COAS says

Purpose of social media,

propaganda is to spread

uncertainty, chaos, despair

Pakistan's forces always ready to tackle

any kind of threat and conspiracy; Youth,

guardians of the bright and sublime

traditions of the nation and country

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Chief of Army Staff

(COAS), General Syed Asim

Munir on Wednesday said

youth were the guardians of

the bright and sublime tra-

ditions of the nation and

country, the epitome of

Allama Iqbal and Quaid-e-

Azam's visionary leader-

National Youth Conference'

at Jinnah Convention Cen-

ter, he said: "It gives me great

pleasure to address the fu-

ture builders of Pakistan and

the establishment of Paki-

stan highlighted the core is-

sue that Islamic culture and

civilization were different

from Hindus in all respects

and Muslims might not

adopt Western civilization

should have immense confi-

dence in their country, na-

tion, culture, civilization and

themselves. "The youth

part in the coming elections.

The youth, he said

The Army Chief said

Shaheen of Iqbal.'

Addressing 'Pakistan

and nation," he added. He said Pakistan Army

could fight against terror-

ists, but the cooperation of

the entire nation was im-

the main objective of social

media and propaganda was

to spread uncertainty,

chaos and despair, whereas

social media news verifica-

tion was critical as without

research and positive think-

ing, society remained cha-

otic. Citing verses of the Holy

Quran on disinformation, he saida news: "Allah Almighty

says: 'O believers! If a

transgressor brings news,

you should firstly confirm

Pakistan was just like the

Tayyaba state (referring to

that were founded under the

sublime banner of Kalima-

e-Tayyaba, the Army Chief said. "Allah Almighty has

blessed Pakistan with abun-

dant natural resources, ag-

Islamic State of Medina)

The establishment of

The COAS said that

perative in that regard.

Indenendent

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PM for rejecting, collectively fighting enemies' propaganda against Pakistan

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

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

addressing the Pakistan National Youth Convention 2024 as the chief guest, said the youth could play a constructive role in dealing with this emerging national security challenge provided they remained focused, and fact checked all details through authentic information from the state institutions rather than falling prey

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

armed forces in the fight against the menace of ter-The prime minister, rorism with full commitment and professional excellence

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

our population," he added.
Addressing the conference, the COAS underscored that the youth were Pakistan's biggest asset, and to the propaganda. Pakistan's biggest asset, and Chief of Army Staff all optimism of a brighter

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

> The COAS emphasized upon the importance of national unity and harmony to overcome multifarious challenges con-

great prospects in agricul-



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi addressing a ceremony to commemorate the International Day of Education.

Solangi for improving fact check mechanism to counter misinformation

LAHORE (APP): Care- tained. taker Federal Minister for and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi Wednesday said that the mechanism for fact-checking will have to be improved in the arena of digital media to counter fake news and misinformation.

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

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

challenges of the digital age were also great as artificial intelligence, deep fake, voice cloning and misinformation factories have made it diffi-

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

cult to sift fact from fiction.

are being done by using artificial intelligence and voice The fundamental prin-

ciple of journalism was the gatekeeper system to verify the facts but the new media ignored gatekeeper"

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



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

Dr. Gohar Ejaz assumes charge of caretaker **Interior Minister**



ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Industries and Production Division Dr. Gohar Eiaz HI, SI on Wednesday assumed the charge of caretaker Federal Minister for

Senior officials of the Ministry welcomed Dr. Gohar Ejaz on this arrival in the Ministry of Inte-

The Interior Minister was given a detailed brief-

ing regarding the Ministry of Interior and its subsidiaries in the Introductory meeting with senior officers of the ministry.

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

Sarfraz Bugti had resigned from the portfolio for taking part in the general elections of

Dr. Gohar Ejaz is a notable figure in the dynamic second generation of business and industry leadership. Being the accomplished son of the late Senator Sheikh Ejaz Ahmed, he is a name synonymous with unparalleled business wisdom.

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

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

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

The top court rejected the appeal of JUI candidate Abdul Hafeez and upheld the decision of the Election Tribunal and th Balochistan High Court. Tribunal

During the course of roceeding, the petitioner awyer adopted the stance that his client has completed his sentence announced in a graft reference.

