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Would prefer to form

govt with independent

candidates if elected: Bilawal

LAHORE (INP): In an in- PML-N, garnering 42 of terview with Reuters in Larkana, Bilawal said, "You In 2018, with 54 seats, it

was runner-up to the par-ties of both Nawaz and

ruled out joining hands

with either contender say-

ing he preferred to form a

government with indepen-

spoke to Reuters in an in-

terview during a gruelling

four-week campaign that

took him to more than 33

towns, while other parties

began canvassing just last

bitious plans to combat cli-

mate change form the core

of his effort to become the

prime minister, which, if

successful, would make him

its youngest premier since

Youth appeal and am-

dent candidates.

week.

In the 2013 elections, his mother Benazir Bhutto

However, Bilawal

The PPP chairman

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): this emerging national secu-Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday affirmed that fact checked all details against the menace of teras responsible citizens, the through authentic informa- rorism with full commitpeople of Pakistan must tion from the state institu- ment and professional exreject and collectively fight the vicious propaganda onslaught unleashed by the enemies against Pakistan in

the recent past. The prime minister, guest of honour. addressing the Pakistan National Youth Convention 2024 as the chief guest, said the youth could play a constructive role in dealing with

tions rather than falling prey cellence. to the propaganda.

(COAS) General Asim would not have been pos-Munir, NI (M), was the

"We, as a nation, have fought the menace of terrorism most valiantly, offering unparalleled sacri-

they remained focused, and armed forces in the fight

"Pakistan's successes Chief of Army Staff in the war against terrorism sible 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

Prime Minister Kakar Pakistan's biggest asset, and rity challenge provided appreciated the role of all optimism of a brighter future was associated with

> Conveying the message of hope, the COAS 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

know, lots of independent

politicians, probably the

highest (number) in our his-

tory, are taking part in the

coming elections."

It should be noted

that after the PTI was stripped of its iconic 'bat' symbol, most of the inde-pendents would comprise

PTI leaders who are con-

testing the upcoming elec-

tions as independent can-didates. Party leader Gohar

Khan has also expressed fears of horse-trading and

Positioning himself as an alternate to the PML-N and PTI, Bilawal had re-

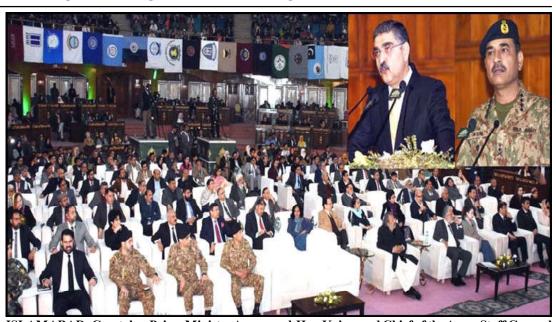
cently called on supporters of ex-PM Imran Khan

to vote for him while their

the PPP came second after was in office.

floor crossing.

leader is in jail



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.



SARGODHA: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addresses to his supporters during public gathering meeting regarding Election Campaign in connection of the General Election 2024 coming ahead,

AI's role needs interdisciplinary discourse to promote unconventional thinking: CM Baqar

day life, technological advancement, energy conservation, alternate energy resources and the pivotal role of artificial intelligence (AI) have made it essential to carry out such interdisciplinary discourse for promotion of unconventional thinking, breaking the silos and challenging the norms which are gradually becoming obsolete. These views were expressed by him while addressing a Two-day international conference on 'Blurring the Barriers: Interdisciplinary of Architecture', organized by Dawood University of Engineering and Technology here Wednesday.

Secretary U&B Noor Samoo, Vice Chancellor minister said that somehow, Engr Prof. Dr Samreen

taker Federal Minister for

Information, Broadcasting

and Parliamentary Affairs

Murtaza Solangi Wednes-

day said that the mecha-

nism for fact-checking will

have to be improved in the

arena of digital media to

counter fake news and mis-

at the 2nd International Me-

dia and Communication

Conference here, he said

that the year 2024 was the

year of elections in differ-

ent countries including Pa-

kistan, India, Indonesia,

He urged the media in-

United States of America.

dustry to play a responsible

role as its responsibility was

to protect the public inter-

and Technology.

