Simultaneously published from Quetta, Gwadar, Hub, Karachi, Islamabad

acadenación

Member APNS & CPNE

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

www.dailyindependent.com.pk

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vd: XXV No. 143, Jamadi-us-Sani 29, 1445 AH Friday January 12, 2024 Pages 08, Price Rs. 15

Whosoever does not accept law of Pakistan should go out: PM

Says we will have to fight with wisdom and proper strategy; Vowes to take the fight against terrorism in the country to the logical end; If terrorists carry out 10 attacks on us we will carry out attacks on them for 10000 times. We have won war against terrorism. Only announcement for our win has to be made; Nation highly indebted to security forces for fearlessly fighting against terrorism

PESHAWAR (Online): day. Care taker Prime Minister (PM) Anwaar ul Haq Kakar has said the terrorists browbeat people in the name of Islam but we don't fear

from the terrorists. "If terrorists carry out 10 attacks on us we will carry out attacks on them for 10000 times. We have won war against terrorism. Only announcement for our win has to be made.

We will not bow before them, Whosoever does not accept Pakistan law he should go out from here, he said this while addressing Police Darbar here Thurs-

Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Caretaker Federal Minister

for Information, Broad-

casting and Parliamentary

Affairs Murtaza Solangi

said on Thursday that the

government was resolute in

its commitment to combat

He was delivering his speech as chief guest at the

launching ceremony of the

Annual Security Assess-

ment Report by the Paki-

stan Institute for Conflict

and Security Studies

eral government, let me as-

sure you that we are con-

stantly working to address

the issue of terrorism

through various hard and

had repeatedly asked in-

terim Afghan government

He said that Pakistan

soft measures", he said.

"On behalf of the fed-

(PICSS).

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Switzerland to Pa-

kistan Georg Steiner called on President Dr. Arif

Solangi reiterates govt's

commitment to combat

terrorism on Pakistan's soil

ISLAMABAD (APP): especially the space avail-

The heirs of Police martyrs are not ordinary people. They are the greatest people, he added.

Who sides with evil are very degraded people. Innocent children were martyred in APS.

Mentioning the Army Public School Peshawar tragedy in which innocent students and faculty members along with police personnel were targeted by the terrorists, the Prime Minister said the state will not spare the coward terrorists.

He said correct approach is the main factor,

able to militant groups like TTP to operate in and from

Afghanistan.
"Pakistan expects a

positive response from the

Afghan government. Paki-

stan has also raised the is-

weapons in Afghanistan to

these militant groups be-

sides involvement of Af-

ghan nationals in anti-state

violence in Pakistan", he

said adding without ad-

dressing the issue of terror-

ism, both countries could

not embark on the journey

There will be no talks

with terrorists as long as

required in fighting terror-ism and we firmly believe that we are on right path. He said terrorists can-

not shatter our resolve by carrying out terrorists attacks in the country. He said we have won war on terrorism morally.

The Prime Minister reiterated government's resolve to continue war against terrorism till complete elimination of terrorists from the country.

He assured that all the requirements of the police force would be fulfilled in consultation with the provincial government.

Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ghulam Ali and Chief Minister Arshad Hussain Shah were also present on this occasion.

APP adds: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday said the entire nation was highly indebted to the KP police which was fighting against the terrorists with bravery and valour.

"You are God's chosen group who are fighting for the State's security, the martyrs deserve paradise while the opponent group



PESHAWAR: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar interacts with KP Police officials after Continued on page 2 | the Police Darbar Ceremony.

President accepts resignation of SC judge Mazahar Naqvi

ISLAMABAD (Online): President Arif Alvi has accepted the resignation of Supreme Court Justice Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi.

Petition was filed against Justice Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi in Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) which was to be heard on January 13.

Proceedings on Reference over the misconduct allegations, mainly revolving around amassing wealth beyond his resources against Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi was underway.

In his resignation sent to Alvi on Wednesday, he said it wasn't possible for him to continue working, as he mentioned his tenure both at the Supreme Court and the Lahore High Court (LHC).

6.0 magnitude quake jolts Islamabad, Lahore, other cities

According to Pakistan

Meteorological Depart-

ISLAMABAD (APP) of economic growth and de-The 6.0 magnitude earthquake on Thursday after-Murtaza Solangi said noon caused panic among on Thursday that there residents of the twin cities would be no negotiations and other part of the counwith armed terrorist groups.

they are armed and do not ment (PMD), the seismic accept the constitution of activity was felt in the Federal Capital Islamabad Rawalpindi and neighboring Muzfferabad, Peshawar Chilas, Quetta, Zhob Charat and other cities at 2.20 pm. The quake was recorded 6.0 magnitudes and its epicenter Hindu Kush Region of Pak-Afghan

border at a depth of 213km Its longitude and latitude were 70.63 East and 36.16 North, respectively. 12-inch diameter main pipeline supplying gas to Quetta affected in

Dhadar QUETTA (APP) Su Southern Gas Company (SSGC)'s 12-inch diameter main pipeline supplying gas to Quetta has been severely affected near Dhadar area of Kachhi and gas sup-ply to some areas of Quetta is likely to be affected due pipeline damage.

According to Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC)'s spokesman told APP that a technical team of Sui Southern was dispatched to repair the affected pipeline in order to maintain supply of gas soon to Quetta in winter season. The spokesperson said that we were trying to complete the repair work of the affected pipeline as his resources.

In his resignation sent to President Arif Alvi, he said it wasn't possible for him to continue working. as he mentioned his tenure both at the Supreme Court and the Lahore High Court (LHC).

"In the circumstances which are a matter of public knowledge and to some The development extent public record, it is no longer possible for me to continue to serve as a judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan. Considerations of due process also compel so," the resignation

President Alvi accepted

SJC gives ex-judge Naqvi another chance to present his case All institutions including SC accountable to people: CJP

Would've asked for Naqvi's dismissal if claims were proven: SJC Chairman Justice Isa

Monitoring Desk ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) on Thursday gave Justice (retd) Sayyed Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi — who faces complaints of misconduct — another

chance to present his viewpoint before the body. The development came a day after Naqvi stepped down from his post due to "circumstances which are a matter of public knowledge and to some extent public record"

The SJC served an intimation notice on Naqvi, whose resignation was accepted by President Arif dent.

fair to occupy land of others, but it is also not ap-

propriate to leave their land

demonstrate unity to rid our

land of the occupant ele-

was addressing a public

meeting at the residence of

Nasrullah Achakzai in Killi

Shero Manari on Thursday.

A large number of

He said that we have to

The Chairman PkMAP

for others.

body tomorrow if he wants would have requested the to give his viewpoint against the complaints

lodged against him. During the course of ing SC, were accountable proceedings, SJC Chairman Justice Qazi Faez Isa remarked there could be two reasons behind the judge's resignation: the complaint against the judge was false and he stepped down under pressure or the allega-

not want to face them. "The question of judge's dismissal is now irrelevant," he stated, adding that the council had just sent a report to the presi-

tions were true and he did

proven, then the council proceedings

president for the judge's

All institutions, includto the people, remarked Justice Isa, adding: "If everyone learns this thing, all the problems will be

Meanwhile, the SJC, noting that Naqvi's lawyers would be heard if they requested, adjourned the proceedings till 11am today (Friday).

The former judge submitted his resignation hours after a three-member bench of the apex court rejected Justice (retd) Naqvi's plea seeking halting of the SJC's

Governor calls for promoting brotherhood, respect to difference of opinion from different religions who called on him under leader-ship of Sardar Iqbal Khilji

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul

Wali Khan Kakar has underlined the need to promote brotherhood, respect to the difference of opinion and religious harmony in order to make the country and province hub of peace.

The Governor stressed that we desperately need to ensure equal rights for all citizens instead of representing the majority and minority by us.

He said that it is a fact that our topmost identity is of human being and those speak about division on the basis of geography, race, ethnicity or religion is not

These and similar other views were expressed by the Governor while speaking to a delegation comprising the religious leaders here on Thursday at the Governor House. The Governor maintained that we are the habitants of one country and

province but the nation suffers internal weaknesses because of the differences and divisions among the people. Therefore, it is very important for us to end difference in our acts and deeds and build our character on true moral grounds.

The Governor also said that it is our national tradition to share grief and sorrows of each other.

The Governor said that the constitution of Pakistan guarantees equal rights, freedom of religion and expression to all citizens of the country including all religious minorities.



FAISALABAD: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addresses to his supporters during public gathering meeting held at Hockey Stadium Tandlianwala in Faisalabad.

Only PPP can steer country out of crises, claims Bilawal

FAISALABAD (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari claimed on Thursday that only his party could steer the county out of current crises, as it had a very clear manifesto for people's wel-

Addressing a public gathering a Tandlianwala here, he said the PPP enjoyed masses' support because of its public welfare agenda and unprecedented sacrifices, offered by its leadership for democracy in

Pakistan. He said the PPP would re-emerge as a leading force in the general election 2024. He said the PPP had a

10-point agenda for ensuring public welfare and betterment after coming to power. He said PPP founder chairman Zulfikar Ali Bhutto had created awareness among masses about protection of their legitimate rights whereas his mother Benazir Bhutto embraced martyrdom but

Continued on page 2



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi addressing during a seminar on "Pakistan Election 2024: The Economic Reforms Agenda of Political Parties" organize by Press Information De-

One girl child expires, three others injured in Quetta sui gas leakage blast

Independent Report

QUETTA: One girl child was dead and three others including a female were injured in an explosion caused apparently due to the gas leakage in Jinnah Town area of Quetta on Thursday.

According to the police, the blast was occurred on the top floor of a residential plaza in Jinnah Town apparently due to the leakage of sui gas.

As a result of the powerful blast, a minor girl died and three other persons including a female were in-

The initial reports suggested that two persons were injured due to the explosion in the plaza while the girl and female die as progress.

the debris of plaza fell in the jhuggi located just adiacent to the wall of plaza. The body of minor girl

and injured persons were removed to the civil Sandeman Provincial Hos-The injured were ad-

mitted in the Trauma center and being provided necessary medical assistance. spokesman Sandeman Hospital in-

Meanwhile, the area police rushed towards the spot and started investigation into the blast.

As per the initial investigations and evidences, the blast was caused due to the leakage of sui gas in the plaza. However, further investigations are in

Justice Ijazul Ahsan also steps down as SC judge ISLAMABAD (INP): Superme Court senior judge amassing wealth beyond

A day after Justice Naqvi

Justice Ijazul Ahsan tendered his resignation on Thursday over unknown reasons

The third senior most judge of the apex court, Justice Ijazul Ahsan who was set to become chief justice in October this year sent his resignation to President Arif

comes a day after Justice (retd) Naqvi stepped down from his post as SC judge.
Supreme Court Jus-

tice Mazahar Ali Akbar Nagvi tendered his resignation on January 10, as the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) was hearing a reference against him the resignation of Justice

letter reads.

Earlier on the day,



QUETTA: A delegation comprising of religious leaders from different religions under leadership of Sardar Iqbal Khilji meeting with Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Pashtoon nation and land rich in natural resources:

PkMAP chairman urges Pashtoons to wage democratic & political struggle forging unity among their ranks

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chairman

Pashtoonkhaw Awami Party (PkMAP), Mehmood Khan Achakzai has urged the Pashtoon nation to continue democratic and political struggle for their rights forging unity among their ranks.

He said that the Pashtoons nation and its land is rich in natural resources, but despite this, the people are forced to live miserable life. It has become difficult for the



both ends meet despite their land is rich in the natu-

ral resources.

Continued on page 2 85 pc target of polio immunization campaign achieved in Balochistan **Independent Report**

QUETTA: At least 85 percent target of the polio immunization campaign has been achieved while it is still continued in the Balochistan province.

According to the sources of Emergency Operation Center (EOC) for Polio Eradication, the anti-polio campaign entered fourth day on Thursday all over the province. The EOC sources said that the campaign is running successfully in all 36 districts of the province. It may be mentioned here that it was targeted to immunize approxi-

mately 2.6 million children below five years of age during the campaign. For the purpose, around 11,000 teams have been constituted all over the province, the sources informed. Needless to mention here is that no fresh case of polio has been reported in the province since January 2021. The last case of polio had been reported from Killa Abdullah district of Balochistan since then.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over a meeting of Executive **Committee of Public Private Partnership**

Shaheen Afridi hints at trying different combinations during New Zealand series

Pakistan's T20I skipper Shaheen Afridi has hinted that his team will try different player combinations during the T20I series against New Zealand.

The five-match T20I series will see Shaheen Afridi lead Pakistan for the first time after being appointed captain for the shortest format in November last year. Afridi while talking to the media here on Thursday expressed his excitement to lead Pakistan for the first time.

"It's a very exciting challenge and a proud moment for me to represent Pakistan. First-time captaincy is not easy, it's a new challenge in New Zealand," said the 23-year-old. "However, we have a very good track record against New Zealand but they are one of the best teams in the world so we'll try to do our best.'

that his team features young players, and they will get chances during the series against New Zealand to find the ideal team combination. "Some young players are

making a comeback like Azam Khan, Aamer Jamal and Sahibzada Farhan and there are some new players like Haseebullah and Abbas Afridi," said Afridi. "We are hoping to give

them a chance in these five

T20Is and upcoming T20I matches ahead of the T20 World Cup," he added. He also acknowledged the impact of Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan's opening partnership, however, he stressed the fact of shaking things to try different combinations before the ICC T20 World Cup

"Babar and Rizwan will always be the best opening pair for Pakistan. But, I

He further mentioned his team features young think we have 17 matches before the World Cup, and we should try different combinations and try to figure out which player fits in which position and we will try to play them [in that position]," Afridi stressed. "There might be some changes, or maybe not. But the effort will be to have

the team combination ready before the England tour. In the four T20s against England before the T20 World Cup, we should know our best playing XI." Pakistan and New Zealand will Christchurch square off in the first T20I

Pakistan squad for New Zealand T20Is Shaheen Shah Afridi ©.

of the five-match series to-

morrow at Eden Park.

Aamir Jamal, Abbas Afridi, Azam Khan (wk), Babar Azam, Fakhar Zaman Haris Rauf, Haseebullah (wk), Iftikhar Ahmed

Zulfiqar Abbas Naqvi had

appeared in the court dur-

ing the hearing of bail plea

plea in the court cipher case

is being tried under official

secret act. Former prime

minister and foreign minis

ter were arrested in this

sensitivity of case that in-

camera proceedings will be conducted in trial. Let the

petitioner counsels com-

plete their arguments. I will

want to make submissions

Safdar said the reason for

jail trial is not sensitivity

but security concerns have

been stated. The CJ said let

me see the record of the case

and then we will decide

Only PPP can...

Continued from page 1

never compromised on demo

He said the PPP had al-

Support

cratic norms

Income

how we have to run it.

Barrister Suleman

only before the court,

it was decided due to

Prosecutors had taken

of Imran Khan.



QUETTA: A delegation of Syedul Shahuda Welfare Society led by Mubarak Ali Hazara meeting with Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

IHC withdraws stay order on cipher case, annuls in-camera proceedings

ISLAMABAD (Online): was not correct. Islamabad High Court (IHC) while withdrawing stay order in respect of cipher case trial has annulled the proceedings occurred after December 14.