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

SLAMABAD (APP) he Islamabad High Court IHC) on Wednesday reserved its verdict on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder's plea challenging his jail trial in the Гoshakhana and Al-Qadir Trust cases, following the completion of arguments.

A two-member IHC bench comprising Chief Justice Aamir Faroog and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri heard the case.

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

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

IMF will continue further talks on the Standby (SBA) Arrangement programme with the newly elected government of Pakistan after highly anticipated general elections.

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

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

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

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

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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): figure of 26 million out-ofschool children was worrisome for the country and exemplified other countries including Sri Lanka and Bangladesh where children enrollment was around 98 to 100 percent.

He said the educating the children was of paramount importance to produce a skilled and qualified workforce, not merely the

Lauding the contribu-tion of the partner organisations, the president said the country should take advantage of their services for benefit of the future generations.

He informed the gathering that since Pakistan's inception, around 55,000 schools were built and the enrolment of out-of-school children required another 50,000 schools which was extremely difficult, considering educational budget of He said the alarming the provinces. In such a sce-

self handcuffed, jailed and

convicted. He deplored that

five judges had deposed him from the PM's Office for

not taking a salary from his

The former premier wondered why the people of Pakistan faced distress

after his removal, express-

ing his deep concern for

Nawaz stated that his heart would be at peace only if the people of Palistan found relief from

kistan found relief from

the prevailing crises of in-

flation, unemployment,

energy shortfall and ter-

The venue of the PML-N rally reverberated

with the chants of "Mian

Saab, We love you. Mian

Saab, We love you", as the

former three-time premier

ated the enthusiasm of

porters and constituents.

saying that he had never

seen such a sight on a very

ISLAMABAD: Relatives of Baluchistan missing persons stands in a queue

waiting for boarding in a bus after the finish Sitting protest (Dharna) in fron

of National Press Club in Federal Capital.

cold day.

Nawaz Sharif appreci-

walked up to the stage.

their plight.

PMLN will generate employment

opportunities for youth after

coming into power: Nawaz

SAHIB

(INP): PML-N Quaid,

Muhammad Nawaz Sharif

has assured to generate em-

ployment opportunities for

youth after coming into

gathering in Nankana Sahib

today, he said PML-N aims

at undertaking historical de-

velopment work with a

commitment to rebuild the

ing the public is the manifesto of PML-N.

Wednesday asserted that

Pakistan plunged into cri-

ses after he was unjustly

removed as the prime min-

ister questioned why he

was ousted on false charges

when he had no enmity with

anyone. "I was not an im-

tioned why a prime minis-

ter, who played a key role

in making Pakistan a

nuclear power, found him-

ported prime minister."

The former prime min-

Nawaz further gues-

ister on false charges.

Nawaz Sharif said serv-

Nawaz Sharif on

country

Addressing at a public

nario, the out-of-box solutions were a must to cope with the challenge, he

Reiterating his suggestion to use the mosque plat-form as a centre of learning, he said the worship places were equipped with all basic facilities including electricity and clean drinking water. The platform can be used to teach out-of-school children in alternative timings including both boys and girls at separate mosques he added.

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

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

ECP unveils final list of ten minority

ISLAMABAD (APP) The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has unveiled the ultimate compilation of ten minority seats within the National Assem-

The final list consists of candidates from different parties, with 10 representing Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) 5 from Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F), 2 from Tehreek-e Labbaik (TLP), 7 from Pakistan People's Party (PPP), from Jamaat-e-Islami, and from Mutahidda Quom

Religious Ministry appeals for Namaz-e-Istisqa

the country.

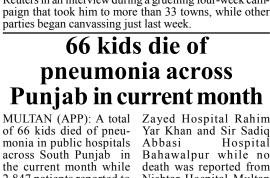
A spokesperson of the ministry appealed to the Ulema and Khatibs in villages, towns, and cities nationwide to actively participate in a special prayer, seeking divine mercy in the form of rainfall, considering the prolonged dry spel lasting for many months.

seats in NA

Movement (MQM).