Delivering his speech

Solangi for improving

fact check mechanism to

counter misinformation

LAHORE (APP): Care- est. "Journalism is primarily

LAHORE: Caretaker Federal Minister for Infor-

mation and Broadcasting, Murtaza Solangi address-

ing the Second International Media and Communi-

cation Conference at University of Management

Maqbool Baqar said that the University was the first institution in Pakistan to introduce Degree pro-Management, almost 63 years ago. "The University has produced great Alumni who contributed to the establishment of PTV, Radio Pakistan, SUPARCO, PTCL and such other organizations. "On a global front, they established their worth in the field of Architecture and remained part of landmark infrastructures across the world," he said.

this institution lost its way Hussain, Chairman Sindh Higher Education Commis-it deserved. "Vision, integ-

about defending the public's

right to know," Murtaza

Solangi maintained. The

minister said the challenges

of the digital age were also

great as artificial intelligence.

deep fake, voice cloning and

misinformation factories

have made it difficult to sift

the benefits of modern tech-

nology in media, there were

many risks also involved.

He said that many tasks are

being done by using artifi-

cial intelligence and voice

cloning. The fundamental

principle of journalism was

the gatekeeper system to

verify the facts but the new

media had ignored "the

He said that besides

fact from fiction

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Caretaker Chief Minister Justice (Retd) Maqbool

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Caretaker Chief Minister Ushice (Retd) Maqbool

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Chancellor, Prof Abdul Waheed Bhutto and others

Waheed Bhutto and others the rebuilding of Dawood University and emerging as a quality-conscious institution. Justice Baqar said that grams in disciplines like he was moved by the title Electronic Engineering and of the conference 'Blurring Industrial Engineering and the Barriers, but I delved further to know more and some real out-of-the-box thinking. The titles of plenary sessions of the conference presenting 180-degree contrast disciplines yet are important to be clubbed together for better design considerations, the CM said and added the Technoteam-built Dubai and other logical advancement, energy conservation, alternate en-

The caretaker chief

was happily shocked to see ergy resources, and the pivotal role of artificial intelligence (AI) in everyday routine life has made it essen-

disciplinary discourse. IMF to 'send' review mission to Pakistan after elections 2024

tial to carry out such inter-

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 Arrangement (SBA) programme with the newly elected government of Pakistan after highly anticipated general elections.

66 kids die of pneumonia across Punjab

in current month MULTAN (APP): A total of 66 kids died of pneumonia in public hospitals across South Punjab in the current month while 2,847 patients reported to health facilities. Health Department South Punjab Spokesperson Assad Jllah 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 han, and one each from Sheikh Zayed Hospital Rahim Yar Khan and Sir Sadiq Abbasi Hospital Bahawalpur while no death was reported from

Nishtar Hospital Multan by January 23.

Sindh Governor meets head of One-Man Commission on Minorities Rights KARACHI (APP): Governor Sindh Kamran Khan

Tessori met head of the One-Man Commission on Minorities Rights Shoaib Suddle at the Governor's House here Wednesday.

Various issues related to the rights of minorities in Pakistan were discussed

in the meeting. The Governor said that the minorities had played an important role in the making and the development of the country. Kamran Khan Tessori said that all minorities including Christians, Hindus and Sikhs were living peacefully in Pakistan with full freedom.

He said that Pakistan was the safest country in the world for minorities and the Constitution of Pakistan also protected the fundamental rights of every person belonging to any re-



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori meeting a delegation of Ministers from Gilgit-Baltistan at the Governor House.

Sindh Police takes proactive measures to safeguard minority rights

tor General of Police (IGP) Sindh, Riffat Mukhtar Raja, and Chairman of the Oneman Commission, Dr. Shoaib Suddle, convened a meeting on Wednesday with police officers at the Central Police Office to discuss the implementation of the Supreme Court

Pakistan's decision concerning the protection of minority rights. In the course of the session, it was disclosed that police officers would be imminently recruited under the minority quota to address existing vacancies within the Sindh Police Department. Additionally, a dedicated Special Police Force within the Sindh Police, aimed at safeguarding minority worship places, is set to be established soon.

The head of the oneman commission received a detailed briefing on the implementation of the Suprême Court's decision concerning the protection of minority rights during the meeting

IGP Sindh, on this occasion, emphasized the steadfast commitment of the Sindh Police to serve and protect all citizens without discrimination, particularly prioritizing and respecting the rights of the minority community. The meticulous execution of security measures for religious places aligns with the directives of the Supreme Court. Dr. Shoaib Suddle outlined the commission's aims and objectives, emphasizing the crucial role of protecting minority rights in achieving enduring law and order.