The appeal plea of PTI founder Imran Khan against in camera trial of cipher case came up for hearing before single bench of IHC led by Justice Miangul hassan Aurangzeb here Thursday.

The court had stayed the trial of cipher case. (AG) Mansoor Usman reserving judgment on spewan and counsel Suleman Akram Raja appeared in the

AG gave his arguments. Later Suleman Akram Raja took the plea in the court that the proceedings after December 14 order be annulled. They have admit-

Miangul Justice Hassan Aurangzeb remarked "AG Sahib if you want to take back proceedings then you should do it from when the order was passed. Order will also be

The AG while assuring to do in-camera proceedings afresh said we are ready to record statements of 13

issued in this regard.

It is pertinent to mention here Chief Justice (CJ) Attorney General IHC Aamer Farooq while camera hearing in cipher case on previous hearing had remarked we will give decision after seeing the record of case.

Barrister Suleman Safdar on behalf of petitioners and special prosecuted that December 14 order tors Shah Khawar and



OUETTA: Tribal Leaders, Wajid Ali, Khudave Nazar, Ali Akbar and others addressing a press conference, at Quetta press club.

Whosoever does not accept...

is destined to be the hell forever," he said while addressing the officials of KP Police at 'Police Darbar'.

He said the security forces always fought fearlessly with the terrorists, keeping in mind Allah's promise that those who were on the right path, would never get afraid of the enemy.

'The war you are fighting is morally correct: you should do your duty with utmost belief, courage and confidence," he remarked.

Paying tributes to Shaheed Siffat and Shaheed Malik Saad, the prime minister said that they were the assets of the KP Police.

Recalling the barbarism by the terrorists in APS incident in Peshawar some years back, the prime minister said the cruelty of the terrorists who targeted innocent children would never be forgotten.

He said death was the ultimate reality which might occur to anyone, any time, so there was no need to be afraid. "Every attack from the terrorists will be responded with more power and in a ferocious manner.'

Strongly condemning the miscreants, the prime minister asserted that he would continue to raise his voice against them till the last moment of his life. "They are cowardice and shameless, they have no

Continued from page 1 courage to fight from the front and always fight from

behind the doors," he added. He pointed out the terrorists were hampering the process of development and prosperity of country. He said they were not worthy to be sympathized in any manner. "They are cowards. cruel, senseless and shame-

Prime Minister Kakar said no one knew the names of terrorists who had been killed but the martyrs names would be remembered for long time.

He said terrorists had initiated a war with the State on their on choice but the end result would not be according to their wishes.

The state is going to win this war, it will take some time but we are destined to win it because we are on the right path. Allah Almighty also helps those who are on the right path," he asserted.

PM Kakar said: "We will have to fight with wisdom and proper strategy" He vowed to take the fight against terrorism in the country to the logical end.

The prime minister also announced to look into the issue and demands of KP Police.

Earlier, in his welcome remarks, Inspector General Police Khvber Pakhtunkhwa Akhtar Hayat Gandapur said the provinces of KP and Balochistan had been under the war against terrorism for decades.

wk), Mohammad Wasim Jnr, Sahibzada Farhan, Saim Ayub, Usama Mir and Zaman Khan

Schedule of Pakistan vs New Zealand T20I series 1st T20 - 12 January 2024 at Eden Park, Auckland 2nd T20 – 14 January 2024 at Seddon Park,

3rd T20 - 17 January 2024 at University Oval, 4th T20 – 19 January

2024 at Hagley Oval

5th T20–21 January 2024 at Hagley Oval, Christchurch



ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi said on Thursday that the caretaker government was constitutionally bound to meet the financial, administrative and security requirements of the Election Commission of Pakistan.

Talking to the media outside the ECP, he said that God willing, the elections will be held in the country on Thursday, Feb-

He said under the constitution, the ECP had the

responsibility to hold free, fair and transparent elections in the country.

The caretaker government was constitutional and legal, Murtaza Solangi added and it stood behind the Election Commission. The minister said that

security issues were real, and the government was aware of them and it will improve the security situ-To a question, he said

only PTI can tell better about PTI-related matters. He said that there was no ban on raising questions in the country



Balochistan Leader, Shazia Baloch addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta

PML-N, PPP issues ticket to same person for NA seat in Balochistan

GWADAR (Online): PML-N and PPP have awarded party ticket for National Assembly seat in Balochistan

PPP and PML-N have awarded ticket to Yaqoob Bazenjo for NA-259 Gwadar-Kech. It is interesting to note Yaqoob Bazenjo belongs to

non of these two parties.

Yaqoob Bazenjo name is included in the candidates list issued by PML-N on January 3. His name is included in the list issued by media

Such reports are coming on website Yaqoob Bazenjo

has accepted PPP ticket for contesting election from Gwadar-Ketch.

PkMAP chairman urges...

Khan

Pashtoons are living on the

globe for thousands years.

They have their own land

and resources, but the same

are being occupied by the

not allow any one to oc-

cupy our land and resources.

He said that we have always

waged struggle against the

cruelty and cruel, and would

continue to do so in future.

He urged the people to

He said that we would

grabbers.

Continued from page 1
people led by Syed
Sharafuddin Agha anready introduced Benazir Programme (BISP) for nounced to join the

downtrodden segments of society. After coming to PkMAP. power, the PPP would also The gathering was also introduce Benazir Kisan addressed by the secretary Card, Benazir Mazdoor Finance of the party and candidate for PB-49, Syed Card and Benazir Youth Card, in addition to initiat-Liaquat Ali Agha, Secretary ing free medical treatment of Pishin district, Umar free education free electric-Khan Tareen, Abdul Manaf ity up to 300 units, Waseela-e-Haq, Waseela-e-Khan Badaizai and Habibullah Khan Achakzai. Rozgar and other Other office bearers of

the PkMAP including programmes. Abdul Haq Abadal, Akbar He also announced es Khan, Dr. Shakrullah, Amanullah Khan, Musa tablishment of a university in Tandlianwala if his party Tareen, Master Abdul Aziz, was voted to power, along Bashir Khan and others with giving proprietary were also present on the rights to people living in occasion Kutchi Abadis and con-Mehmood struction of 3 million Achakzai maintained that

He said after floods the PPP launched a programme for 300.000 houses along with their proprietary rights in Sindh and such programs would also be launched in Punjab after winning the general election.

houses.

He asked the female workers of PPP to go door to door and convince people, especially the youth, to cast their vote in favor of the PPP.

Chairman PkMAP said that the whole world is agreed on that every child has the right to get education in one's own language.

He said that different nations have their own national languages and cultures so the Pashtoons have Pashtoo as their mother language besides their own specific culture.

Mehmood Achakzai stressed the need to declare Pashtoo the status of the national language

The Pashtoo should also be given the status of official language in the courts and trade besides in the educational institutions, he also demanded. He said that it is being

propagated that Pashtoons are terrorists and beasts. He said that it is a fact that Pashtoons are the peace and people loving

nation. He said that we have to honour the religious places of people of all religions.

In addition to this, we also have to give due share to the women in properties according to the principles



protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Ouetta press club.

FO expresses regret over unleashing of Pakistan bashing narrative in India

ISLAMABAD (INP): Indian diplomat appears Pakistan has expressed regret over the unleashing of a Pakistan bashing, jingoistic and militaristic narrative in India ahead of the next Lok Sabha elections.

Responding to a query regarding the book of former Indian diplomat Ajay Bisaria, at her weekly news briefing in Islamabad, Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said it is a matter of common knowledge that the ruling dispensation in India used Pulwama episode for do- haved responsibly to demestic political gains. She escalate the situation said the book of the former while demonstrating its leadership.

to advance India's fictitious narratives around the developments of February 2019.

The spokesperson said Balakot was a military fiasco for India. It was an instance of Indian adventurism that went badly and embarrassingly wrong for them. She recalled that the Indian aircraft were shot down and an Indian pilot was taken as a prisoner by Pakistan. She said despite India's adventurism, Pakistan beits security is threatened.

The spokesperson said it is very shocking that a professional diplomat is advocating coercion and use of force as a means to conduct diplomacy. This, she said, reflects the rise of fascist mindset in In-

Responding to volley of questions regarding Afghanistan, the Foreign Office Spokesperson once again demanded the Afghan authorities take effective action against terrorist ele-

Free medical camp set up in Kachhi's Bibi Nani

QUETTA (APP): A free medical camp was organized in Levies Police Station Bibi Nani near Mach area of Kachhi in collaboration with Frontier Corps (FC) Gaza-Band Scouts Mach, district administration and health department Kachhi. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kachhi Captain (Rtd) Jameel Ahmed Baloch, Assistant

Commissioner Mach and Wing Commander 62 Wing visited the medical camp and reviewed the provision of free medical facilities to the public.

DC Jameel Ahmad Baloch said that organizing a free medical camp for the public at Bibi Nani Machh was a welcome initiative, FC's support in this free medical camp would be appreciated.

He said that the free medical camps would be organized at more similar places in



collaboration with the district administration and health department with the support

The DC said that the doctors and paramedical staff in the camp should play their role in providing the best medical facilities to the people coming from the rural areas so that the suffering humanity could be served in the true sense.

Medical facilities are being provided to the people in true sense from the medical camp, we will try our best to ensure the organization of such free medical camps in the near future to ensure the provision of the best medical facilities to the people at their doorstens, he said.

He said that now people should take full advantage of this free medical camp. The patients who came to this free medical camp expressed their happiness and hoped that similar free medical campuses would be set up in the future.

Solangi reiterates govt's...

Continued from page 1 Pakistan", Murtaza Solangi said categorically. He said that JUI Chief Maulana Fazl ur Rehman's visit to Afghanistan was unofficial.

In a statement, he said that before leaving for his visit, Fazl ur Rehman took a briefing from various institutions.

"If any politician wants to play a constructive role for the improvement of relations between the two countries, we have no objection", Murtaza Solangi said. The minister said that government will use the insights from this report to refine its strategies and ensure the safety and security of our citizens. He applauded the dedicated team of researchers at PICSS for its tireless efforts for producing a comprehensive and insightful security re-

"Your commitment to understanding and addressing complex security challenges is commendable, and your work forms the backbone of informed policy decisions", he maintained.

The minister said that in today's dynamic world, data-driven reports were the cornerstone of informed decision-making and PICSS had set an exemplary standard in this regard. He opined that such reports not only provide a comprehensive understanding of the security landscape but also serve as a roadmap for policymakers. The invalu-

able insights derived from data are crucial for developing effective strategies to safeguard our nation. Pakistan Institute for

Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS) is not a new name in media and it is quite encouraging to note today that it is equally popular among the diplomatic community. The minister said that

PICSS made valuable contributions for society by conducting various research

He said that PICSS's country-wide campaign 'Pakistaniat" to engage youth has touched his heart as this was an excellent approach to safeguard our youth from falling prey to extremist ideologies.

He said, he was glad to note that PICSS applied data driven approach and provides objective analysis of security and conflict-related developments in Pakistan and the immediate neighbourhood.

The minister said, he was also happy to note that PICSS had developed a database of anti-state violence in Pakistan since 2001 and now has expanded it to the whole of South Asia including Afghanistan.

This can be beneficial for researchers to conduct research on various issues of militancy besides allowing PICSS researchers to conduct research and prepare weekly, monthly and annual reports like the one being

formally launched today. Stressing the need for a more robust engagement between governments and think tanks, he said that such events underscore the importance of fostering collaborative environments.

"It is through such partnerships that we can bridge the gap between theory and practical, implementable solutions.

The minister said that PICSS Annual Security Assessment Report 2023 was an outcome of thorough research which presented data in a very easy-to-understand format.

Emphasizing the pivotal role media organizations play in shaping public opinion and awareness, Solangi said that building strong liaisons between media and think tanks, like PICSS was crucial. Such partnerships will provide the media with a deeper understanding of the intricacies of the security landscape, enabling them to disseminate accurate and well-informed news, he opined.

He said PICSS self-sustaining financial model to generate funds for its operations was a role model for other institutes and think tanks as this provided enough space to operate independently and without any influence. Think tanks should be independent from any influence to conduct unbiased research and analyses for greater good of the society, he said.



Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan addressing closing ceremony of Global Health Security Summit in

Delegation of Islamabad high court judges visited Safe City Islamabad

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: According to the details, Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, along with CPO Safe City/Traffic, CPO Law and Order and other senior police officers, welcomed the delegation of Islamabad High Court Judges, a public relations officer said.

He said that the delegation visits the command and control center, the data hub unit, modern technology-equipped cameras, and the police operations center hall. They were fully briefed about the procedures and benefits.

Furthermore, the delegation was informed that Safe City Islamabad is playing a significant role in variE-Challan System, and the "Pucar-15" helpline.

He emphasized that the delegation was also apprised of the functionality and benefits of the Safe City cameras in the city. The modern cameras of Safe City are playing a crucial role in ensuring the safety of the city and preventing crimes and safeguarding the lives and property of citizens. 42% of crimes are resolved through the Safe City Command and Control

Face recognition cameras have been installed at the entry and exit points of the city which are playing an important role in identifying suspicious elements,

he maintained. The delegation ac-



Center, Emergency Control its benefits. The ICCPO Center, Data Hub Unit, presents an honorary shield Dispatch Control Center, to the honorable judges.

modern techniques, includ- technical system of the ing the Police Operations Islamabad Capital Police and

BECS, FDI agree to advance climate education in ICT Schools

ISLAMABAD (APP): Directorate General of Basic Education Community Schools (BECS) and Forum for Dignity Initiatives (FDI) on Thursday signed à landmark Letter of Understanding (LOU) to advance Climate Education in Informal Schools in Islamabad.

The LOU underscores the commitment to environmental education and hu-

man rights.

The partnership aims to enhance climate education initiatives within informal and formal schools across Islamabad.

The signing ceremony, held at BECS office marked the collaborative efforts of BECS, led by Mr. Hameed Khan Niazi and fdi, represented by Ms. Uzma Yaqoob. The event was attended by esteemed dignitaries, representatives from both organizations, educators, and activists who share a common vision for a sustainable and informed future. The Letter of Un-

derstanding outlines a comprehensive framework for the integration of climate education modules into the curriculum of informal schools in Islamabad. This groundbreaking initiative seeks to empower students with the knowledge and skills necessary to understand, address, and mitigate the challenges posed by climate change.
BECS expressed en-

thusiasm about the partnership, stating, "Education is the cornerstone of societal progress, and climate education is pivotal in fostering responsible global citizens. This collaboration with fdi aligns with our commitment to providing quality education that equips students with the tools they need to navigate an ever-changing world."

fdi has a longstanding commitment to environmental advocacy, and Ms. Uzma emphasized the importance of educating the



ISLAMABAD: Fire Fighters are busy in fire extinguishing at house in Sector G-6/1-2 in Federal

Ashrafi debunks misconceptions about non-Muslims' visit to Madina Munawarah ISLAMABAD (APP): Madina Munawarah during Munawarah.