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony has urged the public to perform Namaz-e-Istisqa (Prayer for rain) due to the ongoing drought, which is causing health issues and smog problems throughout

the party workers, sup-



Health Department

South Punjab Spokesperson Assad Ullah Shahzad told APP on Wednesday that 41 deaths were reported from Children Complex Multan, nine from Bahawal Victoria Hospital Bahawalpur, 14 from Allama Iqbal Teaching Hospital D G Khan, and one each from Sheikh lungs.

Bahawalpur while no death was reported from Nishtar Hospital Multan by January 23. He stated that as

many as 556 pneumonia patients visited out patient departments and 2.291 admitted to Accident & Emergency wards, with 2.207 of them recovered. It may be mentioned that pneumonia is an infection that inflames the air sacs in one or both

should be sure that they are scion of a great homeland riculture and young man-power," he added.

Would prefer to form

govt with independent

candidates if elected: Bilawal

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

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

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

its iconic 'bat' symbol, most of the independents would

comprise PTI leaders who are contesting the upcoming

elections as independent candidates. Party leader Gohar

Khan has also expressed fears of horse-trading and floor

It should be noted that after the PTI was stripped of

Positioning himself as an alternate to the PML-N and PTI, Bilawal had recently called on supporters of ex-PM Imran Khan to vote for him while their leader is in jail. In the 2013 elections, the PPP came second after PML-N, garnering 42 of the 342 seats up for grabs. In 2018, with 54 seats, it was runner-up to the parties of both Nawaz and Imran. However, Bilawal ruled out joining hands with either

contender saying he preferred to form a government with independent candidates. The PPP chairman spoke to Reuters in an interview during a gruelling four-week campaign that took him to more than 33 towns, while other

the current month while 2,847 patients reported to health facilities.

tion.

Daily doice of Masse Independent

Political hustle bustle ahead of elections

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

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

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

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

Human smuggling

Azwar Shakeel

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

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

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

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

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

Smugglers operate

network

on the basis of an

organised

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

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

own territory.

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

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

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

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

Genocidal collusion

Mahir Ali

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

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

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

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

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

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

This phenomenon

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

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

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

its challenged regional

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

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

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

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

Commerce News

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

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

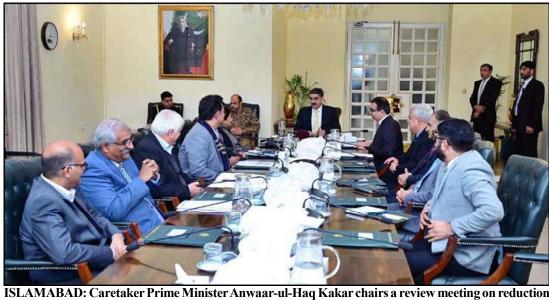
institutional, governance, and structural constraints, campus here.

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

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

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

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



of the energy sector's circular debt.



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

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

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

new EU parliament and EU review

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

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

Rupee gains 12 paisa against dollar

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

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

PM for effective, durable

strategy to do away with

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

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

He participants of the meeting

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PSX stays bullish, gains 368 points

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

APTMA

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

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

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

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

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

Independent Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa government

has urged the federation to

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

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker

Minister for Newly

Merged Districts Affairs,

Industries, Commerce and

Technical Education, Dr.

Aamer Abdullah in this

regard, has forwarded

suggested projects to the

Planning Commission

Islamabad pertaining to

communication and works,

KP govt for special focus

on merged districts

in five year plan

give special attention to the and other sectors in NMDs

newly merged districts that will be included in

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

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

trade and IT sector

industrial development

energy, agriculture irrigation, health, education

PSDP under five years new

communication projects

construction of Peshawar,

Mohmand, Bajaur and

Motorway has been included.

rehabilitation of existing

trade corridors in NMDs.

at a cost of 10 billion

rupees is also included in

Similarly

four-line

plan, says a handout.

Timergara's

maintenance

these proposals

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

Thursday January 25, 2024

Training session held to combat dengue

conference will find

different ways.