He instructed all district police officers to establish a dedicated minority desk, appoint an officer from the minority community to their office staff, and form special investigation teams comprising minority

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, the epitome of Allama Iqbal and Quaid-e-Azam's visionary leadership:

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir on Wednesday said youth were the guardians of the bright and sublime traditions of the nation and country, the epitome of Allama Iqbal and Quaid-e-Azam's visionary leader-

Addressing 'Pakistan National Youth Conference' at Jinnah Convention Center, he said: "It gives me great pleasure to address the future builders of Pakistan and Shaheen of Iqbal."

the establishment of Paki- eration of the entire nation firm it'."

stan highlighted the core is- was imperative in that resue that Islamic culture and civilization were different from Hindus in all respects and Muslims might not adopt Western civilization and culture. The youth, he said

should have immense confidence in their country, nation, culture, civilization and themselves. "The youth should be sure that they are scion of a great homeland and nation," he added. He said Pakistan

The Army Chief said terrorists, but the coop-

gard.

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

Citing verses of the y Quran on Holy disinformation, he saida news: "Allah Almighty says: 'O believers! If a Army could fight against transgressor brings news, you should firstly con-



addressing inaugural session of 2-day International Conference at Dawood University.

Bilawal's Hyderabad public meeting to be milestone for general elections: Nisar Khuhro

HYDERABAD (APP) The Pakistan People's Party Sindh President Senator Nisar Ahmed Khuhro Wednesday said the public meeting of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in Hyderabad on February 4 will be historic and people will warmly welcome their young leader.

He expressed these views while visiting various places of Hyderabad city in connection with the preparations for the public meeting.

PPP local leader shot dead in **Jamshoro**

JAMSHORO (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) local leader Abbas Khoso was shot dead by unknown assailants in broad daylight in Jamshoro district on Wednesday.

According to the details, two armed motorcyclists opened fire on the PPP district council member Abbas Khoso who was at a shop. The PPP leader was shifted to hospital but succumbed to his wounds. The attackers managed to escape from the scene.

Soon after the incident police reached the crime scene and cordoned off the area for investigation.

An investigation into the case has been launched. said police. Earlier this month, unidentified assailants gunned down a local leader of Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) in an attack in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa' Swabi, police officials said

Complete ban on display of weapons during election 2024: Sindh Interior Minister

KARACHI (APP): Care- department can claim a lack taker Interior Minister Sindh Brigadier (Retd) Haris Nawaz on Wednesday said that there would be complete ban on the display of weapons during the general election-2024 and if any issues arise, the police, rangers and the army were fully prepared to handle He was addressing a

press conference along with caretaker Sindh Minister for Information, Minority Affairs, Social Protection and President Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi Muhammad Ahmed Shah at the Karachi Press Club here.

In a briefing to media, Brigadier (Retd) Haris Nawaz said that there should be no doubts that the preparations for the election are complete.

He emphasized that the responsibility for conducting elections lies with the Election Commission of Pakistan, while the Sindh government is fully cooperating. Funds have been released for the preparation of polling stations, and no elections.

booth rooms would only

He said that polling

of funds, he said.

have polling staff, while rangers and police would perform their duties outside the polling stations. Rangers will be allowed inside if the situation demands, he added. He said that services from various departments, including Anti-Corruption, Forest department, FIA and health workers would also be available. Efforts are being made to avoid the need for private security officers, he said. He mentioned that

there were 5,954 normal and over 12,000 sensitive and highly sensitive polling stations. A total of 122,000 police officers were included in the security measures, including 1984 personnel from the Pakistan

The minister highlighted that the chief minister had allocated a budget to all departments and their aim was to conduct transparent and impartial



KARACHI: Caretaker Interior Minister Sindh Brigadier Retired Haris Nawaz addressing a press conference at press club in Provincial Capital.