Prime Minister's Special Representative for Religious Harmony and Pakistani Diaspora in the Middle East and Muslim countries, Hafiz

Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi on Thursday expressed concerns about the unjustified social media smear campaign against Saudi leader-

He, in a statement, stressed the need to effectively counter the tactics, aimed at creating emotional confusion and gulf among admirers of Saudi Arabia.

He specifically referred to a controversy, following the visit of Indian delegation, led by Union Minister Smriti Irani, to

'India trying to crush Kashmiris'

indigenous

freedom struggle' ISLAMABAD (APP): All

Parties Hurriyat Confer-

ence Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) and

other Hurriyat leaders have

said that India is trying to

crush the indigenous free-

dom struggle of the

Kashmiri people by state

coercion and military force

on Thursday. According to Kashmir Media Services,

Mehmood Ahmad Saghar,

General Secretary Sheikh

Abdul Mateen, Altaf Hussain

Wani and Uzair Ahmed

Ghazali Sheikh Yaqoob, in

their separate statements.

her two-day official visit to the Kingdom. The purpose of the visit was to sign a bilateral agreement allocating a quota of 175,025 pilgrims for this year's annual Hajj pilgrimage, he added.

Ashrafi, who is also the chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council, referred to a verse from the Holy Quran related to the prohibition of non-Muslims' visit, and clarified that this applied to just Masjid-e-Haram, according to the views of several Ulema and Mashaykh.

Emphasizing the historical context, Ashrafi highlighted instances from the era of the second Caliph Hazrat Umar (RA) when non-Muslims visited the Madina for trade pur-

He also mentioned that even Christians from Najran visited Madina even during the lifetime the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him).

Ashrafi discussed the two aspects of the visit, considering both Shariah and political dimensions. He cited religious decrees from Saudi Mufti gious scholars and leaders Azam Ibn Baz and other had a clear stance on the prominent scholars, affirming that non-Muslims could indeed visit Madina to Muslims to Madina for specific purposes.

National polio immunization campaign continues

The first nationwide polio vaccination campaign of the year 2024 continued in the country on Thursday to protect children from paralytic polio. During the ongoing nationwide campaign. more than 44.3 million children under five years of age will be given oral polio drops during the five-daylong campaign, which will continue until January 12.

Children in Lakki Marwat and South Waziristan Upper and Lower will be vaccinated Islamabad.

ISLAMABAD (APP): from January 15–19, while the campaign will be held in Tank from January 15-21 and in DI Khan from January 22–28.

Over 400,000 vaccinators will bring the vaccine to children's doorsteps. In Punjab, 22.6 million children will be vaccinated, while 10.3 million children in Sindh, 7.5 million children in KP, 2.6 million children in Balochistan, 0.72 million children in AJK. 0.28 million children in GB, and 0.42 million children in



ISLAMABAD: Secretary Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Ms. Shahera Shahid delivering opening remarks at seminar "Pakistan Election 2024: The Economic Reforms Agenda of Political Parties" organized by Press Information Department.

Eminent poet, humorist 'Ibne Insha' remembered on 46th death anniversary

ISLAMABAD (APP) Eminent Urdu poet humorist and travelogue writer Ibne Insha was remembered on his 46th death anniversary Thursday

Where fans from all walks of life from media platforms have paid him rich tributes for his contribution in the entertainment industry. Ibne Insha's real name was Sher Muhammad Khan and he was born in Jalandhar district of Indian

HEC to hold conferences to seek ideas for tackling climate change challenges

The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has decided to hold a series of conferences across the country to seek innovative ideas from Pakistani university graduates to tackle climate change challenges. According to HEC, on

a national scale, Pakistan grapples with significant climate change challenges, including power generation, power distribution, renew-

points, water treatment, segregation of waste, and the pressing demands of a growing population.

The consequences of these issues are profound, stressing the urgency of a united effort to secure energy, water, eco-tourism, agriculture & forestry and liquid & solid waste management resources and ensure sustainability for present and future genera-

Dark night of Indian oppression in IIOJK will eventually end: APHC

The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) Thursday said that the dark night of Indian oppression in occupied Jammu and Kashmir will eventually end one day and the Kashmiri people will see the dawn of freedom. According to Kashmir Media Service, the APHC spokesman in a statement issued in Srinagar said the people of Kashmir are demanding their inalienable right to self determination but the Indian Hindutva regime is reluctant to accept the peaceful and democratic formula and is hell bent on using repression against the legitimate and indigenous

Kashmir

He said Kashmiris are presently forced to live under illegal military occupation of India, yet they are determined to gain freedom

The spokesman said that Indian colonialism used every tactic of oppression to weaken the Kashmiris' indigenous movement for freedom but it could not stop them from continuing their struggle for right to selfdetermination. He said that the Kashmiris had a great respect for the youth who had sacrificed their lives for the Kashmir cause and urged the international community to increase pressure on India to stop state terrorism in occupied Jammu and Kashmir

Global health summit concludes with commitment to unified response, collaborative action

a two-day event with health ministers from countries, health experts and stakeholders from around the world, concluded on Thursday with a resounding commitment to a unified and coordinated response to emerging health

The summit provided a platform for insightful discussions, knowledge exchange, and the establishment of collaborative initiatives to strengthen global health security.

The summit presented determination and shared vision among nations, transcending geopolitical boundaries in the pursuit of a common goal. Discussions covered a

from collaborative preparedness to the critical role of resilient health sys-Delegates representing diverse corners of the

wide spectrum of topics,

globe shared invaluable insights, emphasizing the interconnectedness of our shared destiny.

Caretaker Federal

Nadeem Jan congratulated the participating delegates and participants to make this summit a successful event. "Beyond national interests, we are partners for a common goal – to ensure the health of all." He proposed to intro-

duce a Global Health Security Agenda Champion Awards to be bestowed upon the countries or individuals based on their exemplary contributions to the cause. He also proposed the

inclusion of a dedicated special session on global health security in both the annual UNGA and World Health Assembly agendas. This would provide a regular platform for nations to review progress, share insights, and discuss emerging health challenges on a

A comprehensive fiveyear global action plan was proposed to guide nations in implementing strategies for enhancing health secu-

Dr Nadeem said, "As

of the end. Commitments made here must translate into concrete actions in our respective nations. Implementation is the litmus test of our dedication to the ideals espoused during these deliberations.

Federal Secretary of Health Iftikhar Ali Shalwani stated that it was a "dream come true" to witness the collaborative efforts of policymakers, experts, and stakeholders from around

He emphasized the need for continued collaboration and the implementation of evidence-based strategies to safeguard global health. He underscored the importance of the summit as a platform for forging partnerships and creating a roadmap for collective

Ahmed Kazi, Director

General of Health, expressed sincere gratitude to participants for their active engagement throughout the summit. He summarized the main highlights of the twowe conclude this summit, day proceedings of the



SLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah cutting ribbon to inaugurate Calligraphy Exhibition at PNCA.

Solangi felicitates **IHCJA's newly** elected office bearers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi oi Thursday congratulated the newly elected office bearers of the Islamabad High Court Journalists Association (IHCJA)

He, in a news statement, felicitated IHCJA's President Fayyaz Mehmood, Senior Vice President Hussain Ahmed. Vice President (Women) Ambreen Ali, General Secretary Muhammad Imran and other officials on winning the election.

Their victory in the election was a manifestation of the trust reposed by the court reporters in them. the minister added.

He expressed the hope that the newly elected regime would meet the expectations of the court reporters.

Safe city issues 222,195 e-challans in 2023

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Safe City Islamabad effectively addressed traffic violations by issuing a total of 222,195 e-challans during the year 2023. The Safe City Command and Control Center played a pivotal role in implementing traffic rules, targeting various violations, such as driving without seat belts, improper use of fancy number plates, zebra crossing violations, disregarding red signals, over-speeding, and using mobile phones while driving. The breakdown of these e-challans includes 4,495 for seat belt violations, 206,747 for overspeeding, 431 for mobile phone usage during driving.

Shahera appreciates PID for initiating debate on national issues ahead of general elections

Broadcasting Shahera Shahid on Thursday appreciated the Press Information Department for holding a series of seminars in the run up to coming general elections to generate debate on national issues.

Addressing the opening session of a seminar on Pakistan Election 2024: The Economic Reforms Agenda of Political Parties" here, she said that through this series of seminars, the government wanted to initiate debate on issues being faced by Pakistan and their solutions in the backdrop economic revival.

ISLAMABAD (APP): of upcoming general elec-

The objective of this seminar was to educate the people about the problems to be faced by the government which would come to power after February 8 elections and what policies shout be adopted to overcome these problems and put the country on path of

development, she said. The Secretary said that in the seminar, not only experts on economic affairs were invited but also representatives of the political parties to give their respective parties perspective on

PIO Dr. Tariq says: Caretaker govt seeks positive economic reforms thru dialogue

ISLAMABAD (APP): Principal Information Officer (PIO) Dr. Tariq Mehmood Khan on Thursday said that the caretaker government intended to foster a constructive dialogue on economic reforms in the country with a goal of steering the nation for-

Addressing the seminar on "Elections and Economic Agenda of Political Parties", he extended thanks and gratitude to the participants. It was organized by of Press Information Department (PID).

He highlighted the media's active participation in diverse discussions and said that Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Murtaza Solangi, desired to commence a debate,

specifically focusing on

elections and reforms.

He expressed the gratitude to the Istikhame-Pakistan Party (IPP) and Jamat-e-Islami for their participation in the seminar, where they shared the plans and ideas, to ensure the progress and improvement of the country.

He voiced the optimism that other political parties would also participate in the upcoming seminar, in order to share information about their plans, for working towards achieving lasting stability in the country. He said the interim

government was actively implementing reforms to provide a foundation for the forthcoming administra-



ISLAMABAD: A man is displayed banners in honor of Pak Army martyred on trees at a green belt along the road side at sector F-6 in Federal Capital.

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: The inaugural Cyber Crime Investikistan police department

gation Unit within the Pahas been officially established as part of Islamabad Police's efforts to strengthen the fight against cybercrime. This milestone initiative comes on the heels of amendments to the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA), empowering Islamabad Police to register cybercrime cases

under Section 30. Seeking to harness specialized expertise, Islamabad Police have col-

unit to combat digital offenses laborated with the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to leverage technical assistance in the investigation of cybercrimes. The partnership is geared towards addressing the intricate challenges posed by cyber threats and ensuring a robust response to the evolving landscape of digital offenses. The unit has been established following the directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Ďr. Akbar Nasir Khan and the successful completion of the first phase of training for 60 officers from Islamabad Po-

Islamabad police establish

first cyber crime investigation

lice, in collaboration with the FIA, marks a crucial step in building a skilled workforce proficient in handling cybercrime cases. These officers have undergone specialized training to equip them with the knowledge and tools necessary for effective cybercrime investigations. To streamline and centralize efforts, the Cyber Crime Investigation Center has been established at the F-6 Service Center. This state-of-the-art facility will serve as a hub for coordinating and conducting in-depth investigations into cybercrimes.

ISLAMABAD (APP): ing points, waste collection

able energy, waste dump-

ISLAMABAD (APP):

resistance movement of

as they have never submit-

ted to Indian machinations.

Daily Aoice of Masse, Independent

Friday January 12, 2024

Musharraf's sentence

At a time when the constitutional order in Pakistan is yet again — facing a variety of threats, the Supreme Court has upheld military ruler Pervez Musharraf's death sen-

The decision can serve as an inflection point where Pakistan's constitutional history and future are concerned, offering lessons for those willing to learn about the perils of veering from the democratic course, and respecting the whatever shape they fancy, country's basic law.

The general, who ruled over at that moment in time. It Pakistan for nearly a decade, was given the death sentence taken misadventure only to by a three-judge special court in 2019. A month later, the LHC had overturned the death sentence. The SC had last year taken up a set of appeals related to the case, and on Wednesday, the apex court set aside the LHC decision ruling that it was "not sustainable".

Though this paper opposes the death penalty as a matter of principle, and it would have been better if the decision had come while the military strongman was still alive — Mr the general elections, it is Musharraf passed away last of the utmost importance year — the ramifications of the and opinion-makers to de-SC judgement are considerable, just as those of the special court's original sentence were.

Though some may say that the decision is an afterthought, and that it will not stop military interventions should the proponents of marital rule decide to go ahead with it, the which determines the allodecision is highly symbolic. Mr cation of resources between Musharraf was sentenced for tary sectors of society. imposing his second emergency in 2007, yet it is fair to ford to ignore the legitimate ask why he wasn't punished demands of its security for the 'original sin': the 1999 nal threats. At the same strength to its military ment. coup. Rather than precipitating any clash of institutions, or targeting any individuals, the SC judgement should initiate a journey of soul-searching and self-reckoning within all pillars of the state, to see where we as a nation have gone wrong by abandoning the Constitution, and embracing autocratic tendencies.

Moreover, there should be Mani Shankar Aiyar is the an honest appraisal of history: last Pakistani left in India. It is his 'second favourite Pervez Musharraf was not the country'. It was once an first military strongman to rule option available to millions Pakistan, though it is hoped 1947, Indian Muslims have he will be the last. Much before, in 1958, Iskander Mirza into democratic dementia and Ayub Khan had thwarted Pakistan's democratic evolution by imposing this country's dieval times) to quit the first martial law. Next, Yahya more hospitable shores. Khan's period of military rule Two periods in Mani's long life (he is 83 led to the separation of East years old) have conditioned Pakistan.

The forays launched by first was the stint he spent Ziaul Haq on the constitutional as India's consul general in Karachi (1978-82). It proorder are also well-docu- vided a seemingly bottommented. But their lordships should also consider the role ous books. His Memoirs of of their brother judges in prop- a Maverick: The First Fifty ping up dictatorships. Many a released last year.
He intended his next learned jurist played a key role in validating military rule, graphical sequel. His pubguided by the dubious 'doctrine of necessity'.

Today, as Pakistan struggles with upholding the constitu- biography of Rajiv instead. tional order, and protecting Hence, Mani's fresh book fundamental rights, all institutions need to review our chequered history — including the Musharraf period — and Mani wrote his affectionrealise that national salvation Rajiv within a year of lies only in all pillars of the state Rajiv's assassination, Mani staying within their constitutional bounds, and working to stop any further adventurism. than Rajiv's widow Sonia and her Congress party have been to him.

Reassembling Pakistan



Khurram Husain

Much has been said about 'reimagining Pakistan" but it is important to understand that task comes the day after. For now, the focus needs to be on "reassembling Pakistan"

This task should not be underestimated. Those who think they can pull this off on their own are deeply mistaken. And the country is just emerging from the mistaken misadventures of those who think the country is a toy made of Lego and can be disassembled and reassembled in to pursue whatever goals their minds are seized with would be bad for the country to exit one such mis-

accounts is necessary to

understand how and why the country has been brought to the present impasse. The story does not have a single starting point. but a number of turning points are important to

The first turning point is the arrival into power of the PML-N government in 2013. The period of Nawaz's rule was marked by the kickstarting of growth on the one hand. But it also saw the emergence of massive deficits that the government financed by expensive borrowing. Debt skyrocketed in those years and has remained elevated ever since.