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

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

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



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

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

Punjab govt pledges

full support to GCT trust

expansion to deprived areas

Education here, he establishment of 166

emphasised the government's charitable schools in

commitment to providing underprivileged areas of

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

He expressed these

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

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

Independent Report

LAHORE: Punjab Health

Minister Professor Dr Javed

announced unwavering

support for the renowned

Sindh-based non-profit

Green Crescent Trust (GCT)

to extend its educational

Speaking at an event on the International Day of

services to Puniab.

Akram

Wednesday

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

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

in rural and deprived areas.

The ceremony saw Lahore-

based businessmen and

industrialists endorsing

GCT's initiative to enrol

100,000 out-of-school

children in Sindh by constructing 250 schools in

Dr Akram praised GCT's 29-year journey,

Sindh with an enrollment

remote regions.

acknowledging

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

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

3 die, van

carrying

laborers met

accident

took place at Uchhar

Nullah. Three persons died on the spot while seven

teams rushed to the scene

on information and started

injured have been shifted to

district headquarters

The police and rescue

The dead bodies and

were injured critically.

rescue activities.

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

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

filed in ATC led by Judge

CM Punjab chairs 37th cabinet meeting

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

World Bank country director calls on CM KP

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

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

Nadeem Durrani, Di

Najeeb Ullah, Dr. Syed

Sarfaraz Ali Shah

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

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

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali addressing

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

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

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

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

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

Mykhailo Podolyak, a Ukrainian presidential ad-

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

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

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

Donald Trump closes in on Biden rematch after New Hampshire win

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

and securing an extraordi-

nary White House rematch

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

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

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

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



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

Former Taiwan ally Nauru re-establishes diplomatic ties with China

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

ese diplomatic allies there.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ahmed Jan, Engineer Aamir discussed on the occasion.

UN chief warns that Israel's

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

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

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

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

Palestinians can live side-

North Korea fires cruise missiles off west coast, Seoul says

Monitoring Desk SEOUL: North Korea

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Minister

of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Nauru Lionel

Aingimea shake hands after signing a Joint Com-

munique on the Resumption of Diplomatic Rela-

tions between China and Nauru, at Diaoyutai State

Guesthouse, in Beijing, China.

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

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

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

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

2020 election. violates Iraq's sovereignty her former boss

Minister Shahid Ashraf

Pakistan benefiting from first CPEC phase; engaged with China for next one: PM

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

ond phase required road air connectivity around the industrialisation

oped a lot of connectivity road, air and rest of connectivity corridor. We are benefiting from the ecosystem of doing trade with one another," he remarked.

Asked how he articulated the Chinese economy, Prime Minister Kakar said, "I am always sanguine about it. There are 1.5 billion consumers and 1.5 billion lion producers... How can you divorce 1.5 billion people from 8 billion people? It has to remain connected.'

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

Questioned about his government's priorities, the prime minister highlighted the economic revival, the transformation of

said, the government needed to earn more and

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

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

Prime Minister Kakar said the government was also focusing on the Special Economic Zones and



FAISALABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmad visiting library of Jamia Šalfia Hajjiabad after addressing the annual ceremony.

Raja Pervaiz confident of surprising victory in Punjab ahead polls

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa- stricts politicians from enkistan Peoples Party (PPP) senior leader Raja Pervaiz Ashraf expressed confidence on Wednesday that his party was ready to give a surprise in Punjab during the upcoming general elec-election campaign, Ashraf tions scheduled for Febru- commended the party's ef-

news channel, Ashraf highlighted the possibility of forming alliances with other political parties after gen-

He emphasized, "In politics, there is no perma-

gaging in negotiations with each other." Ashraf said, "Every party and candidate try their level best to clinch victory in the elections."

forts, stating, "The PPP is running an excellent electoral campaign. Praising PPP co-chair-

man Asif Ali Zardari for his leadership, Ashraf noted, 'Asif Ali Zardari is a seasoned politician and he has taken correct decisions durnent opposition that re- ing difficult times."

ICCPO awards commendation certificates, cash prizes to cops showing outstanding performance

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: According to the details, the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan distributed commendation certificates and cash prizes among 114 officers and officials who showed outstanding performance in the operation division during the year 2023.