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 mamost popular. Other routes include sea travel from Gwadar to Iran through the Arabian Sea, and onwards to Turkiye pricier side, there's legal

Dubai, followed by ir- ie, mode of travel, comregular migration to fort of travel (front seat Turkiye or Libya, and on- or trunk of the car, below

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 Turkive or Libya as stepping stones to Eu-

Smugglers operate

on the basis of an

organised network 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 jor 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 agent responsible for the operations of the smuggling ring within their

own territory. The journey can cost anywhere from and Europe. On the Rs100.000 to Rs1.500.000 pricier side, there's legal air travel from Karachi to on the terms of the deal,

wards to Italy or Greece. or above the deck on a Unemployment, lack ship, etc), number of at-

tion. 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.

flected in Gaza, where the lutionary Guard advisers 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 that anyone other than a Zionist is also a human the 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 construed 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 Revoin 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. Zionist designs on Pales- But even a limited extinian territories. The change of fire serves as 'antisemitism' slogan that an unfortunate distracgreets any suggestion tion from the genocide unfolding in real time in Gaza being worthy of the same announ-ced in advance 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 reforms was imperative to the University's main which has increased; third, usher in a new era of

institutional, governance, and structural constraints, campus here.

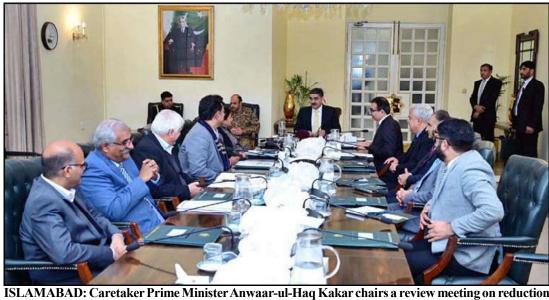
of this goal, however, is vulnerability of Pakistan's contingent upon addressing critical underlying global shocks.

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 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 stakeholders would have to dues of the power put in collective efforts for distribution companies.

He participants of the meeting

recovery of the electricity

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

> country. Addressing a high-level

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

"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

LAHORE (APP): All Chairman Ahmad Shafi 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

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

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 automotive engineering.
"I hope that thoughts future of the automotive and research shared in this 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

Thursday January 25, 2024

Training session held to combat dengue

experts involved in this

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

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

the International Day of

Speaking at an event on

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 enroll

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

ATC moved for shifting Sheikh Rashid to hospital Punjab govt pledges 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

UPPER KOHISTAN

(Online): As many as 3

people died when a van

carrying laborers met an

accident in upper Kohistan.

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

were injured critically.

rescue activities.

hospital Dasu.

The tragic incident

The police and rescue

The dead bodies and

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.

Re-issuance of Punjab Healthcare Commission (Amended) Ordinance, 2023 and approval of

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 appointment to the posts order situation.



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

Nadeem Durrani, Di Najeeb Ullah, Dr. Syed Sarfaraz Ali Shah, 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 Ahmed Jan, Engineer Aamir discussed on the occasion.

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali addressing 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

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 state-

ment 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 extraordinary 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

trapped 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,

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

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

for 10 days.

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

CM launches much-awaited e-Pay Sindh initiative for digital payment e-Service, e-registration, e-mutation

KARACHI (APP): Care- feature in the name of e-Pay taker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar on Wednesday said that the provincial government initiated a Single Digital Platform for all citizens of the province to minimize human interaction, to ensure transparency, departmental accountability and the disposal of all cases within seven working days as a step for transformation from manual mode to egovernance in the form of e-Services Sindh and e-Pay This he said while

speaking at the launching ceremony of five transformative e-services - e-registration, e-Mutation, e-Pay Sindh and Industrial Estate Management System (IEMS) that would make it easier, faster and more convenient for people to access government services. Justice ® Baqar said

that the Sindh initiative includes a digital payment

Sindh. This feature allows citizens to make payments for government services securely and conveniently through their mobile devices, Easy Paisa, Credit Card, Debit Card, ATM Machines and Banks.

The launching cer emony of e-Services Sindh was held at a local hotel where the chief minister launched it by pressing a key of the computer.
The CM said this

groundbreaking initiative will revolutionize the way citizens interact with the Sindh government.

The Board of Revenue introduced five transformative e-services that would make it easier, faster and more convenient for people to access government services. They include the E-Services Sindh Mobile App which is available at Google Playstore and App Store for Apple



meets Commission for Minority Rights Chief Shoaib Suddle at the Governor House.

