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Pakistan fully committed to success of CPEC: PM

Chinese Vice FM calls on COAS, conveys China's satisfaction on CPEC projects' security; Commends Pakistan's peace efforts

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Monday said that Pakistan was The Chinese vice foreign minister thanked the prime fully committed to the success of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and stressed the need for both sides to continue to work closely to ensure timely completion of the ongoing projects.

He was talking to Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong who paid a courtesy call on him. The prime minister welcomed the Chinese vice for-

eign minister as well as members of his delegation and said Pakistan deeply valued its all-weather, strategic, co-

operative partnership with China. Recalling his visit to Beijing for the 3rd Belt and Road Forum in October 2023, he said that he was deeply touched by the warm sentiments of President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang towards Pakistan. He also conveyed his best wishes for the Chinese leadership.

In addition to Pakistan-China relations, the regional

minister for the courtesy call and briefed him regarding

various meetings held during the visit. He conveyed special greetings of the Chinese leadership to the prime minister. He said China and Pakistan were "iron-brothers". He assured that China would always remain a reliable partner in Pakistan's socio-economic progress.

Meanwhile Vice Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China, Sun Weidong Monday called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir here at General Headquarters and conveyed China's satisfac-tion on security arrangements for CPEC projects. According to the Inter-Services Public Relations

(ISPR) news release, during the meeting matters of mutual interest and measures to further enhance bilateral defence cooperation were discussed



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar exchanging views with Sun Weidong, Vice Foreign Minister of the Peoples Republic of China during meeting held in Islamabad.



MANSEHRA: Quaid PML (N) Muhammad Nawaz Sharif addressing a public meeting in connection with general elections

Solangi warns of strict action against those targeting SC via social media

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister Pakistan Telecommunicafor Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Monday said that elements involved in the malicious campaign against the supe-

flanked by Director General tion Authority Ahmed Shamim Pirzada and Director General Operations Federal Investigation Agency Waqar uddin. The minister said that underlined the need to dis-

licious campaign against the superior judiciary and Sahiwal Addressing the public meeting, Bilawal said: "I do judges on social media, he not want four but one said that character assassination of someone was a Pak flays Consecration of serious violation of the law and the Constitution. He 'Ram Temple' on Site of

one term 'not four' to turn around Pakistan SAHIWAL (INP): With the chance. If you give me a

Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari said Monday he did not Referring to the sky said Monday he did not need four but only a onetime government to change the fate of the crisis-hit country.

The PPP chairman — an aspirant for the prime minister's slot — took the veiled dig at Pakistan Mus-lim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif, who is taking a fourth shot at power after being granted relief from the judiciary, during a power show in

testing election to bury the

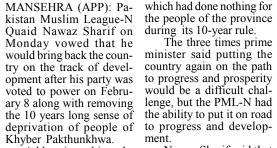
Bilawal says he only needs | Nawaz vows to bring country back on dev. track if voted to power

election fever reaching its zenith, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Physics 7 actions for the country and solve all the problems [berocketing inflation, unem-ployment, and poverty, the PPP leader claimed that his party was the sole solution to these problems.

"Pakistan is going through a default time," Bilawal said, adding that there was a "division" in the society. The former foreign

minister warned that hostile forces could use the "division" to fulfil their nefarious designs. "I am con-

politics of hatred and divi sion.



Addressing a big pub-lic gathering in connection of 2024 election, Nawaz said the time had come to including restart the development his government that proworks from where the same moted tourism and opened were left uncompleted in the entire Hazara Division 2017. for investment.

He criticized the poor performance of the party the motorways, he said, that came into power with load-shedding was elimithe slogan of 'change in nated with gas and electric-Khyber Pakhtunkhwa',

Security forces

killed seven

terrorists in

Zhob operation

which had done nothing for and industrial consumers at the people of the province during its 10-year rule.

Besides construction of

affordable rates. He said that a large

number of people were provided jobs during the tenure of last PML-N gov-The three times prime ernment.

"In Pakistan, there was no price hike during his tenure as prime minister and all essential services and commodities including Nawaz Sharif said that bread, vegetables and edible a network of motorways items were available to people at reasonable rates,' he said. Hazara Motorway were built by

"Had I not been ousted in 2017 there would have been an international standard airport at Mansehra today, besides train service from Mansehra to Islamabad and Muzafarabad in Azad ity provided to domestic Kashmir," he added.





rior judiciary would be judicial decisions were in taken to task but no group the public domain and as per or person would be the Constitution and the victimised. He was address-ing a press conference them. Condemning the mavictimised. He was address-

Security advisory issued to contesting candidates by DCs in various districts

order situation.

paign-2024.

In the security advi-

sory issued by the Deputy

Commissioner Kachhi, it

on in the district Mastung.

advisorv/threat alert have

been sent to the Provincial

Election Commissioner

Balochistan, Chief Secre-

Commissioners of respec-

high ups.

The copies of security

Independent Report

QUETTA: The security advisory has been issued by the Deputy Commissioners of different districts of Balochistan to all contesting candidates of national and provincial assemblies.

According to the official sources, the security advisory / threat alert has been issued by the Deputy Commissioners of Kachhi, Kohlu, Mastung and Khuzdar to the election contesting candidates in their respective constituencies.

At the outset, the **Deputy Commissioners** have advised the candidates to refrain from unnecessary movement and avoid participation in the public gathering especially being held in open / vulnerable locations to avert any untoward incident. As there is possibility of terrorist, subversive activities from anti-social elements / banned organi-



DHADHAR: Caretaker Home Minister Captain (Retd) Mir Zubair Jamali talking with mediamen

ceit and intolerance from society.

courage the culture of de-

He said a joint investi gation team had been formed to probe the antijudiciary campaign and the relevant institutions including FIA and PTA were in vestigating the ongoing pro-paganda. He said that Article 19 of the Constitution defines freedom of expression with certain restrictions. The minister said that

the caretaker government was set up under a constitutional process and it was written in the preamble of the Constitution that the country will be run by representatives of the people.

Achakzai extends congratulation to FC on successful operation in Zhob

Independent Report

zations to disrupt election OUETTA: The caretaker process or create law and Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has congratulated the Frontier Corps (FC) North Balochistan was stated that a female on the successful opera suicide bomber has been tion carried out in Zhob tasked to attack political area in midnight 21 and *leaders / public gatherings* 22 January. In an official state

during the election camment issued here on Similarly, the DC Monday, the Informa Mastung in the security tion Minister said that advisorv mentioned that the dedication and bravery showed by the FC apropos the security threat perceptions in the region North Balochistan is re and the reports from the ally appreciable. He said that the oplaw enforcement agen-

eration also speaks high cies. the terrorists may tarabout the professional get political leaders / pubexpertise and perfor-mance of the FC North. lic gatherings during the election campaigns going

The caretaker Minister said that the importance of such activities has been recognized in order to maintain peace and stability in the region. Jan Achakzai appre

tary office, Additional Chief Secretary Home, ciated the whole team, who was part of the optive divisions and police eration, for its unwavering resolve and courage for stability of the country and security of the

nation. He also said that continuous cooperation is important for tackling emerging challenges and maintaining protective environment for all citizens

The Minister said that the government is firm for eliminating terrorism and ensuring

Dhadhar on Monday. public welfare.

demolished Babri Mosque

Independent Report today's consecration cer-ISLAMABAD: Pakistan emony, are indicative of condemns the construction growing majoritarianism in India. These constitute an and consecration of the important facet of the on-'Ram Temple' on the site going efforts for social, ecoof the demolished Babri nomic and political Mosque in the Indian city of Ayodhya. marginalization of the In-

dian Muslims. The centuries-old A temple built on the mosque was demolished on site of a demolished mosque 6 December 1992 by a mob of extremists. Deplorably, will remain a blot on the face India's superior judiciary of India's democracy for the times to come. Notably not only acquitted the there is a growing list of criminals responsible for mosques, including the this despicable act but also allowed the construction of Gyanvapi Mosque in Varanasi and Shahi Eidgah a temple on the site of the demolished mosque. Mosque in Mathura, facing

Developments of the similar threat of desecration last 31 years, leading to and destruction.



Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addressing to public gath ering during Election Campaign at Hockey Ground

People must get them ready for polls on 8th Feb: Peaceful elections to be ensured under comprehensive strategy, says caretaker Minister Home Independent Report ter said that the polling

stations have been di vided in three categories in view of the security situation on the orders of Chief Election Commis-

Out of total 5067 polling stations, 2055 have been declared most sensitive while 2280 and 832 polling stations have been declared as sensitive and

normal respectively, he added. The police force would be deployed in the

Moreover, the frontier the elections.

the elections. Khursheed Dopasi in get ready for the election

The caretaker Minison February 8.

Independent Report RAWALPINDI: The security forces on Monday killed at least seven terrorists involved in hostile activities against the armed forces and innocent civilians during a fire exchange that took place during an intelligence-based operation ir Sambaza Sector area of Zhob District, near the Pakistan-Afghan border.

According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, the Army troops effectively surrounded and engaged the fleeing terrorists.

The seven killed terrorists remained actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces as well as the killing of innocent civilians. Arms, ammunition, and explosives were also recovered from the killed terrorists.

Final list of candidates for reserved seats to be issued today **Independent Report**

QUETTA: The final list of candidates contesting elections on the reserved seats of provincial and national assemblies is scheduled to be issued today (Tuesday).

According to the Election Commission of Pakistan, a total of 64 candidates were in the competition for 11 seats reserved for women in Balochistan Assembly while 32 candidates were contesting elections on the seats reserved for three minorities in the provincial assembly. Similarly, a total of 28 candidates

had filed papers for four seats reserved for women in the National Assembly.

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Asim Munir exchanging views with Sun Weidong, Vice Foreign Minister of the Peoples Republic of China during meeting held at General Headquarters in Rawalpindi.

Visits Kalat Division, chairs meeting on elections: **CS** reiterates interim Govt's resolve to conduct free and fair elections

Independent Report elections in the province. QUETTA: The Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel purpose behind visits to Qadir Khan has reiterated the interim government's resolve to take all possible steps for conducting free and fair elections in the province.

was chairing a high level

Division on Monday. The

Chief Secretary along with

Additional Chief Secretary

Home, Zahid Saleem, In-

spector General of Police,

Baloch

the divisions is to ensure provision of necessary facilities, transport and security in the polling stations He said that directives He said that all the have been issued to pro-

He said that the basic

preparations have been vide security as well as completed for the upcomother facilities including ing elections in light of diwater, electricity and rectives of the Election washrooms in the poling Commission of Pakistan. stations. The Chief Secretary

He on the occasion asked the concerned high meeting held to review the ups to take tribal elders arrangements made for the into confidence so as to general elections in Kalat ensure peaceful elections.

The Chief Secretary also directed to the district administration to cooperate with the teams visiting districts for installation of CCTV cameras there.

Abdul Khaliq Sheikh and Secretary Local Govern-Earlier, the Chief Secment, Noor Ahmed Pirkani retary was briefed about had reached Khuzdar for the arrangements made for the purpose where they elections in Kalat division. The Commissioner

were received by the Commissioner Kalat, Ali Akbar Kalat, Ali Akbar Baloch, Deputy Commissioners of The Chief Secretary all districts and other conmaintained that all possible cerned high ups were also steps would be taken for in attendance at the meetconducting free and fair ing



KHUZDAR: Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan being briefed by Commissioner Kalat Division Ali Akbar Baloch and DC Khuzdar Muhammad Arif Zarkoon regarding preparation of general elections. IG Police Abdul Khaliq Sheikh, ACS Home Zahid Saleem and Secretary Local Government Noor Ahmed Pirkani are also present

QUETTA: The interim government is paying special attention on establishing peace under comprehensive strategy so as to sioner conduct the upcoming general elections in peaceful manner in the province.

This was stated by the caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Mir Zubair

Jamali while speaking to the local media persons after offering fateha for the

bility of postponement of He urged the masses to

For the purpose, high level official visits are being paid by the caretaker

level

Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Domki and Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan at the division

urban areas while Levies would be deployed in the rural areas of the province.

corps and Pak army would also be on high alert during

departed soul of wife of He ruled out the possi-Syed Khursheed Shah Dopasi and mother of Zia

Page 02



Subdued polls

The extent of the damage that has been wrought on the credibility of the upcoming polls is evident in how muted electoral activities have been.

Barely three weeks before the day millions of Pakistanis are expected to head to polling stations to cast votes for parties of their choice, one still cannot tell that a general election is about to take place.

Two of the three major contenders, the PML-N and PPP, have been out canvassing in recent days, yet it seems as if their campaigns are travelling roadshows that pack up and leave with their leaders once the speeches are done and the loudspeakers fall silent.

Among the key leaders, Nawaz Sharif has appeared only briefly before the public for a short address, while Imran Khan remains confined away from the public's eye. Only Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has been travelling from city to city to shore up votes for the PPP.

It is a shame that a nation of 240m seems tuned out of the democratic process. Elections in Pakistan have traditionally been a riot of party colours and blaring anthems, raucous rallies and jumbo jalsas. Despite all the unpleasantness so far, one had still hoped that we would see a celebration of the country's rich social and political diversity as election day neared.

Instead, with the state constantly spoiling the mood with its ongoing, violent crackdown on one of the country's most popular parties, the citizenry is withdrawing from the process and appears comparably less enthusiastic than in previous years.

It also bears mentioning that the youth, who are at the forefront of ground-level campaigns run by parties, appear to be missing from the picture. Many likely do not want to risk the state's wrath, and their rivals have no real competition to fight against.

The weeks leading to elections are usually a busy time for printing presses, which produce the posters, pamphlets, flags, banners and all manner of related election paraphernalia that make Pakistani elections such a colourful affair.

Event management companies and smaller enterprises that rent out tents, chairs and sound systems also see a boost in business as political activities pick up and parties start rallying their supporters. However, anecdotal accounts and media reports corroborate that these industries are experiencing much less than expected demand. Meanwhile, many are turning to outlets that still offer them an opportunity to express themselves creatively and without restrictions. Social media etc platforms like X and TikTok have become new fronts in the war of political narratives. Given the trend, there are now fears that they, too, may be restricted closer to the polls.

All in all, it is a rather depressing state of affairs, attributable to the ECP's failure to discharge its duties according to their intended spirit.

'Managing' polls

Huma Yusuf The year 2024 is the year abuse or manipulation of of elections. That means state resources, which the next time polling ocit's also the year of corincludes court rulings ruption. Around the and electoral policies world, corruption and that favour certain canelections go hand in didates, gerrymander-hand, with research ing, vote-buying in the negotiations: the public. showing that corruption context of patronage soars in the run-up to politics, media gagging, as recipients of patronpolls. In Pakistan, elecstrategic deployment of toral corruption is persecurity forces on elecceived as necessary to tion day, and so on. maintaining a perverse It is a familiar story.

form of political stability; But it is helpful to go fura way of 'managing' dether and recast electoral mocracy to ensure that corruption in the context the institutional status of 'buying the peace'. quo is not upended. De- Peace buying typically spite the orchestration occurs in post-conflict of this year's election, situations; for example, there are signs this tac- after civil wars. In these contexts, peace builders

tic may be fraying. Narratives of cor-(global institutions and ruption are inevitably NGOs) buy off violent tied up with Pakistan's actors (ethnic militias, electoral process. One organised candidate is cleared of groups) in exchange for corruption charges, ending the conflict. This seemingly to come to can be through outright power, another faces payment or through soft corruption charges to agreements about which quash his political pogroups can control certential. Ironically, the pertain resources (think of version of justice, intimiministries being handed dation and censorship to different factions in a required to manage the post-conflict scenario). corruption status of po-This tactic was used by litical actors are themthe US in Afghanistan, selves a form of corrupwith that country's tion, executed in the ethno-linguistic groups name of eradicating that plundering different

very evil.

state coffers and divert-In fragile states like ing development aid ours, corruption is not only the means to an end, a blind eye.

but is also believed to contribute to some modicum of ongoing stabilis at best a short-term arity. Back-channel corruprangement during a trantion in the run-up to elecsition period, with hopes tions is a form of consenof ultimately shifting insus-building around one centives and normalising candidate, and is widespread to ensure there tactic fails when stakeare no challenges to the holders perceive they are carefully brokered power not benefiting equally. equation extending Those grievances deacross law enforcement, the judiciary, bureau- cause the affected group materially affected by cracy, 'electables', the has lost the incentive to business community, remain non-violent.

