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Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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# Pakistan to always champion Jammu & Kashmir cause: PM

Emphasizes progressive foreign policy for socio-economic well-being of people

that Pakistan would always champion the Jammu and Kashmir cause and the resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute as per the United Nations Security Council resolutions and the wishes of its people.

He was speaking at the ongoing Envoys' Conference being held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 4-6 January 2024.

Pakistan's envoys from

important capitals are participating in the conference and are deliberating on various facets of Pakistan's for-

eign policy. Welcoming the Prime Minister, Foreign Minister

OF LOUIS BRAILLE

f World Brail

ISLAMABAD (APP): Jalil Abbas Jilani outlined the framework of discussions at the Envoys' Conference and its importance as a deliberative forum on diplomatic challenges and opportunities for Pakistan in view of the global and regional developments.

He underscored the need for strengthening the anchoring role of the Foreign Office in foreign policy formulation and implemen-

In his key-note address, the Prime Minister shared his perspective about the pressing demands on the conduct of Pakistan's foreign policy to align it with present-day impera-

Continued on page 2



# Lifetime disqualification is against Islam: CJP

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa made significant remarks on Thursday during a Supreme Court hearing regarding the lifetime disqualification of lawmakers under Article 62(1)(F) of the Constitution. He highlighted that banning any-one for life from parliament goes against the principles of Islam.

A seven-member Supreme Court bench re-

sumed hearing of the life-time disqualification case.

The hearing pertains to a case concerning the life-time disqualification of Sardar Meer Badshah Qaisrani – a former member of Punjab Assembly before the 2018 elections. And interestingly, even Saqib Jilani, the counsel leading the original plea against Qaisrani, told the court that he was against the original Supreme Court

Chief Justice Faez Isa heads the bench which also bate won't resolve the Court under Article

Eight injured

in Mastung

highway accident

QUETTA (APP): At least

eight people were injured

when a passenger van over-

turned near Mastung

Quetta to Karachi highway

sources, the accident hap-

pened when a passenger bus

overturned due to fog on the

National Highway near

Mastung, as a result, eight

passengers were injured, a

Following the incident

rescuers, police, and local

people rushed to the site

and shifted the injured to a

private news channel re-

ported

According to rescue

early Thursday morning.

Aminuddin, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar and Justice Musarrat Hilali. As the hearing started, Advocate Khurram Raza, favouring lifetime disqualification, came to the rostrum and raised questions about maintainability of the proceedings. He asked under which

provisions of law the proceedings were being conducted. However, the bench asked Raza to stick to his petition.

Resuming his arguments, the counsel said it was only the election tribunal's prerogative to grant a declaration and the right could not be exercised by the high court or apex court directly. However, he maintained, cases against orders passed by the tribunal could be heard by the apex court under the scope

The CJP said this de-Justice problem before the court.

Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Justice Isa remarked the Yahya Afridi, Justice court would not discuss the powers of the election tribunal as it was not the question of an election tribunal or election commission exercising a power but it was about the power exercised by a constitutional

Raza said any declara-tion in the election tribu-nal or by the SC in the ap-pellate jurisdiction was covered under Article 62(1)(f). Justice Isa remarked that election tribu-nal would exercise powers only under the law. There-fore when the SC would exercise such powers it could not have more powers than the election tribunal or the Election Com-

mission of Pakistan. He then added, "Unless you can show that the ECP and the election tribunal can also disqualify for life, then that power will also be with the SC, otherwise it will be an additional power given to the Supreme 62(1)(f).

### Faizabad commission: Faiz Hamid rejects allegations of 'conspiracy' against govt

"Held negotiations with Tehreek-e-Labbaik on directions of government,'
Hamid tells commission

ISLAMABAD (Online): Former Chief ISI Gen (Retd) Faiz Hameed has recorded his statement before Faizabad Dharna Com-

mission. He gave reply to all the questions. He said talks were held with Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan under the

directives of government. He refuted the charges of hatching conspiracy against government. It is pertinent to men-

tion here Dharna Commission is operating under Dr Akhtar Ali Shah.

Former IG Tahid Alam and Khushal Khan are also included in commission.

### Commissioner directs to improve monitoring of anti-polio campaign **Independent Report**

QUETTA: The Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat has directed Deputy Commissioners of all the districts to improve monitoring of the anti-polio campaign in their respective districts so as to make it a great suc-

He also directed to take action against those involved in fake fingers marking and missing children during the immunization

campaign.
The Commissioner was chairing meeting of Divisional Task Force for preparations of the upcoming anti-polio campaign here on Thursday.

# ECP takes action against election code

violation QUETTA (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), Baluchistan chapter has taken action on violation of the election

code of conduct in Quetta. Illegal banners and posters displayed by party workers in PB-38 and PB-43, have been removed due to violation of code of conduct, the ECP spokesman said on Thurs-

The operation was carried out on the directives of the District Returning Officer (DRO) Quetta, the District Monitoring Officer and Monitoring Teams. During the operation, the concerned authorities removed the Panaflex and other objectionable posters installed and displayed on highways and top of build-

# Appellate Tribunal allows Akhtar Mengal, Manzoor Kakar, Khushhal Kakar to contest elections

**Independent Report** QUETTA: The Appellate Tribunals comprising judges of Balochistan High Court (BHC) continued hearing of the appeals of candidates against rejection of their nomination papers for the general elections from different election con-stituencies in Quetta on Thursday.

The Judges of Tribunals including Mr. Justice Muhammad Hashim Kakar and Mr. Justice Aamir Nawaz Rana heard the appeals filed by different can-didates against rejection of their papers.
The Tribunal heard the

appeal of BNP President Sardar Akhtar Mengal against rejection of his nomination papers. After the arguments, the Tribunal allowed Sardar Akhtar Mengal to contest the elections from NA-264.

The lawyers of Sardar Akhtar Mengal including Sajid Tareen and Jawad

had summoned the BNP chief Sardar Akhtar Mengal on the matter of "Iqama" in

An appeal had been filed by the BNP chief with the Appellate Tribunal against rejection of his nomination papers. The tribunal asked about the appeal filed by Sardar Akhtar Mengal that he may appear in the court and explain the matter about "Iqama"

The Tribunal consisting of Mr. Justice Hashim Kakar issued notices to the parties on an appeal filed against acceptance of pa-pers of PML-N leader and former Chief Minister, Jam Kamal Khan.

Meanwhile, the Tribunal heard the appeals of leader of Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) Senator Manzoor Ahmed Kakar and Pashtoonkhaw National Awami Party leader, Khushhal Khan Kakar and Ahmed appeared before the court and defended the appolls.

allowed them to contest the polls.



LAHORE: Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in a group photo with sons of Malik Amir Khokhar (late) and others on eve of their joining the party

# IHC restores 10 years disqualification for those convicted in NAB cases

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has restored 10 years disqualification period for those convicted in NAB cases.

A division bench of IHC has suspended its single bench decision.

NAB had resorted to IHC on the matter of contesting election by convicted persons.

NAB had requested the court to suspend single bench decision saying that 10 years disqualification be restored for those convicted in NAB cases to contest elec-NAB was of the view that convicted persons are giv-

ing reference to high court single bench decision to contest the election. NAB said single bench had set disqualification pe-

riod as 5 years instead of 10 years. Intra court appeal was filed against single bench decision. Now single bench decision is being cited to contest election.

Division bench of IHC comprising Justice Mohsin

Akhtar Kiyani and Justice Saman Rafat Imtiaz took up NAB petition for hearing Thursday and issued stay order against single bench decision.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf Barrister Gohar Ali Khan speaks during a press conference at party secretariat.

# Sea phase of Int'l Marine Oil Spill Exercise **BARRACUDA-XII** held

KARACHI (APP): The sea phase of International Exercise Barracuda-XII was held at North Arabian Sea on Thursday which was participated by Interim Chief Minister Sindh Magbool Bagar as chief guest who witnessed the sea phase of the exercise on board Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) Ship KASHMIR. According to the Pakistan Navy news release, the air and surface assets of Pakistan Navy, PMSA, Paki-stan Air Force (PAF) and other national stakeholders participated in the sea phase of exercise.

Exercises on containment of oil spill, Search and Rescue operations and anti piracy were demonstrated by Pakistan Navy and PMSA aircrafts, PN & PAF helicopters and PMSA ships.

The drills were witnessed by fifteen foreign observers and representa-

tives of various National stakeholders.

The foreign observers applauded the efforts being put in by all the stakeholders specially the efforts of Pakistan Navy and PMSA to fight any disaster at sea. Earlier, the opening brief of the exercise was held at Karachi. Foreign Observers and delegations from relevant stake holders also attended the brief wherein the aims and objectives of Exercise BARRACUDA-XII were highlighted.

Moreover, scholarly papers on response of Oil Spill and Search and Rescue at sea were presented by both National and International speakers.

International Exercise Barracuda-XII is a Marine Oil Spill exercise and is aimed to enhance capacity and proficiency of National stakeholders to combat the menace of pollution

Solangi hopes political parties will work for welfare of differently-abled persons He said special persons ISLAMABAD (APP):

ISLAMABAD: Murtaza Solangi, Caretaker Fed-

eral Minister for Information and Broadcasting

addressing an event organized by Pakistan Dis-

abled Foundation for special persons at National

Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Thursday expressed the optimism that political parties would take into account special steps and initiatives for the welfare of

special people in their manifestos.

"Political should come up with the programmes for special people in their election manifestos programmes," Murtaza Solangi said while delivering the speech at a function, organized by Pakistan Disabled Foundation for differ-

ently-abled persons. He that legislation for the welfare of special persons was also the responsibility of the elected repor differently-abled persons also had the right to vote. He said that they should present their justified demands to the leadership of political parties and vote for those parties which would fulfill their demands.

'No one was disabled in the real sense as nature had blessed humans with unlimited abilities", he said, adding those who could not see with eyes, might adjudge a lot with their hearts.

In the developed countries of the world, the requirements of special people were taken care of as all people enjoyed equal rights, he added.

The minister said that unfortunately in Pakistan, building codes did not take into account the facilities of special people.



QUETTA: Candidates for General Election 2024, Syed Ahsaan Shah, Akhtar Langove, Malik Naseer Shahwani, Basit Lehri, Ghulam Bani Mari and others in a group photo after submitting their nomination papers, at Election Tribunal in Quetta.

# nearby hospital. Passing out of 99th batch of PTC Quetta: Responsibilities of police increased manifold than past; force need to bring passion, says IGP

**Independent Report** 

QUETTA: The Inspector General of Police Balochistan, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh has stated that the responsibilities of police force were increased manifold and as such the officers and jawans of the force have to bring more passion and motivation to perform their duties.

The Inspector General of Police was addressing the passing out parade of the 99th batch of the Police Training College (PTC) at its main premises here on Thursday.

The senior police officers were also present on the the society

occasion. In all 919 officers and jawans completed their upper, intermediate and lower courses at the PTC. Addressing the passing

out, IGP said that police is a sacred profession through the officers and jawans can help the needy and weak segments of the society. He said that the police

officers and jawans have rendered sacrifices of their lives for protection of life and property of the masses in the past. The police personnel have proved them to be the solidified wall against the miscreants and those creating law and order problem in

He urged the police force to take care of the self respect of the common men and human rights while discharging their professional duties.

He said that the high morals and positive attitude of police personnel would earn good name for the department. The IGP exhorted the

police officers and jawans to work harder and harder for more achievements in their professional life.

He commended the high standard of the graduates of the PTC and appreciated the efforts of Commandant of PTC in this re-

### Governor Balochistan calls for electing real public servants through correct use of vote **Independent Report** here at the Governor's

He said that the political consciousness make us part of the global village in real manner taking out from the limitations of colour, race and creed. The Governor was speaking to different delegations from various segments of the close rapport with the society who called on him masses.

QUETTA: A delegation of Balochistan Private Schools Association Alliance

meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that it is high time for the general public to elect their real servants through correct use of vote in the upcoming general elections

He said that the constructive political activity and conscience struggle take the human being to the broader perspective from the limited and narrow ap-

House on Thursday. The Governor main-

tained that politics is a very complex but is an essential social practice. He was of strong view that the constructive political activities and conscience struggle broader the

thinking and political consciousness of the public. The Governor exhorted the political workers to follow the discipline in their lives.

also try to develop collective wisdom and leadership qualities among them, adding he stressed further. that politics is a social re-

The workers should

The Governor said sponsibility and as such the political workers seem good while having



Security Agency.

# No ban on airing Imran's speeches, Pemra tells LHC

Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Pemra) on Thursday informed the Lahore High Court (LHC) that there was no ban on broadcasting former prime minister Imran Khan's speeches.

The revelation was made by Pemra counsel Advocate Waqas Mir during the hearing of a petition filed by Imran — who is currently incarcerated at Adiala Jail last year against the authority's decision to bar all satellite TV channels from broadcasting his speeches and press talks.

The ban was imposed with "immediate effect" after Imran had lashed out at former army chief Qamar Javed Bajwa for what he called "protecting incumbent rulers in their alleged corruption cases"

The PTI chief had subsequently approached the court and challenged the ban, arguing that Pemra's order was "purely driven out of vengeance". The LHC has so far conducted eight hearings on the case since its initiation, Imran's lawyer Ahmed Pansota told report-

Today, Imran's legal counsel, Pansota, and the federal government's lawyer appeared in court. LHC's Justice Shams Mehmood Mirza presided over the proceedings.

During the hearing, the court emphasised that Pemra should refrain from exerting pressure on TV channels regarding the concerns raised by the peti-

In response, Pemra counsel Mir said there was no ban on telecasting

speeches of the petitioner. Following the brief arguments, the court wrapped up the petition. Imran vs Pemra

In the prohibition order issued last year, Pemra had referred to previous directives wherein all licensees were directed to "refrain from telecasting any content against state institutions".

The authority had noted that Imran, in his speeches and statements, was "levelling baseless allegations and spreading hate speech through his provocative statements against state institutions and officers which are prejudicial to the maintenance of law and order and

is likely to disturb public peace and tranquillity." Pemra had said that lic-

ensees telecasted the content without the effective utilisation of the time delay mechanism, in violation of the authority's laws and judgements by the apex court. "... therefore, the competent authority i.e.

chairman Pemra in view of the above mentioned background and reasons, in the exercise of delegated powers of the authority vested in Section 27(a) of the Pemra Ordinance 2002 as amended by Pemra (Amendment) Act 2007, hereby prohibits broadcast/rebroadcast of speech(s)/press talks (recorded or live) of Imran Khan on all satellite TV channels with immediate effect," the order had said.



LAHORE: Members of Sunni Ulema Council are holding rally on the occasion of death anniversary of the first Muslim Caliph Hazrat Abu Bakar, at Lahore press club.

# PPP strongly denies seat adjustment rumors with PML-N

ISLAMABAD (INP): The leadership of Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) on Thursday strongly denied the rumors related to seat adjustment with Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) in the general election scheduled to be held on February 08, 2024.

Sources close to the development revealed that, during the Central Executive Committee (CEC) meeting, the party leadership expressed anger over the news of seat adjustment with PML-N, stating that such an arrangement is categorically ruled out.

the PML-N would not be fruitful for PPP. They underscored that the PML-N is the primary political competition for the PPP in the forthcoming elections.

The meeting between PPP senior leader Khurshid Shah and PML-N leader Ayaz Sadiq also came forth in the meeting where Khurshid Shah clarified matters with the party

leadership.
The PPP leadership clarified that the picture of the meeting between Khurshid Shah and Ayaz Sadiq led to some misunderstandings, so the party The leadership of the should openly deny the party asserted that engaging in seat adjustment with news of seat adjustment from PML-N.