Bilawal Bhutto, Asifa Bhutto are campaigning vigorously, Sherry Rehman

ISLAMABAD (Online): Vice President of PPP and Senator Sherry Rehman has said that Bilawal Bhutto and Asifa Bhutto are campaign-

Young politicians Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Asifa Bhutto Zardari have left senior politicians behind. In a statement, Sherry Rehman said that they are proving why PPP should be elected by giving their economic agenda

The promise of giving 30 lakh houses is not an election slogan but a real plan. In Sindh PPP's housing they should choose the project, thousands of youth leadership of PPP.

people were given house ownership rights.

She said that Bilawal's intention is to give relief and subsidy to oppressed people, farmers, and laborers and not to elites. He wants to form people's

She further said that Bilawal does not want to take away employment from Youth but wants to give them employment by giving youth card.

change their destiny and that of the country then

SHC declares police steps for recovery of missing

ing recovery of missing persons came up for hearing before two members bench of SHC comprising justice Naimat Ullah Phulpotu and Justice Khadim Hussain Tunio Wednesday.

The court remarked during the hearing of the case that police steps for recovery of missing perattitude of police is sorrow-

sons are not serious. The own then it is more easy to trace him.



LARKANA: Women residents of Gul Shaikh village are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands outside the SSP Office build-

Influence of technology in our daily lives is beyond

versity of Karachi Professor Dr Khalid Mahmood Iraqi said that the influence of technology in our daily lives is more than we think and it is impossible to imagine the life without technol-

ogy in today's era. views while addressing the certificate distribution ceremony on the completion of the first batch of the IAB Program graduates at the KU Audio Visual Centre on

ration with the Information Science and Technology Department of the Government of Sindh, and the University of Karachi arranged the IT training program under the banner of "IT Industry-Academia Bridge Program" for the students of the Department of Com-

Professor Iraqi said that by utilizing their skills, try to become job providers rather than job



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi addressing a ceremony to commemorate the International

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

ISLAMABAD 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 purposes.

The president, address-

ing an event in connection with the World Education Day, also suggested a mechanism to engage the newly graduated and intermediate students for teaching the outof-school children, offering hem a stipend. Additionally, he also

Sindh decides

to deploy

scouts during

elections 2024

KARACHI (INP): The

Sindh government on

Wednesday decided to de-

ploy Boy Scouts for elec-

Sindh home ministry has

penned a letter to the body

for the provision of the

Scouts for duties on

Association has been re-

quested to provide volun-

teers for duties outside sen-

sitive and highly sensitive

polling stations in Thatta,

West and South districts of

Karachi. The home ministry

has demanded 700 scouts

out of which 300 scouts

will be utilized for CCTV

election's day.

As per details, the

The Sindh Boy Scouts

tion duty on February 8.

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.

He said the alarming

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 laborers.

Lauding the contribution 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 the provinces. In such a scenario, the out-of-box solutions were a must to cope with the challenge, he

Reiterating his suggestion to use the mosque platform as a centre of learning, he said the worship places were equipped with all ba-sic 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.

IGP collaborates with KATI to transform Korangi **Industrial Area** into model zone

KARACHI (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh, Riffat Mukhtar Raja, engaged in a comprehensive meeting with a 5-member delegation from the Korangi Association of Trade & Industries (KATI), addressing ongoing business challenges and exploring mutual interests at the Central Po-

lice Office (CPO) Karachi. During the discussion, KATI extended a warm invitation to IGP Sindh, urging him to witness operational dynamics at KATI Graciously accepting, IGP Sindh assured a prompt visit to the industrial hub.

A proposal to transform the Korangi industrial area into a Model Zone was endorsed by IGP Sindh, who committed to actionable steps. Collaborative cus on completion before upcoming elections were emphasized during the dis-

SSP Capt ® Faisal Abdullah Chachar promoted in BS-20

KARACHI (APP): Capt ® Faisal Abdullah Chachar, an officer of Police Service of Pakistan (BS-19) presently posted as Senior Superintendent of Police District Central Karachi, was promoted to BS-20 on a regular basis with immediate

According to notification issued by the Establishment Division, on promotion from BS-19 to BS-20, the services of Capt ® Faisal Abdullah will remain at the disposal of the Government of Sindh, until further orders.

Meanwhile, on promotion from BS-19 to BS-20, Capt ® Faisal Abdullah Chachar relinquished the charge of SSP District Central Karachi with effect from January 24, 2024.