In this regard, a ceremony was held at Police Lines Headquarters Islamabad, which was attended by ICCPO Dr Akbar Nasir Khan as the chief guest, while CPO Law and Order, AIG Logistics, AIG General, AIG Establishment, SSP Operations, DPOs, SDPOs and other officials. ICCPO awarded certificates of appreciation and cash rewards to SDPOs, in-charge police stations, investigating officers and officials for solving cases on merit, conducting the best investigations and ensuring the recovery of stolen goods during 2023. ICCPO appreciated the officers and officials posted in Operation Division and In

vestigation Wing for performing their duties efficiently. He further said that bravery, civility and transparency should be the distinguishing marks of Islamabad Capital Police. All officers should perform their duties with the same zeal and bravery. You all are part of an excellent police force. Your every work is highlighted at national and international level, he added. On the occasion, the officials described the acquisition of commendation certificates and prizes as commendable.

CDA taking concrete measures to protect capital natural beauty

ISLAMABAD (APP): Under the directions of Chief Commissioner Islamabad and Chairman CDA Capt. ® Anwar ul Haq, concrete and effective measures have been taken to protect the natural beauty of Islamabad from environmental pollution and smog. In this regard, the Enforcement Wing has conducted a mega operation against the owners of the plastic factory in Islamabad's Sector I-13, Shams Colony, whose smoke was causing envi-

area. The owners were summoned and presented before the court of Senior Special Magistrate CDA.

The Senior Special Magistrate ordered that the factories of the accused be sealed immediately and sentenced the accused to imprisonment and fine and remanded in custody.

According to the details, Chief Commissioner Islamabad and Chairman CDA issued strict instructions to the Enforcement, **Environment and Sanitation** ronmental pollution in the Wing a few days ago

NIH issues advisory on **Diphtheria**

ISLAMABAD (APP): On the direction of Caretaker Federal Minister for Health, the National Institute of Health (NIH) has issued an advisory for the prevention of Diphtheria.

In a statement, Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan said that the risk of Diphtheria spread increases slightly in winter. The possibility of widespread spread of this disease in Pakistan is low. He said that the purpose of the advisory is to inform health institutions about preventive and control measures. He said that the health department and concerned authorities should take preventive measures against Diphtheria.

NHMP close routes due to heavy fog

SLAMABAD (APP) The National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) on Wednesday said the Motorway M-1 and Swat Expressway has been closed for all traffic due to heavy fog.

According to NHMP

spokesperson, the Motorway M-1, Peshawar to Burhan and Swat Expressway from Colonel Sher Khan to Ismaila has been closed due to heavy fog. The purpose of closing the motorway was to prevent accidents and protect the lives of motorway travelers. The spokesperson said citizens were requested to avoid unnecessary traveling during foggy hours and they should complete their journey in daylight and reach their respective destinations before the onset of fog.

IHC orders for re-elections in PCATP

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday issued directives for holding re-election in Pakistan Council of Architects and Town Planners (PCATP) on allegation of rigging.

The court also in structed the chairman PCATP to address the matter itself.

Justice Babar Sattar heard the case against the elections in PCATP filed through Barrister Umar Ijaz Gilani. During the course of proceeding, the court observed that it was clear that the elections of PCATP

were rigged. The PCATP's lawyer adopted the stance that it has been decided to re-conciliate the matter between two parties.



LAHORE: Caretaker Federal Minister of Communications, Shahid Ashraf Chairing the meeting at Chief Secretary Office.

Aneeq Ahmed promises more measures to facilitate Hajis this year

FAISALABAD (APP): had planned provision of Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs & Intending pilgrims with 180 terfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmad said on Wednesday that a comprehensive mechanism would be adopted to facilitate Hajis during the upcoming Hajj

Talking to the media during his visit to Jamia Salfia Hajiabad here, he said that Hajj 2024 was expected on June 24 or 25, and no compromise would be made on quality of Hajj arrangements and facilities for the intending pilgrims.

intending pilgrims with 180 minutes of free international calls, in addition to facilitating them with a 30-kg suitcase free of cost. This suitcase would bear QR Code, which would help in protection of the intending pilgrims and their luggage.