NA-89 Mianwali: **Tribunal approves PTI** 

founder's plea for hearing

ISLAMABAD (INP): An appellate tribunal on Thurs-

day approved Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) founder's

plea against the rejection of his nomination papers from

(ECP) rejected nomination papers of Pakistan Tehreek-

è-Insaf (PTI) founder from two National Assembly con-

stituencies – NA 122 (Lahore) and NA-89 (Mianwali).

officer (RO) said while rejecting the nomination papers

Asghar appeared before the tribunal on behalf of the in-

Aziz issued notices to the returning officer (RO) and

appeal on January 07. Following the completion of an-

other phase of the election process, the appellate tribu-

nals will now make decisions on the appeals of the candi

Sydney Test:

Australia trails as

rain impacts play

carcerated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder.

Last month, the Election Commission of Pakistan

"The PTI founder has been convicted," the returning

Umair Niazi, Raja Yasir Sharif and Malik Jawad

Appellate tribunal judge Justice Chaudhry Abdul

The election tribunal has fixed the hearing on the

NA-89 Mianwali by the returning officer.

of the former prime minister.

other respondents.

dates by January 10.

ties Hurriyat Conference leaders have demanded of the UN to fulfill its obligations regarding settlement of the Kashmir dispute under its resolutions including the one passed on January 05, 1949.

Indian illegally occu-

pied Jammu and Kashmir, the All Par-

According to Kashmir Media Service, they made the demand on the eve of the adoption of January 5, 1949 UN resolution that guaranteed the Kashmiris' Right to Self-Determination. The APHC leaders

Syed Bashir Andrabi, Khawaja Firdous and Junaid-ud-Salam in a joint statement in Srinagar said that on January 5, 1949, the United Nations Commission for Pakistan and India (UNCIP) had passed a very important resolution, which granted the Kashmiris the right to decide their future by themselves. They said the Kashmiri people have rendered unparcuring their inaliencomplete success.

SRINAGAR (INP): In dian occupation for Kashmir dispute the last over seven decades, Kashmiris remain steadfast in their demand for holding of plebiscite in Jammu

**APHC** leaders demand

Kashmir settlement

under UN resolutions

and Kashmir.

APHC leader, Advocate Divendar Singh Behel, in a statement issued in Jammu deplored that India has been denying the right to self-determination to the people of occupied Kashmir for the last over seven decades. He added that the international community, particularly the UN, bears the responsibility to ensure that the Kashmiri people are allowed to exercise this right. He thanked Pakistan for its unwavering sup-

port to Kashmiris' just Muhammad Fayaz, in a message from jail said that the Kashmir dispute remained un- eral, resolved due to India's stubbornness. He said the plebiscite ne urgea the interna-They said that despite tion on Kashmir and as per the UN resolufacing the brutal In- force it to resolve the tions.

without any further

delay. APHC Abdul Samad Inqilabi, in a statement in Srinagar deplored that India is victimizing the people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir for demanding their internationally-recognized right to self-determination. However, he maintained that the Kashmiris will continue their struggle till they were given this right.

The Jammu and Kashmir Freedom League spokesman, Muhammad Umar, in a statement in Srinagar said the denial of right to selfdetermination to the Kashmiris by India Illegally detained had resulted in their APHC leader, Noor continued sufferings for the last several decades. He urged the UN Secretary Gen-Guterres, to take notice of the deteriorating situation in under the UN resolu- Jammu and Kashmir tions is the best so- and invoke the resoalleled sacrifices for lution to the dispute. lutions of 13th Auable right and they are tional community to ary 1949, for holding determined to con- hold India account- a free, fair and impartinue their struggle till able for violating its tial plebiscite in international obliga- Jammu and Kashmir,

### resorts to SC terrorist attack ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on ISLAMABAD (Online): natory treatment is being PTI has resorted to Sumeted out to PTI as com-Thursday expressed his preme Court (SC) in conpared to other political pardeep condolences to the nection with election symgovernment and people of Election commission Iran over the terrorist attack PTI has challenged did not keep in view the in Kerman.

QUETTA: Activists of National Democratic Movement (NDM), Pashtunkhwa

Mili Awami Party (PKMAP) and Awami National Party (ANP) are holding

protest demonstration against attack on Mohsin Dawar, at Quetta press club.

facts while withdrawing Peshawar High Court (PHC) decision in SC. PTI has taken plea in its petition filed in SC against PHC decision that PHC gave decision in haste. The case was already

**Election symbol** 

bat matter: PTI

The court is requested to nullify the decision.
PTI has prayed the SC

ued sufferings of the Kashmiri

in the communications of India

and Pakistan with the UNCIP

(United Nations Commission

for India and Pakistan) on

Kashmir dated December 23

and December 25 and adopted

by the Commission, are

supplementary to the

Commission's Resolution of

August 13, 1948. Argentina,

Belgium, Colombia,

Czechoslovakia and the US

were members of the com-

mission. The Resolution

was unanimously adopted

by the UNCIP on January

05, 1949. Earlier, a ceasefire

came into effect between

Pakistan and India one

minute before midnight of

first January 1949, follow-

ing the agreement arrived at

through the Commission's

resolution of 13th August

lapsed, but no concrete

steps have been taken by

the UN to implement the

resolutions of 13th Au-

gust 1948 and 5th Janu-

ary 1949. The situation

in occupied Kashmir has

become more terrible since

August 05, 2019 when the

Narendra Modi-led fascist

Indian government revoked

the special status of the ter-

ritory and snatched away

all the basic rights and free-

doms of the Kashmiri

Over seven decades have

The principles laid down

### The president consymbol of bat. Election demning the brutal attack symbol of bat was snatched said that Pakistan and its by making decision without people stood in solidarity evidences. The facts were with the people of Iran in not kept in view in PHC this hour of grief. decision.PHC decision is He added that Pakistan fixed before division bench. sympathized with the be-

commission petition was to conduct urgent hearing of

# not maintainable. Discrimithe case. **Kashmiris to observe Right** to Self-Determination Day today

(INP): SRINAGAR Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control and the world over will observe the 5th January as the Right to Self-Determination Day with the pledge to continue their struggle till they achieve this internationallyacknowledged inalienable

Single bench was not autho-

rized to give decision ahead

of division bench. Election

bol of bat.

According to Kashmir Media Service, call for observance of the day has been given by the All Parties Hurriyat Conference. The day will be marked by various activities including protest demonstrations, rallies, seminars and conferences in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan and in all major capitals of the world to remind the UN that it must implement its relevant resolutions to settle the Kashmir dispute to save the Kashmiris from the Indian brutalities.

It was on 5th January in 1949 when the United Nations Security Council passed a resolution supporting the Kashmiris' right to decide their future by themselves under a UN-supervised plebiscite. This resolution provides the base for settlement of the lingering dispute, which has become a nuclear flashpoint in South Asia. However, India's continued intransigent attitude had been an impediment in the way of achieving this objective. Unfortunately, the World Body has failed to implement its resolutions, resulting in the contin-

He also prayed for the elevation of the ranks of martyred in paradise and the speedy recovery of the injured.

According to global media outlets and Iranian state media reports, at least 103 people were killed by two bomb explosions near the tomb of Iranian General Oasem Soleimani on his 4th

reaved families who lost

Alvi condoles

with Iran over

loss of lives in

anniversary on Wednesday. A large number of people were also wounded when the blasts hit a procession near the Saheb al-Zaman mosque located in the southern city of Kerman.

# Three children die in NW blast

PESHAWAR (APP): At least three children were killed in a landmine explosion in the Mir Ali area near the Khajoori check post in North Waziristan or Thursday.

Local police informed; that the tragic incident took place in fields near the Honeymoon Hotel in Mir Al where the children were grazing their goats. The three children aged between five to fifteen fell prey to the explosion and died at

Police said the shepherd children belonged to Zakirkhel village of Khajoori tehsil.

Bodies of the ill-fated children were shifted to Mir Ali Hospital for medico-legal procedures. Police have started an investigation into the inci-



going Sydney Test between Australia and Pakistan,

Australia concluded the

second day at 116 runs for

the loss of 2 wickets in re-

sponse to Pakistan's first-

Earlier, Pakistan won the toss and opted to bat first. Openers Abdullah Shafique and debutant Saim Ayub were dismissed without scoring. Shan Masood scored 35, and Babar Azam contributed 26 before Saud Shakeel fell at 5 runs. Following a collapse, Mohammad Rizwan and Salman Ali Agha added cru- Sydney Test.

**ICCPO** inaugurates new

office of DPO Industrial Area

**Independent Report** 

ISLAMABAD: According to the details, the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir

Khan has inaugurated the newly constructed building of Divisional Police Officer (DPO) Industrial Area office, a

public relations officer said. He said that the inaugural

ceremony was attended by SSP Operations, local digni-

taries, traders, and representatives of the Islamabad

Chamber of Commerce (ICCI), while senior police offic-

ers and officials were also present. On this occasion, the ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan said that the previous

office of the DPO Industrial Area was located on Kash-

mir Highway, which was burnt during the protests. The

Islamabad Capital Police has established a temporary

DPO office in I-8 Markaz using their limited resources.

SYDNEY (INP): In the on- cial runs, with Rizwan scoring 88 before being dismissed.

Sajid Khan and Salman Ali Agha were also among the wickets, contributing to Pakistan's total of 313. On the Australian bowling front, Pat Cummins took 5 wickets, while Mitchell Starc claimed 2 wickets, dismissing Hazlewood, Mitchell

The match saw Aamer Jamal and Salman Ali Agha's notable performances, with Jamal securing his first five-wicket haul in Test cricket. Salman Ali Agha achieved his maiden half-century, scoring 53 runs with the help of 6 fours and 2 sixes. Aamer Jamal also played a crucial innings, contributing 82 runs with 8 fours and 4 sixes. The rain-affected conditions and the impressive display by both teams have set the stage for an intriguing continuation of the

He said that Pakistan's foreign policy should be guided by a vision of Paki-

QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafqaat being briefed about arrangement and preparation for anti polio campaign

Pakistan to...

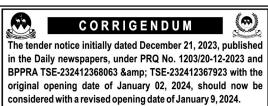
Continued from page 1

stan as a progressive, economically ascendant state that prioritizes the socioeconomic well-being of its people. Pakistan's foreign policy should continue to aim for peace and mutually beneficial relations across the globe. The Prime Minister said that Pakistan will continue to stand for international law and purposes and principles of the UN Charter, mainstreaming economic diplomacy and support the Palestinian cause. Prime Minister Kakar termed the conference as timely and relevant against the backdrop of profound transformations taking place in the region and around the globe.

He reaffirmed his trust in Pakistan's diplomacy and diplomats in their capability to fully deliver despite pressing odds and expressed the hope that the deliberations of this year's conference would lead to practical suggestions to navigate Pakistan's foreign policy through present day challenges. Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani has underlined the importance of regular debate on Pakistan's foreign policy and global and regional developments.

He made this statement while speaking as an opening speaker at a three-day Envoys Conference that commenced at the Foreign Office in Islamabad today.

The conference aims to deliberate and finalize recommendations on a range of bilateral, regional, and glodimensions Pakistan's foreign policy.



PRQ No.1297/04-01-2024



Only electronic bid will be submitted, No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission. It is Mandatory For Al Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. TSE-232412367193 The Executive Engineer Maintenance Division-II C&W,PP&H invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2023 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates Tender Fee Rs.1000/- and bid Security 2%

326,980,000/-

1 Construction of Bachelor Lodges/ Flats in all Degree College of Balochsitan (Having No Residential Accommodation) PSDP 3653

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed Assignment of similar nature of work. Turn over of at least 228,886,000 PKR Amount in subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. Registration with Pakistan Engineering council (PEC) C-3 and above (Upto 500 million)In Relevant Category And Specialized Code is CE09, CE10(iv) (Soil Investigation and Stabilization), CE09(i) (Sewerage Works), CE09(ii) (Water Supply), CDR 2% Of Estimated Cost. Green Challant CR2 (200 Must Complete 4th Off Estimated Cost. Green Challant of Rs 1000, Must Completed at Least 2 Similar Nature, size, amoun works completed in last 05 Years Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee. Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the undersigned from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from <a href="https://www.bppra.gob.pk">www.bppra.gob.pk</a> Issuance of tender Documents: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at <a href="https://www.bppra.gob.pk">www.bppra.gob.pk</a> Last Date of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 17 January, 2024till 12:00 PM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 01:00 PM on EPPS System Address: executive engineer mainted Division-II C&W,PP&H Quetta Phone no: 03337810880 Email: jamalnasir7720@gmail.com

PRQ No.1299/04-01-2024





NASEERABAD: Commissioner Tariq Qamar Baloch presiding over a meeting of officers regarding anti-polio campaign

# Ethical implementation of SRM, cooperation linkages between global north & south imperative

The experts at the conclusion of the two-day international conference on Solar Geo-engineering on Thursday said that ethical implementation of solar radiation modification (SRM) technology through just and ethical implementation was imperative by developing cooperation linkages between the global north and

The COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) and the Alliance for Just Deliberation on Solar Geoengineering convened the first two-day training seminar on evolving science intended to bulwark rising global warming and climate change, titled "Living with Climate Change: Awareness and Training on SRM" under the aim to extend the context of the new climate science and its governance challenge ahead among the policymakers, academia, civil society, and media.

During the second proceedings, the speakers deliberated on Policy and Youth Viewpoints on Climate Change and SRM. Dr. Jesse Reynolds from the DEGREÉS Initiative said

(NDRMF) and the Interna-

tional Rescue Committee

commitment for enhancing

climate resilience in Paki-

stan through signing of a

Memorandum of Under-

standing (MoU) in an at-

tempt to address the chal-

lenges of disaster risks and

vulnerability faced by Pa-

kistan. This initiative

marks a significant collabo-

ration between NDMRF

Pakistan leading public sec-

tor entity and IRC a global

humanitarian organization,

a news release on Thursday

ISLAMABAD (APP): Dense fog blankets have created challenging com-

mutes for the capital city

like other parts of the coun-

try along with causing health hazards, especially for allergy patients in the

foggy conditions prevailing

in the capital attributed by

weather experts to lack of

rain during this Winter

season amid climatic

changes have not only dis-

rupted road travel but

flight operations too in the

fog-bearing areas of the

smog due to the insignifi-cant rain during this Winter

season has caused diseases

among the citizens espe-

cially those with allergy is-

sues, old people and chil- am'

The persistent fog/

The unusual dense

last few days.

(IRC) have solidified their

that climate change was the most difficult challenge faced by international community that demanded dedicated scientific assets, capital and human resource to ward off adverse impacts of the global warming and environmental deg-He mentioned that his

organisation was approach-ing international policy makers on SRM and solar geo-engineering as most its efforts were focussed on scientific research intended on managing climate risks.

Clara Botto of SRM Youth Watch, Italy (online) briefed the participants on emerging technology and its trends based on solar geoengineering that demanded prudent and collaborative approach towards the SRM systems.

The session was followed by a survey on SRM by the ČUI and DSG that aimed at focussing on the outcomes of the two-day international training seminar and gauged the knowledge of the participants on

Speaking on the ethical viewpoints for Pakistanis to consider in an

ISLAMABAD: A view of the destructive shops after burnt fire at Timber

NDRMF, IRC Pakistan emerge as

strategic partners for shaping resilience

ISLAMABAD (APP): els in the world, ranked 11 actions. This includes con-

The National Disaster Risk out of 193 countries by the sultations on innovative

cluding flash, and coastal,

as well as exposure to

tropical cyclones and

Pakistan is further exacer-

bated by its social vulner-

ability. Pakistan's vulner-

ability ranking (37 out of

191) is driven by its high

rates of multidimensional

laboration encompasses

joint efforts in strengthen-

ing Community-Based Di-

saster Risk Management

Pakistan faces some of and Reduction models, the

the highest disaster risk lev- outlook for anticipatory

Dense fog creates challenging

commute for capital's

residents; health hazards

The scope of this col-

According to health

experts, the major sufferers

of seasonal diseases espe-

cially influenza, cough and

fever are the children and

old ones due to their weak

taking those diets which can

boost their immunity to

fight seasonal diseases, re-

vert to organic foods and

handle such issues with

Naheed Raza,

mother of three children

who daily travels from

Rawalpindi to Islamabad to

attend her office, said,

"Dense foggy conditions

with reduced visibility is

unusual for me while living

in the capital for the last

many years. Even I could

see the visible fog after 11

They have suggested

immune systems.

home remedies.