CAA to install latest luggage checking machines at airports

KARACHĪ (INP): The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) is to install the latest luggage-checking machines at airports in Pakistan ahead of Hajj opera tions 2024.

According to the details, the CAA has begun its preparation for the Hajj 2024 operations. Passengers going to Saudi Arabia will be thoroughly checked. Moreover, the latest

state-of-the-art machines will be imported from Saudi Arabia for Pakistani airports to scan the luggage of the people going to KSA. The sources said the

latest machines would be handed over to the Air Security Force (ASF) in February 2024. The sources further said the older baggage machines would be relaced gradually.

Earlier, the Director General Civil Aviation revealed that even the latest machines installed at the airports in Pakistan cannot detect ice - Crystal meth-

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

Caretaker Prime Minister 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

"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.

He said CPEC's second phase required road and air connectivity around industrialisation "Both sides are en-

gaged and we have devel- in the region

SLAMABAD (APP): 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 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 technology and taxation reforms.

He said Pakistan was on the middle ground amidst the discourse between Global North and South, and other conflicts



Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmad visiting library of Jamia Salfia Hajjiabad after addressing the annual ceremony.

EC adjourns hearing of contempt of EC, CEC case against Imran till Feb 20

ISLAMABAD (Online): Election Commission (EC) has adjourned hearing of contempt of EC and Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) case against PTI founder Imran Khan till February 20.

Hearing of contempt of EC case against Fawad Chaudhry was adjourned till February 21.

A 4-member bench of EC presided over by member Sindh Nisar Durrani took up contempt of EC and CEC case for hearing Wednesday. Shoaib Shaheen counsel for PTI founder apspeak of public meetings.

peared before EC.

this time. I have sought adjournment in connection with my cases from Supreme Court as I am contesting election. The hearing of this case be also adjourned after election. The elections are imminent and if action is taken against one party then the impression would go one party is being targeted. The real responsibility of EC is to hold fair and transparent election in the country. He said section 144 has been imposed in Punjab and KP. We are not being allowed to hold speak of public meetings.

KP member said the He said he has come here under the orders of EC. administration has to take such steps if the candidate "I am not having case file and I am contesting election him waves arms."

Business community attaches high hopes of relief with PML-N: Mian Zahid

KARACHI (INP): Chair- mon man miserable. man of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain has said that the business community has attached hopes with Pakistan Muslim Leagues-Nawaz (PML-N) of providing relief to them after coming into power.

He said that business community was worst effected of the prevailing situation and other hand inflation and unemployment have made the life of com-

Talking to business community on Wednesday, he said that the public was apathetic towards the upcoming elections because of their issues. However, he said the PML-N may win the elections as its economic performance has remained better than rival political parties.

Mian Zahid Hussain

stated that the upcoming election would not be as warm as it once used to be because of a lack of interest on the side of the populace, who are preoccupied with their own problems.



sitting protest (Dharna) against unjustified slabs of Sui Gas, prolong load shedding and low pressure in the city, outside the head office of Sui Southern Gas Company.

TDAP sensitize exporters on banking channels for Eurasia, CAR

KARACHI (APP): Trade empowering exporters Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) organized an awareness session to sensitize exporters about available banking channels for financial transactions between Pakistan and countries of Eurasia and Central Asia.

The main objectives of the event organized at TDAP headquarters in and knowledge-sharing for region.

with the necessary inforcomplex landscape of international transactions, said a statement issued The event witnessed

the participation of over 30 attendees in person and more than 50 participants online which demonstrates the growing inter-Karachi were to provide a est and importance of platform for networking cross-border trade in the

persons non serious

KARACHI (Online): Sindh High Court (SHC) has declared police steps in connection with recovery of missing persons non seri-

The petitions regard-

Police investigation officer informed the court about the steps taken for recovery of missing persons.

The investigation officer told the court the citizen has not been taken into custody by any one. He himself is missing. The missing citizen was worker of political party and he had personal enmity too.

The court questioned how you came to know he has gone missing on his own. The citizen is missing since 2015, You are saying he has gone any where on his own. Missing person has not been traced and how the final opinion was established he has gone on his own. Action should be taken against you on giving such statements. If the citizen escapes on his



imagination: VC KU

KARACHI (APP): The Vice Chancellor of the Uni-

He expressed these

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monitoring while 400 will be deployed at the polling stations in district If people want to West of Karachi.