To be clear, corrup- to Pakistan's poll landtion does not take the scape is helpful. For deform of bribery only, cades, electoral corrupthough our electoral his- tion has worked because status quo well pretory is littered with suit- all elite stakeholders have served. But we should cases stuffed with cash. benefited from the sys- all beware what comes As Transparency Inter- tem. Even those who after. -- Courtesy Dawn

the

comnanies

national puts it, corrup- lose out in one election tion also includes the bide their time knowing they will enjoy favours curs

But one key stakeholder has historically At most, they are seen age — transactional service delivery in exchange for complicity — doled out in the form of subsidies, patchy infrastructure development, tolerance for tax evasion. How-ever, in times of economic and climate crises, resources for distribution through patronage are incr-e-asingly scare. Cor-ru-ption is breeding competition, not consensus; grievances are

mounting. We can see this in protests across the country: Baloch women demanding the return of their disappeared loved ones, hundreds demanding wheat subsidies in Gilgit-Baltistan, traders protesting in Chaman, fisherfolk rising against Chinese trawlers along the coastline, farmers unionising in Okara, city dwellers burning soaring electricity bills on the streets. It is getting harder to buy the peace

It is only by tactics cannot work and genuinely transitioning to inclusive democracy that Pakistan can move forward. It seems elections will take place this year, and all is likely to go to plan. A 2016 study by Stefan Dahlberg and Maria Solevid found that voter turnout is not perceptions of corruption, particularly where vote-buying is rampant. The day after polls, it may seem as if all is in control, the

Al Shabaab threat

Mohammad Ali Babakhel

Shabaab ('the Al youth') is Al Qaeda's subsidiary in East Africa. It is active in much of southern Somalia and a few pockets in Kenya and Ethiopia. Since 2007, Al Shabaab has been fighting the Somali government and the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia. It is believed to be responsible for a surge in attacks since the 2022 re-election of Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, who has declared an "all-out war" on Al-Shabaab.

Al-Itihad al-Islami, Al-Shabaab's predecessor, was the incubator for many of its leaders. A vounger, hardline group later split from the elder AIAI, wanting to establish a 'Greater Somalia' ruled under the Sharia. This younger group joined forces with the Islamic Courts Union. In 2006, US-backed Ethiopian forces invaded Somalia and pushed the ICU out of the capital. The majority of ICU fighters fled to neighbouring countries, but others retreated southwards, reemerging later as a guerrilla group against the Ethiopian forces and seizing territory in central and southern Somalia. By 2008, Al Shabaab had grown from a smallsized group to an organisation of about 9,000.

Al Shabaab developed ties with Al Qaeda in 2008, but formally pledged allegiance in 2012. Onwards, it carried out a few high-profile violent attacks in Somalia's neighbouring bombs. countries, including the Sentember 2013 September Westgate Mall attacks in Nairobi, in which 68 people were killed, and the Garissa University attack in April 2015, resulting in 148 deaths. In October 2017, Al

Shabaab carried out an-other deadly truck attack boxes outside offices to

other deadly truck attack on the busiest intersection of Mogadishu, resulting in 587 deaths. Owing to its capability for lethal attacks, it has been described by the media as the deadliest velfare organisation to terror group in Africa. Al Shabaab dreams

ing to music or shaving of a fundamentalist Isbeards is also prohibited in areas under its control. lamic state which would include Somalia. Al Shabaab has been de-Djibouti, Kenya, and Ethiopia. According to its narrative, democracy is a religion for non-Muslims, hence it must be opposed and rejected. It recruits online and attracts youth from Somalia and Kenya. In 2017, the UN secretary general stated that over half of Al Shabaab's fighters may be children, reflecting the group's strategy to replace ageing fighters with younger 'talent'. It is to Al Shabaab's benefit that the majority of fighters are ethnic Somali and from the Sunni sect, which lets it take advantage of both Somalia's

nationalism and religion. Its pledge of allegiance brought Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and Al Shabaab closer. The US became their common enemy. Proximity to Al Qaeda provided an opportunity for Al Shabaab to be trained in Afghanistan. Some master trainers moved to Somalia and trained Al Shabaab fightmatters ranging from indoctrination and basic infantry skills, to making IEDs, conducting suihostages, and assassi-

pendent on multiple sources of funding, which includes support from the Somali diaspora. After seizing the port city of Kismayo in 2008, the group earned a hefty amount from exports of charcoal. To dry up this source of income, the UN banned charcoal exports from Somalia in 2012. Reportedly, Al Shabaab also made its expenditure from investments in gold. According to the UN, Al Shabaab has generated up to \$100 million a year from different sources, including fees levied at ports of entry, taxes on goods, check-

improve administration

within its controlled ar-

eas. By distributing food,

banning drugs, and re-

win public trust. Listen-

Since its inception,

point fees, and extortion. According to the Global Terrorism Index 2022, 315 attacks that resulted in 784 deaths made Al Shabaab the second-deadliest group in the world.

The deaths attributed to it in Somalia increased by 23 per cent, and the highest proportion of its attacks were ers. Both collaborated on directed against the military, followed by civilians. Al Shabaab was held responsible for 97pc (733 deaths) of all cide bombings, taking terror-related deaths in 2022

nations. During this part-The war against Al Shabaab has dragged on nership, Al Shabaab also developed skills to use for 17 years. History and ground realities suggest laptop explosives and car that it cannot be defeated The group collects with kinetic options tax on transport vehicles alone. The Somali govand constructs dispenernment needs to exsaries in areas under its plore peaceful options, control. To prove it is enincluding negotiations; vironment-friendly, plasbut the real question is tic bags have been whether Al Shabaab is banned. It encourages interested in talks. -feedback from citizens Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

while Washington turned now that the public is demanding its share. For earnest peace builders, a bought peace recognising that old

democratic practice. The scend into conflict be-

criminal

Applying this frame

OPINION

Shamshad Akhtar, WB **Country Director discuss** financing operations in Pak

ISLAMABAD (APP): Income Caretaker Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs Dr Shamshad Akhtar and Country Director World of a more adaptive social Bank (WB) for Pakistan, protection system that will NajyBinhassine on Monday met to discuss, review and finalize the financing for two World Bank-funded operations in Pakistan. The operations include additional financing of US\$ 250.0 million for an ongoing World Bankfunded programme titled 'Crisis-Resilient Social Protection Programme (CRISP". being implemented by Benazir and

Independent Report

Office here Monday.

means

business

exchange

Income Support Programme (BISP), said a Considering importance news release here.

interventions planned under the CRISP program, The program aims to support the development Dr Shamshad Akhtar gave go-ahead signal to engage the World Bank additional financing of US\$250 million for the program in contribute to any future crisis resilience among poor and vulnerable principle.

households. The second She, however, desired WB-funded operation to convene another meeting Pakistan: next week to formalize the "Resilient and Accessible program contours. She also Microfinance (RAM) desired to invite the State Program" worth US\$175.0 Bank of Pakistan (SBP) million to help enhance and Security and Exchange access to microcredit and Commission of Pakistan support the resilience of (SECP) in the next meeting to finalize the program the microfinance sector its borrowers. modalities.