The Disaster risk in

Fund 2023 World Risk Report.
InternaPakistan also has high

exposure to flooding, in- silience in communities

interest.

civil society organizations

(CSOs), and relevant insti-

tutions. NDRMF and IRC

will leverage their partner

networks to foster collabo-

ration in areas of mutual

ther commit to share tech-

nical assistance for devel-

oping a repository of best

practices on resilience. In

the realm of policy advo-

cacy, the organizations will

engage in public profiling

and awareness programs to

address issues exacerbating

climate adaptation and re-

**Proceedings of** 

indictment

of PTI founder,

**Bushra Bibi** 

adjourned in

Toshakhana case

ISLAMABAD (Online):

Judge Muhammad Bashi

of Accountability Court

(AC) Islamabad has ad

journed the proceedings of

indictment of PTI founder

and his wife Bushra Bibi till

January 6 once again in

man PTI and his wife Bushra

Bibi were present during the

hearing of both the refer-

ences in Adiala Jail along

with their counsels Babar

Awan and Umar Niazi

Toshakhana reference.

silience markers.

Shabbir, CÚI highlighted that the world was at the brink of major crisis due to nuclear arsenal and climate change, whereas the planet earth witnessed extinction of mankind for five times and it would be the sixth time which would be triggered due to mankind's self-

damaging techs. He added that the race of progress had led to exacerbating damage to climate and environment risking human life to extinction on earth which needed a balance through moral and ethical values that could be found in religion.

In his vote of thanks by Chairman, Department of Meteorology, CUI, Dr Kalim Ullah extended his gratitude to the participants and felicitated the former Head of the Centre for Climate Research and Development (CCRD), CUI, Prof Dr Athar Hussain for holding the first successful international event on SRM.

He called the initiative was a great step that convened participants from diverse backgrounds to attend the training conference.



SLAMABAD: Senator Prince Ahmed Umer Ahmedzai, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Communications presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament Lodges.

# **Ambassador says:** Moulana Jauhar still lives in hearts of Turkiye people

ISLAMABAD (APP): Turkiye in the establish-Ambassador of Turkiye to Pakistan Mehmet Pacaci on Thursday said that Moulana Muhammad Ali Jauhar had led the Khilafat Movement for the protection of an integrated Ottoman Empire, which was a symbol of the unity of Muslim Ummah due to which he and other leaders of Khilafat Movement still lived in the hearts of the nation of Turkiye.

Addressing the Anniversary of Moulana Muhammad Ali Jauhar organized by Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry, he said Ali Brothers had put the founding stones for the long-lasting friendly relations between

ment of various institutions. He said that spirit of freedom, created by the Ali Brothers in the Muslims of the Sub-Continent, ultimately led to the creation of Pakistan. Engineer Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Acting President ICCI highlighted the contributions of Moulana Muhammad Ali Jauhar to create the spirit of freedom in the Muslims of the Sub-Continent and his role in the Khilafat Movement.

He said today Pakistan needed sincere leaders like Moulana Muhammad Ali Jauhar, to steer the country out of current economic challenges Zafar Bakhtawari

former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG

He said that Moulana Muhammad Ali Jauhar had raised a strong voice for the protection of Ottoman Empire and the Muslims of the Sub-Continent and thus brought the people of Turkiye and Pakistan even closer. He said that Pakistan and Turkiye should commemorate his anniversary officially to recognize his role for the people of the two countries. Dr. Abdul University shed light on the Moulana Muhammad Ali Jauhar as a civil servant, journalist, activist, scholar, poet, freedom fighter, and a leader of Muslims. He also highlighted the short and long-

# Basit, Chancellor, Preston multi-dimensional personterm impact of the Khilafat Movement, which ultimately led to the development of the two-nation theory and the creation of

# Info Secretary condoles demise of PTV cameramen

Pakistan.

ISLAMABAD (APP) Federal Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Shaheera Shahid on Thursday expressed condolences with the Pakistan Television (PTV) administration and bereaved families of the Chief Cameraman and Cameraman who had

PTV Quetta Center Chief Cameraman Ahmed Khan Solangi and Cameraman Zafar Ali lost their lives while traveling on Sohrab-Quetta and Karachi high-

# long-promised right to self-determination ISLAMABAD (INP): Senior leader of the All Par-

UN urged to fulfill

ties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) and Chairman of the Islamic Political Party, Muhammad Naqash Thursday called upon the United Nations (ŪN) to uphold its commitment to the right of selfdetermination Kashmiris

Highlighting the persistent oppressive actions by India, Naqash, in a statement received here Thursday on eve of Right of Self Determination Day, lamented the UN's failure to intervene effectively which facilitated Indian to subject Kashmiris to atrocities and displacement over the

Kashmiris on both sides of Line of Control observe the day to remind the United Nations for early implementation of its January 5, 1949 resolutions for the resolution of the Kashmir issue

what he described as India's expansionist agenda, stating that it not only threatens the stability of South Asia but also poses a risk to global peace. He underscored the importance of resolving the Kashmir conflict in accordance with UN resolutions to avert a perilous situation in the region.

Pointing to the grim reality faced by Kashmiris, Naqash outlined the mental and physical disabilities inflicted upon the population, particularly affecting innocent children who are pushed into the quagmire of orphanhood. He urged the international community to recognize the gravity of the situation and work towards a peaceful resolution.

Despite India's unilateral actions, including the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019, Naqash emphasized that such measures hold no significance for the Kashmiris



ISLAMABAD: A view of the dense foggy weather in the night hours in the capital city.

# **FUUAST organizes** awareness seminar on drugs & crimes

ISLAMABAD (APP): comed the distinguished Federal Urdu University of Science and Technology (FUUAST) has organized a seminar for creating awareness among students about various kind of drugs and crimes, suggesting steps for their prevention and elimination from the

The seminar was organized here by the International Relations Department of Federal Urdu University and Islamabad Po-

Muhammad Shoaib Khurram, DIG Safe City and Traffic Police Islamabad along with his team attended the event as

chief guest. Dr. Ehtishamul Haq, In-charge Islamabad Campus, Mohammad Aleem Raza Additional Registrar and Dr. Uzma Siraj, President, Department of International Relations wel-

The function was organized in the university auditorium in which a large number of students participated. DIG Muhammad

Shoaib Khurram, told the students that IG Islamabad has issued special instructions that the Capital Police in various educational institutions should inform the students about social crimes and drugs and their

He further said that awareness will also be given to students about the actions of Islamabad Police.

prevention

During his address, the chief guest gave many important information including various types of crimes, police strategy to prevent crimes with the help of modern technology, use of safe city cameras, and data of previous years.



ISLAMABAD: Workers of CDA are busy in their work at green belt along the Murree road in Federal Capital.

# virtual driving license for citizens

**Independent Report** 

their door step. Individuals possessing driving licenses in Islamabad can now easily obtain their virtual licenses by visiting the official website and entering their National Identity Card number, driving license number, and expiration

The implementation

CPO Safe City/Traffic emphasizes that this initiative aims to provide valuable services to the residents of the federal capital. Special police teams are actively engaged in educating the public about traffic laws and road safety at various checkpoints and roads. In

a significant step towards

simplifying the licensing

process and promoting ease

of access for the commu-

addition to the online platform, Islamabad Capital Police is also giving awareness about road safety and traffic laws through radio FM 92.4. This proactive approach keeps the public well-informed about the latest traffic situations in the federal capital.

### Turkiye and Pakistan. He said the material Pakistan said that Moulana and financial support by the Muslims of the Sub-Muhammad Ali Jauhar had laid the foundation of Continent led by Moulana friendly relations between Muhammad Ali Jauhar had Turkiye and Pakistan, helped the Republic of which were still growing **Political sympathy**

tactics shouldn't shield

legal cases. Rana Ihsaan nior leader of Pakistan Insaaf, Not holding the in-(Nawaz)PMLN, Rana Ihsaan Afzal Khan, emphasized on Wednesday the importance of adhering to legal avenues and due process. Talking to a private news channel, he said that using the blame game for political sympathy should not serve as a shield against

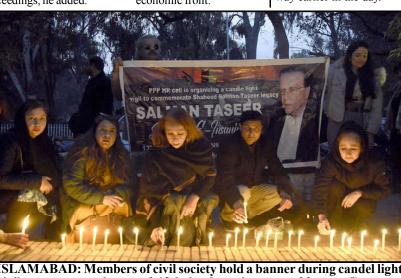
legal procedures. Along with a "level playing field for everyone," it was crucial to address those embroiled in legal proceedings, he added

Pakistan Tehreek-e-League tra-party elections according to their constitution resulted in losing the party symbol, replaying a question he added.

He recounted the incidents of May 9, emphasizing that individuals involved in the vandalism on that day cannot wash their strains by offering excuses. He further said that the

PTI had wasted four years of the nation, adding that the PTI-led government had inflicted harm upon the economic front.

in a road accident. way earlier in the day.



ISLAMABAD: Members of civil society hold a banner during candel light vigil ceremony on the eve of 13th death anniversary of former Governor Punjab Salman Taseer, at Kohsar market in the Federal Capital.

# **HEC** directed to make public names of 18 suspended health educational Institutions

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Information Commission (PIC) has directed the Higher Education Commission (HEC) to make public the suspension orders issued to 18 health educational institutions in Islamabad.

The decision cam in The court also adresponse to an appeal filed journed the proceedings in by a citizen Anwar Ud respect of bail pleas of PTI Din, who sought copies of founder and Bushra Bibi in the suspension orders 190 million Al-Qadir trust prohibiting new student case till January 6. The deadmissions in the affected cisions are likely to be aninstitutions, said a press release issued here Thurs-stitute of Health Sciences, Rawal Institute of Health Sciences, nounced on the petitions on next hearing. Former chair-

These institutions in-Health Science, Rawal In-

clude Bashir Institute of Health Sciences, Comwave Institute of Science and Information Technology, DAKSON Institute of Health Sciences, Institute of Health and Management Sciences, Islamabad Medical and Dental College, HBS Medical and Dental College, NOVA Institute of Modern Studies, PACE and KEDGE Institute of Health sciences, PHR Institute of

tation Sciences, Prime Institute of Health Sciences, NCS Institute of Sciences, Aman Medical Institute, KMU Institute of Health Sciences, Margalla Institute of Health Sciences, Madiks Institute of Health Sciences and Health Aid College of Nursing and Health Sci-Initially, the HEC refused to share the informa-

Yusra Institute of Rehabili-

tion, claiming it would negatively impact their standing and breach the privacy of the institutions.

# Khidmat centers of I'abad police facilitate 1,92,144 citizens in 2023

Islamabad capital police, khidmat centers, have facilitated 1,92,144 citizens during 2023 with different services relating to issuance of character certificate, foreigner's registration, registration of tenants and house servants, general police verification and report of missing items,.

According to police source, Islamabad capital police are taking all possible measures and initiatives in order to provide maximum facilities to the citizens of Islamabad.

Citizens are availing around 28 services including character certificate, general police verification,

tenant registration, missing/ lost report, volunteer registration, servant registration, copy of FIR, and vehicle verification at any time

Police Mobile facilitation van service has also been working while khidmat markaz in different areas including sectors F-6, G-10, H-11, Bani Gala, Swan Garden, Khanna and at various police stations were also facilitating the citizens.

ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan said that, well trained staff has been appointed there who are providing best services. Such steps would improve the trust of people in the police, he maintained.

# **CDA** decides automation of property record to avoid bogus, fraudulent cases

ISLAMABAD (APP): Capital Development Authority (CDA) has decided to go ahead with the automation of residential and commercial property record in the federal capital. The civic management had been pondering over the project for the last nine years for automation of property record in Islamabad in order to avoid bogus and fraudulent cases. In this connection, the CDA Chairman Captain® Anwar ul Haq had chaired the meeting of CDA Development Working

# ISLAMABAD (APP):

Party, in which an amount of Rs170 million PC-1.

# I'abad police introduce

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police have rolled out a virtual driving license to enhance citizen convenience and facilitate them at

date. Police spokesperson said that this initiative is designed to empower residents to download and renew their driving licenses from the comfort of their homes.

of virtual driving licenses is

ISLAMABAD: A charitable man is feeding meat to birds along the Park road as (Sadqa). Sadaqa is charity given voluntarily in order to please God and it also describes a voluntary charitable act towards others, whether through generosity, love, compassion or faith.

# Daily Soice of Masse. Independent

Friday January 05, 2024

# Pak's commitment to continued ties with Afghanistan

The Interim Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani had a crucial meeting with the Afghanistan province Kandahar's Governor Mullah end of each calendar year, Shirin in Islamabad the other day. During the course of meeting, the Interior Foreign Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to continued engagement and mutually beneficial ties with Afghani- COPs, relegating Pakistan's stan. Meeting with the Kandahar's Governor Mullah Shirin on Wednesday last, the Foreign Minister reiterated the country's resolve to ensure mutually beneficial ties with the neighbouring country. During the huddle, Jilani stressed the significance of addressing all issues to harness the full potential for trade and connectivity between the two countries.

Needless to mention here is that Jilani's meeting with the senior Afghan official-who also serves as the country's deputy of strategic intelligence of defence ministry- comes in the backdrop of an alarming increase in terror incidents in Pakistan, which, as per the Annual Security Report released by the Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS), saw more than 1,500 Pakistanis being killed in 789 terror attacks and counter-terrorism operations in 2023. Meanwhile, Pakistan Insti- While Pakistan has a gentute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS)-an Islamabad-based think tank- data shows that 974 people lost their lives in 641 militant attacks last year-an 81% increase in terror-related casualties compared to the numbers in 2022.

The surge in terror attacks reflects a changing trend when compared to the frequency of terror incidents that had persisted since not matter in the success which costs taxpayers a 2015, an alarming reversal oc- huge amount of money and curred in 2021, which was coinci- the national exchequer dently the year when the Alghan Taliban had regained control in pler to simply nominate Afghanistan. Pakistan has time again called on the Taliban-led Afghan administration to prevent its ply exposes the messy soil from being used against Pakistan and take effective measures against the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and other banned militant organisations that are involved in heinous attacks on civilians and security forces inside Pakistan-an allegation vehemently denied by the Afghan side. Earlier in the day, the Afghan embassy in Islamabad had said that the sixth round of the Afghanistan-Pakistan Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) was to include discussions pertaining to "resolution of potential conflicts along the Durand Line and the establishment of essential facilities gating this country through the many crises it has for people on both sides." It is pertinent to know that the two neighbouring countries have been Khokhar pass away, taking witnessing strained relations owing to increased terror attacks in Pakistan, which the country blames on safe havens inside Afghanistan, resulting in the caretaker government's decision to expel millions of Afghan refugees living in Pakistan-a decision which hasn't sit well with the Taliban administration.

Worthwhile to mention is also that the caretaker Minister for Information Balochistan, Jan back in 2013, and recorded Achakzai has also made demands on several occasions from Afghan government to hand over the terrorists involved in terrorism acts in Pakistan. Rather, during an interaction with media in Quetta, Achakzai he had also blamed that Afghanistan is exporting terrorism to the world, which is a dangerous trend. One can hope that the crucial meeting of Interim Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani with the Kandahar's Governor Mullah Shirin would be fruitful and beneficial for promotion of mutual trade and connectivity between the ment in Pakistan was in the two countries in time to come. Undoubtedly, the ongoing move of repatriation of the illegal immigrants to their homeland would also go a long way to bring peace in Pakistan, as it is generally believed.