The next turning point was 2017. The whole operation to tear down Nawaz Sharif as prime minister left decision-making in the country severely fractured. Given the growing deficits and rising debt burden, the country could not afford to have its executive decision-making splintered. It can be argued that Pakistan has been run by interim governments ever since

One critical element in executive decision-making A proper rendering of at the policy level is some sort of coherence. If a gov- this happens. With the loss

heavily, it must balance this out with revenue measures to ensure debt levels don't blow past sustainable levels, for example. Or if the government is trying to manage the exchange rate. it needs to ensure that the requisite amount of foreign exchange reserves is available to do this.

The list goes on and on, but the point to note is that policy coherence comes when there is somebody at the top who has the birds-eve view and is taking stock of how decisions made in one area impact other areas. Pakistan is not famous

for its policy coherence. This is one reason why the country keeps going round in boom and bust cycles. But what happened after 2017 is whatever minimal levels of policy coherence there might have been were also blown. The result was erratic decision-making. The consequences of

this landed in the price level. This is what always happens when policy coherence is lost. Ultimately the consequences come cascading in the form of inflation. There is a good reason why

of policy coherence come all manner of demands upon the executive, and a weak and embattled prime minister is in no position to turn down these demands. The result is runaway spending, mounting fiscal pressure, and eventually the large-scale printing of This is what has al-

ways happened in our country when whatever little policy coherence there is under normal times is lost. One such episode was in the year 2007 till late 2008, as the Musharraf regime lost its moorings and became embroiled in an escalating contest of survival. The printing presses had begun to roll much earlier, but from October 2007 they went into high gear till the signing of the IMF programme a year later. The result was the highest inflation on record, which stayed elevated for a number of years.

The next round when policy coherence (or whatever little there was) crumbled altogether was in late 2012, leading up to the election in 2013. Once again, the printing presses were fired up and spending went out of all control. This

time the consequences were not felt in the form of inflation because the government managed to keep the exchange rate steady and fuel prices began coming off their record highs in global markets. Instead, the consequences came in the form of a runaway trade deficit, which was financed with borrowing. This is why external borrowing skyrock-eted from 2013 onward.

What is different this time is that the loss of policy coherence that set in after 2017 has not abated, despite the passage of more than six years. There was a brief period of respite, running from May 2019 till about March of 2020, when a very strict IMF programme was under implementation, that one could see some sort of policy coherence in the country. But other than those

months, we have had nothing but rampant ad-hoc decisions, no centre of decision-making anywhere in the country and spending priorities that it seemed were being made on the

The result, once again, was runaway money printing, the largest and longest episode of printing that our economy has ever seen. It

began in early 2017, and by May 2019 money printed and pumped into the economy constituted half of total money supply, the largest proportion it had ever been until then. From the summer of 2020, it began one more time, but their nature changed.

Instead of direct government borrowing from the State Bank, they flushed the economy with cheap liquidity via sharp interest rate cuts and refinance facilities, whose monetary impact the State Bank itself proudly claimed was five per cent of GDP, probably the single largest monetary stimulus ever given to the economy.

The result is there once again. Inflation remained elevated through 2019, but since 2021 it has been a blowout of historic proportions. So far this is plateauing out, but for the country to emerge from this nightmare, the return of policy coherence for a protracted period is a must.

And that can only happen under a government that is not hobbled by legitimacy concerns. It is critical that Pakistan gets such a government in the months ahead. -- Courtesy Dawn

The primacy of economic power



Javid Husain

As the nation gears up for for Pakistan's leadership bate and determine the priorities to be followed and the goals to be achieved by the elected government with the assistance of the

Several issues of critical importance will be waiting for the attention of the new government as it assumes the reins of power. Perhaps the most important of them is the perennial issue of guns vs butter,

No independent and sovereign country can afagainst external and inter-

turn a blind eve to the imperatives of economic development and social welfare which directly affect the lives of the people it is supposed to serve. The challenge that any government faces is to strike the right balance between these two important aspects of national policy to ensure the country's short-term and long-term security as well as accelerate its economic growth and promote its social welfare.

The importance of economic strength in the calculation of a country's national power and the realization of its national goals cannot be overemphasized in the modern world. The Soviet Union collapsed not because of the shortage of conventional and nuclear weapons but mainly because its weak economy could not sustain the enormous burden of its extensive strategic commitments and heavy military superstructure. Economic and techno-

logical development is not larly with Central Asia, Afonly an indispensable con-rica, Latin America, West dition for a country's progress and the prosperity of its people but also an thereby transforming the important source of global security environ-

time, no government can power and an essential ingredient in the calculus of its national security, especially in any long-term con-

> The development of a country's economic and commercial relations with foreign countries, besides being beneficial from the economic point of view. produces an impact on the configuration of its security environment, both regional and global. Economic and commercial links provide strength and substance to friendly relations with foreign countries. The depth of the impact on the regional and global security environment would be determined obviously by the strength of a country's economy and the level and extent of its foreign economic and commercial rela-

It is noteworthy that China's rapid economic growth over the past four decades combined with its fast-growing economic and commercial links with the rest of the world, particu-Asia, and ASEAN, are changing global alignments,

and Fall of the Great Powers', elaborated at length on the importance of the relative economic rise and fall of a Great Power in determining in the long run its growth and decline as an important military power. According to him, the main issue facing a government was one of "balancing the short-term security afforded by large defense forces against the longerterm security of rising production and income." These conclusions have important strategic lessons for the US in dealing with China's relatively fast economic growth and the consequent rapid buildup of its military power. It is worth recalling that China's gross domestic product in PPP terms overtook America's in

America's. If China can maintain a much higher growth rate of its economy than the US, it is inevitable that its

2014. America's GDP in

nominal dollar terms was

estimated to be \$26.95 trillion as against \$17.70 tril-

lion for China in 2023. But

China's GDP in nominal

dollar terms grew at the rate

of 5.5 per cent in 2023 as

against 2.4 per cent for

Paul Kennedy in his seminal book, 'The Rise economy in nominal dollar terms also will catch up with and surpass America's at some time in the future. possibly by 2035, with the attendant consequences for the balance of the military nower between the two countries and the international security environ-

> Considering the time lag between the growth of economic power and the buildup of military power, one can safely conclude that the balance of national power between the two countries will shift in favour of China by 2050 or earlier if the present trends continue

The foregoing analysis calls for a thorough review of Pakistan's economic and security policies. Ideally, at the initial stages of its development, a country should assign higher priority to the growth of its economic and technological power than to the building up of its military power because as noted above a sound military suonly on the solid foundation of economic prowess. Reversing the order of priorities as Pakistan seems to have done since its indepen-

disastrous consequences, which are now visible in the In the modern knowl-

edge-driven world, economic progress is primarily a function of the priority that a nation attaches to education in general and to science and technology in particular. Pakistan's record in the field of education is extremely disappointing with a low literacy percentage, poor academic standards, and inadequate attention to science and technology in our academic institutions. The new leadership should come up with a comprehensive plan to overcome these deficiencies. However, this will be possible only if we have peace in our neighbourhood and avoid a major armed conflict allowing us to allocate the lion's share of our resources to economic development while maintaining a credible security deterrent. This in turn would require us to pursue a lowrisk and non-adventurist foreign policy. Over-ambiperstructure can be built tious foreign policy goals should be avoided so that we do not fall into the trap of strategic over-stretch and exhaustion in which we are caught at present. -- Courtesy TheNews

The last Pakistani

Cultural Centres and Apna

Utsavs, Island Develop-

ment Authority, drought-

proofing and the economy.

chapter is on the

Panchayat(i) Raj initiative.

Mani's untiring efforts as

India's first ever cabinet

minister for panchayat raj

and as chairman of the Ex-

pert Committee on the

Panchayats (2011-13)

reached its apogee when the

committee produced a five-

volume report. He dubs it

Panchayatica. To Mani's

chagrin, that report now

cupboards", ignored by

panchayats centre stage.

Instead, in 2013, Mani was

eased off-stage by Con-

gress president Sonia

Modi's government.

"moulders in forgotten

Mani tried to bring the

Encyclopaedia

The concluding fifth



F.S. Aijazuddin

of Indian Muslims. Since witnessed with disappointment Pakistan's descent subcontinent and migrate to

his personality, his career, and his literary output. The less reservoir of material which he has used in vari-Years (1941-1991) — was

book to be an autobiolisher, though, felt it was dominated by the second Him-alaya in his life — the late prime minister Rajiv Gandhi. They suggested a The Rajiv I Knew And Why He Was India's Most Misunderstood Prime Minister (2024).

Ever since 1992, when has been more loyal to the memory of Rajiv Gandhi

The book opens with To Pakistanis, Mani's a chapter on Rajiv's domescomments Pa----kistan will be of pritic successes: The accords with Punjab, Assam, mary interest. He de--als Mizoram, and Darjeeling. openly with Operation The second discusses the Brasstacks, lau-n-ched internal controversies that with Rajiv's approval and plagued Rajiv's political conducted in 1986/7. career: the Shah Bano case, That provocative opthe communal Pandora's eration — "bigger than any box of Babri Masjid, Op-Nato exercise — and the

eration Brasstacks, IPKF, biggest since World War II' and the Bofors imbroglio. took place on "the vicinity of the Pakistan bor-Most leaders prefer to cruise in international wader, involving half a million ters than to be buffeted by troops — half the Indian Army within a hundred domestic squalls. Rajiv was no exception. In the third miles of Pakistani territory chapter on Rajiv's foreign and the deployment of policy initiatives, Mani Indian naval forces for an lauds Rajiv's efforts on amphibious naval trial asnuclear disarmament, imsault in the Korangi creek proving relations with that led from the sea to China and Pakistan, Indian Pakistan's commercial intervention in the capital, Karachi" On January 28, 1987, Mal-di-v--es in 1988, and the establishment of the President Ziaul Haq retali-

AF--R----ICA Fund in ated smokelessly by allow-1986. Mani provided Rajiv ing Dr A.Q. Khan to reveal with the catchy acronym: to the Ind-ian journ-alist 'Act-ion For Resis-t-ing Kuldip Nayar that Paki-Invasion [in Mozambique] stan had gone nuclear. Colonialism [in Namibia] Na--yar (hoping to earn and Apartheid [in South more than kudos for this explosive disclosure) de-The fourth chapter liberately withheld publi-Innovative Domes-tic Inication of this till March 1, tiatives — is a checklist of by which time confronta-Rajiv's rad-ial interest in tion had cooled to consultechnology missions, Zonal

Mani's recollection of that speech bulges with pride: "It was the distilled essence of all I had learned of Pakistan and Pakistanis in my three years in Karachi. And here it was pouring forth from the mouth of the prime minis-

Despite Mani's unquenchable optimism, his dream of "an uninterrupted, uninterru-p--tible" relationship between India and Pa---kistan will remain unfulfilled. Certainly, as long as his nemesis PM Modi and the BJP co---ntinue to rule India. That could go on un--til 2039, when Mani will be all of 97 years old.

Mani's janambhumi is Lahore, in Pakistan — both magnets he finds impossible to resist. -- Courtesy



Furgan Hyder Shaikh

Pakistan is one of the countries which adopted the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 — also called 'global goals' — in order to attain lasting development, peace, and prosperity for its people. It is a matter of much pride that Pakistan was the first country to adopt the SDGs at the country level when it officially passed a parliamentary resolution to this effect in 2016. The Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives has since established SDG Support Units through provincial planning and development departments to provide guidance on their implementation and track the progress made.

Implementing the SDGs in spirit promises to end poverty and inequality, ensure the protection of the Earth, and ensure that all people on this planet have access to the enjoyment of health, justice, and prosperity. Pakistan has spent eight years engaging with the SDGs and streamlining and localising them. But though it was proactive in adopting the SDGs, their implementation could be better. One wonders how many people know about the SDGs in, for example, Sindh's Tharparkar and coastal belt. How many SDG-driven schools have been operationalised? How many children at Sindh's high schools and colleges know about the SDGs? How many introductory sessions have been organised at schools and

In mid-2023, I moved to Mithi, Tharparkar, where I asked a member of a local business association about the SDGs. Puzzled, he asked, "What is an SDG?" The reply made me think that if the business community in Sindh was not aware of the SDGs, how could the SDGs be localised and streamlined? An honest, meaningful commitment to achieving SDGs entails localising them on the ground level. The business community, academia, health sector, food entities, builders, exploration and production companies, universities, development sector, trans-

portation sector, and par-

liamentarians all need to

educate themselves on

SDGs and think about what

practical initiatives they

can take in this regard. A much-needed step streamlining and localising the SDGs is to translate them into local languages. For example, in Sindh, these languages would include Sindhi, Urdu, Marwari, Brahvi and Dhatki. In Tharparkar (as well as a large portion of the areas that comprise the Mirpurkhas division), Dhatki is the most common language spoken locally. Access to a Dhatki version of the SDGs would greatly help the locals as they go about planning their future business and non-business

There is a pressing need for the Sindh Education and Literacy Department, in consultation with the Sindh SDG Support Unit, to develop an objectoriented edutainment booklet that can help make students and teachers aware of the SDGs and their practical applications in realworld scenarios. A weekly session on SDGs and what possible ideas can be drawn from SDGs should be discussed, evaluated, and pro-

If one is to think opportunistically, the Sindh Dawn

government is currently reconstructing the flooddamaged houses of those affected by the 2022 monsoon in different districts, including Mirpurkhas, Badin, Sanghar, and Tando Mohammad Khan, through a dedicated entity called Sindh People's Housing for Flood Affectees (SPHF). There is a unique opportunity to turn this reconstruction project into a showcase for SDG localisation. If the houses and their attached communities can be used to demonstrate the benefits of the 17 SDGs, this will facilitate others' understanding of what the SDGs could look like at the rural level. It will encourage local children to ask their teachers and elders questions about their importance. Word will spread by mouth, opening new avenues for sustainable development and good governance in the country's

vast rural areas. To implement the SDGs effectively, governments at all levels need to understand their importance in their provinces' everyday affairs. All policies need to be consciously driven by at least one of the 17 SDGs in alignment with each government's administrative targets. This will ensure that governments will remain dedicated to streamlining the SDGs into their development agenda.

It is also imperative that an SDG forum be established by provincial governments at the district level. This forum could invite researchers, economists, engineers, NGOs, teachers, university faculty, representatives of the business community, chambers of commerce and industry, and the youth to contribute to the implementation of SDGs at the district level. Informed input and novel ideas will open up innovative mechanisms to achieve global goals by acting locally and impacting globally'. -- Courtesy

Championing SDGs colleges in Hyderabad?

dence can lead a country to

CM distributes 8 snorkels to KMC, HMC, Mirpurkhas, Larkana, SBA MCs

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (retd) Magbool Bagar handed over eight snorkels, purchased for Rs1.35 billion, to the municipal corporations of Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur, Nawabshah, Mirpurkhas, and Larkana.

distribution ceremony was hosted by Minister Local Govt Mubin Jumani at the water board office at Shahrah-e-Faisal on Thursday.