> **PSX turns to** bullish trend, gains 657 points ISLAMABAD (APP) Human The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around to bullish trend on Monday, gaining 657.19 points, a positive change of 1.04 percent, closing at 63,939.41 points against 63,282.23 points the previous trading day.

A total of 298,699,061 shares valuing Rs.12.515 billion were traded during the day as compared to 287,310,860 shares valuing Rs.9.320 Exports increase by 35.33% billion the last day.

Some 335 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 140 of them recorded gains and 171 sustained losses whereas the share prices of 24 remained unchanged. The three top-trading companies were K-Electric Ltd with 97,700,790 shares at Rs.5.57 per share, Pak Petroleum with 23,338,496 shares at Rs.131.01 per share and PIAC(A) with 21,105,500 shares at Rs.12.07 per share. Nestle Pakistan Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.70.00 per share price, closing at Rs.8,270.00 whereas the runner-up was Mari Petroleum Company Limited with a Rs.53.28 rise

to the provisional data in its per share price to Rs.2,428.65. released by PBS. On a year-on-year basis,

ISLAMABAD (APP): Qatari Diyar-Saudi Bin Special Assistant to the Laden Group Construction Prime Minister on (QD-SBG), Hamad Bin Overseas Pakistanis and Khaled Company W.L.L (HBK), Resource Development (SAPM OP&HRD), Jawad Sohrab Ali Bin Ali Holding W.L.L, Sheikh Jabor Bin Mansour Malik, led a successful Bin Jabor Bin Jassim Al official visit to Qatar, Thani (JMJ) Holding, Tabeeb culminating in the signing Care Medical Services, and Al of several Agreements & Rawnaq International Letter's of Intent (LOIs) Commercial Projects, marks with top Qatari companies a crucial step in strengthening

intended to significantly bilateral relations between Pakistan and Qatar in the field enhance employment opportunities for the of human resource Pakistani workforce in development, a news release Qatar. The signing of these said. In addition to these agreements with renowned

to Rs 4.3 trillion in 1st half

ISLAMABAD (APP): The the exports during December

the

against

exports from the country in

the rupee term witnessed an

increase of 35.33 percent during the first half of the

current fiscal year as

corresponding period of last

year, the Pakistan Bureau of

December (2023-24) were

recorded at Rs.4,300,752

as

Rs.3,177,893 million during

the corresponding period of

last year, showing an increase

of 35.33 percent, according

Statistics (PBS) reported.

to

Exports during July-

compared

million

Qatari firms, including agreements, the Special

2023 increased by 54.59 percent and were recorded at

Rs.799,588 million compared to the exports of Rs.517,240

basis, the exports increased

by 8.86 percent when

compared to the exports of

Rs. 734,541 million in

November 2023. The main

commodities of exports

during December, 2023

were rice other than

Basmati (Rs.124,040

million), knitwear (Rs.

readymade garments (Rs.

84,569 million), bed wear (Rs. 64,119 million).

million).

103.898

On a month-on-month

million in October 2022.

DOHA : SAPM, Jawad Sohrab Malik signs agreements with Oatar's top

Pak-Qatar agreements to boost

job prospects, SAPM meets

separately with Qatari Ministers Assistant to the Prime Minister, Jawad Sohrab Malik held a significant meeting with Hamad Saleh Contracting Al Qamra, Chairman of Al Qamra Holding, focusing on the recruitment of

Pakistani manpower for various company projects. The visit also included a tour of the View Hospital, a part of Elegancia Health Care, where the recruitment Pakistani health of

professionals is underway following a recent MoU between Elegancia Health Care and the Overseas

Employment Corporation (OEC) of Pakistan.

Gold rates

dip by Rs.600

Řs.168,731

respectively.

Association reported.

Sarafa

Wheat cultivation grew by 7 % during current Rabi season The wheat crop has

ISLAMABAD (INP): Owing to the incentives been sown across more by the than 23.69 million acres of introduced government, wheat sowing land in various cropin the country during the current season (Rabi 2023-24) increased by 7.5 per cent as compared to the increased by 7.5 per cent as compared to the current season to meet local staple food requirements and maintain strategic crop sowing of the reserves throughout the corresponding period of year, he told APP here on the last year.

Monday. During the period The wheat under review, wheat cultivation targets fixed for sowing had been completed over 23.69 the period under review were achieved by 107 per million acres as against the set targets of 22.22 cent as crop sowing in two major grain-producing provinces Sindh and Punjab gained momentum million acres, said Food Security Commissioner In the Ministry of as both the provinces National Food Security surpassed their assigned and Research Imtiaz Ali targets for the current season, he added



SARGODHA: Vendors displaying old shoes to attract the customers at his roadside setup.

SCCI chief demands compensation for affected traders' of Saddar fire

ISLAMABAD (APP): PESHAWAR (APP): Sarhad Chamber of The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Commerce and Industry president, Fuad Ishaq was Rs.600 and was sold at Rs. highly saddened over the horrific fire that broke out 215,700 on Monday compared to its sale at Rs. at Peshawar's Time Centre 215,300 on last trading and demanded that the day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs. 514 to Rs.184,071 from Rs. 184,585 whereas the compensation for the affected traders' community. prices of 10 gram 22 karat In a joint statement issued here on Monday, gold went down to Fuad Ishaq, president, from Rs.169,203, the All Sindh Sanallah Khan, senior vice president and Ijaz Khan Jewellers The price of per tola and ten gram Silver Commerce and Industry remained stagnant at Rs. 2,600 and Rs. 2,2229.08

Peshawar quickly engulfed 200 shops and small counters of mobiles, accessories and batteries, which completely gutted. They expressed high grief and sorrow over provincial government monetary loss, worth immediately announce millions of rupees to the trader's community and asked the present interim

horrific fire in Time Centre

provincial government to immediately announce special financial assistance. The SCCI chief Fuad

Ishaq and members of his Afridi, vice president of cabinet praised the efforts the Sarhad Chamber of of rescue teams of Pakcabinet praised the efforts Armv. Air Force. and members of the Cantonment Board and chamber's executive Rescue 1122 in timely committee said that this conducting operations.

delegations and single LAHORE: A 40-member country exhibitions between the Pakistani delegation of newly appointed Trade and business community and Investment Officers (TIOs) other countries, besides visited Federation of Pakistan ensuring timely sharing of information on required Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Regional certification and value addition with the Sharing his views respective exporters. He regarding the ways and suggested that TIOs should also provide quarterly trade to enhance country's exports with the data including Pakistan's imports/exports with other countries of the world, arguing that it would enable the Pakistani business community to take advantage of the available trade opportunities by introducing

TIOs, the FPCCI Regional Chairman and Vice President Zaki Ejaz said that in order to increase Pakistan's exports, the Trade and Investment Officers should play their products and role in organizing joint new technologies there. Zaki Ejaz ventures, business-tomeetings, added that business

community.

of trade

includes

FAISALABAD: Farmers are busy harvesting raddish crop at their field.

Trade and Investment Officers' delegation visits FPCCI

Daily A oice of Masses

National News

Page 03

Govt committed to support pharma sector: Nadeem Jan

LAHORE (APP): Dr. Nadeem Jan emphasizing the Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan a new era with the Pharma Dr. Nadeem Jan emphasizing the productive efficiency of has emphasized the Park in government's proactive emphasizing that these efforts to enhance support units are set to commence for the pharmaceutical industry, marking the commencement of a new phase with the establishment of a Pharma phase Park in Pakistan.

the Addressing ground breaking ceremony of two pharma units of Zenith Group of Companies at Sundar Industrial Estate, here on country Monday, he expressed optimism that the production from these needs but also drive units would significantly elevate the country's exports, underlining the government's steadfast commitment to prioritizing and enhancing exportenhance the permanent supply of medicines, driven initiatives.