# Sizing up climate negotiations

Agreement and commit-

cally revised Nationally

**Determined Contributions** 

(NDC). The formal nego-

tiations between the par-

ties, countless side events

organised at national and

other pavilions typically

focus on the unfinished

agenda of previous COPs.

next COP in Baku,

Azerbaijan, for example,

will hinge on finalising at

least seven unfinished

agenda items from COP28:

operationalising the Loss

and Damage Fund (LDF),

Article 6 of the Paris Agree-

ment on carbon trading,

Global Stocktake (GST),

the New Collective Quan-

titative Goal (NCQG),

Global Goal on Adaptation

(GGA), Mitigation Work

Programme (MWP), and

the Just Transition Work

The success of the



Ali Taugeer Sheikh

The global climate year moves from one climate summit to the other. All 29 annual Conferences of the Parties, or COPs, have traditionally been held at the allowing countries to begin their follow-up climate actions in January.

Pakistan has always left COP participation and related decisions to just a few weeks before the global climate engagement to passivity and its decision-making to hurried afterthoughts. Thinking proactively, the climate ministry has now decided to set up a special cell to initiate year-long preparations for climate negotia-

Would the establishment of a COP cell consign the federal ministry to

spending all its time jock- meet the targets of the Paris eying for participation in the COP? Or can this help national endeavours with the global discourse on building climate resilience and a lowcarbon path to development? How can it help Pakistan map, track, and break

its global climate isolation?

It is possible only if we realise that COPs have over the years become ever more complex. They have become the world's largest knowledge marketplace, a grand assembly of a wide range of stakeholders and not just a lavish and boisterous jamboree. Actual negotiations under the convention on climate change are only a small part of the

The gathering is used to strike side deals, join or negotiate voluntary coalitions and partnerships for specific actions, forge alliances to protect or promote sectoral interests, scout evolving portfolios and priorities of key institutions and countries, and identify opportunities for investments, joint ventures, pilot projects, and trends in international climate financial and technology flows.

Programme (JTWP). Let's look at the first three more closely from Pakistan's vantage point.

LDF: The LDF has been established, as Pakistan had demanded. But several key decisions still need to be made, particularly about the LDF's financials. Would it rely All this seemingly to primarily on the manda-

tory contributions from countries that have historiments made under periodical responsibility for global emissions or voluntary contributions by emergent economies like China and India? Or rich developing countries like the UAE and Singapore? Or can the LDF adopt innovative sources of financial base than rely only on donor countries?

There are several other unresolved questions of interest to Pakistan, such as will the fund disburse grants or give concessional loans, or both? There is a strong undercurrent for it to focus on 45 least developed countries and exclude, if agreed, other developing countries. For Pakistan, a key

pending decision is whether the fund is only for the least developed countries or whether it also applies to 'particularly vulnerable' developing countries? Should a separate window be created for emergencies triggered by climate disasters such as Pakistan's 2022 floods?

Carbon trading: The agreements on Article 6.2 and 6.4 have remained inconclusive. These articles are related to carbon trading, markets, and pricing. The

these articles were especially contentious, particularly with regard to oversight, transparency, methodological rigour, integrity, and risks of double counting in voluntary carbon markets. These disagreements

have implications for countries such as Pakistan that were planning to develop their VCMs. Indonesia and several other countries have imposed conditions on the export of carbon credits, and many others have put carbon trading on hold till the disagreements surrounding the implementation of these articles are resolved. Some countries will,

however, continue with cross-border cooperation under Article 6.2. Concurrently, the World Bank has announced leading the growth of high-integrity global carbon markets, initially with 15 countries. The list does not include Pakistan that has already implemented the REDD Plus project.

Pakistan and some other countries have begun to develop the entire ecosystem of carbon trading: carbon pricing initiatives, emissions trading systems, domestic carbon markets, and negotiations in relation to carbon taxes. Over two-

thirds of the countries, however, are said to be planning to use carbon markets to meet their NDC commitments, showing greater confidence in the regulatory market rather than the

Finally, responding presumably to European Union's carbon border adjustment mechanism that will steadily impose carbon taxes on trading partners like Pakistan, the GST has recorded that unilateral measures should not constitute a means of arbitrary discrimination or disguised restriction on international trade.

The COP cell will be immensely useful only if it works on the premise that most initiatives announced at the COP are negotiated during the year, just the way the launch of studies commissioned during the year is timed to influence COP decision-making. It is perhaps not unfair to say that the unfinished agenda of COP28, that will be taken up in Baku in December, should be at the heart of the COP cell's work. This can best be achieved through collaborative inter-ministerial initiatives. -- Courtesy

# What democracy means



Kamila Hyat

Balloting and elections stand at the very core of any demographic system. eral election scheduled for February, huge questions are already arising – as has been the case in previous polling exercises.

The level playing field demanded by most parties has quite clearly been tilted in a specific direction, in an attempt to ensure what the outcome of the people's vote will be. People, it seems, do

It would be far simcandidates and put them in place rather than cook up a cauldron, which simsituation we are in.

able list of candidates, including those of Haqooq-e-Khalq Party (HKP) founder Ammar Ali Jan who had planned to contest a provincial assembly seat from Chungi Amar Sadhu, has added a new layer to the mayhem. There was little chance that the Khalq party would gain anything resembling an electoral vic-

Karachi-based human rights activist and lawyer Jibran Nasir has contested in at least two elections and managed to put together only about 6,000 votes in the constituencies he contested. He as someone who stands for democracy has now offered to legally represent or advise PTI candidates from his constituency in Karachi; the papers of these candidates have tion to national problems. been mysteriously re-

will go to the courts, we ers can play a huge part in need to understand why such an obvious facade of different agenda and difunfair play is being created. It seems evident that important that these the candidate who many views be brought onto the believe is the favoured national agenda. The vicrunner for the prime min- tory of candidates from

much help. Perhaps the purpose of all this mess is to ensure that his party has a simple majority and is not dependent on smaller parties to boost it up and keep it in power.

Such situations have arisen before and were superbly handled by major parties by incorporating smaller, poorly represented groups into their dialogue to have the crucial 18th Amendment in 2010. Credit of course goes to Raza Rabbani who authored this document, but the process through which it was passed with the support from the PML-N as well as minor parties – shows how democracy should work at its best. The business is all about dialogue, discussion, discourse and reaching an agreed-upon solu-Smaller parties that

d. have come up recently such as the HKP and oththis, putting forward a ferent points of view. It is

The refusal to accept isterial position will gain the HKP is unlikely dethe papers filed by a siz- a victory without too spite the impressively toral staff for hours before spite the impressively hard work carried out in the Chungi area including providing sanitation and drinking water to the resi-

> The constituency is an interesting one, with extremely poor areas surrounded by far more plush centres of living. But allowing the party a chance is crucial. We can only hope the mistakes made will be remedied though the reluctance to allow the party to put forward its grievances is somewhat alarming. What is clear is that, as happened in 2018 and in polls before that date, we are going into an election the results of which do not seem to be in the hands of the people. This is especially true as many political experts expect turnout to be low given people's disillusionment with larger parties even though the PTI – toral battle - still has

strong youth support. Low turnouts make it easier to manipulate voting, and we have seen the manner in which this happened in the past, with incidents involving the mys-

turning up once again. The scenario is disturbing. The entire purpose of a democracy is to allow people to put forward their opinions. The manner in which they choose to do so is im-

mensely important. We should look towards India. The country's electoral processes since the 1950s have been essentially fair, despite some controver-Aam Aadmi Party led by Arvind Kejriwal, which now rules Punjab, is an example of new parties coming up with an agenda aimed solely at eradicating poverty in their constituencies. It is impressive that Kejriwal's mother made a living cleaning homes and offices. It is even more impressive that she chose to continue her work even after her son won a massive which faces its own elec- election. This is democ- less. The cliched pictures racy as it should be. For of people standing in all the flaws of the fascist are points of brightness in India which we should look

ing field which will allow them to flicker and perhaps burn bright is simply not available. There is obviously something very wrong here. The question is how to bring about

Essentially, this can happen only if larger parties, instead of smugly awaiting what they know will be theirs, lead a crusade for an inclusive election which allows everyone to take part. There also sies. The victory of the needs to be democratic change within parties. The elimination of key women candidates by the PML-N. who have played a major parliamentary role in the past, is disturbing

For an election to have any validity, it should be not only fair but also transparent. People must be able to see exactly what is happening and how parties work. This has not been the case, and the election is essentially meaningqueues mean very little Modi government, there unless all those who wish to contest are able to do so freely. It seems this is not happening, and we already these flashes of light are have doubts about the upnot allowed in our coun- coming election, provided terious disappearance of try. An entirely open play- it goes ahead at all. -- Cour-

# RIP Sartaj Aziz



Khurram Husain

One by one, those with a memory, and those who played a critical role navipassed through, are leaving us. The last few days have with them a treasure of memories, reflections and much more, from so many critical episodes in our his-

Khokhar sahib, and it is my loss for not having familiarised myself with him. But I met Sartaj Aziz sahib on a few occasions, followed his work, attended an event in which he was a featured speaker in Washington, D.C. when he was national security adviser a long detailed, probing interview with him back in 2007 and again in 2013 shortly after the elections.

Sartaj sahib was solid, serious and wore an austere countenance. The closest to a smile I saw on his face was a brief, short smirk. But far more than his personal characteristics, it is the life trajectory that he carved out which tells a remarkable story.

He was an outsider in economic management circles when he landed as minister of state for agriculture in the Junejo government. Economic managegrip of a small cabal of civil servants in those days, a tightly knit network of handpicked men around Ghulam Ishaq Khan. These men circulated between all key positions involved in the limited space that the might be too late now.

economy: finance minister, known. He finally got his deputy chairman Planning Commission, chairman Wapda, governor State Bank of Pakistan.

These were also seri-

ous men, of very high calibre, including people such as V.A. Jaffery, A.G.N. Kazi and H.U. Beg. It was quite the norm for civil servants to run with their initials and surname in those days. Ranged against them in virtually an adversarial role were the 'outsiders', or those who had served in international agencies and were returning to Pakistan with new, and different ideas of how to run a country. Among them was Mahbub ul Haq. Another, younger one, was Sartaj

The GIK clique believed in a centralised I never knew Riaz economy, where the state would preside over all economic activity, sometimes as a direct owner of productive assets, at other times administering the large it would cast a shadow prices or setting the terms of entry into any given field. They were mistrustful of private capital, but not hostile to it. They loathed bankers, at least the private variety, and had strong views favouring import substitution, protection of the domestic market and its producers who needed a strong, paternalistic power watch-

ng over them in their view. Sartaj sahib was among the newcomers who believed the country needed to change. It needed to embrace markets, not smother them. It needed to open up foreign trade, move away from import substitution towards exports, and lose its fear of imports. Mahbub ul Haq and Mohammad Yaqub at the State Bank were among these individuals too, although the former was not exactly a new-

He got his chance to start making a difference in 1985 as a junior minister in the Junejo government, but managing the country's government had is well

chance when he was tipped to be finance minister in the first Nawaz Sharif government of 1990.

form-minded budget was

Pakistan's first re-

passed in that year. Import tariffs were slashed massively, and a domestic general sales tax was introduced to replace the revenues that previously had come from the high customs duties on all imports. Those years saw the first privatisation (of Muslim Commercial Bank that we now know as MCB), the inauguration of treasury bill auctions as the way to raise government debt, and the first serious advancement in private power generation projects (Hubco), lessons from which were later incorporated into the Private Power Policy in 1996. Those years also saw the beginning of the Foreign Currency Deposit scheme, which eventually grew so on the viability of

Pakistan's external sector. artaj sahib was finance minister when the nuclear detonations happened in 1998. He was blamed for the decision to freeze foreign currency deposits and departed from the position shortly thereafter to take charge at the foreign ministry. Much later, he would argue in his book that there was no other option. He initiated massive changes in the life of the country. But how the country fared after that, lurching from one balance-of-payments crisis to another, was also part of the changes ushered in by him. During his years in service, he was right to point out that Pakistan could not afford to ignore the market realities engulfing the world. But Pakistan has yet to learn how to

make these market forces

work to its own advantage.

Perhaps that is one lesson

to draw from Sartaj sahib's

departure, though I fear it

Courtesy Dawn

When grand homes outgrow their owners, they have no option but to become museums. Notable are the Louvre in Paris, Tsarskoye Selo outside St Petersburg, the Kremlin in Moscow, and the Hofburg in Vienna. In the UK, the royal residences of Hampton Court and Windsor Castle have become quasi-museums. If King Charles III has his way, the state and royal rooms in Buckingham Palace too will become available to the public as a fulltime museum. (Its former Royal Chapel is already a mini Royal Gallery.)

Smaller benefactions associated with their donors are the Wallace Collection in London, assembled in the 19th century by Sir Richard Wallace. In its 25 galleries are displayed Old Masters, French 18th-century paintings, furniture, and armour. Further afield is Powis Castle in Wales. There, on shameless display, are the ill-gotten gains of the 18thcentury kleptomaniac Robert Clive acquired during his stay in India. "These in--clude Tipu Sultan's magnificent state tent, made of painted chintz; gold and beiewelled tiger's head finials from Tipu's throne [,] precious objects in jade and

in India have un--d-ergone a similar conversion: in Jaipur, the Ci---tv Palace houses the Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum and its prime treasure — the illustrated Razmnama (a translation into Persian of Hindu Mahabha-rata), commis-

Jaipur's Delhi reside-n--ce cluded "rare jewellery, cer-

towards. It is clear that

A cultural distaff

F.S. Aiiazuddin

Many royal residences epic sioned by Emperor Akbar

in 1574. The Maharaja the objects on display inof Modern Art.

is now the National Gallery Many Indian stately homes have become hotels. Pre-eminent among them is Udaipur's shimmering

seemingly afloat in Pichola Less grandiose and more specialised is the privately managed Calico Museum of Te---xtiles, founded by textile magnate Gaut--am Sarabhai in Ahmedabad. Expanded over the years by his family, its magnificent collection is a homage to the versatility of

Within the old family home called The Retreat is a haveli, housing "religious textiles, as well as south Indian bronzes, Jaina art, and Mughal miniature paintings". In an adjacent 'Chauk' are displayed "royal tents, carpets, furnishings and costumes of the Mughal and regional courts; textiles for India's export trade, as well as a wide range of ethnographic

Ingeniously, the remodelled family swimming pool's walls are used as a gallery and a huge antique Mughal tent covers the tiles, Buddhist sculptures, whole pool as a decorative

patrician wealth to plebeian benefit has no parallel in Pakistan. For one thing, former princely states like Bahawalpur, Khairpur and Swat were comparatively modest in their means and provincial in their reach.

The closest Pakistan has to a 'royal collection' is that of the Talpur family in Hyderabad. Select objects from this tantalising hoard amassed by the mirdoms of Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas and Khairpur were shown to the public (many items for the first time) at the Mohatta Palace Museum in September 1999. Titled Treasures of the Talpurs,

emonial textiles, historical manuscripts, decorative objects, furniture, paintings, arms and armour". Even these remnants were enough to re-call the wealth white Jag Niwas (now the of the Talpur amirs, which Taj Lake Palace hotel), had so excited Charles Napier's avarice in 1843.

Rather like the Sarabhai's Calico Museum Ahmedabad, the Mohatta Palace Museum in Karachi is a laudable example of private sector initiative filling the void of public sector inertia.

The beige sandstone Mohatta Palace was built in 1927 by Shiv Rattan Mohatta, a successful Marwari entrepreneur. After 1947, it served as Pakistan's first foreign affairs ministry when Kar-a-chi was still the capital. In 1964, the pala--ce was given to Mo---h-tarma Fatima Jinnah. It remained with her family until 1980.