He said that Road-to-Makkah facility was al-ready available at Islamabad Airport, but this year Karachi airport was also included in it. In a later phase, the facility would

He said that a mobile app would also be provided to the intending pilgrims, which would help them know the correct time and schedule of their flights. This app would also help the pilgrims to easily search their groups and camps at the holy land, he added.

Aneeq Ahmad said that the Hajj expenses during 2024 would be Rs.100,000 less than the previous year. Last year, the pilgrim had to deposit Rs.1.175 million for Hajj, whereas this year the intending pilgrims. also be available at other He said the government airports of the country, he Rs.1.075 million, he added.

Sindhi stresses for quality education in shaping bright future of country

ISLAMABAD (APP): is moving at a fast pace to needs and requirements of Caretaker Minister for develop the education infra-Federal Education and Professional Training, Mr. Madad Ali Sindhi on World Education Day' stressed the pivotal role of quality skilled-based education in shaping the bright future of the country and encouraged youth to prepare themselves to confront future challenges.

Talking to a private news channel, he said that bringing children outside of schools into the educational system is need of hour to address poverty, health, social, and societal issues. He said that Pakistan structure and policies at every level, adding, that BISP-like programs should introduce more to enrol more students in schools. He said that there is

also a need for more trained and skilled teachers and the caretaker government was taking steps practically, adding, that skill-based education will only meet market requirements. "We must transform our education system following the modern trends," said the minister.

"A human resource equipped with skills is the

the modern age driven by unprecedented technological advancements", the minister mentioned.

He said that the caretaker government was working on comprehensive policies which would be adopted keeping in view the human resource demand of the country, region and other world nations.

He said that the min istry with the coordination of relevant departments will utilize all existing infrastructure and enhancement of teachers' capacity building, besides increasing the outreach of education.



Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick in a group photo with the organizers and distinguished guests at launching ceremony of National Commission on the Rights of Child NCRC's strategic plan 2023-2026 and policy brief on Child Trafficking in Islamabad.

Hong Kong exam body approves Urdu as a subject for secondary education

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) and the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE) of Pakistan have reached an agreement for the inclusion of Urdu as a Category C subject for the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE) from 2026 onwards.

Under the agreement, the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education would administer the Urdu examinations in Hong Kong including framing question papers, assisting in the registration process, grading, marking, and dissemination of results to HKEAA, said a press release from Pakistan's Consulate General of Pakistan in Hong Kong on Wednes-

The results will then be recognized by the

Prison at H-16, Islamabad".

HKEAA for the assessment of the HKDSE category C Urdu subject.

The agreement marks a significant development that led to the inclusion of Urdu as a Category C subject in the HKDSE. With the agreement in

place, Urdu language proficiency will be formally recognized contributing to the comprehensive evaluation of candidates' language skills in the HKDSE. This will also help students with a background in Urdu, enhance their opportunities for higher education and future pathways.

The Consulate General of Pakistan in Hong Kong played a key role in facilitating communication and cooperation between the FBISE and HKEAA, acting as a bridge that helped streamline the negotiations and ensured smooth collaboration between the two organisations.

sign MoU on cooperation in sports, physical culture

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Russia on Wednesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at enhancing bilateral cooperation in the fields of sports and

The MoU was signed between Pakistan's Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination and Sports Ministry of Russia, Pakistan's Embassy in Moscow said on its X account. The document was signed by Pakistan's Ambassador to Russia Muhammad Khalid Jamali and Russian Sports Minis-

Pak. Russia

physical culture.

ter Oleg Matytsin. Meanwhile, the newly appointed Ambassador of

Egypt to Norway Dr Abdelrehim Mohamed Metwally paid a courtesy call on Pakistan's Ambassador in Norway Saadia Altaf Qazi in Oslo.