Pakistan, pharmaceutical units through the adoption of modern technologies. Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) production within the next affirmed that, in line with the six months. He articulated promotion policy, manufacturers of APIs are that these initiatives aim to bolster local production, receiving support through ensuring a steady supply avenues such as accessible of essential ingredients for loans, tax concessions, and

pharmaceuticals within the technical assistance. He expressed confidence that The minister emphasized that local this policy commitment would significantly elevate the country's pharmaceutical industry. He expressed his production is poised to not the only fulfill the country's phar exports, anticipating a anucipation of inaugurating similar reduction in medicine prices. He highlighted the pharmaceutical government's development projects in Karachi in the coming days, comprehensive strategy to

initiative.

Dr. Nadeem Jan

government's

Traders announce to support JUI-F candidate in elections on PK-113

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): A traders union has announced support for Jamiat Ulema Islam Fazlu-rehman (JUI-F) candidate for provincial assembly seat PK-113 in the upcoming general elections scheduled to be held on February 08, 2024.

The Markazi Anjuman Tajran made this announcement during a public meeting held here at a local hotel and vowed to support the JUI-F candidate for PK-113 Kafeel Ahmad Nizami besides running door to

door campaign for him. The JUI-F candidate for PK-113 Kafeel Ahmad Nizami was the chief guest of the event which was also attended by Markazi Anjuman Tajran President Sohail Ahmad Azmi and other renowned traders including Chaudhry Jameel Ahmed, Haji Muhammad Ramzan, Javed Akhtar, Muhammad Saeed, Janabat Khan Mehsud, Naeem Qureshi, Sher Muhammad Mehsud, Haji Muhammad

constructions LAHORE (APP): On directions of Commissioner Lahore and DG LDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa. LDA teams demolished and sealed more than a dozen illegal constructions and commercial buildings in Johar Town, BOR Society,

as part of the Pharma Park

LDA demolishes

illegal

Wapda Town, Lahore Avenue and OPF Housing schemes on Monday. During the operation LDA teams took action against Plot No. 25 A, 25 B in BOR Society and 19E in Rahman Society. An operation was conducted against Plot No. 337 Block E, 154 Block E One in

Khalid, Haji Tahir Sharif, Johar Town, Plot No. 71 in Wapda town and Plot



PESHAWAR: Chairperson, National Commission on Status of Women presenting shield to Khyber Pakthunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam during a function organized by the National Commission on Status of Women.

Women's socioeconomic development guarantee for country progress: Governor

PESHAWAR Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali here Monday said that the KP was a solid proof of share of women in Pakistan was about 52 percent in development. the country's population and their socioeconomic development was guaranteed for speedy progress and prosperity of the nation.

Addressing a function change it. organized by the National Commission on Status of Women held at a local hotel here as a chief guest, the society being a mother, Governor said the increase

Khyber Pakthunkhwa to boys students in the government to ensure educational institutions of them women's education

> The Governor said the status of women in Islam was very high, adding our religion has given the right of property to them and nobody could

Haji Ghulam Ali said that women were given highest respect by our sister, wife and daughter and organizations in this regard.

Kristin Hawkins praises Naqvi's work ethics

LAHORE (APP): The under the dynamic leadership of Mohsin Naqvi United States (US) Consul General to Lahore Kristin K. has set new standards of public service, adding that he Hawkins has praised work ethics, hard work and is seen working round the dynamism of Caretaker Chief clock. Chief Minister Punjab Minister Punjab Mohsin Mohsin Naqvi, speaking on Naqvi. In a meeting with the Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi at the latter's office here on Monday, Ms. Hawkins lauded the people friendly initiatives of Mohsin Naqvi, adding that Mohsin wheat yield. Naqvi's omnipresence is felt everywhere and all are awed by his work and dedication

to service.

Hailing the caretaker provincial cabinet she said affiliation of local educational the caretaker government institutions with California.

(APP): of girls students compared it was the responsibility of provision of all rights to

He said close liaison with politicians for enactment of legislation for protection of rights of women was imperative for safeguarding their rights legally and constitutionally. The governor assured full support to the national commission on status of women for progress, autonomy and development of women besides other

CM inspects Band Road project, directs early completion

Independent Report AHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has intensified efforts to ensure the timely completion of the "Controlled Access Corridor Band Road Project"

closely monitored the ongoing work on Package Two and Package One, emphasizing the need to expedite the construction process. He specifically directed the acceleration of Package Two's progress, urging the deployment of additional labor for prompt

Chairing a meeting at

The Chief Minister conducted а

completion. Chief Minister comprehensive inspection Naqvi directed the of the project, spanning 8 completion of asphalt work kilometres. Assessing on both packages by the first week of February, various locations, he noted that 55 percent of Package emphasizing the utilization of all available resources to 2 (Babu Sabu to Sagian) and 74 percent of Package open the corridor for traffic. One (Ŝagian to Niazi the Sagian site office, Chowk) have been successfully executed. Mohsin Naqvi received a detailed briefing on the

During the inspection, Chief Minister Naqvi project's status



LAHORE: Leader of Pakistan People's Party Sharjeel Inam Memon addressing a press conference in Provincial Capital.

Sindh wins title of 2nd Essa lab Sindh-Balochistan bilateral men softball series in style

KARACHI (APP): The 2-1 in style. In the prize Sindh men's softball team distribution ceremony, won the title of the 2^{nd} Essa Laboratories Sindh Balochistan bilateral softball series in style.

Sindh Softball Associa-In the third and detion President Dr. Farhan cisive match of the series Essa and Secretary Genplayed at the KMC eral of Softball Federation Sports Complex Kashmir of Pakistan Asif Azeem Road, Sindh scored 10 distributed trophies, runs in their allotted 5 inawards and certificates to nings. Faraz Aijaz, Samir the players of both Zulfiqar and Arbaza Ijaz teams scored 2 runs each. Balochistan team managed to score 5 runs in five innings, Captain Ahmed Yar Khan and

best catcher of the series, Osama bin Shuja, was the best batter, Faraz Ijaz, the pitcher Osama bin Shuja scored 2 and Hafiz Moeez were declared the best fielder

chief guest Commissioner

Karachi Muhammad Saleem Rajput along with

Shiraz Asif was the

against illegal fuel agencies across the district following the directions of District Police Officer (DPO) Abdul Rauf Babar Qaisrani. During different operations conducted in

the occasion, said that the Punjab government wishes to benefit from the expertise of the Americans in the agriculture sector especially in the methods to get more He further said that Punjab government wishes to

undertake town house projects like California, adding that it is also interested in

5420 ltr illegal **Diesel seized** in DI Khan DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): The district police

have recovered 5420 litres of Diesle during the ongoing crackdown against illegal fuel agencies across the district, said a police

He said that a crackdown was launched

this regard, the police recovered 5420 liters of illegal Diesel.

spokesman on Monday.

runs

Sindh won the series of the event.

International News



LARKANA: Regional Director Colleges Larkana Region, Professor Bashir Ahmed Rajpar presides over the meeting regarding 6th Sindh College Games 2024, at his office in Larkana.

Israeli plan to destroy Hamas not working, peace talks needed - EU's Borrell

BRUSSELS (Internews): Israel's plan to destroy Islamist Palestinian group Hamas in Gaza is not working and the European Union must pursue efforts to create a "two-state solution" despite Israeli opposition, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said on Monday.

Israeli Prime Minister had on Sunday reaffirmed a hard line against any Palestinian state as it would pose "an existential danger" to Israel. He said Israel would keep insisting on full security control over all territory west of the Jordan River, which would include Gaza and the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Borrell spoke at the monthly gathering of EU foreign ministers, attended this time by counterparts from Saudi Arabia, Egypt

and Jordan and the Arab League secretary-general. The talks will focus mainly on the consequences of Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on Israel and Israel's retaliatory offensive in Gaza. Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz and Palestinian Foreign Minister Rivad al-Maliki were making separate appearances at the meeting,

which was also taking stock of the war in Ukraine. Alluding to Israel's stated objective of annihilating Hamas in its devastating three-month-old war in the Gaza Strip, Borrell told reporters: "What are the other solutions they have in mind. Make all the Palestinians leave? Kill all of them? The

way they are destroying Hamas is not the way to do it. They are sealing the hate for generations.'

talks to that end collapsed a decade ago amid mutual mistrust and intransigence. Israel's massive aerial and ground offensive in small, densely populated Gaza has killed more than 25,000 Palestinians, according to Hamas-run enclave's health authorities, flattened built-up areas and left mos of its 2.3 million people

to press ahead with inter-

a Palestinian state co-exist-

homeless. Israel has said the war could go on for "many months" and it would not rest until Hamas was eradicated, all Israeli hostages freed and the Gaza Strip posed no more security threat.