The ceremony was attended by Minister Information Ahmad Shah, Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, Secretary Local Govt Manzoor Shaikh, Mayor Hyderabad Kashif Shoro, CEO Water Board Salahuddin, CEO Water Board Asadullah Khan and other officers and mayors.

handed over three snorkels defects in the buildings and Hyderabad, Nawabshah, Mirpurkhas, Sukkur and

During a ceremony, the Chief Minister addressed the audience and highlighted a grave issue related to the high-rise buildings in Karachi. He pointed out that many of these buildings lack proper firefighting systems, equipment, and fire exits.

In the event of a fire, the residents living on higher floors are at great risk of getting trapped, which can lead to the loss of both life and property.

Baqar Justice emphasized the importance of having a proper firefighting mechanism in place. To achieve this, the Sindh government has The aim is to identify any incidents.

to KMC and each one to ensure that builders rectify them to ensure the safety of residents and occupants.

The Chief Minister stated that it is the shared responsibility of the government and civic agencies to ensure that there are adequate firefighting machines to handle fire incidents. As a result, the government has been investing in buying fire trucks and snorkels for aerial firefighting.

The CM stated that

the snorkels imported from Indonesia are state-of-theart firefighting machines. Despite not being the required number of fire engines that cities like Karachi and others need, the snorkels are a step towards building more efficient firefighting already ordered a fire departments that are well-safety audit of buildings. equipped to handle fire



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh Mohsin Naqvi distributing laptops amongst the students of King Edwards Medical College.

He said that the major

cause of increased cases

was undiagnosed influenza

respiratory issues.
He confirmed that the

from the harsh cold weather

conditions prevailing in the

province. Replying to a

question, he said that the

Punjab government was

cracking down on vehicles emitting smoke, adding,

that action would be taken

against all factories causing

environmental pollution

administrations closely

The investigation

The court however

officers requested the court

during hearing of the case

to extend physical remand

of Imran Khan for further

rejected the plea for further

physical remand of Imran

Khan. The court sent Imran

Khan to jail on judicial

remand for 14 days in 12

cases related to May 9

arrested in Adiala Jail two

days earlier in cases of May

PTI founder was

district

with

May 9 incident

Court approves 14 days

judicial remand of PTI

founder in 12 cases

'Pneumonia cases rises in Punjab' Minister advise citizens to maintain a healthy diet, use face masks

Independent Report LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Health and and pneumonia cases,

Population Welfare Dr Jamal Nasir Thursday urged people to remain vigilant while maintaining treatment after having a healthy diet and using face masks as 'pneumonia cases' were continuously number of pneumonia

Talking to a private previous year, adding, a out that people with weak protect young children immunity due to chronic cardiac, kidney and liver diseases or diabetes could easily contract the respiratory disease in cold

Health experts warned of an acute rise in pneumonia cases among elderly people and children, adding, citizens

to use plenty of rest, monitoring all industries warm beverages, steam and brick kilns. In baths or the use of addition to the school humidifiers in houses for mask mandate, the public air moisture and timely has been urged to use consultations with doctors. masks as well.

RAWALPINDI (Online):

14 days judicial remand of

PTI founder Imran Khan in

12 cases related to May 9

12 cases pertaining to

May 9 incidents were

heard in Adiala Jail against

former Prime Minister

(PM) Imran Khan

Thursday. The case came

up for hearing before Anti

by judge Ijaz Asif.

physical remand.

the court.

Ferrorism Court (ATC) led

presented in the court on

completion of two days

represented PTI founder in

Imran Khan was

Malik Faisal and

of Governor Mian Zahoor Watto.

N has issued party ticket to Chaudhry Muhammad Iqbal father in law of Farah Gogi from Gujranwala for election-2024.

Gujranwala division.

Chaudhry Muhammad Iqbal will be PML-N candidate from rising due to smog weather. cases was higher than the PP-68 Gujranwala. He was defeated by Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi in the election for speaker Punajb Assembly in 2018.

ANF seizes 250 kg drugs in five operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting five operations across the country managed to recover 250 kg of drugs and arrested four accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on

He informed that 637 grams of weed was recovered from a parcel sent from Thailand at the office Rawalpindi while three accused were arrested.

Swabi Interchange.

Peshawar.

operation, 26.4 kg of hashish was recovered near Sher Shah Toll Plaza Multan and an accused was

five kg of hashish was recovered from the Zakhakhel area of Khyber. Cases under the Anti-

registered against the further investigations are

PML-Nissues ticket to father in law of Gogi from Gujranwala

LAHORE (Online): PML-

PML-N announced candidates

Pakistan towards progress. He was speaking as the chief guest at the Lahore Leads University's 7th convocation held at Aiwane-Iqbal here on Thursday. elected MPA on PML-N | Encouraging political news channel he pointed precautionary measure to ticket earlier. He was parties to prioritise the education. IGP for compilation of data of criminals on bail

(IGP) Sindh Mukhtar Raja, led a meeting at the Central Police Office (CPO), Karachi, to discuss the status of criminals on bail, with a focus on those involved in street crime and property offences. Present in the meeting, the AIGP Legal

KARACHI

Inspector General of Police

(APP):

Riffat

provided a briefing, emphasizing importance of maintaining detailed records and

In an operation, 128.5 kg hashish and 53.5 kg opium were recovered near

36 kg hashish was recovered from an accused rounded up from Ring Road

the fourth

In the fifth operation,

9 incidents. Later physical Narcotics Act have been remand for two days in respect of Imran Khan was approved in 12 cases arrested accused and pertaining to May 9 under process.



LAHORE: Caretaker Federal Minister for Education Madad Ali Sindhi distributing degree among students at 7th Convocation of Lahore Leads University along with Vice Chancellor Nadeem Bhatti and Chairman board

KARACHI: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in meeting a with Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori.

KP Governor lends support to Civil Society's call of banning e-cigarettes, vaping

PESHAWAR (APP): Association, Mohmmad Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali Thursday extended support to Civil Society's call for banning e-cigarettes and vaping while keeping in view its harms to public in view its harms to public health and increasing use of modern tobacco products

Coordinator Brue verifis.

Speaking during the meeting, Qamar Naseem apprised Governor Haji

him under the chairmanship of Qamar Naseem, Programme Manager Blue Veins, a non-markets and due to governmental organization.
Other members of the

delegation included Ajmal Shah, Coordinator Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tobacco people Control Cell, Dr. Ihtisham, Chest Specialist LRH, Dr. Qazi Shahbaz, Chairman

Independent Report

AHORE: Caretaker

Federal Minister for

Education and Professional

Training Madad Ali Sindhi

emphasised the crucial role

of education in propelling

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

among youth.

He expressed these views while talking with a delegation that called on among youth.

About the apprised Governor Haji Ghulam Ali that new tobacco products are emerging in the whole world at a very fast speed.

deceiving slogans of harm reduction or 'Quit smoking and start vaping' is attracting a large number of towards consumption of smokeless tobacco

Qamar said due to lack Doctors of latest legislation in the

education sector, he

underscored the necessity

of quality education for

national advancement.

Acknowledging the challenges faced by the

government institutions,

the minister praised the

stressing the elected

responsibility in providing

accessible and high-quality

statuses of criminals

involved in street crime and

property cases who had

Mukhtar Raja directed the

IT department of CPO

Karachi to liaise with all

legal branches across the

province to compile centralised and daily data

on released criminals and

conduct regular checks. He

stressed the need for legal

branches to compile

comprehensive data on

these criminals.

IGP Sindh Riffat

been released on bail.

governments

sector's

private

contribution

country, the existing laws on tobacco control cannot be enforced on the use or sale of modern smokeless tobacco products which use is increasing due to easy availability in markets and advertisement in media.

The delegation members requested the Governor for measures to impose a ban on vapes and all forms of e-cigarettes. In this regard, they also suggested legislation in

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Responding to the points, Governor KP Haji Ghulam Ali while expressing his agreement to the call extended support for imposition of ban on these products with the purpose of protecting public health, especially youth.

Bid to smuggle Minister stresses heroin abroad post-election focus on foiled; 3 held **education for progress**

PESHAWAR (APP): The Excise police station, Mardan Region on Thursday foiled a bid to smuggle heroin abroad and arrested an international drug smuggler along with two facilitators while recovering 57 swallowed capsules. According to the spokesman of Excise, the spokesman of Excise, the Excise police acting on a tip-off conducted an operation on Ring Road Chamtar Chowk, district Mardan and intercepted a suspected vehicle with International Airport.

The police took the main accused Naveed, a resident of Kot Radha Kishan, district Kasur, to MMC Hospital where a health team recovered 57 swallowed capsules of heroin from his stomach.

The Excise police arrested the international drug smuggler along with the real owner of the drug Habib-ul-Haq, and cofacilitator Muhammad, residents of During Bara. investigation, the accused disclosed that they were taking the smuggler to



KARACHI: Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister, Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar visits the control room of Karachi Water Board, at Shahrah-e-Faisal in Karachi, Minister Local Government, Mubin Jumani, Minister for Information, Ahmed Shah and Mayor Karachi, Murtaza Wahab are also present. emotionally mature to education, healthcare.

KP Govt decides to launch major literacy campaign in merged districts; Dr. Aamer

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Khyber
Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Newly Merged Districts Affairs, Industries, Commerce and Technical Education Dr. Aamer Abdullah has said that the provincial government has decided to launch a major literacy campaign of "Ilam Da Tolo Dapara" (Education for All) to increase literacy rate in the merged districts. He said that the aim of this campaign was to promote the boys and girls education in these districts, adding that in

literacy experts who would supervise this campaign.
In a radio interview on

Thursday, the caretaker minister said that it had also been decided to start a campaign to make dysfunctional educational institutions fully functional by increasing the institutions enrollment of students in

the merged districts.
While introducing technical education and skills training courses in general educational institutions, the Technical Education and Vocational Training (TEVTA) Authority has been assigned the task of order to make this assigned the task of campaign successful, it had conducting a feasibility been decided to establish a study about identification task force at the district of suitable institutions for level and to form a body of the purpose, he added



Bhutto Zardari being welcomed by party workers upon her arrival in Hyderabad.

Lawyers Grand Alliance organizes event

Rana Shahid Mehmood KOT ADDU: According Ijaz Ahmad Khan

to the details, on the last day of the campaign of District Bar Association Kot Addu Annual Elections 2024,25, an event was organized by the Lawyers Grand Alliance in which the presidential candidate Munir Ahmed Korya Advocate, Deputy President Jam Naeem Akhtar Advocate, General Secretary Imran Mustafa Bhatti Ádvocate, Joint Secretary Waqar Ahmed Dogar, Finance Secretary Shahzadul Haque, Library Secretary Editor Furqan Majeed and other candidates also organized lunch for petitioners and lawyers

Library Secretary Noman Ali Chaudhry,

Punjab Bar Council



Gormani said that the bar

association was given

the status of district so

that by activating the

district courts, the

citizens do not have to

travel miles to solve the

problems faced by them. I played a role in

providing facilities by

candidates for the

national elections should

stop criticizing the Bar

Association. By creating

a pleasant atmosphere

between the bar and the

bench, solve the

problems of

He said that the

activating

dispensary.

PESHAWAR: Traffic Warden Officials are removing tinted sheet from a car at Cantt Bazar.

Health minister advocates raising age limit for girl marriages

Jamal Nasir Thursday emphasised the necessity of increasing the age limit for girl marriages.

session, organised by the vulnerability. National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) here, he cited hormonal changes during adolescence that often lead to physiological disorders. The minister highlighted the potential health risks faced by young brides.

that subjecting minor girls

LAHORE (APP): Punjab marriage could result in Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Dr. He emphasised the importance of protecting the fundamental rights of females, backed by medical evidence showing their In a consultative genetic and natural marriages, he warned, could lead to a drastic deterioration in the physical health of young brides, contributing to societal issues surrounding infertility.

NCSW Chairperson

Nilofar Bakhtiar urged Dr. Nasir pointed out unity to end child marriages, emphasising the or those not physically or need for access to

The 150-kilometer-

Swat originating from

different glaciers and lakes

including Mahodand and

Gabral mountains offers

unique opportunities for

enthusiasts to explore in a

adventure

Snowfall, ice skiing make Swat ideal winter tourists' destination of Pakistan

PESHAWAR (APP): unique features including the archeology department enthusiasts due to its seven unique features including capped making it an ideal winter tourism destination of

Arriving honeymoon at the breathtaking Kalam valley, Umar Khayam, a tourist of Nowshera district, was excited after seeing the mesmerizing natural beauty of Malam Jabba, Bahrain, Madain, and Gabin Jabba on Thursday.

"Swat is my favorite winter tourists'

Known as Switzerland of river rafting, adventure Pakistan, Swat district snow, ice hockey, trout started attracting a fish, snowfall and easy significant number of accessibility through Swat adventure and snow sports motorway. It is my third consecutive yearly visit to Kalam and Malama Jabba snowfall, ice skiing, snow- to enjoy snowfall, skiing mountainous and its famous trout fish valleys and trout fish, along with my family in its peaceful but cold weather,' he told APP.

"I traveled many for tourists' destinations of at the Pakistan in my life but hardly seen find together the combination of seven distinctive features including snowfall, river rafting, trout motorway, Ghandhara civilization and ice skiing in any tourist destination

of Pakistan," he said. Bakht Zada Khan, destination due to its seven senior research officer of

said that Swat is home to primitive Gandhara civilization where every stone speak of the primitive age besides attracting monks and followers of Buddhism from across the world. Besides Lord Bhudda

artifacts and ancient stupas, ice skiing, river rafting, adventure sports, snow-clad mountain peaks, trout-fish, and Swat motorway enhanced Swat's significance. Attracting Buddhists,

monks and archaeologists from across the world throughout the year, the Swat's archaeological treasures and ancient artifacts housed at Saidu Sharif Museum become a distinctive feature taking tourists to the glorious year.

Tourists from long freshwater of the river Peshawar, Nowshera, Mardan, Charsadda, Lahore, Rawalpindi and Islamabad were seen in large numbers at Kalam, Malam Jabba and Bahrian hoping for snowfall.

history of Swat.

Another striking feature of Swat is skiing sports being played at Malam Jabba every year during winter and such sport was hardly placed in any part of the Bakht Zada said these distinctive characteristics,

which are second to none in any other district of the sportsmen, archeologists, water mountaineers, snowfall lovers, foodies, and ecotourists throughout the

single day trip along with loved ones. Fazagut, Fatehpur, Barikot, and Chakdara were most suitable for

water rafting in river Swat and if developed on modern lines could attract a large number of tourists during winter. River Swat is ideal for 'fish jumping country, draw adventure and disappearing water sports' and introduction of such sports would help bolster the rural economy and promote tourism and transport industries in KP.

President directs insurance company to refund Rs 100,000 with profit

President Dr Arif Alvi has EFU Life Assurance Ltd to refund Rs 100,000 along with profit to a poor lady who had been misled to obtain the insurance policy.