The meeting decided Brig. (Retd.) Muzaffar Ali Ranjha, Chairman, PMIC is chairing the meeting at that volunteers and retired PMIC, PM Office, Islamabad on PSDP project titled "Construction of Model police officers would be hired for additional and dis-

orders thorough security measures for elections LAHORE (APP): Federal type of fake news during and after election process;

Caretaker Minister for Communications Shahid Ashraf Tarar on Wednesday directed all departments concerned to craft a comprehensive and thorough security plan for general election 2024, leaving no issues unresolved, aiming to reassure the public of their safety.

He said that with the

arrangements of caretaker setup, a clear message should reach masses that "they are safe". He was chairing a meeting regarding preparations for general election 2024, held here at Chief Secretary (CS) Punjab office on Wednes-day. CS Zahid Akhtar Zaman, Inspector General Police Dr. Usman Anwar, Secretary Local Government Dr. Ahmed Javed Qazi, Special Secretary Interior Fazlur Rehman, representatives of other lawenforcement departments also attended the meeting.

The minister emphasised extraordinary coordination among departments and urged sharing of data between provincial and federal authorities in line with preparations for providing a conducive environment to the public.

He also directed the departments to focus on social media and prepare themselves to counter any

a comprehensive strategy should be chalked out in this regard so that any type of anarchy be avoided, he

The Punjab chief secretary said they were providing full support to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for conducting free, fair and transparent elections and administrative officers had been directed to ensure the best arrangements, and a handbook had been prepared to guide the staff performing election duties at every district, the chief secretary

During the meeting, IGP Punjab Dr Usman Anwar gave a detailed briefing on security arrangement for general election. He said that some 49,817 polling stations had been set up in 34,228 buildings. "Every polling station will have three personnel while sixlayer security would be provided to each polling station with deployment of 147,800 personnel in the province, while extraordinary arrangement would be made for sensitive polling stations," he added. The meeting was told that the first phase of training for polling staff had been completed, while the second phase was in process.



ISLAMABAD: Inspector General Communication and Information Technology Lt Gen Muhammad Ageel, Defence and Military Attache of Royal Thai Colonel Thanai Permpul, and others cutting the cake during Armed Forces Day of Royal Thai, at a local hotel in the Federal Capital.

Pak urges 'concrete' UN steps to end Israeli Gaza slaughter; pushes for 2-state solution

(APP): :A senior Pakistani will be able, finally, to adopt diplomat has called for a resolution demanding a "concrete steps" by the complete cessation of hos-United Nations to stop the Israeli slaughter of the manitarian assistance for people in Gaza, as he underscored that a lasting end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can only come through a two-state solu-

Security Council, for the entire membership of the United Nations, to consider measures by which to reverse this wanton rejection of peace," Ambassador Munir Akram told the 15member body on Tuesday, referring to the repudiation and the imperative to of the two-state formula by avoid further regional es-Israel.

"It is now time for the

"We hope the Council the besieged population of Gaza, and international protection for the Palestinian people," he said in a high-level Council debate on the Middle East crisis.

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



ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis, Muhammad Jawad Sohrab Malik presenting shield to Bismah Usman on achieving prestigious Outstanding Cambridge

Capital police finalizes security plan for elections

Independent Report SLAMABAD: A highlevel meeting was held on Wednesday under the Chairmanship of ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan with regard to security arrangement and preparation of

elections 2024 According to Pakistan Television News, all Capital Police Officers, SSP Operations, AIG Operations along with DPOs participated in the meeting. During the meeting, security plan regarding the election has been finalized.

The elections will be administratively divided into Eastern and Western Divisions under the supervision of DIG level officers. All police personnel's vacations have been canceled and vacations have been banned until further

500 women volunteers have been requested from the District Administration for women polling stations. Violation of the election code of conduct will not be tolerated. No exception will be taken for display of arms, protest, air firing or disturbance of public order before, during and after the election, it de-

ciplinary duties.

The meeting decided that cameras would be installed at all sensitive polling stations besides establishing a central control room in Safe City Islamabad. 10000 personnel of Islamabad Police and other Law Enforcement Agencies will perform their duties. The first priority of the Islamabad Capital Police is to hold peaceful elections, the meeting decided.

Islamabad police has asked the citizens to report any unusual activity on call 15 or ICT 15 App.