> **Protesters call** for change to Netanyahu government Monitoring Desk TEL AVIV: Thousands of Israelis gathered in Tel Aviv

o protest against Prime Benjamin Minister Netanyahu's government, accusing the veteran leader of mishandling the nation's security and calling for a new election.

Anti-government protests that shook the nation for much of 2023 ceased after the attacks by Hamas in southern Israel on Oct 7. Political rifts were set aside as Israelis rallied behind the military and the families of those killed or taken hose

But with the devastat ing war in Gaza in its fourth month and opinion polls showing lagging support and next month. for Netanyahu, calls for leadership changes are

new agreements with partgrowing stronger, though ners - strong bilateral agreethere is no indication that ments," Zelenskiy said in his position is under any his nightly video address. imminent threat This was reflected in ary should bring corre-

KYIV:

'January and Febru-

sponding results. There are

already specific dates when

Saturday night's turnout in a central Tel Aviv square where many of last year's protests took place

Monitoring Desk Hamas command structure GAZA STRIP: Gaza's in northern Gaza had been Hamas-run health ministry dismantled, leaving only isolated fighters. on Sunday said the death

toll in the war-torn Palestinian territory breached 25.000 as Israel pushed its southward offensive and renewed bombardment in the north. Israel is pressing its push against Hamas in southern Gaza as it seeks to destroy the group responsible for the deadliest attack in the country's his-

ferred to hospitals due to the tory. In early January, Israel's military said the continued artillery shelling on. Zelenskiy counts on more

Western defense aid for Ukraine in next two months

Monitoring Desk President

Volodymyr Zelenskiy said its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, on Saturday that he expected a number of new Kyiv's Western allies Western defence packages united in providing unprecedented military and other for Ukraine to be signed this aid to help Zelenskiy de-'We are preparing fend his country.

But with the war now dragging on towards its third year, little change along the front line in the past 12 months and growing opposition to more aid in the

United States, funds and equipment in recent months new and strong documents have been slow coming in.

Strike on busy market kills 25 in eastern Ukraine

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: A strike on a crowded market in the Russian-occupied city of Donetsk in eastern Ukraine left at least 25 people dead and 20 wounded on Sunday, Moscow-backed officials

said Both Moscow and Kyiv have accused each other of a sharp escalation in attacks on civilian areas in the past two months. Shattered storefronts and broken glass could be seen in videos shared by Russian state media, along with what appeared to be bodies lying on the ground

nearby. "At the moment, information about 25 dead has been confirmed. At least 20 more people have been injured," said Denis Pushilin, head of the region's Russian-controlled administration. He blamed Ukraine for

the strike, calling it a "horrific" attack on a civilian area. Ukraine did not immediately comment. Officials said the strike hit a south-

Germans protest against 'mass deportation' plan of far right

Monitoring Desk MUNICH: Tens of thousands gathered across Germany again on Sunday to protest the far-right AfD, after it emerged that party members discussed mass deportation plans at a meeting of extremists.

The influx of demonstrators was so large in Munich that organisers were forced to cancel a planned march and ask people to disperse for safety reasons. Organisers said some 50,000 people had turned up to the demonstration, twice as many as were registered for the event. An earlier estimate announced to the crowd had put the figure at 200,000, according to a journalist. Police estimated a figure somewhere in the middle, around 100,000, according to the German

daily

western suburb of the city, less than 15 kilometres from the eastern front Local resident Tatiana said she heard an incoming projec-tile overhead, and hid un-

der her market stall. "I saw smoke, people screamed, a woman was crying," she told a local

media outlet. "Where is there anything military here? It's just a market," another resident named Tatiana told the same outlet. "This is one of the strongest blows in recent times," she said. The toll marks one of

the deadliest in Donetsk since Moscow launched full-scale hostilities against Ukraine in February 2022. Donetsk, occupied by Russia and its proxy forces since 2014, has been repeatedly targeted by what Moscow has called indiscriminate Ukrainian shell-

ing. Moscow called Sunday's attack a "barbaric terrorist attack" that showed the need for its "special military operation" in Ukraine.

Zeitung. Those who made it to the site of the planned protest carried signs saying "Nazis out" and "never again is now" Some 250,000 people

had already gathered in cit-ies across the country on Saturday, according to ARD estimates. Demonstrations were called in some 100 locations across Germany from Friday through the weekend, including in Munich, Berlin and cities in the east of the country where the AfD has

its strongholds. The wave of mobilisation against the farright party was sparked by a Jan 10 report by investigative outlet Correctiv. which revealed that AfD members had discussed the expulsion of immigrants and "non-assimilated citizens" at a meeting with ex-Sueddeutsche tremists.

Displaced Palestinians use a donkey cart for transportation at a camp in Rafah near the border with Egypt in the southern Gaza Strip.

Dozens buried, 8 killed in southwest **China landslide**

said

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: Dozens of people were buried and eight confirmed killed when a landslide struck a remote and mountainous part of southwestern China on Monday.

The pre-dawn landslide buried 18 homes and sparked the evacuation of more than 200 people when it struck in Zhenxiong County, Yunnan province, state media said.

Eight people are confirmed dead and rescuers have extracted four, according to a report by state broadcaster CCTV at around 5:30pm (0930 GMT), though the condition of the four was not immediately clear.

Two hundred rescue workers have been dispatched as well as dozens of fire engines and other equipment, CCTV



US Navy declares Gaza deaths top two SEALs 25,000 as Israel missing in Gulf pushes offensive of Aden as deceased FLORIDA (INP): Two U.S. Navy SEALs who

went missing in the Gulf of But witnesses told AFP Aden earlier this month during a raid on a boat carthat Israeli boats were bomrying Iranian weapons have not been located following barding Gaza City and other areas in the north early Sunan exhaustive search and day. Hamas has also reported heavy combat in the north. their status has been changed to deceased, mili-"Dozens are still under the rubble," the Hamas government's media office tary officials said on Sunday said, adding that the dead and injured "could not be trans-

The SEALs were reported missing after board-ing the vessel in a Jan. 11 operation near the coast of Somalia, the U.S. Central Command said on X. **UK taking**

election threats 'very seriously'

Monitoring Desk LONDON: The UK is taking threats of foreign interference elections expected later this year "very seriously", the defence minister said on Sunday, after a warning from a counter-ter-

that's something that we take very seriously," Shapps told the Sky News channel.

bodies and other institutions would "be looking very carefully at that", he said.

can be expected." After Russia launched

rorism official. "Obviously,

Counter-terrorism

Daily Independent, Hub

ISLAMABAD: President, Dr. Arif Alvi exchanging views with Sun Weidong Vice Foreign Minister of the Peoples Republic of China during meeting held at Aiwan-e-Sadr in Islamabad.

Pak foreign policy played crucial role in defusing tension with Iran: Solangi

of Pakistan

ficiently.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Monday said the foreign policy pursued by Pakistan post-January 16 had played a crucial role in deescalating the tension with Iran.

The minister, in an interview with a Turkish broadcaster, TRT, the minister said that the whole region was concerned by tension between Pakistan and Iran that had significantly been reduced.

