues

Independent Report QUETTA: The Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) has managed to recover over Rs. 2.56 billion from the defaulters of electricity bills and arrears during the campaign launched by the Company all over the province.

According to spokesman of QESCO, the amount has been collected from as many as 1,50,450 defaulters in all circles of the Meanwhile, the power

disconnection campaign is also in full swing against the defaulters and power pilferers. The spokesman of QESCO informed that 288 more connections of electricity were disconnected during last 24 hours in different circles of the company including Quetta, Pishin, Loralai, Sibi, Khuzdar and Makran. At the outset, over

500 FIRs have also been registered against the power pilferers in different police stations on complaint of the OESCO. Further legal action is

also being taken against those involved in the power pilferage, the spokesman in-



HUB: Activists of Awami National Party (ANP) are holding protest demonstration against prolong sui gas and electricity load shedding and over billing.

Gilani predicts PPP's victory with heavy margin

MULTAN (APP): Former Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani expressed confidence that the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) would secure a substantial victory in the upcoming elections, attributing this anticipated success to the party's people-friendly policies. Speaking to the public and local influencers gathered at Gilani House on Wednesday, he highlighted the PPP's commitment to safeguarding the rights of the masses and providing them with maximum facilities for a more comfortable life. Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani maintained, that PPP val-

dedicated workers and assured that this recognition would persist in the future. As a democratic politi-

ues the contributions of its

cal party, the PPP has consistently prioritized addressing public concerns and resolving issues faced by the people. Gilani expressed optimism that, once triumphant in the upcoming elections, the PPP would live up to the expectations of the people. Additionally, the former Vice Chairman, Qasim Bela Sheikh Suhail Akbar, along with numerous associates, declared their decision to

Two soldiers martyred, in Lakki Marwat clash RAWALPINDI (APP): munition and explosives

These terrorists remained actively inwell as target killings of soldiers civilians. Weapons, am-

Sanitization opera-

LASBELLA: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Dr. Amjad' Saqib, DGAbdul Jabbar, Zonal Director South Zone Balochistan Munir Jan Sasoli visiting regional office of BISP