According to a press release issued by the President House Press Wing on Thursday, Zubaida Begum had obtained an amount of Rs 100,000 by participating in a local "committee" and intended to deposit the amount in her bank account, but she was fraudulently issued an insurance policy at the

Being a poor lady, when she expressed her inability to pay an annual premium of Rs 100,000 and asked for a refund of her deposit, she was told that she'd only be refunded an

the prevailing cash value of the policy.

Feeling aggrieved, she approached the Federal Insurance Ombudsman (FIO) but her grievance was not addressed. Later, she filed a representation with the President against the decision of FIO. The president personally heard the case of the aggrieved lady, and after going through the record, decided the matter in her favour. In his decision, he observed that the complainant was entitled at least to the refund of the principal amount as her claim was just and fair.

He added that the mis-selling of the policy to a poor lady who never opted to purchase the

amount of Rs 40,000, being refund of the deposited premium amount by the company constituted maladministration. The president noted that FIO had directed the insurance company to refund Rs 40,000 to the woman. without appreciating the fact that an amount of Rs 60,000 was remaining to be paid by the company. He said that as per Insurance Ordinance 2000, FIO was to ensure the protection of the interests of insurance policyholders, and nonrefund of even the deposited amount by the insurance company was a sheer violation of the spirit of the Ordinance. He stated that FIO had failed to follow the spirit of the Ordinance and had not realized that Rs 100,000



Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, SVP FPCCI, is presenting the commemorative shield to H.E. Dr. Riina Koinka, Ambassador of EU in Pakistan. Mr. Asif Sakhi & Mr. Aun Ali Syed, VPs FPCCI; Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, former SVP FPCCI; Mr. Shabbir Mansha, former VP FPCCI; Mr. Adeel Siddiqui, President HCCI and Sahibzadi Mahin Khan were also present on the occasion.

EU Ambassador visits FPCCI: GSP+ status enabled 108% export growth in a decade

Independent Report KARACHI: Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, has stressed that the 27country economic alliance of European Union – with a cumulative GDP of almost \$20 trillion – can help Pakistan steer out of the chronically dilanidated state of the economy of Pakistan; and, enhancing our exports to the EU nations should be the cornerstone of broader economic rela-

Pakistan has achieved an encouraging 108 percent growth in exports to EU over a period of 10 years: however, in order to retain our GSP Plus status, we must not be complacent and be vigilantly continuing to fulfill EU criteria, he added.

It is pertinent to note that H.E. Dr. Riina Kionka, Ambassador of EU in Pakistan, has paid a detailed visit to the FPCCI Head Office in Karachi: along

with her senior team memapex body their full support in fulfilling GSP+ opportunities and require-

Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, SVP FPCCI, explained that Pakistan is, indeed, a major beneficiary of GSP Plus since 2014 as it has facilitated our exports to European Union. Under this scheme, Pakistan is eligible to export around two third of products at zero tariff rate or at preferential tariff rate; and, Pakistan's GSP+ status has been extended to 2027

Nonetheless, Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon stressed that, in order to maintain GSP Plus, Pakistan needs to perpetually implement 27 core international conventions on human & labor rights; environmental protection and good governance.



HYDERABAD: Labourer women arranging and sorting old clothes at site area.

Rangers monitoring and complaint cell activated at KCCI

KARACHI (APP): President Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Iftikhar Ahmed Thursday announced that 'Rangers Monitoring and Complaint Cell' had been activated at the Chamber's premises, where two Rangers officials will remain available at the cell from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM everyday to facilitate the members of the business community in dealing with law and order issues. He thanked the Director General Pakistan Rangers Sindh Major General Azhar Waqas for extending his support and cooperation in this regard.

He was talking to a delegation of Alliance of Arambagh Markets Association led by the Association's Chairman Asif Gulfam, which called on him here.

"Rangers Cell along with already operational Police Chamber Liaison

KCCI would certainly provide relief to a large number of businessmen and industrialists," he said advised and businessmen, shopkeepers, industrialists and other complainants to immediately approach Rangers Cell for assistance if they were receiving threats. He also assured that the identity of complainant will strictly be kept confidential. Iftikhar Sheikh said that KCCI's leadership made rigorous efforts in the regard and held detailed discussions with DG

Committee (PCLC) at

environment in Karachi. Speaking at the asion, Chairman occasion, Alliance of Arambagh Markets Association Asif Gulfam highlighted issued being fa faced

Rangers, Additional IGP

and other officials of Law

Enforcing Agencies for

ensuring safe and secure

No plans to hand over **DISCOs to** any institution

ISLAMABAD (APP): In response to recent news circulating in the media, the Ministry of Energy, Power Division, on Thursday, categorically denied any plans to hand over Distribution Companies (DISCOs) to any nstitution.

The statement issued by the Ministry of Energy, Power Division, clarified that the news circulating in the media about DISCOs being handed over to the army is incorrect.

The ministry further said, "Neither is there any change in the management of DISCOs nor are they being handed over to any other institution. There are no plans in place to hand over DISCOs to any institution of the state."

Rupee gains 01 paisa against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP) The Pakistani Rupee on Thursday witnessed an appreciation of 01 paisa against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs281.11 against the previous day's closing of Rs281.12.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs280.6 and Rs283.1 respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by Rs1.47 to close at Rs308.63 against the last day's closing of Rs307.16, according to the State Bank of Pakistan

The Japanese Yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs1.93, whereas an increase of Rs1.79 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound which traded at Rs358.76 compared to the last closing of Rs356.97.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal decreased by 01 each to close at Rs76.53 and Rs74.95

preventing economic fracture. She said the prime minister would also deliver a keynote address on the "Trade Tech's theme Trillion Dollar Promise"

press briefing said the

prime minister would attend three key thematic

preventing an era of global

conflict, restoring faith in

the global system, and

including

and hold meetings with contemporary trends and challenges, developments government and business shaping the world, and leaders on the sidelines. charting collective policy responses. The theme of spokesperson this year's meeting is

Pakistan rejected the US Department's State Office classification of Pakistan as Spokesperson Mumtaz a "Country of Particular Zahra Baloch at a weekly Concern" (CPC).

Addressing

delegation, Ahsan Zafar

Bakhtawari, President,

ICCI said that the cold

storage industry was paying electricity bills

under the industrial tariff,

but the government has

imposed a commercial

tariff on this industry due

to which the amount of

their electricity bills has

ICCI calls for industrial tariff on cold storage industry

meeting of the committee at Parliament House.

'Empowering women

can ensure sustained

economic growth'

LAHORE (APP): opportunities not only Coordinator to Minister of enhanced their well-being

State and Federal Tax but also propelled the

Thursday said that empowerment involved empowering women at creating opportunities for

empowerment became crucial for fostering an

the view that investing in women's education, healthcare and economic economy, he asserted.

PM Kakar to attend

World Economic Forum

in Switzerland on Jan 15-19

events

Kashif Meher was of allowed women to contribute

Ombudsman

Kashif Younis on

grassroots level in Pakistan

had great significance for

economic growth. Addressing a round-table

conference on "Impact of

Empowering Women in Economic Growth" here,

he added that women had a

pivotal role to play in the

economic and overall

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Caretaker Prime Minister

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar will

visit Davos, Switzerland,

on January 15-19, to

participate in the 54th

Annual Meeting of the

World Economic Forum

(WEF), the Foreign Office

gathering of government

and corporate leaders for

The WEF is an annual

said Thursday

discussions

'Rebuilding Trust.'

Foreign

development

prioritising

paramount.

fostering sustainable finance

Meher nation towards prosperity.
is on He said economic

women to enter and thrive

in various sectors. Micro-

vocational training

programmes, and support

for women entrepreneurs

could boost economic

growth by tapping the

potential of women in the

suggested.Recognizing and

inclusive environment that

workforce.

so addressing gender-based their barriers in the workplace was

initiatives.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) on Thursday urged the government to restore the industrial power tariff for the cold storage industry to save it from further trouble. A delegation of cold

storage owners led by Anjuman-e-Wholesale Fruit Commission Agents President Muhammad Aleem and General Secretary Tahar Ayub visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and

Industry (ICCI). They highlighted the issues being faced by the cold storage industry, said a press release issued here

increased manifold giving rise to their cost of doing business. This industry is facing great problems, he said adding that due to the increase in the business cost of the cold storage industry, there is an unnecessary increase in the prices of vegetables and

Traders link export ban from neighbour country to surge in onion price

Traders on Thursday linked the surge in onion prices to a ban on exports from neighboring India as the commodity was being sold at Rs 240 per kilograms into the local markets, leaving consumers grappling with economic fallout.

Retailers are pointing fingers at the impact of massive exports on the escalating prices, with consumers already burdened by inflation now forced to pay hefty amounts for this essential commodity compared to other vegetables.

President, Wholesale Vegetable Association,

ISLAMABAD (APP): Sheikh Muhammad Shah Jahan has expressed concern for consumers impacted by the high prices, noting that many inflation-affected individuals are limiting their onion purchases to less than one kg to manage their daily expenses on other essential items.

Talking to a private news channel, he said following India's export restrictions, Pakistani exporters capitalized on the situation, leading to a sudden local price hike from Rs160-180, up from Rs120-140, driven by intense Subsequently, the prices have continued to rise due

Freelancers to start receiving payments from PayPal in February: Minister

Telecommunication Dr.

ISLAMABAD: Senator Khalida Ateeb, Chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Industries and Production presiding over a

Umar Saif on Thursday said that under the pilot project, 10,000 freelancers would start receiving payments from PayPal in Addressing a Tech

Destination Pakistan event that featured the launch of E-Rozgar Centers in the country, he said, "In February, we are going to start the first pilot project in which 10,000 freelancers in Pakistan would be able to start receiving payments through PayPal.

The minister further mentioned that in March, the program would be scaled up and everyone

SFA seals

substandard

ghee factory HYDERABAD (APP): The Sindh Food Authority

(SFA) took action in

Hyderabad and sealed a

producing substandard ghee and wasted four

maunds of substandard

by Deputy Director SFA

Hyderabad Fida Hussain

Khoso on the directives of

Director General SFA Agha

According to a handout, Deputy Director

Food Hyderabad Fida

Hussain Khoso along with

his team, sealed the domestic factory of

unhealthy and substandard

ghee which was operating

in a house in the limits of

factory workers also

attacked the team of SFA

with sticks, but on

resistance they escaped. The team of SFA wasted

four maunds of sub-

standard ghee while the

standard ghee were also

said that strict action was

being taken against those

Hussain has warned to take

strict action against those

who adulterate food items

Pakistan's total

liquid foreign

reserves reach

\$ 13.256 billion

KARACHI (APP): The

total liquid foreign reserves

of Pakistan increased to

US\$ 13,256.6 million while

reserves held by State

Bank reached \$ 8,154.8

million in the week ended

Pakistan, in a statement

issued here on Thursday,

informed that SBP's

reserves decreased by \$ 66

million to \$8,154.8 million

due to debt repayments

during the week under

foreign reserves held by

commercial banks stood at

\$ 5,101.8 million, it added.

reserves held by the

country, in the previous

week ended on December

29, 2023, were \$ 13,220.6

million. Among them,

foreign reserves held by the

central bank were \$8,221.2

million while net foreign

Total liquid foreign

Meanwhile,

review.

The State Bank of

on January 05, 2023.

seized.

During the raid,

Panyari police station.

Fakhar Hussain.

The operation was led

factory

domestic

Stripe across the country.

He clarified that while PayPal itself is not coming to Pakistan, an agreement remittances would be

devised program, the freelancers will not need to open a PayPal account. Instead, individuals outside the country will make payments from their PayPal accounts, and the funds will be promptly freelancers' accounts, the

The minister said that devised a mechanism for

ISLAMABAD (APP): would have access to the opening of bank Caretaker Federal Minister payments from PayPal and accounts for freelancers.

has been reached where channeled through PayPal via a third party.

Under the newly

minister explained.

the government has

He mentioned that only freelancers would have to provide evidence that they have an account on Fiverr, Upwork, Elance, Toptal, or Crossover.The minister added, "The IT industry would have a 50 percentdollar retention policy, which means that whatever you earn, you can keep 50 percent of that in dollars. You will get a debit card from that bank so that you can freely spend that money domestically or internationally.' deposited into the highlighted that the government has allocated enough funds for the

establishment of E-Rozgaar

centers across the country



KARACHI: Worker busy in preparing political party PPP flag Election on ahead of start General

Finance Minister advocates climate action & embraces carbon market initiatives

Independent Report PESHÂWAR:

caretaker Finance Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ahmed Rasul Bangash, took center stage as the Chief Guest at a workshop on 'Navigating Voluntary Pakhtunkhwa', emphasizing the critical role of climate finance in sustainable development.

The session was environmental organized by UK-Aid build resilience. equipment for making subfunded Sustainable Energy Speaking on the occasion, deputy director SFA Fida Hussain Khoso Economic Development (SEED) Program with the aim to explore how Khyber Pakhtunkhwa can realize who make and sell unhealthy and sub-standard ghee and oil. Meanwhile Director its significant capacity for projects, particularly those centered around nature-based General SFA Agha Fakhar solutions and renewable

Mr. Bangash underscored the urgency of addressing climate change challenges, recognizing them as a global imperative that demands collective action. He highlighted the adverse Carbon Markets in Khyber impacts already affecting communities ecosystems, emphasizing the need for innovative approaches to mitigate environmental risks and

address, Finance Minister

The Finance Minister acknowledgedsignificance of voluntary carbon markets in unlocking climate finance and at the same time building resilience, pointing out their potential to drive positive environmental outcomes

while creating economic energy projects.In his opportunities.



LARKANA: A woman busy is selecting used warm clothes at Old Bus Stand Road.

Livestock dept vaccinated over 14000 animals against virus

gearing up for vaccination and treatment of animals due to cold weather conditions. Additional Livestock teams
Director Livestock Dr arrived in the areas, Nizamuddin said that animals were being affected due to weather changes.

that the departmental staff was found.

MULTAN (APP): The gave information to the livestock department cattle farmers about the preventive measures along with the treatment of the animals at their doorsteps.

especially in Taman Qaisrani's Mauza Nilohar, Mauza Khaliro, Mauza He urged the cattle Tahlidan and adjacent areas rears to make special warm to treat the virus in animals, rooms for the cattle adding but no virus of this type

Sale of winter clothes records across Sindh

SUKKUR (APP): As the chill started, the sale of winter clothes recorded, new as well as secondhand ones has shot up in the Sukkur, Khairpur, Jaccababad, Shikarpur, Ghotki, Noushehroferoze and other districts of northern Sindh.

Crowds of people, both poor and rich can be seen bargaining with retailers in markets and bazaars where besides woollies heaps of quilts, bed covers, blankets and rugs are up for sale.

The vendors and dealers are doing brisk business as their clothes are selling like hotcakes. "Our business is going very well these days as the demand for winter clothes has risen," Saien Dad Qureshi, a clothe-dealer at Shahi Bazar told APP here on Thursday.

Many other dealers and stall-holders have heaved a sigh of relief as the cold has sparked frenzied shopping. "Our sale has doubled and we are expecting that in the days.