He said Pakistan's leadership had overcome the issue to a greater extent, government, born out of a and lauded the constructive

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker

Foreign Minister Jalil

Abbas Jilani and Chinese

Vice Foreign Minister Sun

Weidong on Monday here

reaffirmed the All-Weather

Strategic Cooperative Part-

nership and held an in-

depth discussion on the

entire gamut of bilateral re-

lations including CPEC and

bilateral economic and fi-

appreciated the contribu-

tions of the Chinese Vice

Foreign Minister in deep-

The Foreign Minister

nancial cooperation.

performing its duties under role played by brotherly including countries, a legal cover. It would ex-Turkiye and China, for detend all-out support to the fusing the tension. ECP for holding the elec-He said Pakistan tions, he added.

greatly valued Turkiye's To a question, the mingoodwill for it and its ister said that it was a popeople. Both countries enlitical culture that some joyed all-weather relations political parties were airing that were a "precious asset complaints regarding the level-playing field.

There was no restric The minister said the tion on politics in the coun-Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), which try and measures were was the only institution taken to ensure a level-play entrusted with holding ing field for political parfree, fair and transparent ties, he emphasized. elections, had been fulfill-Solangi said that the caretaker government had

ing its responsibilities efno favourites and none of He said the caretaker the family members of its ministers was taking part in constitutional process, was the elections

Maryam Nawaz says Politicians must give off considering KP an experiment station

priving

ment projects. "Nawaz Sharif left better Pakistan

but now it is detracted", the PML-N supremo said

while addressing a public gathering in Mansehra, KP

ahead of the February 8

MANSEHRA (INP): Chief wrongdoings. Organizer Pakistan Muslim Speaking on the occa-League-Nawaz (PML-N), Maryam Nawaz has said that the politicians must give off considering Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) an experiment station for them. While addressing a

public gathering in Mansehra on Monday, she said that the former PTI government made tall claims and promised the people of five million homes and billion tree Tsunami but didn't fulfill any of their promise. Maryam Nawaz said

that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was land of sensible people and people keeping in view that performance of former rules should elect right people in the upcoming eral elections.

past government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf.

of absentee polling staff at trainings

it has been decided to take Balochistan, stern departmental action Muhammad Farid Afridi has taken serous notice of the polling staff found absent during the training ses-

He said that all the have been issued directives to ensure presence of the polling stations in their respective districts. He also directed to

The training is being take stern action against those polling staff who imparted to the male and female presiding and senior were found absen training sessions. were found absent from the

Special permits issued to foreign media for elections 2024 coverage

ISLAMABAD (APP): The government on Monday said special permits were issued to the foreign media for the coverage of the general elections 2024 scheduled for February 28. In the first phase, the government had issued permits to 49 foreign journalists from 13 different countries for election coverage, said a news release.

The foreign journalists were from multiple countries including China, Japan, America, United Kingdom, Canada, Hong Kong, Serbia, Sweden, France, Germany, Australia, Thailand and Singapore. According to the state ment, about 136 foreign journalists have applied for per mission to cover the elections to be held on February 8.

PPP believes serving

Pakistan, China for enhanced cooperation in IT, agriculture, HR development

Tuesday January 23, 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa-kistan and China on Mon-

economy.

ferent fora.

day reiterated their desire sion, former prime minis-ter and the PMLN for enhanced cooperation in the areas of economy, insupremo Nawaz Sharif also formation technology, agricriticized former governculture, and human resource ment for ruining the development for the mutual country's economy and debenefit of the two friendly Khyber countries. Pakhtunkhwa of developdevelopment.

This was discussed in a meeting between the visiting Vice Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China Sun Weidong, who along with his delegation called on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

general elections. The ex-Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong, prime minister said that had he not been removed from power was also present during the meeting, a President House press release said.

Welcoming the delegation, the president said that China was a very dear friend that had always supported Pakistan during difficult times.

He highlighted that CPEC projects had contributed to the economic development of Pakistan, be-

sides helping meet its en-ergy needs. kistan would continue to support China on all core The president stated issues, including the "One that Pakistan was fully China" Policy, Taiwan, committed to the high-qual-Hong Kong, Tibet, Xinjiang,

ity development of CPEC, and the South China Sea. adding that the Chinese He said that Pakistan support in the next phase was grateful to China for of CPEC would be crucial supporting Pakistan's nafor Pakistan's industrial tional development and its principled stance on the He remarked that eco-Jammu and Kashmir dis-

nomic cooperation between pute. the two friendly countries The visiting Vice Forwould further cement bilateign Minister of China said eral ties. He appreciated the that Pakistan and China had Chinese support in stabilising Pakistan's a long history of friendly relations which would continue to grow stronger.

He said that CPEC had The president said that Pakistan wanted to yielded fruitful results and learn from the Chinese exthat both countries had perience in IT, education, huge potential for increashealth, agriculture, and poving cooperation in various erty alleviation for its sociofields.

He also thanked the president for visiting China during the COVID-19 pan-He remarked that Pakistan and China held similar views on various redemic in March 2020, saygional and international ising that his support to express solidarity with China sues and cooperated at difwould always be remem-

He reiterated that Pabered

economic development.

A Belaruse delegartion headed by Mr. Rassalai Viachaslau, Deputy Minister SAMI, held a meeting in Ministry of Defence Production with Pakistan delegation headed by Secretary Defence Production, Lt Gen (Redt) humayun Aziz HI(M).

Pak-Belarus inter-govt commission on defence meets at MoDP

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Pakistan and Belarus "Inter-Governmental Commission on Military and Technical Cooperation", established since 2015, met at the Ministry of Defence logue and consultations, as Production on Monday. both countries were friendly neighbors and its Three sessions of the

heading the Belarus delegation while the Pakistan side is led by Secretary Defence Production Lt Gen ® Humayun Aziz. During the meeting,

Rassalai Viachaslau,

Deputy Minister SAMI, is

progress on previous Commission have been conagenda points was reducted so far, including the viewed. Both sides agreed last held in Minsk, Belarus that there exists a potential

China's unflinching sup-port to Pakistan on all is-

Expressing satisfac-tion at the steady develop-ment of CPEC, Foreign killed, and fifteen others were injured when a vehicle, Minister Jilani emphasized enroute to a wedding cer-emony, plunged into a ra-vine in Dir Upper. the significance of CPEC for Pakistan. He said that Pakistan would continue

According to Rescue making efforts for the real-1122 and the police, the inization of CPEC's full pocident occurred in the tential for shared benefits. Badali area when the driver He appreciated China's of the double-cabin vehicle readiness and support for lost control, leading to a all CPEC projects in Pakideep fall in the mountains Police reported that

Thanking the Foreign the injured and deceased ening Pakistan-China Minister for friendship and commended hospitality, Minister for the generous have been transported to Wari Hospital

FM Jilani, Chinese Vice Five killed as vehicle falls FM discuss bilateral ties into ravine in Dir Upper PESHAWAR (APP): At least five individuals were

in 2017, the people of Mansehra would have been gifted an airport and a metro project. He regretted that development work on the Sukkur-Hyderabad

(PEC)

Ouetta.

sions in Ouetta

The PEC took notice

of the absentee staff during

his visits to different train-

ing sessions to review the

process of training in

Independent Report

QUETTA: Provincial Gen-

eral Secretary of Pakistan

People's Party (PPP) Rozi

Khan Kakar, candidate from

Constituency NA 263 and

Syed Hasnain Hashmi, can-

didate from Constituency

PB 43 said that the PPP P

was always fighting for the

rights of the people because

serving of masses was mis-

views while talking to the

media on the occasion of the

inauguration of the election

office of Pakistan People's

Party on Spiny Road Quetta. Qasim Khan

They expressed these

sion of the party.

Achakzai.

She said that the incar-Motorway was stopped by the ceration of PTI leaders was the outcome of their own

PEC takes serious notice

Independent Report at the sessions. The Provincial Elec-QUETTA: The Provincial Election Commissioner tion Commissioner said that



against the absentee polling staff during the training sessions district returning officers



QUETTA: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) Central General Secretary, Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri addressing ceremony on occasion of resignation of Bilal Khan Kakar in favor of Maulana Fazal-ur-Rehman, in Quetta.