Substantially remodelled, it opened as a museum in September 1999. Since then, its Board of Trustees has expanded the display area from the original three to 44 galleries, using them to present thematic displays of textiles, antique maps, copies of the Holy Quran and mod-Such application of ernist works by, amongst others, Sadequain. The museum has been heavily supported by private col-

> To mark its silver jubilee, the museum is presenting an ambitious programme of ev--e-nts, including on Jan 5 a session on the bar-d--ic tradition, featuring the Tilism-i-Hoshruba, to be recited by NAPA-trained dastangohs.

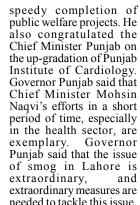
As the year 2024 stares at us stark and barren, such cultural endeavours are not occasional distractions. They are the distaffs around which are spun the precious skeins of our national culture. -- Courtesy Dawn

# **Governor lauds performance** of CM Punjab, his team for speedy completion of projects

Independent Report
LAHORE: Caretaker Chief
Minister Punjab, Mohsin
Namire Punjab, Mohsin Naqvi, called on Governor Chief Minister Punjab on Muhammad Punjab, Munammau Balighur Rehman here today at Governor House Lahore. In the meeting, public welfare projects in the province, improvement in police stations, facilitation centres, zoos, and in the provincial financial matters were discussed. Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rahman also informed the Chief Minister Punjab about the financial extraordinary measures are needed to tackle this issue. Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin financial

faced by the public sector universities of the Punjab due to the lack of attention during the previous while the second artificial government's tenure rainfall would be employed spanned over almost four Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Rehman said other measures. the including banning smoke performance of Chief emitting vehicles to solve





Naqvi told Governor Punjab that first ever administrative problems experiment of inducing artificial rainfall has been conducted successfully while the second artificial again this month to further reduce smog levels in Lahore. Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi Minister Mohsin Naqvi the smog problem, will also be seen shortly.



LAHORE: Ameer Tehreek Labbaik Pakistan Hafiz Saad Hussain Rizvi talking to media person during launching ceremony of new flag of party.

# Minister stresses bringing accident ratio of mine workers to zero

(APP): Provincial Minister for Mines and Minerals Ibrahim Hassan Murad said on Thursday that an advisory board of all departments related to mining should be formed and the accident rate should be brought to zero, while ensuring safety of target of senior research

of mine workers and other samples by officers, measures at his camp office on Thursday, he said the demand for Pakistani labour was very high worldwide, and education and skills should be imparted to them.

The meeting also discussed establishment of joint helpline for the Mines Welfare Labour Commissioner (MLWC) and Chief Inspectorate of Mines (CIM), steps and strategies to get real-time images of underground mines on monthly basis, amendments to the Mines Act, 1923 to introduce e-

challan, list of pending challans, mines rescue stations online monitoring, increasing student seats in mining as well as survey diplomas, calls received with location at mines rescue stations during last five years, trend of mining accidents for last 10 years, officer for the next two Presiding over a months, a detailed review on welfare of target of collection of establishment of Mining School/Institute in district Khushab, recruitment to key posts, strict action against lease holders for repeated violations, online inspection portal and other

issues reviewed in details. During the briefing, the provincial minister was informed establishment of joint helpline, action plan with the Punjab Information and Technology Board (PITB) has entered the final stages for formal launch of a helpline 1325

on January 11



PESHAWAR: Vendors sitting around fire to keep them warm during cold weather in the city.

# Bilawal's rallies schedule for election campaign

LAHORE (APP): The Rahim Yar Khan and on Pakistan People's Party announced its preliminary schedule for the 2024 elections campaign on Thursday.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will hold more than 30 rallies in various cities of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Sindh, and Balochistan. He will conduct rallies in Swabi on January 10, Tandlianwala on January 11, and Faisalabad on January 12.

He will continue his campaign in Bahawalpur on January 13, Nasirabad (Balochistan) on January 14, and Khairpur on the evening of January 14.

On January 15, he will be in Larkana for his election campaign. Further rallies are scheduled for Qamber Shahdadkot on January 17, and Noshahro Feroze on January 18 in the morning and Mehar,

Dadu, in the evening.
On January 19, the campaign would move to Larkana on February 6.

January 20 to Kot Addu. Lahore will host a rally on January 21, Chiniot on January 23, and Sargodha Bilawal will continue

his campaign in Lala Musa on January 25, Multan on January 26, and Peshawar on January 27. Rawalpindi will witness a rally on January 28, followed by Kurram on January 29 and Dera Ismail Khan on

The campaign will conclude with rallies in Malakand on January 31 and Khuzdar on February 1. On February 2, there will be rallies in Kundian, Kot Kashmir, and Shakargarh during the day, and in Jacobabad in the evening. On February 3, Mirpur Khas will host a January 16, Sanghar on rally, February 4 will see a gathering in Hyderabad, and on February 5, Karachi will be the venue for a final rally. Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will visit

# LALHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Punjab Governor Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman.

# Ashrafi urges parents to ensure polio vaccination

to eradicate polio from Pakistan, Prime Minister's Special Representative and Pakistan Ülema Council Chairman Hafiz Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi emphasised the importance of administering polio drops to children here at the Director General

Health office on Thursday. During the inaugural ceremony of the polio vaccination drive, he addressed concerns surrounding vaccine's safety, referencing an international 'Ulema and Muftian' conference in Egypt, which declared polio drops as Halal and

LAHORE (APP): In a bid not harmful to children's Dismissing unfounded claims linking vaccine to reproductive system issues, he reassured the public about its safety. Expressing gratitude to the Punjab Health

Department successfully eliminating polio in the province, Ashrafi asserted the government's commitment to eradicating the polio virus nationwide by 2024. He acknowledged the sacrifices made by individuals, including army, police, and health workers, who lost their polio eradication.

Ashrafi appealed to the public to show respect health workers administering vaccines and warned of accountability before Allah for parents it their child suffers disability due to the failure of vaccine administration. Open to a debate to address any

reservations, underscored the urgency of collective efforts in achieving a polio-free Pakistan. In a show of solidarity, Ashrafi also condemned the recent terrorist attack in Iran, emphasising Pakistan's shared struggle against lives in the mission of terrorism and expressing empathy for the victims.

### **CM** inaugurates new DC urges first anti-polio drive extended emergency successful in Jhang JHANG (APP): Deputy

Commissioner Jhang Independent Report Abdullah Khurram Niazi AHORE: Caretaker Chief has directed all the Minister Punjab Mohsin concerned officials to make Naqvi inaugurated on successful the five-day Thursday the new emergency anti-polio drive to begin on January 08. of Punjab Institute of Cardiology (PIC).

He was chairing a meeting here Thursday to In a record period of six weeks, the Punjab review the plans made by the Health Department. The DC got briefing about the initiative and Institute of Cardiology's emergency had been completely renovated with a 50 beds extension to the gave directions to the heads new emergency building. of health instructions for The CM inaugurated the effectively training the polio workers. He said that 2343 mobile teams would state-of-the-art new emergency department of the PIC, through the latest provide anti-polio drops to computerised system. 561000 children during the

The patients' records have also been secured materialised due to the plants in the adjacent

visits of CM Mohsin Naqvi. The work was completed in record time. Naqvi made a detailed

visit to the upgraded emergency room and reviewed the facilities provided for cardiac patients. The chief minister inspected the ICU, echo room and other facilities and checked the quality of new beds. He also directed authorities concerned to make special washrooms for special people.

The caretaker chief minister observed the

newly designed system from arrival of patients to He urged the parents | forever. The extension and treatment at the reception renovation has been and directed to keep more corridor.



PESHAWAR: Caretaker Chief Minster Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Justice (Retd) Arshad Hussain Shah and Cabinet Members offering Fateha on the Sad demise of Former Chief Justice Qaisar Rasheed during Provincial Cabinet meeting.

### Two outlaws held, drugs recovered

to give their kids anti-polio

drops in order to prevent

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Dera police arrested two outlaws and recovered weapons and from their possession in the limits of Gomal University police station here Thursday.

According to the police spokesman, on the direction of District Police Officer Dera Abdul Rauf Babar Qaisrani, SHO Gomal University police station Kazim Husain along with police team conducted operations against criminal elements and arrested drug dealer Naeem son of Ghulam Rasool and recovered 230 grams of hashish and 30bore pistol with 5 cartridge from his possession.

Meanwhile, another criminal Fazal Rehman son of Muhammad Baksh resident of Nawab was arrested after recovering 97 grams ice and 30-bore pistol with 5 cartridge from his possession.

# Anti-polio campaign to kick off from Jan 8

SUKKUR (APP): The anti-polio campaign will kick off in all eight taluks the Khairpur district from the 8th to 12th January. During the campaign, children under five years of age will be administered anti-polio drops for which a total of 792 teams will perform duty. Commissioner Syed Ahmed

Fawad on Thursday urged

the officers concerned to

use all available resources

# **Shazia Marri says:** PPP to announce manifesto soon

Peoples Parliamentarians (PPPP) Secretary Information Shazia Marri said on Thursday the party manifesto, addressing the economic challenges of the country, would be issued

Highlighting a historic decision in the Central Executive Committee (CEC) meeting, she emphasised the manifesto's 10 points, presented by Chairman Bilawal-Bhutto Zardari, focusing on unemployment issues. to fighting against

income, inflation, and conveyed Bilawal's commitment hatred, division, and inflation, emphasizing a positive approach to lead the nation forward.

centre and urged unity, stating that the PPP responds to criticism

ocation. Marri said that a

She stressed the need for political stability ugh election.

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan for a district-level youth without resorting to it. Regarding elections.

she affirmed Bilawal's openness to opponents contesting from any clarification Khursheed Shah has been sought on a meeting with PMLN's Ayyaz Sadiq. She condemned bombings in Iran, expressing solidarity against terrorism. She emphasized the PPP's sacrifices for peace.

She revealed Asif Ali

Zardari's proposal for Bilawal Bhutto as the Prime Minister candidate, unanimously approved in



KARACHI: Caretaker Education Minister Sindh Raina Hussain along with Counsel General of Turkiye in (Karachi) Jamal Sango and others inaugurates Primary and Secondary School (after its renovation) at Baldia to make the campaign 100. Town in Provincial Capital.

# K-P caretaker cabinet approves draft ordinance of amendments to PPC, CrPC

PESHAWAR (APP): A meeting of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa caretaker cabinet was held at Civil Secretariat Peshawar presided by Chief Minister Justice ® Syed Arshad Hussain Shah on Wednesday.

The meeting was attended by ministers, advisors, special assistants, the Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretaries, and relevant administrative secretaries. Caretaker

Cabinet approved the draft of an Ordinance amending various Sections of the Pakistan Panel Code (PPC) and Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) enhancing punishments and penalties for all those organizing unlawful assembly, rioting and disobeying an order lawfully promulgated and/ or causing obstructions, or injury to persons lawfully employed. Specifically, these amendments relate to

the violation of sections 147, 148 and 188 of PPC. According to details,

the Cabinet approved amendments to Sections 147,148 and 188 of the Pakistan Penal Code 1860 and in Schedule II of the Criminal Procedure Code 1898 by enhancing the punishment of the said sections to create deterrence and to stop unlawful assembly and rioting etc. and to maintain the writ of the state and

While the existing punishment u/s 147 of PPC was "up to two years or with fine, or both" it was increased to "up to three years and shall also be liable to fine up to two hundred thousand rupees. In default of payment of additional imprisonment for three months.

be arrested without twenty-five thousand warrant "non-bailable" has

also been added. With regard to Section 148 the existing punishment was "up to three years or with fine, or both" has been replaced by "up to five years and shall also be liable to fine up to five hundred thousand rupees, which shall not be less than one hundred thousand

In default of payment of fine, additional imprisonment for six months" while in schedule -II "May be arrested without a warrant" and "nonabailable" have been added. In respect of the punishment u/s 188 which was "up to one month or with fine which may extend to (six hundred rupees) or with both" was replaced with "up to one year and shall also be liable to fine up to one hundred thousand rupees, which In schedule II, "may shall not be less than



LAHORE: Special Assistant to Prime Minister Allama Tahir Ashrafi and Chairman Pakistan Ulema-e-Islam Council talking to the media during launch of anti-polio drive at DG Health Office.

# **PHC** issues written verdict in Zartaj case

PESHAWAR (APP): Peshawar High Court Chief Justice Ibrahim Khan on Thursday issued a twopage written verdict in the Zartaj Gul case.

According to the judgement, Zartaj Gul was wanted to the Punjab Police with regard to the May 9 incidents in Gujranwala.

The court granted bail to Zartaj Gul and ordered her to appear before the court concerned by January 13.

In case she failed to comply with the order her would become ineffective, the PHC

# Terror financing cases increase in 2023: CTD KP

PESHAWAR (APP): The number of terror financing cases has increased during the last year, according to a report by the Counter Terrorism Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (CTD KP) released here on Thursday.

According to the report released by CTD KP, "it says that there was an increase in terror financing cases during the past six years, and 90 terror financing cases were registered in KP during 2022 and 298 in 2023."

A total of 960 people were named in terror financing cases, of which 311 were arrested and 44 were killed, reports said.

A sum of Rs 13.46 million was recovered in terror financing, and in the Peshawar region, 46 cases in 2022 and 179 cases in 2023 were registered in that regard. One suspect was convicted in 179 cases of terror financing in the Peshawar region last year, and according to CTD, 'Cases have also been registered for providing

# **KPK Health Department** launches a crackdown against sale of illegal medicines PESHAWAR (Online): On launch special campaigns in

the direction of Secretary Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) Mahmood Aslam Wazir, Drug Control and Pharmacy Services Khyber comprehensive crackdown against the sale and stockpiling of illegal

drugs in various districts of the province. The Drug Control and Pharmacy Services Department has acted swiftly in response to reports received from various districts to crack

down on illegal drugs including food s u p p l e m e n t s , nutraceuticals, unani, ayurvedic, homeopathic, and herbal products.

According to a report submitted by the Director General, Drug Control and Pharmacy Services to the Secretary Health Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Thursday, drug inspectors in different provinces have been specially tasked to their respective districts.

Abbottabad, Bajaur, Bannu, Buner, Chitral, DÍ Khan, Karam, Mardan, Haripur, Mansehra, Lucky Pharmacy Services Khyber Marwat, Nowshera, Pakhtunkhwa has launched Orakzai, Dir Lower, Dir Upper, IIIe stocking and distribution of alternative medicines were targeted in Swabi, Kohat, Malakand, North Waziristan, Peshawar, Swat, Shangla, Charsadda, Tank. A total of 412 medical store/drug store outlets were inspected in the markets of these districts, in which 546 alternative medicines were tested.

Additionally, 118 suspected samples of substitute drugs on Form were recovered during these operations. The cases against the offenders will be thoroughly investigated, and preliminary findings will be referred to Section 11 of the Drugs Act, 1976 which They will be punished after court proceedings.



LAHORE: Deputy Commissioner Rafia Haider distributes "Helmet" among the citizen during ' Road safety campaign" event at Istanbul Chowk, in Provincial Capital.

# **Mayor Karachi** visits office of CPNE

Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that he wants to serve the citizens of Karachi with dedication and we have solved their issues, and this process of public service will continue

He said this on Thursday during a visit to the office of the Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE). He said that the remaining period of three and a half years should be focused on solving the problems of

He lauded the role played by the CPNE in the development promotion of journalism. The CPNE formulated guidelines for positive and constructive journalism, which raised the quality of journalism at the city, province and country 6.5 crores were received.

KARACHI (APP): Mayor levels, he said. On this occasion, Ijazul Haq, Aamir Mehmood and other senior journalists and in large numbers.