HUB: Provincial Secretary Food Saleh Muhammad Baloch and Director General Balochistan Food Authority Muhammad Naeem Bazai partcipating in the workshop organized by Lasbella Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Abbas agrees to reunite West Bank, Gaza: Blinken

US supports establishment of independent Palestinian state

Monitoring Desk

of State Antony Blinken said on Wednesday that Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas was committed to reforming the Palestinian Authority in a way that could "reunite" Gaza and the occupied West Bank

under its leadership.
In a related development, Egypt and Jordan warned against any Israeli reoccupation in the Gaza Strip Blinken was speaking to reporters in Bahrain after meeting with Abbas in the West Bank city of Ramallah during a tour of the Middle East aimed at preventing an escalation of the Israel-Hamas conflict.

the importance of reforming the Palestinian Author-

so that it can effectively take responsibility for Gaza... so that Gaza and the West Bank can be reunited under a Palestinian leadership," he said.

"It's very clear to me for president Abbas that he's prepared to move forward and engage in all of these efforts.

Blinken said Abbas was committed to reforming the Palestinian Authority. "What I take away from this meeting is that he is committed to that and is very much prepared to move forward," Blinken told AFP in response to a question about Abbas's commitment to reforming

ity, policy and governance Israeli reoccupation in the Gaza Strip appealed for the uprooted residents to be allowed to return to their homes as the Arab countries leaders met Abbas.

United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has demanded the Yemeni Houthis to immediately stop attacks on ships in the Red Sea.

According to media reports, 11 of the 15 permanent members of the Security Council voted in favor of the resolution 4 countries including Russia and China did not participate in the voting, and no country opposed the resolution.

The Security Council resolution endorsed a USled task force to protect



Security forces stand guard as members of the diplomatic corps arrive at Carondelet Palace in Quito for a meeting.

Soldiers on the streets as Ecuador declares war on cartels

London mayor says

Brexit has cost UK

over \$178 billion so far

later on Thursday.

over Prime Minister Rishi

Sunak's Conservatives be-

fore an election, which

Sunak intends to call in the

second half of this year.

Monitoring Desk QUITO: Hundreds of soldiers patrolled near-deserted streets in Ecuador's capital Wednesday after the government and drug mafias declared war on each other, leaving residents gripped with fear.

On Tuesday, officials said another narco boss — Los Lobos leader Fabricio Colon Pico — also escaped since his arrest last Friday lence that has left city for alleged involvement in a streets deserted

Britain's departure from the

European Union has re-

duced the size of its

economy by 6% so far - an annual cost of 140 billion

pounds (\$178 billion) -

London mayor Sadiq Khan

said on Thursday, with the

shortfall seen reaching 10%

opposition Labour Party,

which voted against Brexit

in a 2016 referendum, based

his statement on a report

he commissioned from eco-

nomic consultants Cam-

bridge Econometrics, who

estimated how fast the

economy would have grown if Britain had voted

the method, in which execu-

tion officials will bind a

mask to his face connected

to stay in the EU.

Khan, a member of the

of relaxation in visa conditions WASHINGTON (Online): plot to assassinate United States (US) has an-Ecuador's attorney general. nounced relaxation of visa Ecuador President conditions, the US Depart-Daniel Noboa said on

ment of State has changed Wednesday that his counthe preconditions for all try was "at war" with drug non-immigrant visa intergangs who are holding more view waivers. than 130 prison guards and US has announced reother staff hostage and who laxation of visa requirebriefly captured a TV staments for foreigners. The tion live on air and set off United States has changed explosions in a surge of vio-

the prerequisites for all nonimmigrant interview waivers. The US State Department has changed the prerequisites for all non-immigrant visa interview waivers. With the new changes, applicants will be able to get study and visit visas without appearing for an

America's

announcement

LONDON (Internews): Brexit isn't working. The Washington attracts a hard-line version of Brexit large number of internawe've ended up with is tional students, and is dragging our economy among the top destinations down and pushing up the cost of living," Khan said for higher education due to its excellent academic instiin remarks released before tutions, diverse academic a speech he is due to give programs and research opportunities. Labour has a big lead

The State Department added that applicants may be eligible for a visa interview waiver if they obtain a nonimmigrant visa

However, Labour Party leader Keir Starmer Global trade has been cautious about drops 1.3% on giving details of how he **Red Sea** would strengthen ties with the EU. Cambridge Econoattacks - IfW metrics' estimate of the costs of Brexit is higher than **Kiel institute**

BERLIN (Internews): Global trade declined by 1.3% from November to December 2023 as militant attacks on merchant vessels in the Red Sea led to a plunge in the volumes of cargo transported in that key region, a German economic institute said on Thursday.

Currently around 200,000 containers are being transported via the Red Sea daily, down from some 500,000 per day in November, the IfW Kiel institute

Diversions in response to the attacks have led to journeys between Asian production centres and European consumers taking up to 20 days longer, said Julian Hinz, director of the IfW Kiel's trade policy research centre.

to proceed ALABAMA (INP): A federal judge ruled on Wednes-tended to deprive him of day that Alabama can pro-U.S. states have found ceed later this month with the first execution by nitroit increasingly difficult to gen gas asphyxiation, sayobtain barbiturates used in ing that the condemned lethal-injection execution prisoner was unlikely to protocols, in part because show the new method of a European ban preventamounts to cruel or unusual ing pharmaceutical compapunishment. nies from selling drugs to Kenneth Smith, conbe used in executions. As a victed for a murder-for-hire result, some states have committed in 1988, is sought to revive older scheduled to be executed in methods such as firing Alabama on Jan. 25 using squads, while Alabama,

"It's now obvious that some other recent ones.

US judge allows first

nitrogen-gas execution



Mississippi and Oklahoma

have introduced new gas-

based protocols

Truck drivers refasten a humanitarian aid cargo after inspection by Israeli security upon arriving from Egypt on the Israeli side of the Kerem Shalom border crossing.

Al Jazeera journalist Wael Al-Dahdouh attends the funeral of his son, Pales-

tinian journalist Hamza Al-Dahdouh, after Hamza was killed in an Israeli strike, in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip.

Oil tanker involved in U.S.-Iran dispute boarded by armed guards near Oman, diverted

DUBAI (Internews): An oil nian port of Bandar-e-Jask tanker caught up in a dispute last year between the United States and Iran was boarded by armed individuals off the coast of Oman on Thursday and appeared to have changed course towards Iran, according to UK maritime sources.

The Marshall Islandsflagged tanker St Nikolas was boarded by armed intruders as it sailed close to the Omani city of Sohar, according to British maritime security firm Ambrey, and its AIS tracking system in the direction of the Ira-

In 2023 the St Nikolas was seized by the United States in a sanctions enforcement operation when it sailed under a different name, Suez Rajan. The United States said

at the time that Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) had been trying to send contraband Iranian oil to China, in violation of U.S. sanctions.

The ship loaded 145,000 metric tonnes of oil in the Iraqi port of Basra and was heading to Aliaga was turned off as it headed in western Turkey via the Suez Canal

WHO cancels sixth aid mission to Gaza over security concerns

Monitoring Desk ONDON: The World Organisation (WHO) cancelled another planned medical aid mission to Gaza on Wednesday over security concerns, the sixth such cancellation in two weeks, and sounded a fresh alarm over the spread of in-

fectious disease there.

The UN body's direcgeneral, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said it was the sixth mission to northern Gaza cancelled by the UN agency because requests to visit had not been approved or assurances over security provided since its last visit,

on Dec 26. "Intense bombardment, restrictions on movement, fuel shortage and interrupted communications make it impossible for WHO and our partners to reach those in need," he told a virtual press conference from Geneva. "We call on Israel to approve requests by WHO and other partners to deliver humanitarian aid.

The WHO said only 15 hospitals in Gaza remain functional, even partially. The deteriorating conditions are also a perfect breeding ground for infectious disease, the agency said.

Afghan women detained over 'improper' hijab Monitoring Desk

KABUL: A Taliban official has said several girls and women were detained re-cently in Kabul for not covering themselves properly, after reports circulated of a crackdown in the Afghan capital.

In a video posted on on Wednesday, security official Ehsanullah Saqib told a gathering of religious scholars in Kabul's western Dasht-e-Barchi neighbourhood that in the past week "we have detained a number of women and girls who were without hijab, with the help of women police"

Women have been squeezed from public life, barred from travelling without a male relative.

Finland extends Russia border closing by four weeks

RUSSIA (Internews): Finland will extend the closure of its border with Russia by four weeks until Feb. 11, the ministry of interior said on Thursday, confirming earlier reports that all crossings would remain shut. On Wednesday, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Sari Essayah told national broadcaster YLE that the border, which had otherwise been set to reopen on Jan. 15, would remain closed. Finland closed its border with Russia late last year in response to a growing inflow of asylum



A demonstrator holds a sign during a protest as judges at The International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the Hague, hear a request for emergency measures to order Israel to stop its military actions in Gaza, in Amman Jordan.

into its quality controls and

were Boeing's first public ac-

knowledgment of errors since

a so-called door plug snapped

Boeing CEO admits error as planes remain grounded

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: Boeing CEO Dave Calhoun acknowledged errors by the US planemaker, telling staff the company would ensure an accident like the mid-air Alaska Airlines panel blowout "can never happen again", as more than 170 jets remained

grounded for a fourth day. The company's top planemaking official, Stan Deal, also told a somber town hall meeting at its 737 factory that Boeing acknowledges "the real seriousness of the

off the fuselage of a nearly full 737 MAX 9 on Friday, leaving a gaping hole next to a miraculously empty seat. Calhoun said he had been "shaken to the bone" by the accident, which rekindled pressure on Boeing over its troubled small plane family

almost five years after a full-

blown MAX safety crisis

sparked by deadly crashes in

Indonesia and Ethiopia. accident" as it launches checks World added 50% more renewable energy capacity

last year over 2022
PARIS (INP): The world worldwide," the energy added 50 percent more re- watchdog said in a state newable energy capacity in ment. It said the largest 2023 over the year before, the International Energy Agency said Thursday, predicting booming growth in the next five years.

The United Nationsled COP28 summit concluded in Dubai last month with nearly 200 nations agreeing to a first-ever call for the world to transition

away from fossil fuels. The amount of renewable energy capacity added to energy systems around the world grew by 50 percent in 2023, reaching almost 510 gigawatts, with solar PV accounting for three-quarters of additions

growth took place in China. which commissioned as much solar PV in 2023 as the entire world did in 2022, while China's wind power additions rose by 66 percent year-on-year. 'The increases in re-

newable energy capacity in Europe, the United States and Brazil also hit all-time highs," said the report on the sector. IEA chief Fatih Birol said the report showed that "under current policies and market conditions, global renewable capacity is already on course to increase by two-and-a-half times by 2030".

Google lavs off hundreds in Assistant, hardware, engineering teams

NEW YORK (Internews): Alphabet's (GOOGL.O) processes. Calhoun's remarks Google said on Wednesday it is laying off hundreds of employees across multiple teams, with Fitbit co-founders James Park and Eric Friedman also leaving the company, as the tech giant continues to cut costs.

Google said it will lay off hundreds at its Voice Assistant unit, while a few hundred roles are being eliminated in the hardware team responsible for Pixel, Nest and Fitbit, with the majority of people in the augmented reality (AR) team being let go.

Security Council calls on Houthis to stop attacks on ships

GENEVA (Online): United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has demanded the Yemeni Houthis to immediately stop attacks on ships in the Red Sea.

According to media reports, 11 of the 15 permanent members of the Security Council voted in favor of the resolution, 4 countries including Russia and China did not participate in the voting, and no country opposed the resolution

The Security Council resolution endorsed a USled task force to protect ships from attack.

Israel faces genocide charges at World Court; Gazans return to wasteland

GAZA/THE HAGUE (Internews): Israel faced down accusations at the World Court on Thursday of genocide in its war in Gaza, as the first residents returned to scenes of total devastation in northern areas where Israeli forces have begun withdrawing this week.

Three months of Israeli bombardment has laid much of the narrow coastal enclave to waste, killing more than 23,000 people and driving nearly the entire population of 2.3 million Palestinians from their homes. An Israeli blockade has sharply restricted sup-plies of food, fuel and medicine, creating what the United Nations describes as a humanitarian

Israel says its only means to defend itself is by eradicating Hamas, the Islamist group that rules Gaza, whose fighters sworn to Israel's destruction stormed through Israeli communities on Oct. 7, killing 1,200 people and capturing 240 hostages Israel blames Hamas for all harm to civilians for operating among them, which the fighters deny.

The case, brought by South Africa at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the Hague, accuses Israel of violating the 1948 genocide convention, enacted in the wake of the mass murder of Jews in the Holocaust, which mandates all countries to ensure such crimes are never re-

Israel army claims two journalists slain in Gaza strike were 'terror operatives'

TEL AVIV (INP): Israel's army claimed on Wednesday that two Al Jazeera journalists it killed in an air strike in Gaza were "terror operatives".

Hamza Wael Dahdouh and Mustafa Thuria, who also worked as a video stringer for a foreign news agency and other news organisations, were killed on Sunday while they were on an assignment for the Qatar-based channel in the city of Rafah.

The army said in a statement on Wednesday its "intelligence has confirmed that both the deceased were members of Gaza-based terrorist organisations actively involved in attacks against IDF (army) forces"

"Prior to the strike, the two operated drones, posing an imminent threat to IDF troops," the army

There was no immediate reaction available from

the television channel and

families of the two men. When asked on Wednesday reporters about what kind of drones were used by the two men and the nature of the threat the drones posed to Israeli troops, the army said it was

checking". It said Thuria was identified in a document found by troops in Gaza to be a member of Hamas's Gaza City Brigade, while Dahdouh was identified as a "terrorist" belonging to Islamic Jihad.

The army statement included a copy of a document it said was a list of 'operatives from an electronic engineering unit of the Islamic Jihad, including Dahdouh and his military

Dahdouh and Thuria were killed when the car they were travelling in was hit by two rockets on a street in Rafah, according to witnesses. A third journalist and the driver of the

Brazil expresses support for South African genocide case against Israel

Brazil has expressed its support for the case filed by South Africa at the International Court of Justice against Israel's attacks on the Gaza Strip, which have caused more than 23,000 deaths since Oct. 7.

The Brazilian decision was taken hours after President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva met in Brasilia with Palestinian Ambassador Ibrahim Alzeben.

Although Lula emphasized that his administration immediately condemned the Hamas attack of Oct. 7, he affirmed that 'such acts do not justify Israel's indiscriminate, recurrent and disproportionate use of force against civilians.

Brazil's Foreign Ministry said in a statement that considering "the flagrant violations of international humanitarian law," Lula expressed support for South Africa's case with the goal of ordering "Israel to immediately cease all acts and measures that may constitute genocide or related dent of the Arab Palestine crimes under the terms of Federation of Brazil.

vention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

The statement emphasized that Lula has been making efforts in the international community for a ceasefire, the liberation of Hamas-held hostages, and the creation of humanitarian corridors to protect Palestinian civilians. "The Brazilian government reiterates its defense of the two-state solution, with an economically viable Palestinian state living side by side with Israel, in peace and security, within mutually agreed and internationally recognized borders, which include the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, having East Jerusalem as its capital," the statement added.