Commissioner chairs meeting regarding Quetta City App oversight body for facilitating people

sioner Quetta Division vices, data entry, motor ve-Hamza Shafqaat chaired a meeting regarding the release of Quetta City App and other matters for the convenience of the public on Monday.

Commis-Deputy sioner Quetta Lt. Ret, Saad Bin Asad participated in the meeting through video link while Focal Person Assis-IT Director tant Muhibullah and Representative Excise and Taxation were also present.

Various important issues related to Quetta City App were discussed in detail for the convenience of the people in the meeting.

QUETTA (APP): Commis- ing was given about the serpreparations ISLAMABAD (APP) hicle registration, local do-Caretaker Minister for micile certificate and arms license facility regarding the city app. Addressing the meeting, Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafqaat said that an app called Quetta City would be created for the needs and convenience of the citizens in which people could easily get local domicile certificates, arms licenses, motor

A copy of report was

Shoaib Shaheen had

The CJ IHC Aamer

provided to Shoaib Shaheen

counsel for PTI founder

under court's order. Court

rejected plea from Shoaib

Shaheen for issuing stay

requested the court during

the hearing of the case to

give stay order for two

days saying it makes no dif-

ference

order in NAB references.

from this, citizens can avail

In the meeting, a briefvarious information. Toshakhana, 190m pounds references **IHC** rejects plea for

issuing stay order

ISLAMABAD (Online): notification on jail trial and Islamabad High Court court's order. (IHC) has rejected the plea for issuing stay order in Toshakhana and 190 million pounds references.

The petitions seeking cancellation of jail trials of Toshakhana and 190 million pounds references came up for hearing before a division bench of IHC comprising Chief Justice (CJ) Aamir Farooq and justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri Monday

Prosecutor General Farooq remarked case is not NAB presented the report going to end or complete. We see it on next hearing. on documents related to

vehicle registration and other facilities. City App for Public Convenience is an initiative that aims to help citizens solve the problems they face in their daily life, apart

Communications, Railways, and Maritime Affairs Shahid Ashraf Tarar, serv ing as the convener of the Election Oversight Committee, discussed election preparations with Chief Election Commissioner

Election

head briefs

CEC on polls

(CEC) Sikandar Sultan and briefed him about upcoming polls arrangements of both federal and provincial governments. In the meeting held at the Election

Commission Secretariat Muhammad Ishaq Panezai, Ashraf Tarar emphasized Director Finance, Taraqee that the committee's pri-Foundation, Jahanzaib and mary goal is to oversee elec-Regional Head of the Bank tion security, address ob-Al-Falah, Sanaullah signed stacles in arrangements, and the MoU on behalf of their

ensure measures for peace, respective organizations. additional security. The caretaker Minis-

Monday.

Bank Al-Falah



QUETTA: Medical Superintendent of the Hospital, Dr. Muhammad Ishaq Panezai, Director Finance, Taraqee Foundation, Jahanzaib and Regional Head of the Bank Al-Falah, Sanaullah signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for increasing the capacity of Cardiac Surgery Department of the Civil Sandeman Provincial Hospital

of people: Rozi Khan Mengal, Qazi Qahir Achakzai and others also spoke on this occasion. Rozi Khan Kakar and Hasnain Hashmi said that during his tenure, the party launched projects like to bridge differences Aghaz-e-Haqooq-e-Balochistan Package, 18th Amendment, Benazir Income Support Program,

which not only provided employment to thousands of people of Balochistan but also gave financial autonomy to the province. They said the Pakistan People's Party is not

fighting against any party or candidate, but against communication with Paki-Safiullah inflation, unemployment. Civil Hospital, Taraqee, Bank Al-Falah:

MoU signed for increasing capacity of Cardiac Surgery Dept. Independent Report

ter Finance, QUETTA: The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed for increasing the capacity of Cardiac Surgery Department of the Civil Sandeman Provincial Hospital, here on emony

Bank Al-Falah would pro-Cardiac Surgery depart-ment would also be done

under the MoU

stress that Pakistan and Iran are friendly neighbors, and both are good friends of China. China is committed to upholding regional and international peace and stability and supports Iran and Pakistan in continuing

Wang says:

China supports

Pakistan,

Iran to bridge

differences

thru dialogue

BEIJING (APP): :China on

Monday said it supported

Pakistan and Iran in bridg-

ing differences through dia-

Chinese Foreign Min-

good friends.

through dialogue and consultation,' Responding to a question about China's Vice Minister Sun Weidong's ongoing visit to Pakistan and Vice Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu's phone call with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani last night, he said that China maintained close

> dents have also effected due stan and Iran. When asked if was to closure of universities. China mediating between Pakistan and Iran?, he said, Several educational institutions have also been

istry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin during his regular briefing said, "I want to 22 August a brief and in Winsk, Belards in April, 2021, while the fourth one was being held in Pakistan from January in the relevant areas of mu-22-24, a news release said. tual interest.

> **Security concerns** Bahria, Air, National **Defense universities close** for an indefinite period

> ISLAMABAD (Online): closed in areas of these universities in Islamabad. Three universities of Islamabad have been closed Sources of university for an indefinite period due administration said that stuto security concerns.

> dents were notified late According to sources, night about the indefinite the directives to close closure of universities. Bahria, Air and National Islamabad Police said that security is already tight Defense universities have

> been issued on Monday. due to elections and sit-ins Final examinations of stuin Press Club, Islamabad. Security agencies have

also conducted search operations in suburban areas of Islamabad



OUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafqaat presiding over a meeting regarding Quetta City App for facilitation of people.

Entrepreneurship stimulates employment growth, creates job opportunities for rural communities: Speakers

By Rafiullah Mandokhail

ZHOB: 'Although unemployment is considered to to the youth on employbe the most challenging soment opportunities through cial problem in poverty-hit Balochistan, entrepreneurship. 'In order but Balochistan Livelihoods to promote livelihoods through enterprise developand Entrepreneurship Program' financed by the World ment and job creation, BLEP has been implebank to promote enterprise development and livelimented in eight targeted dishoods supports the local tricts in Balochistan including Zhob and neighboring entrepreneurs and individu-Sherani districts. The als to enhance profitability, project is financed by the job creation and income is a blessing for the province', World Bank and executed by the Planning and Develsaid the speakers at a semiopment (P&D) department nar entitled 'Citizen En-Balochistan,' he said. gagement and Awareness Seminar' held at the Cul-Deputy Director Mines tural hall here. The seminar and Minerals department was attended by male and Balochistan Abdul Razzaq female community mem-Kakar and Director AWARbers, journalist Rafiullah Mandokhail and people Balochistan Muhammad Abid Sherani said that the from different walks of life. District Coordinator five-year project has a sig-BLEP Afzal Khan in his

keynote speech said that evaluation that aims at proorganizing the seminar was moting agriculture and liveaimed at creating awareness stock sectors and equips the and providing information youth with vocational skills

BLEP officials, forestry expert Haji Abdul Wahid, livestock expert Dr Iqbal, community development experts Kelamullah and Najibullah also spoke on the occasion and said that BLEF program works on different sectors including livestock, mining, tourism, small industries and forestry. Around 10,000 male and female unemployed youths have been imparted vocational train-Speaking at the event, ing in electrical, plumbing, car-motorcycle repairing, carpentry, welding and IT sectors, along with the provision of tool kits. Moreover, tuck shops, Zaranj rickshaws and cattle have also been provided for the livelihood to thousands nificant role in poverty from the rural communities.

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Abdullah Khan, Additional Secretary, Arif Khan, Chief Planning Officer Health, Abdul Rasool Zehri and Section Officer, Riasat witnessed the signing cer Under the MoU, the

The MoU was signed among the Civil Hospital, vide bends, medical equip-Taraqee Foundation and ment and machinery and surgery kits for the cardiac The Medical Superintendent of the Hospital, Dr. patients at the Cardiac Surgery department of the Civil Hospital, as informed on the occasion of MoU signing. In addition to this, the repair and renovation of the