Karachi editors were also present

Barrister Murtaza Wahab met the editors of newspapers and other journalists and said that newspapers identify the problems of the city which guides us. Through newspapers and electronic channels, we easily communicate performance to the public. Journalists associated with newspapers, magazines and electronic media are our valuable assets.

He said that the contract for Karachi Zoo had not been awarded for three years. In the recent tender, four times more bids were accepted and Rs.

# Pak-Afghan border committee agrees to expedite crossover of vehicles on daily basis

expedite the crossover of the long queues of goodsladen vehicles waiting for clearance. The meeting was chairmanship of Additional

Muhammad Rizwan. management Other officials present in committee at Custom the meeting were Deputy Station Torkhem agreed to Collector Enforcement, Saiqa Abbas, Assistant vehicles from both sides to Director FIA, Yasir Arafat, 900 trucks daily to clear Assistant Director Anti Narcotics, Salman, Maj Murad from Frontier Corps, DC Appraisement Customs, Hammad, Assistant Collector, Farya

Transit Superintendent, Saddiq Akbar. Those who represented the business community included the Coordinator Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi, Vice Chairman of All Pakistan Customs Association, Vice President transportation

Torkham Custom Agents Custom Association, Shinwari and others. The meeting held a threadbare discussion on the slow clearance process of trucks, Agents causing delays in the Farooq return of empty containers. USF Policy Committee in Islamabad.



of PAJCCI, Shujah consignments besides the Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif chairing 47th meeting of

# Customs Abbas Naqvi, Deputy Muhammad,

ISLAMABAD: The CDWP meeting presided over by Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Mohammad Jehanzeb Khan, approved 1 development project with a cost of Rs.45.69 million & recommended 3 projects worth Rs. 358.810 billion to the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) for further consideration.

# PTCL group renews partnership with TPL trakker for provision of ICT services

**Independent Report** ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's largest telecommunications and integrated ICT services provider, PTCL Group (PTCL & Ufone 4G), and

Group (GCBSO), PTCL & Ufone 4G, Zarrar Hasham Khan, and CEO, TPL Trakker,



MCCI demands centre

of excellence to preserve

culture of the region

leading GPS tracking and IoT services provider, TPL agreement at TPL Trakker Trakker have renewed their headquarters in the partnership for the presence of senior officials continued provision of the state-of-the-art machine to said a news release. machine (M2M) and ICT under PTCL Group wireless connectivity and

MULTAN (APP): Multan

Chamber of Commerce and

Industry (MCCI) urged the

government to establish

centre of excellence in the

city to preserve the culture

and tradition of the region.

Mian Rashid Iqbal, Vice President Sheikh

Muhammad Asim Saeed

expressed these views

while talking to media

persons during a visit to

Saraiki Food Festival

organized at Multan Tea

House in collaboration

the stalls of Saraiki food

and products decorated

with regional culture.

They also inspected

They further said that present.

President

MCCI President

from both organizations

Under this agreement. services to TPL Trakker PTCL Group will provide

the culture, tradition and

civilization of the region

was among the priorities of

the Chamber. In history,

only those nations survive

who kept their culture and

traditions alive. The culture

and art of the region were

prominent in the festival,

they said. The Chamber of

Commerce and Industry

Multan has always raised

its voice to promote the

civilization, tradition and

culture of the region and

took practical steps

regarding it. Former Senior

Vice President Khawaja

Sohail Tufail, ex Vice

President Naveed Iqbal

Chughtai and others were

a host of bundled services Chief to TPL Trakker, to enable Business Solutions Officer the company's premium and efficiency-boosting vehicle tracking, performance management,

and other IoT services.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Group Chief Business Solutions Officer, PTCL & Ufone 4G, Zarrar Hasham Khan said, "PTCL Group being the National company is proud to be major proponent of technological enablement

transformation in Pakistan. Our connectivity and ICT services provide great deal of ease and enablement to our enterprise customers, like TPL Trakker, who in turn extend game-changing products and services to the people of Pakistan.

# Pakistan's **Sesame Seed** exports blossom in China

BEIJING (Online): Pakistan witnessed a remarkable surge in sesame seed shipments to China throughout the year 2023.

This unprecedented growth has positioned Pakistan as a major player in the global sesame seed market, with Chinese consumers increasingly embracing the quality and flavor of Pakistani sesame, said Ghulam Qadir, Commercial Counsellor here at the Pakistan Embassy. Ghulam Qadir stated

that Pakistan's export of Sesamum seeds to China was \$250.85 million from January to November 2023, compared to \$117.85 million in the same period last year.

# China embraces first batch of Pakistani beef BEIJING (APP): In a become the first and only

notification to the Pakistan Stock Exchange, The Organic Meat Company Limited reported on January 1 that it had successfully exported cooked/heat-treated frozen beef to China on the last day of 2023.

In June 2023, General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) granted access for Pakistani heattreated beef to be exported

In October, Organic Meat was approved to compliant beef to China. The Organic Meat has minimum of 30 minutes.

company from Pakistan to secure approvals from

According to the official announcement of GACC, the imported Pakistani cooked/heattreated beef must originate from cattle younger than 30 months, Chinese media

Additionally, the meat must be boneless and have undergone a rigorous heat treatment process.

The center of the meat should reach a temperature of at least 70 degrees Celsius for a

## Shipping activity at **Port Qasim**

KARACHI (APP): Five ships namely, Maratha-polis, San Francisco Bridge, Turan-C, Genco Aquitaine and Golar Arctic scheduled to load/offload Container, Rice, Coal and LNG,berthed at Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, Bulk Terminal Gas Terminal respectively

Wednesday. Meanwhile three more ships, MSC Desiree, Maersk Tacoma and Oriental Jasmine also arrived at outer-anchorage of the Port Oasim.

### stocks creep higher LONDON (AFP/APP): Nasdaq both slid.

European, US

Europe's major stock indices edged higher Thursday, while Wall Street opened mixed, following a series of losses at the beginning of the nations threatening more

Frankfurt, London and Paris stocks rose slightly from heavy falls Wednesday, when deadly blasts in Iran rattled markets and fanned fears of a broadening conflict in the Middle East.

Most Asian stocks with Wall Street on Wednesday, after minutes from the US Federal Reserve's December meeting dampened hopes for an early interest-rate

on Thursday, while the itself.

S&P 500 and tech-heavy Oil prices rallied further on supplies

"With forceful actions to defend shipping in the Red Sea, the situation was looking tense even before yesterday's explosions in Iran," noted Steve Clayton, head of equity funds at UK stockbroker Hargreaves Lansdown.

"The Israeli/Hamas dipped Thursday in line conflict rages on, leaving oil traders increasingly wary of the security of supplies from the region.'

A global rally for equities that characterised the last months of 2023 has petered out on The Dow rose 0.2 concerns that the buying percent at the start trading may have run ahead of

# Pakistan's copper export to China crosses \$1 billion mark in 2023

and articles thereof have he anticipated that the seen an increase in export value of these exports will to China from Pakistan in recent years and in the first eleven months of 2023 increased by 9%, crossed one billion dollars mark, sources said. Ghulam

Commercial Counsellor at the Pakistan Embassy in Beijing, told China the global market." Having Economic Net (CEN) that Chinese companies invest the Pakistani government is in Pakistan would not only keen to boost copper and provide a boost to the to China. He also also open doors for mentioned that Pakistan's advanced technologies and exports of copper to China expertise.

BEIJING (APP): Copper have increased recently, and rise as a result of refined copper products.
"Pakistan has been actively seeking foreign investments, particularly from big Chinese companies, to bring in value addition and produce

more valuable products for

Myths & Realities of

**Alternative Treatment** 

CHAMBER O'

**LAHORE: President Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry Kashif** 

Anwar addressing a seminar on myths and realities of alternative treatment.

that despite limited

best facilities. He said that

the project had been finalised on 'Develop-and

run' basis with the

cooperation of the private

Amir Baloch mentioned

that the Lahore dining car

contract spans one year,

offering bedding services

to passengers at Rs 250

each. Stressing cleanliness,

he emphasised the dining

When questioned,

Railways CEO unveils

'Premium Lounge'

dining car

LAHORE (APP): Chief extend this upgrade to the

Executive Officer Railways
Amir Baloch inaugurated
Hazara Express in the subsequent phase. He said

cutting-edge dining car at Lahore Railway Station on would be provided with the

Express will be the first car operator's role in

partner.

the 'Premium Lounge', a

Bahauddin Zakariya Express, marked the initial

stride in elevating facilities.

Talking to the media,

Baloch emphasised the Pakistan Railways'

commitment to enhancing

food and beverage

standards and ensuring

value for money in the

design of the dining car.

The Bahauddin Zakariya

Th lounge, attached to

Thursday.

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed a nominal negative change of 0.01 percent by losing 7.69 percent, closing at 64,639.16 points against 64,646.85 points the previous trading day.

A total of 548,989,972 shares valuing Rs.15.395 billion were traded during the day as compared to 639,616,328 shares valuing Rs. 20.282

billion the last day. Some 360 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 155 of them recorded gains and 184 sustained losses, whereas the share prices of 21 remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were K-Electric Ltd with 154,661,017 shares at Rs.5.65 per share 37,141,119 shares.

Pak total

liquid foreign

reserves rise to

**\$ 13.22 billion** 

KARACHI (APP): The

total liquid foreign reserves

of Pakistan increased to

US\$ 13,220.6 million while

reserves held by the State

Bank reached \$ 8,221.2

million in the week ended

Pakistan, in a statement

issued here on Thursday,

informed that SBP's

reserves increased by \$ 464

million to \$8,221.2 million

mainly due to official

inflows of the Government

of Pakistan during the week

Meanwhile, net foreign reserves held by

under review.

The State Bank of

on December 29, 2023.

# CDNS secures Rs 50b in Islamic finance bonds

The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has secured Rs 50 billion in Islamic finance bonds at the end of the second quarter of the current fiscal year 2023–24.

"The Savings has issued Islamic bonds for the promotion of the Islamic finance system, which will help the development of the Islamic economy in the country," a senior official of the Directorate of National Savings told APP here on Thursday. Replying to another query, he said the CDNS had collected an

**PSX loses** 

**7.69 points** 

He added that the directorate had set a target of Rs 75 billion for the new financial year 2023–24 for Islamic finance bonds.

in July 2023-24 through

Islamic investment bonds.

Replying to another question, he said the CDNS aimed to introduce new dimensions in the Islamic finance sector. He informed that

CDNS had achieved the set target of Rs 60 billion in the fiscal year (2022–23) for Islamic investment to introduce the new products

global financial sector at this time, and a large part of the economy of many major countries currently includes Islamic finance, he added. The senior official of CDNS said that work was being done on

institutional reforms in CDNS and that new reforms and innovations were being introduced. "Islamic finance has a very important role in the global financial sector at this time, and a large part of the economy of many

major countries currently

# includes Islamic finance, "Islamic finance has a he added. **Telecom** Tribunal to handle telecom sector disputes, cases: Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): minister, will consist of Caretaker Federal Minister for Information be responsible for deciding

Technology and all appeal Telecommunication Dr. umar Saif has said that comprehen telecom sector disputes and cases will now be handled by a specialised Telecom Tribunal, instead

of High Courts.
Dr. Saif while sharing the information on his official social media account, said that the move the resolution of legal

Tribunal, according to the telecom industry.

and all appeals filed by aggrieved parties comprehensively and swiftly

The establishment of this tribunal is expected to alleviate the burden on High Courts concerning the adjudication of technical matters related to the telecom sector.

The minister believes was aimed at expediting that this specialized the resolution of legal approach will lead to faster issues and facilitating rapid and more efficient progress in the telecom resolution of disputes, contributing to the overall Telecom advancement of the

demand for legumes, he

# Gram, lentil pulses to be grown over 874,000 hectares in Rabi 2023

ISLAMABAD (APP): The government has established a target of cultivating pulses across 874,000 hectares during the current Rabi season as the initiative is driven by the dual objectives of meeting domestic demand and reducing reliance on imported commodities, thus safeguarding essential foreign exchange reserves of the country. During the period

under review, it has been planned to cultivate gram pulses on over 860,000 hectares and lentils on hectares. respectively, said an official in the Ministry of National Food Security and Research.In alignment with these objectives, the production targets for pulses, encompassing gram

and lentil varieties, have

been set at over 419,000

added. The Punjab Province aims to cultivate gram pulse on 786,000 hectares, yielding an estimated 322,000 tons, he said adding gram pulses are projected to cover 22,000 hectares in Sindh, yielding approximately 23,000 tons of this leguminous crop. Simultaneously, gram pulses are slated for cultivation on 30,000 hectares in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 40,000 hectares in Balochistan provinces, with anticipated vields of 15,000 tons and 49,000 tons respectively, he added. Meanwhile, it is anticipated that lentils will be cultivated on 14,000 hectares, resulting in an approximate production of 9,000 tons, he said adding that the major chunk of this pulse was being imported

to comply with the local



commercial banks stood at | inaugurates new Dinning Car for passengers at \$4,999.4 million, it added. Lahore Railway Station.

# beneficiary, with plans to maintaining hygiene. Winter brings boom to fish trade in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

foggy conditions have amplified the demands of mouth-watering fish varieties including trout fish and delicious chappli kabab in KP especially Peshawar where all eateries outlets packed with customers enjoying its delectable bites till late

being frequently visited by tourists and food lovers to relish on its delectable traditional foods varieties including mouth-watering

PESHAWAR (APP): The increased chill and dense rice-polao and fish varieties rice-polao and fish varieties mostly brought from Hazara Malakand. divisions, Punjab and Karachi as special winter food recipes. While travelling on

historic Qissa Khawani and Namak Mandi bazaars in the bustling city of Peshawar, a visitor can't resist the aroma of grilled Known for fish and chappli kabab hospitality, Peshawar is a being served with unique ancient city for traditional Qehwa and spicy sauces in harsh

winter. "The tantalizing aroma of trout and carp fish besides other varieties

and chappli kabab has always attracted me to enjoy its delectable taste at Qissa Khawani bazaar. It is my third visit to Qisa Khawani of the ongoing winter season with my family. My visit to Peshawar remained incomplete without

enjoying the mouthwatering chappli kabab and grilled fish with green qehwa," said Riaz Khan, a resident of Nowshera while talking to APP. Besides food outlets, many visitors take parcels for their loved one at home to keep themselves warms in harsh winter.

Ganta Ghar, a famous fish trade hub in Peshawar drew a substantial number of sea food lovers on Thursday where trade of fish varieties including mushka, raho, simon, pomfret, mahsher, and lobsters were significantly increased after the cold wave griped Peshawar valley for the last three

The hotel's owners and even vendors received a deluge of orders for eating at shops and home delivery from residents and visitors enjoying its delicious bites along with loved ones during peak of winter medium flame.

fish outlet at Ghanta Ghar said trout stock has been brought from Swat and Mansehra districts as a special winter offer to fulfill Peshawarties' pressing demands. "The recipe of trout fish is very simple and time-efficient. We prepare trout in oil after its proper water wash

Sajid Ali, a trader of a

and cutting. Later, varieties of spicy sauces, pomegranate seed powder, salt and other species ingredients are properly mixed.

Before making it on



from small heap of such seasonal fruit at Sector G-9 in Federal Capital.

# US, allies warn Huthis as ship attacks rattle global commerce

WASHINGTON: Twelve nations led by the United States on Wednesday jointly warned Yemen's

Huthi rebels of unspecified consequences unless they immediately halt sea attacks that are increasingly disrupting global commerce.
President Joe Biden's administration described

the statement—joined notably by Britain, Germany and Japan—as a final warning as he weighs possible military strikes against the Huthis if attacks persist.
The Iranian-backed

rebels, who control much of Yemen including the capital Sanaa and most of the Red Sea coast, have been

in the battered, Hamas-run

'Let our message now be clear: we call for the immediate end of these illegal attacks and release of unlawfully detained vessels and crews," said the joint statement released by the White House.