Woman, daughter die after trailer runs over them in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): woman along with her daughter died and her husband and two children sustained injuries after a speeding trailer ran over them in Karachi's Korangi, on Wednesday, rescue officials

As per details, four members of a family were returning home from a marriage function on a motorbike, when a trailer hit them

in Korangi. As a result, woman named Nadia, and her 15year-old daughter Shumaila died on the spot, while the man and his two other chil-

dren miraculously remained The driver of the trailer, Tahir, has been arrested by Zaman Town police following the horrific road accident.

City district police arrests Lyari gangster

KARACHI (APP): The District City Police on Wednesday apprehended a trusted accomplice of Lyari gangster Arslan Patni, seiz-

ing weapons in the process.

SSP City Amjad

Hayat stated that the arrest of Muhammad Daniyal took place within the jurisdiction of the Garden police station. The authorities recovered a pistol with rounds from the possession of the accused. The criminal history of the detained individual is currently under scrutiny, and a case has been filed against him, initiating further investigative

2 power pilfer-ers caught during crackdown

SUKKUR (APP):The Sukkur Electric Powetr Com-pany (SEPCO) caught two power pilfer-ers during an ongoing crackdown in Bhutta Road area on Wednesday. According to official sources, a task force team raided vari-ous areas and caught two accused involved in electricity theft from main lines.

Wafaqi Mohtasib vows to continue efforts for provision of speedy justice to aggrieved citizens KARACHI (APP): The Secretary Federal Ombuds- established in 1983 with presence in federal and pro-

man Secretariat (FOS), Naveed Ahmed Sheikh, Wednesday, vowed to continue efforts to provide speedy and free-of-cost administrative justice to citizens by promptly resolving their complaints and enhancing the institution's

outreach and accessibility. He was speaking at a ceremony held here at FOS regional office in Karachi to celebrate the 41st anniversary of the establishment of the institution of Wafaqi Mohtasib. The event was attended by the Senior Advisor and In charge Regional Office Karachi Syed Anwaar Hyder, other members and staffers. Secretary FOS while reading out the message of the Federal Ombudsman for the occa-

presence in federal and provincial capital. In the four decades it developed into a premier agency of administrative accountability with a presence in various parts of the country, he added. Besides Islamabad and

four provincial capitals, the Wafaqi Mohtasib has its regional offices at Sukkur, Multan, Bahawalpur, Faisalabad, D.I Khan, Hyderabad, Gujranwala, Abbottabad, Kharan, Sargodha, Swat, Khuzdar, Mirpurkhas, Wana, and Sadda. The federal ombudsman in his message said that the ever-increasing number of complaints received was a clear manifestation of the trust and confidence of the people in the capacity of Wafaqi Mohtasib to address issues of maladministration, inefficiency, ne-



KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM-P) Candidate NA-244 Constituency, Dr. Farooq Sattar interacts with people and convincing for votes during Election Campaign in connection of the General Election 2024, at Surjani Town in Karachi.

Commissioner chairs meeting regarding elections preparation

HYDERABAD (APP): Commissioner Hyderabad Syed Khalid Hyder Shah on Wednesday presided over a meeting regarding election preparations. Addressing the meeting, he said that the repair and electricity works of missing facilities and polling stations affected by floods should be completed soon in all the districts and where there is no facility of electricity, solar or battery should be installed and alternative arrangements

should be made. He said that all the DROs should install CCTV cameras at the polling station and during this time watchmen should also be appointed at each polling station. The commissioner expressed his displeasure over the slow pace of repair work in some districts like Matyari, Tando Muhammad Khan, Tando Allahyar and Badin. He issued strict directives to SE Buildings to complete the repair work of the washroom, fence and lighting without any delay. He said that a meeting should be held with the transporters and Police to

make arrangements for

transport of necessary material to polling stations. Syed Khalid Hyder Shah said that a meeting should be held to inform the candidates about the code of conduct of elections and a warning should be issued to violators of the code of

conduct. Speaking in the meeting, DIG Hydabad Tariq Dharejo issued instructions to all the SSPs and said that the deployment of officials at sensitive, highly sensitive and normal polling stations should be finalized. He said that in order

to fill the gap of security officials, help should be

taken from line departments including Irrigation, Scarp, and local government

HYDERABAD: Municipal staff on the directives of ECP removing banners fixed on poles by different political parties to accelerate election campaign