The Huthis will bear the responsibility of the consequences should they continue to threaten lives, the global economy and free flow of commerce in the region's critical waterways." A senior Biden administration official, while not specifying the consequences, called the message very clear.'

'I would not antici-

for itself," the official told

Biden consulted with his national security team on the morning of New Year's Day while on holiday in the US Virgin Islands to "discuss options" over the Huthi attacks, the offi

Britain-a close US ally on security issues-has issued its own warning of "direct action," with Prime Minister Rishi Sunak saying that the Huthis "must end their deadly and destabilizing attacks on vessels.

The UK will always take action to defend freedom of navigation," Sunak wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Russian hackers

system from at least May

nearly two years ago.

knocked out services pro-

vided by Ukraine's biggest



Doctors hold placards calling for better pay, as they stand on a picket line outside London's St Thomas Hospital on the first day of strike action.

# **Cameron stresses** Balkan peace in Kosovo

**Monitoring Desk** PRISTINA: UK Foreign Secretary David Cameron on Thursday stressed the importance of maintaining peace and stability in the Western Balkans, committing £45 million (\$57 million) to shoring up security in the region.

During a visit to Kosovo, his first as the UK's top diplomat, he met political leaders and visited British troops.

Speaking after talks with his Kosovar counterpart, Donika Gervalla-

were inside Ukraine telecoms giant for months "the importance of stability in the Western Balkans" Monitoring Desk 'That is something LONDON: Russian hack-Britain is investing in, with ers were inside Ukrainian £45 million this year. It's telecoms giant Kyivstar's

portant for our national inlast year in a cyberattack terest," he told a press conthat should serve as a "big ference in Pristina. warning" to the West, Tensions have per-Ukraine's cyber spy chief sisted between Kosovo and told Reuters. neighbouring Serbia since The hack, one of the the wars of the 1990s that most dramatic since led to the breakup of the Russia's full-scale invasion

former Yugoslavia. Kosovo declared independence from Serbia in 2008 but the latter has re-

something that is very im-

# Indonesia watchdog says president's son broke rules

**Monitoring Desk** 

JAKARTA: Indonesia's vote watchdog ruled on Thursday the president's son - the leading candidate's running mate in coming elections - had broken rules during his campaign, a breach that one expert said could leave him facing a reprimand but not disqualification.

Gibran Rakabuming Raka, who is seeking to become vice-president in the vote scheduled for Feb. 14,

denied any wrongdoing.
The watchdog, known by the abbreviation Bawaslu, said 36-

rial regulation when he handed out free milk to people at a public "car-

free day" in December.
A 2016 Jakarta gubernatorial order bars "events for the interests of political parties" during car-free days, when vehicles are banned from major thoroughfares as part of an environmental push.

The watchdog said it did not have the power to penalise him for breaking an order imposed by authorities in the capital. Jakarta Governor Heru Budi Hartono did not reyear-old Gibran had vio-lated a Jakarta gubernato-spond to a Reuters request for comment.

# **Exiled opposition leader** condemns 'sham' **Bangladesh election**

**Monitoring Desk** LONDON: Bangladesh's election on Sunday will be a "sham" designed to cement Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's rule, exiled opposition leader Tarique Rahman has told AFP in an exclusive interview defending his party's boycott.

Rahman is heir to one of the country's two main political dynasties – the other led by Hasina – and has party since the 2018 jailing

of his mother, two-time premier Khaleda Zia. Six years ago he was convicted in absentia of masterminding a deadly grenade attack on a campaign rally for Hasina – a charge he insists is fabricated – and sentenced to life imprisonment

His party staged a months-long protest cam-paign last year demanding the prime minister's resignation that saw at least 11 people killed and thousands of its supporters arrested.

# telecoms operator for some 24 million users for days from Dec. 12. In an interview, Illia Vitiuk, head of the Security

Service of Ukraine's (SBU) cybersecurity department, disclosed exclusive details about the hack, which he said caused "disastrous' destruction and aimed to land a psychological blow and gather intelligence.

This attack is a big message, a big warning, not only to Ukraine, but for the whole Western world to understand that no one is actually untouchable."

# New Jersey imam shot dead outside mosque, no suspect or motive identified

**Monitoring Desk** NEW JERSEY: An imam who was shot on Wednesday outside a mosque in New Jersey has died, the US state's attorney general said, adding that the killing did not initially appear to be driven by "bias" or domestic terrorism. Hassan Sharif was shot multiple times outside Masjid Muhammad in Newark, just west of New York, before being taken to hospital where he later died. New Jersey Attorney General Matt Platkin said.

"We do not yet know the motivation for this crime (but) the evidence collected thus far does not indicate that this was an act motivated by bias, or an act of domestic terrorism," said Platkin. He added that "in light of global events, and with a rise in bias that many communities are experiencing across our state particularly the Muslim.



Myanmar protesters residing in Japan raise photos of Aung San Suu Kyi during a rally, outside the Embassy of Myanmar in Tokyo, Japan.

Ukrainian prisoners of war (POWs) pose after a swap, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, at an unknown location in Ukraine.

# North Korea moves to redefine relations with South

**Monitoring Desk** SEOUL: North Korea is

shaking up the way it handles relations with South Korea, enacting changes to policy and government organisations that would effectively treat the South as a separate, enemy state.

The moves, which break with decades of policy, could have North Korea's foreign ministry taking over relations with the South, and potentially help justify the use of nuclear weapons against Seoul in a future war, ana-

Since the 1950-53 Korean War ended in a

have had policies that treat each other differently than other countries.

That has included relying on special agencies and ministries for inter-Korean relations rather than their foreign ministries and embracing policies for future peaceful reunification, usually envisioning a single state with two sys-

But in remarks to a year-end party meeting last week, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said peaceful reunification is impossible, and said the government would make a "decisive policy change" in relations

# Italy's Meloni urged to discipline lawmaker over New Year's gun incident

**Monitoring Desk** 

ROME: Italian Prime Min-ister Giorgia Meloni faced calls on Tuesday to punish a lawmaker from her party after a bystander was injured by a shot fired from his gun at a New Year's celebration. Emanuele Pozzolo, who is a member of Meloni's Brothers of Italy party, said the small revolver from which the bullet came belonged to him but has denied discharging the weapon himself.

The shot slightly injured the son-in-law of a member of the security team who were with a junior justice minister attending the same event to bring in the new year in the northern Italattack the party politically.

ian village of Rosazza. Local police are investigating the incident. Pozzolo had a licence for the gun but opposition politicians are asking why he decided to take it to a New Year's party. These incompetents

are a danger to the safety of those who meet them, let alone the interests of the country," said Elly Schlein, leader of the opposition centre-left Democratic Party. The right-wing Brothers of Italy said in a statement that unspecified action would be taken against Pozzolo if he was found to have done wrong but condemned efforts to use the incident to

### case for Jan 11-12 **Monitoring Desk** PARIS: The International Court of Justice (ICJ) will hold public hearings in pro-

ICJ slates hearings

in Gaza genocide

ceedings launched by South Africa against Israel over the Gaza war on Jan 11 and 12, it said on Wednesday.

South Africa had asked the ICJ on Friday for an urgent order declaring that Israel was in breach of its obligations under the 1948 Genocide Convention in its crackdown against

contest the accusations.

takes one or two weeks to issue a decision on emergency measures after the hearings. The court's rulings are final but it has no authority to enforce them.

### Three injured in stabbing incident on Tokyo train, woman in custody

**Monitoring Desk** TOKYO: Three men were injured on Wednesday in a stabbing incident and taken to hospital after a woman wielded a knife on a train at Akihabara Station in To-

kyo, Japanese police said. The police received an emergency call at just be-GMT) saying the woman had inflicted injuries with a knife on the Yamanote loop line, one of the busiest a Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department spokes-

Israel had said it would appear before the court to

The court usually

fore 11 pm local time (1400 transport routes in the city, person said.



A number of trucks are stuck on the E22 at Linderod, southern Sweden.

# Somalia rejects port deal between Ethiopia and Somaliland

MOGADISHU: Somalia rejected a pact its breakaway region of Somaliland signed with Ethiopia allowing it to use a major port with access to the Red Sea in return for recognition as an independent state, saying the agreement had no legal force.

Somalia, which views Somaliland as part of its territory, also summoned its ambassador to Ethiopia for deliberations over the agreement signed by Ethiopian coming the first country to Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed do so.

and Somaliland leader Muse Bihi Abdi on Monday. The agreement would allow landlocked Ethiopia, which relies on neighbouring Djibouti for most of its maritime trade, to lease 20 km around the port of Berbera, which lies on the Gulf of Aden with access to the Red Sea, for 50 years for its navy and commercial purposes. In exchange Somaliland's leader said Ethiopia would recognise Somaliland as an independent nation, be-

# Temperatures plunge below -40 Celsius in Sweden

**Monitoring Desk** 

STOCKHOLM: Sweden on Wednesday recorded its coldest January night in 25 years, with a reading of minus 43.6 degrees Celsius in the far north as a cold snap hit the Nordics.

"To put that into perspective, that is the lowest January temperature in Sweden since 1999," Mattias Lind, meteorologist at Sweden's national weather agency SMHI,

In January 1999, a temperature of minus 49 degrees Celsius was recorded in Sweden, which tied the record set in 1951. Lind said that Wednesday's measurement was made at eral days.

the Kvikkjokk-Arrenjarka station in Sweden's far

"It is the lowest temperature that has been recorded in this specific spot since measurements began" in 1888, he said. Several other stations recorded temperatures of below minus 40C in Sweden's north.

While residents of the region are used to seeing freezing temperatures, the recent cold snap has forced local bus operators to suspend services, and train operator Vv said that it had cancelled all trains north of the city of Umea for sev-

### **Philippines** receives climate finance commitment from Canada **Monitoring Desk**

MANILA: (This Dec. 6 story has been corrected to say that \$5.3 billion is Canada's total international commitment, not just for the Philippines, in the

headline and paragraph 3)

The Philippines and the United Nations Development Programme have a commitment from Canada on climate finance, the president's office in Manila said on Wednesday. The collaboration and finance commitment will run until 2026 and Canada will support the Philippines in promoting biodiversity conservation.

# China's 'ice city' Harbin draws record tourists over New Year

holiday

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: The "ice city" of Harbin, the snowy capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang province, attracted a record number of visitors over the New Year holiday, many of them drawn by the grand and intricate ice sculptures of its annual Ice and Snow Festi-

The towering ice structures, illuminated in a dazzling array of lights at night, are built from ice blocks harvested from the frozen Songhua River

# Iran holds day of mourning for 84 killed in twin blasts

**Monitoring Desk** TEHRAN: Iran observed a day of mourning on Thursday for the at least 84 people killed when twin blasts ripped through a crowd commemorating the slain Revo-lutionary Guards general Qasem Soleimani. The death toll was revised down from around 100 the day after what Iranian authorities labelled a 'terrorist attack" that also left hundreds wounded near Soleimani's tomb in the

southern city of Kerman. No one claimed responsibility for the explosions in Iran, which has suffered deadly attacks in the past from militants as well as targeted killings of officials and nuclear scientists blamed on arch-foe Israel.

honour Soleimani, four years after a US drone strike in Baghdad killed the veteran senior commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Wednesday blamed "evil and criminal enemies" of the Islamic republic, without naming them, and vowed a 'harsh response''.

Regional tensions have surged amid Gaza's bombardment sparked when Hamas launched its October 7 surprise attack on Israel, which Tehran welcomed while denying any involvement. President Ebrahim Raisi's political Moĥammad deputy, Jamshidi, charged on social media platform X that "the The blasts ripped through crowds who had come to lies with the US.

# UK leaders kick off electioneering

**Monitoring Desk** LONDON: Rishi Sunak said Thursday he had pencilled in later this year for a general election, as he and his main political rival to be Britain's next leader effectively kicked off campaign-

The prime minister and Labour leader Keir Starmer both made their first public appearances of 2024, travelling to Mansfield, in the English Midlands, and Bristol, in the West Country.

Sunak's ruling Conservative party has been in power for 14 years but is widely expected to lose the vote, which must be held before the end of January next year.

He has already ruled out leaving it until the last minute to go to the country, not just to secure a fifth consecutive term of office for the Tories but his own mandate with the elector-

minister was elected in an to keep delivering for the internal party ballot in Oc-

tober 2022, taking over from the short-lived Liz Truss after Boris Johnson quit following a series of scandals.

Speculation has been mounting about when Sunak will decide to hold the vote, as he tries to drive down inflation that peaked at nearly 11 percent and reboot economic growth.

"My working assumption is we'll have a general election in the second half of this year," he told reporters. Sunak refused to rule out holding the poll on

May 2 to coincide with local elections but indicated he wanted more time to get the economy back on an even keel. "I want to keep going, managing the economy well and cutting people's taxes.

But I also want to keep

tackling illegal migration,<sup>3</sup>

he said, referring to another key pledge.
"So, I've got lots to get The former finance on with and I'm determined

# Migrant arrivals to Spain nearly doubled in 2023

MADRID: The influx has strained resources in the seven-island Atlantic archipelago and pushed migration to the top of the political agenda in Spain, which along with Italy and Greece is a key entry point for mi-

grants seeking a better life A total of 56,852 migrants entered Spain illegally last year, an 82.1 percent jump from 2022 and the most since 2018 when 64,298 migrants entered the country, according to provisional interior ministry figures. The bulk of them, 39,910, arrived by boat in the Canaries after making the perilous crossing from Africa, an increase of 154.5 percent over last year and surpassing the record number set in 2006.

With controls tightening in the Mediterranean, the Canaries route has become a favourite for people fleeing poverty and conflict in Africa, mostly on overcrowded, barely seaworthy

Boats – often long wooden fishing vessels

from Morocco, as well as Mauritania, Gambia and Senegal further south. The journey from

Senegal to the Canaries usually takes a week of diffi-cult upwind sailing of around 1,600 kilometres. Newscasts regularly open with images of Red

Cross officials and local

doctors attending to newly

arrived migrants wrapped in thermal blankets at ports in the Canaries, which has called for more help from Spain's central government and the European Union. Spain's minister for migration, Elma Saiz, said Tuesday during a visit to the Canaries that the central government was work-

a reform she said was "per-The central government in October pledged an aid package worth 50 million euros (\$54 million) to

ing on a law to distribute

these minors across Spain,

help the archipelago. The Atlantic migration route to the Canary Islands is one of the world's

# **Record-breaking** strike piles pressure on England's health service

**Monitoring Desk** 

LONDON: Junior doctors in England started a six-day walkout over pay on Wednesday, the longest strike in the 75-year history of the state-run National Health Service (NHS), which will hit patient care during a seasonal winter peak in demand.

As in other key sectors over the past year, junior doctors represented by the British Medical Association (BMA) have staged a series of walkouts to demand better pay in the face of soaring inflation.

Junior doctors in England on Wednesday defended a decision to start their longest consecutive strike in the seven-decade history of Britain's National Health Service (NHS). They said their wages have gone down by around a quarter in real terms under the current government, which has been in power since 2010.

"I'm here because we deserve better as doctors," Callum Parr, an accident and

emergency doctor from London, said from a picket line outside St Thomas' Hospital in the British capital. The 25-year-old medic said he was \$150,000 in debt after six years at university, and facing increasing costs including rapidly rising rental prices in the city. "Our job is hard, we knew it would be hard, we went to medical school which is also hard, and we want to help patients," he said. "But you also have to be able to pay your bills.'

union urged the government to make a "credible" pay offer to end the strikes, which threaten to increase the pressure on the health service, where more than 7.7 million on waiting lists seek treatment. "Morale across the health service is at an all-time low ... Many will be wondering if their chosen career is still worth pursuing the government has the chance to show those doctors they still have a future working in this country," the BMA said.

In a statement, the

# President says: Pakistan supports Kashmiris' right to self determination

President Dr Arif Alvi has said that Pakistan remained determined to playing its role in supporting the right to self-determination of Kashmiris through a free and impartial plebiscite as per the United Nations Security Council resolutions.

The president, in his message in connection with the Right to Self-Determination Day being observed on January 5, said, "Our strong and steadfast moral, political and diplomatic support for the Kashmiri people will continue till the realisation of this inalien-

"Every year, on the 5th of January, we renew our support for the right to

people of Jammu and Kashmir. On this day in 1949, the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP) unanimously adopted a resolution affirming the right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people through a free and impartial plebiscite under the auspices of the United

Nations," he added. "The right to self-determination is a cardinal principle of international law, upheld in numerous core United Nations treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights."

President Alvi said,

reaffirmed by the UN General Assembly in its annual resolution on self-determination. However, the last 76 years of India's occupation of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) are a sad story of repression of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"India is trying to consolidate its occupation of IIOJK. The Indian Supreme Court's judgment of 11th December 2023 on the status of this disputed territory is the latest step in this direction. India is striving to subjugate the Kashmiris through such oppressive tactics further. It continues to deny their inalienable right to self-determination and live with

Solangi deeply

grieved over

loss of lives in

Kerman

terrorist attacks

ISLAMABAD (APP)

Federal Minister for Infor-

mation, Broadcasting and

Parliamentary Affairs

Murtaza Solangi while con-

demning the terrorist at

tacks in Kerman city in

Iran, expressed deep grie

ister expressed solidarity

with the government and

the people of Iran on be-

half of the government and

terrorism was highly con-

demnable, Murtaza Solangi

tries in the region, includ-

ng Pakistan, are victims of

admission to various gradu-

ate programs including PhD

(Balochi), PhD (Biochemistry), M.Phil (Balochi), M.Phil (Chemistry), M.Phil (Biochemistry),

MBA, MS (Business Ad

ministration), and M.Phil

(English Literature) for

spring 2024 semester at the

University of Turbat (UoT) on Sunday, 14th

January 2024. All candi-

dates are directed to report

at the main campus of ÛoT

at 09:30 AM on the given

date with their entry test

admission slip, and original

obtain their entry test ad-

mission slip from the NTS

website or the Admission

Cell of UoT at the main

campus. The test format

Independent Report

will be GAT-General.

The candidates can

the people of Pakistan.

In a message, the min-

This cowardly act of

"Most of the coun-

over the loss of lives.



ISLAMABAD: The 4th meeting of the National Economic Council (NEC) Sub Committee on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was held under the chairmanship of the caretaker Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Mr. Muhammad Sami Saeed.

# Why the charity job policies framed to provide job to children of govt. employees on priority basis: CJP

ISLAMABAD (Online): in Post Office Islamabad Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa has remarked as to why charity job policies are made to provide jobs to the children of government employees on priority basis.

He further observed such policies should be thrown out. Constitution is above every thing. The constitution has been trampled by making such policies. Be courageous and write to Prime Minister (PM) this

policy is wrong.

The CJP gave these remarks while presiding over a 3-memnber bench of Supreme Court (SC) during the course of hearing of case pertaining to appointments

ter Hospital Zhob.

coming days

assembly seats.

Nawaz

According to media reports, the sources said the

PML-O wanted seat adjust-

ment on four National As-

sembly and eight provincial

PML-Q leaders Salik Hussain, Monis Elahi,

Hussain Elahi and Tariq

Bashir Cheema succeeded

in those NA constituencies.

On the other hand, the

PML-N is also in talks with

the Istehkam-e-Pakistan

Party (IPP) for seat adjust-

**Emergency Trauma Center at District Headquar** 

**Elections 2024:** 

PML-N, Q likely to strike

seat adjustment deal

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan candidates for national and

Muslim League-Nawaz provincial assemblies from

(PML-N) and Pakistan Balochistan. Taking to X,

Muslim League-Q (PML- the PML-N said the party

Q) are expected to strike a approved the award of

deal on seat adjustment for the general elections in the Balochistan candidates af-

ter conclusion of the inter-

views by the Central Par-

liamentary Board for the

Nawabzada Toor Gul

Jugzai had been issued the

party ticket from NA-251,

whereas Sardar Yaqoob

Nasir had been awarded the

Dostain Khan Domki and

Abdul Ghafoor had been

nominated from NA-253

and NA-254, respectively. The PML-N had

from NA-252. Mir

party ticket

On Wednesday, the awarded the party ticket

(PML-N) an- chief minister Jam Kamal

Pakistan Muslim League to former Balochistan

ABBOTTABAD: Smoke rising after fire broken

out incident in a vehicle as the rescue 1122 work-

ers are busy in extinguishing fire, near

further bolster sesame seed export

Qalandarabad Interchange in Abbottabad.

nounced the names of its from NA-257.

According to the list,

General Election 2024.

General (AAG) told the court this policy was worked out during previous

The CJP Qazi Faez Isa inquired has PM such powers to change policy on his own. Why the charity job policies are framed to provide jobs to the children of government employees on priority basis. The CJP remarked the

constitution was trampled by working out such policies. Be courageous and write to PM this policy is wrong. Why should job be given to children of only government employees on

The CJP remarked are the other children not Paki-

Additional Attorney



**Independent Report** QUETTA: The Additional Deputy Commissioner ZHOB: Caretaker Provincial Health Minister Dr. (General) Lasbela, Syed Amir Muhammad Khan Jogezai inaugurating yasin Akhtar took notice of the reports of disease spread among camels in Lasbela.

government term.

The CJP while mov-

The CJP remarked

AAG requested the

The court remarked

The court while issu-

ing to him remarked then

again say that the former

government was above con-

such policy should be thrown out. Constitution is

court to allow him to seek

we summon Attorney Gen-

rectives from government.

above every thing.

eral (AG).

According to an official hand out issued here on Thursday, the teams of Livestock were sent to the affected area on directives of the district administra-

The teams are included the veterinary doctors and mobile units of the Livestock department.

The ADC Geneal has also sought report from the about the disease found among camels in different rural areas of the district.

Meanwhile, necessary vaccination has also been started by the Livestock department in the affected areas for prevention of the disease. It may be mentioned here that the reports had gone viral on the social media about spread of disease among camels in Lasbela.

# 15 units of Tarbela Dam closed

HARIPUR (INP): Power shortages are on the rise due to the closure of 15 production units after the reduction in water release from Tarbela Dam reported

on Thursday.
According to the Public Relations Department of Tarbela Dam, it has been reported that only two units are currently operational, producing 271 megawatts of electricity, leading to an increase in load shedding. The closure of the majority of the power plant's production units has sparked concern about increased load shedding in the region. TDAP launches a robust strategy to

Distinguished speakers, including the Vice-Chan-

cellor of the University of

Lasbela and the Dean of the

Faculty of Agriculture, ad-

seminar featured insights

from the Consul General of

Pakistan in Shanghai and the

Trade and Investment

Counselor in Beijing, offer-

ing valuable information on

The latter part of the

dressed the seminar.

## to attract investment from **Gulf countries: PM** ISLAMABAD (APP): encouraged the Qatari ambassador to explore the potential for cooperation in

tourism and media sectors.

appreciated the role played

by Qatar in diplomatic ef-

forts that led to a tempo-

for concerted efforts by the

international community,

particularly Muslim

dor Al-Khater's first call on

the prime minister since

presenting his credentials in

November, he congratu-

lated the envoy on assum-

ing ambassadorial respon-

sibilities in Pakistan and

hoped that the bonds of

friendship between the two

Jmmah, to bring peace in

As this was Ambassa-

rary ceasefire in Gaza.

He said that Pakistan

He stressed the need

SIFC playing active role

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday said that the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) was playing an active role in attracting investors from Gulf countries, including Qatar, to benefit from opportunities in key sectors of the

The prime minister, in a meeting with Ambassador of Qatar in Islamabad Ali Mubarak Ali Essa Al-Khater, said that Pakistan and Qatar enjoyed strong, fraternal ties.

expressed Pakistan's desire to expand bilateral cooperation across all spheres, particularly

He also conveyed warm regards to the Amir

The prime minister ure.



**QUETTA: A delegation of Balochistan Private** Schools Association Alliance meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

# PML-N to make clean sweep in next elections: Lehri

QUETTA (APP): Leader of of Nawaz Sharif would ad-Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) and candidate of PB-44 constituency Saryab Mir Noorullah Lehri on Thursday said that his party would make a clean sweep in general elections being held on February 8.

He expressed these views while addressing a ceremony held after the resignation of Takri Nasrullah Kaleemullah, Kafaitullah, Ali Asghar, Ghulam Haider, Kabir Lala and others. All above mentioned local leaders have announced to join PML-N

on the occasion. Mir Noorullah Lahri said that the economic development of Pakistan would be the first priority of PML-N after winning the elections. He said that become nervous. The

dress the issues of inflation, load shedding and terrorism. He said that Nawaz Sharif's previous governments had made success in fighting war on terror besides addressing issues of loadshedding from this country. He said that the PML-N would achieve nationwide success in the upcoming elections and party leader Mian Nawaz Sharif would take steps to steer the country out of present challenges. He said

ship of provincial president Sheikh Jafar Khan Mandukhel. He said that due to the growing popularity of the Muslim League (N), the opponents have last governments of Nawaz people will reject the nega-Sharif had provided relief to tive agenda of opponents by people. He vowed that his voting Nawaz party in next

that Muslim League-N in

Balochistan was active and

organized under the leader-



**QUETTA: Inspector General of Police Balochistan** Abdul Khaliq Sheikh inaugurating newly constructed smart class room with the cooperation of UNODC at Police Training College Quetta.

# Formation of Balochistan **Pharmacy Council very** essential: Abdullah

**Independent Report** QUETTA: The Secretary

Health Abdullah Khan has emphasized upon forming Balochistan Pharmacy Council (BPC) in the province. The Secretary Health was chairing a meeting to form BPC here on Thurs-

The Additional Secretary Health, Arif Khan, Chief Drug Inspector, Zahid Salik, Secretary Qualmacy Council is very nec as it is also responsible for registration of the pharma-

ity Control Board, Moeez Khan, Director Drug Testing Laboratory, Ali Jan, Deputy Secretary Pharmacy Council, Noroz, Dean

Muhammad Shafi besides other concerned. The participants discussed the matters about

formation of the Pharmacy

Council besides its supple-

mentary laws. The participants gave posals about formation of the Council. The Secretary Health said that formation of Phar-

He mentioned that the Pharmacy Council is a regu-Pharmacy Department, Dr pharmacists in Pakistan.

# Step afoot to build women libraries in Suhbatpur: DC

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner and other Commissioner Suhbatpur Mir Miran Khan Baloch on Thursday said that our effort was to build three more ibraries in which women of he area would get opportunities of education to play their role for betterment of country

Balochistan. To join the ranks of developed countries, we have to pay special attention to education and research, he added. He expressed these

views while talking to the media on the occasion of the inauguration of the Suhbatpur. The DC thanked to the education which enabled women to hold the positions of Assistant

and contribute to the development of the country and Balochistan, he said. The DC further said that our effort was to construct three more libraries in which women would benefit greatly. He said that it was the responsibility of parents to not only equip their girls with the jewel of education but also to en-

higher slots across the coun-

were not behind in every

field. We also want our next

generation to come forward

courage them at every turn. He said that the establishment of a women library in this area was no less than a gift for the local women and the people of the area.

self-determination of the "For decades, it has been freedom and dignity.

ISLAMABAD: Amb. Ali Mubarak Ali Essa Al-Khater, Ambassador of the State of Oatar in Pakistan calls on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar

# LHC dismisses petition against revoking PTI election symbol 'bat'

LAHORE (APP): The trict PTI president, and Lahore High Court (LHC) on Thursday dismissed a petition, challenging the ing arguments of the par-Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) order of declaring intra-party elec-tions of Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) unconstitutional and revoking the party's election symbol

The court held that the petition was not maintainable at this stage in the light of the Supreme Court judgements and pendency of identical matters before different benches of the Peshawar High Court.

ties a day earlier. In his arguments, the petitioners' counsel had argued that the PTI intraparty elections were held in accordance with the party constitution, and all required documents were submitted to the ECP as per the Elections Act.

However, the ECP declared the appointments of the PTI officials as void and also revoked the party's election symbol 'bat', he added. He submitted that Justice Jawad Hassan there was no justification to announced the reserved declare the intra-party elecverdict on a petition, filed by Chaudhry Umar Aftab tions as void and revoking the party's election sym-



QUETTA: Former Adviser to the Balochistan Chief Minister, Mir Khalid Langove addresses to media persons during press conference.

# PTA intensifies crackdown on illegal issuance of SIMs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) Zonal Office Lahore successfully conducted a raid in collaboration with Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Cyber Crime Circle, against a franchisee of a mobile phone company in Sheikhupura aimed to curb the misuse of illegal SIM cards, often linked to criminal activities such as fraud, identity theft and other il-

licit operations. During the raid FIA seized 6 active SIMs and 11 BVS devices used in the illegal activation of SIMs,

Two individuals have been nominated for FIR. FIA is currently investigating the matter further.

It is pertinent to mention that PTA has established a monitoring and detection system to identify unusual patterns and anomalies associated with SIM card activations.

This technological upgrade has enabled prompt intervention and insight into suspicious SIM activations. Overall, this resolute and unwavering commitment underscores the Authority's dedication to eradicate the illegal issuance

# **JUI-F** dismisses allegations of seeking election delay

SWAT (INP): Jamiat Pakhtunkhwa Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) leader Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri on Thursday dismissed the allegations about the party's inclination towards a delay in

the upcoming elections. Talking to a private news channel, he asserted that the party has consistently demonstrated its commitment to active participation in electoral processes. Despite the challenges, Haideri highlighted the party's unwavering demand for fair and transparent elections as a core aspect of JUI-F's agenda.

Expressing deep concern over recent violent attacks targeting JUI-F leadBalochistan, he emphasized the need to maintain peaceful conditions during the upcoming elections. He specifically advo-

cated for a secure environment for JUI-F leader Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman, calling for foolproof security measures to mitigate perceived security threats. Haideri urged the authorities to provide bullet-proof vehicles for politicians facing threats. Reiterating the party's manifesto, he claimed that JUI-F primarily aimed to establish an Islamic welfare state, based on principles of justice and social equity. JUI-F envisions a state that prioritizes peace, eliminating corruption.

QUETTA: The Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce, has launched a robust strategy further bolster Pakistan's position in the

The strategy's core component involves conducting targeted awareness

global sesame seed export

ganized the inaugural seminar on Thursday, in Lasbela, in collaboration with Lasbela University of Agriculture Water and Marine Sciences, Uthal, said a news release received here.

The event drew the participation of growers, farmers, agriculture extenofficers from Balochistan, and other stakeholders.

seminar's

278 percent increase in sesame seed exports during the first half of the current fiscal year. From July to December 2023, exports surged to an impressive US\$364 million, showcasing a significant leap compared to the same period in

Director-General of Agro and Food, Athar Hussain Khokhar highlighted the government's

export requirements and



sessions on international market trends in key sesame-growing clusters across the country, with Punjab, Sindh, and Balochistan identified as primary contributors to sesame seed production. To inaugurate this stra-

overarching objective was to enlighten growers and farmers about international market dynamics, effective value-addition strategies, and pre and post-harvest procedures to optimize

same seed yields. Pakistan has wittegic initiative, TDAP or- nessed an extraordinary

growers that TDAP and the Ministry of Commerce have developed a special business plan for enhancing sesame export, as the product has the potential to reach \$1 Billion in next few

potential opportunities for sesame seed exports to China. In the seminar, representatives from local farmers/growers discussed their challenges, while a leading exporter from Karachi outlined their sesame seed export require-