The decision to support South Africa's case was received with joy by Palestinian associations in Brazil. "We had high expectations due to the historical commitments of the Brazilian state with human rights and the sovereignty of nations," Ualid Rabah, presi-

India's Uttar Pradesh cuts pay for some teachers in madressahs

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: Authorities

in India's most populous state halted some payments this week to teachers of subjects such as mathematics and science in madressahs after the end of a federal government scheme. The funding halt, af-

fecting more than 21,000 teachers in Uttar Pradesh, comes as the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which took office in 2014, sets its sights on winning a third straight term in general elections due by

According to a document seen by Reuters, India stopped funding the scheme in March 2022, having halted approvals of new proposals four years earlier. But it was not immediately clear why the state government has only now stopped paying its

"The decision to stop this scheme will take us back to where we started," Iftikhar Ahmed Javed, the

chief of the state's madressah education board, told Reuters.

"Muslim students and teachers will go back by 30 years." The office of Modi, whose government raised funding for the programme to a record of about Rs3 billion (\$36 million) in the fiscal year that ended in March 2016, did not respond to a request for comment

India's minority affairs ministry, which ran the programme until it was closed, also did not respond to an email.

Teachers in Uttar Pradesh had not received the federal government's share of scheme payments for the last six years, Javed told Modi in a letter on Wednesday, urging its revival. But they "were doing their work smoothly in the hope your kindheartedness would resolve the issue. added Javed, who is also the national secretary of the Minority Front in Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharativa

Janata Party (BJP).

PM for harnessing true IT potential thru HR training, enabling environment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday said that with a focus on training of human resources as per contemporary requirements, enabling environment and imbibing the spirit of entrepreneurship in the youth, the true potential of Pakistan's IT sector could be harnessed.

This will turn around and uplift our economy in the short to medium term, Inshallah... I assure you of the government's full support to help you explore the untapped potential in Pakistan's IT sector," he said addressing a Tech Destination Pakistan event which featured the launch of E-Rozgar Centers in the country. He said the gov-

ernment through its Digital Policy envisioned bringing economic prosperity and citizen empowerment through digital transformation as it was working on the vision of "Digital Pakistan" through multiple cross-sectoral digital transformation initiatives.

He said the government was taking every step possible to facilitate the IT sector by creating an enabling environment and an ecosystem through a broad range of legislative, policy, regulatory and operational initiatives with a focus on inclusion to help reap full benefits of digitalization.

He said the IT sector was the government's focus for achieving a sustainable economic development and realize the full potential of technological advancement.

The prime minister said that Pakistan had experienced significant growth in the information and communication technology sector in recent years. The country's ICT industry has become an important contributor to the economy, generating revenue, attracting FDI and creating jobs, he added.

We are exporting IT and IT-enabled services to more than 190 countries. Our IT industry is an integral part of the knowledge economy thereby earning its repute as a leading offshore outsourcing destination through innovation, availability of talent, government incentives and

sector. With over 90% Teledensity, Pakistan was recently ranked as the 2nd most financially attractive destination in the world for offshore outsourcing of IT and IT enabled Services (ITeS). Pakistan was also ranked as the third most popular country for freelancing," he said. Prime Minister Kakar said the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) and its various committees had already started to deliver and perform their role in an active manner. "Among other priority sectors, the inclusion of IT Sector under the umbrella of SIFC demonstrates the commitment of our government to further promot-

ing the ICT industry.

kistan Muslim League

(PML-N) has left 11 pro-

vincial and 7 National As-

sembly (NA) seats vacant

for seat adjustment with the

Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party

(IPP) in the upcoming gen-

eral elections which are

slated to be held on Feb 8.

There is a possibility that IPP leader Aleem Khan

will contest on NA-117

Shahdara Lahore, Aun

Chaudhry from NA-128

Lahore, Jahangir Khan

Tareen from NA-149

Multan, Nauman Langrial

LAHORE (Online): Sec-

tion 232 of the law on lim-

iting disqualification period

to 5 years has been chal-

lenged in Lahore High

Shabbir Ismail has filed the

petition through Azhar

Siddique advocate in LHC

making federal government

taken plea in the petition

that parliament is not au-

thorized to enact legislation

and others respondents.

The petitioner Mian

The petitioner has

Similarly, there is a

Chichawatani.

NA-143

possibility of seat adjust- be adjusted.

limiting disqualification

period to 5 years challenged

PML-N leaves 11 provincial,

7 NA seats vacant for seat

adjustment with IPP

LAHORE (INP): The Pa- ment with Aamir Kayani

Khan

from NA-47 Islamabad

Ghulam Sarwar Khan from

NA-54 Taxila, and Engineer

Gul Asghar from NA-88

Rawalpindi, Raja Yawar

Kamal from PP-24 Jhelum

are likely to be adjusted.

Amir Haider Singha from

PP-81 Khushab, Ajmal Cheema from PP-98

Faisalabad will also ex-

lation of law has been com-

mitted. The petition said ar-

ticle 62-1/F of section 232

of the law on limiting dis-

qualification period to 5

years has been violated

qualification period to 5

quested the court to declare

as unconstitutional section

Parliament cannot limit dis-

The petitioner has re-

Ammar Siddique

from PP-12

other initiatives for the IT



QUETTA: Hanna Lake Quetta presenting a panoramic view after refilling in recent light snowfall.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar addresses the Tech Destination Pakistan Ceremony

PPP believes in serving humanity without race or color: Rozi Khan

QUETTA (APP)-Pakistan People's Party (PPP)'s Balochistan General Secretary Rozi Khan Kakar and National Assembly Constituency NA-262 Haji Ramzan Achakzai said that the PPP believed in serving humanity without race or color and the party would win elections on February 8 with a huge majority.

They expressed these views while addressing at the party's provincial secretariat on the occasion of the resignation of Sardar Ashraf Khan Kakar, the head of Kakar National Jirga and independent candidate 263 and 264 and Quetta.

from NA-262 constituency of the Provincial Assembly, in favor of Haji Ramzan Achakzai, the candidate of the PPP. Sardar Asharaf Khan Nasir said that he had decided to participate in the elections held on February 8 as an independent candidate after consulting with his friends, he announced his withdrawing in favor of

PPP's candidate Haji Ramzan Achakzai. He also declared full support to the candidates of the PPP Party on the Provincial Assembly seats from National Assembly Constituency NA 262,

Delay in KP, Punjab polls: SC wraps up petition being in-fructuous

ISLAMABAD (Online): while presiding over 3-The Chief Justice of Pakimember bench of Supreme stan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa has said to the petitioner Zafar Ali Shah during the hearing of petition against delay in Punjab and KP polls that " the institution can be responsible for not fixing your petition in time in polls in Punjab and KP

The CJP remarked

member bench of Supreme Court (SC) during the hearing of petition against delay in Punjab, KP polls here

The court remarked the petition has become infructuous after announcement of date of February 8 for polls, Now the date for polls has come. How can we hear your petition.



awareness seminar about social media. Ban imposed on sale & purchase of new rickshaws & motorcycle trollies in Quetta: Commissioner

Independent Report QUETTA: The Commissioner Quetta Division, Muhammad Hamza

Shafqaat has stated that complete ban has been imposed on the sale and purchase of new rickshaws and motorcycle trollies in the division. In this regard, a letter would be sent to the Provincial Home Department. He said that NOC would not be issued to any plaza having no parking.

Moreover, the action would also be taken against those manufacturing illegal rickshaws and the show rooms selling them.

The Commissioner also directed to take action against the illegal parking stands and the hospitals creating traffic issues on Zarghoon road. The Commissioner was chairing meeting held to review the issues related to traffic and solution in Ouetta on Thursday.

The meeting was attended by the Assistant Commissioner Quetta political, Kaleemullah, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Hanif Kibzai, Project Director, Quetta Development Project, Secretary Regional Transport Authority, Waheed Sharif Umrani, Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue, Muhammad Riaz and Officers of Metropolitan Corporation and other depart-

Addressing the meeting, the Commissioner stressed the need to take

steps to tackle the mismanaged traffic and rush in the Quetta city. He directed to take action against the encroachments at the main roads and footpaths in the city. The Commissioner directed to seal the plazas using parking spaces for other purposes. He warned that stern action would be

taken against the illegal rick-

shaws and showrooms. He emphasized upon taking steps for creating awareness among the general public about traffic in Quetta. The Quetta Metropolitan Corporation and Deputy Commissioner Quetta office should submit the report of action taken against the encroach ments on daily basis, he maintained.

PML-N starting election campaign from Jan 15

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz leader Marriyum Aurangzeb has said the PML-N is starting its election campaign from Janu-

Talking to the media here on Thursday, she said the PML-N would hold public gatherings across the country.

Regarding seat adjustments, she said the party would make an announcement when any final decision in that regard would be

She said if country's three-time prime minister could be held accountable, then anyone could face accountability. Nawaz Sharif faced accountability because his intentions were clear, she added.

PTI local leader Shah Khalid shot dead in Swabi

SWABI (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) local leader Shah Khalid was shot dead by unknown assailants in broad daylight in Swabi district on Thursday.

According to the details, two armed motorcyclists opened fire on the vehicle of PTI leader, killing him on the spot. His body was taken to the hospital for further medical examination.

The attackers managed to escape from the

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

An investigation into the case has been launched said police.

meeting regarding traffic problems and its solutions in the city. **Ouetta Administration** to expedite land record digitalization

Quetta Administration is committed to degitalize the land record in order to secure the land records digitally and to ensure transparency and accountability in land management and real

estate transactions. This was told by Commissioner Quetta Division Muhamad Hamza Shafaqaat while chairing a meeting to review the progress of digitalization of land records and the work of the Periodical Record of Land Rights (fard or

jamabandi). The Commissioner

that action should be taken against patwaris on their heedlessness and warning should be issued to them.

Additional Commissioner Quetta Division Subhan Salim Dashti, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Quetta Division Hananif Kibzai, Assistant Commissioner Political Ouetta Division

Kaleemullah, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Revenue Quetta Muhammad Riaz, besides Sub-Registrar, Joint Sub-Registrar, Settlement Officer and Tehsildars, Deputy Tehsildars, Qanogu expressed satisfaction over and Patwaris were present the progress made so far in in the meeting.

Pakistan passport ranks as 4th worst around globe

Pakistani passport remained the fourth worst around the world in the New Year as well with no improvement seen in its position for at least the last five years. The passport has been ranked the fourth worst, following its declining trend from July last year, as per data from UKbased citizenship and residence advisory firm Henley and Partners, which ranks 199 nations on its index.

The country's passport ranks 101st (out of 104) on the Henley Passport Index with a score of 34, according to the firm's Global Mobility Report

ISLAMABAD (INP): The 2024. This means that citizens with an ordinary Pakistani passport can have visa-free access to only 34 out of 227 destinations included in the index.

Around 199 passports have been analysed for the ranking which is based on the number of countries and territories (destinations) passport holders can access without a prior visa. The index is based on data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA). In a big shakeup of a quarterly ranking of the world's most powerful passports, an unprecedented six countries are tied in the top spot for the hottest travel documents.

discuss the country's issues openly, he said that everyone should agree on the economic direction of the There was no ban on politics, but there should be no politics on the future of the country, Murtaza

The minister opined

have to give vision for the economic future of the

pected to adjust seats. PP-149 Lahore Aleem Khan, PP-180 Kasur Colonel ® Hashim Dogar, PP-204 Sahiwal Falak Sher Langrial are also likely to provement of the economy Section 232 of law on and economics was the need

Mehbooba Mufti escapes unhurt in road accident

ISLAMABAD (APP): Peoples Democratic Party President Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday met with a road accident while she was on her way to Islamabad district of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. According to Kashmir Media Service, Mehbooba Mufti escaped unhurt, However, her driver sustained injuries. The accident took place trict in South Kashmir.



QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafqaat presiding over a

11 PTI dissidents get PML-N tickets for Feb 8 polls

LAHORE (INP) - Eleven politicians who left the PTI got the PML-N tickets for the upcoming elections.

Notable recipients include Raja Riaz from Faisalabad and Farrukh Altaf from Jhelum, along with others like Riaz Mazari from Rajanpur and Syed Mubeen from Rahim Yar Khan, Basit Bukhari from Muzaffargarh and Gilani from Sami Bahawalpur.

Meanwhile, Abdul Ghaffar Watto from Bahawalnagar and Amir Gopang secured tickets in Muzaffargarh, Ahmed Hassan Dehar and Qasim Noon managed to get tickets in Multan. Wajiha Qamar secured a ticket for reserved seats.

SC to hear ECP's appeal pertaining to PTI's election symbol

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan will hear the appeal of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday against restoration of 'cricket bat' as the election symbol of PTI. A three-member bench of the top court, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa and comprising Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar and Justice Musarrat Hilali will hear the case against the verdict of (PHC.

Solangi asks political parties to give vision for economic revival of Pakistan Stressing the need to

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information. Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi said on Thursday that major political parties would

Delivering his speech at the seminar on "Pakistan Solangi maintained. Elections 2024: Economic Reforms Agenda of Politithat politics was the concal Parties", hosted by centration of economy and Press Information Department here, he said, "Politieconomic interests. "Our cal parties should give a vision for the betterment of the country." The minister said emphatically that im-

main issues are education, health, gender equality," Murtaza Solangi remarked. The minister requested the future rulers and political parties to

make promises that were difficult to be fulfilled. The minister said that 2024 was the year of elections which would be held on February 8. "No one should have any doubt about holding of elections in the country", he

The minister said that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), using its authority, had given the date of elections and it stood by that position.

He said that ECP was the only constitutional institution in Pakistan, which had to give the schedule and also the date and no other institution had the power to change it.



QUETTA: Additional Chief Secretary Home Zahid Saleem meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

Pak, KSA sign various hajj related agreements

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa-kistan and the Kingdom of The signing event, at-Saudi Arabia (KSA) have signed different agreements and Memorandums of Understanding to provide better facilities to Pakistani pilgrims during this year's

Director General Hajj Abdul Wahab Soomro signed these agreements on behalf of the government of Pakistan.

In a memorandum of understanding, both nations committed to providing enhanced facilities for Paki-

stani pilgrims. Speaking on the occasion, Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed said that Pakistani

pilgrims would be provided

better accommodations at

tended by Dr. Syed Attaul-Rahman, Secretary of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, and Joint Secretary Hajj Sajjad Yaldram, also had the presence of Zia-ul-Rehman, Director of the Jeddah-based Hajj Affairs

Aneeg Ahmed, reiterated the ministry's committed endeavours to improve facilities for pilgrims. He conveyed that the ministry officials are diligently striving to enhance facilities for

Office Pakistan, along with

Faheem Afridi and Zaigham

Following the ceremony, Saudi officials presented the Pakistani delegation with a souvenir featuring the cover of the Kaaba.



QUETTA: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Nazaryati (JUI-N) Provincial Chief, Maulana Abdul Qadir Luni addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club.

Qambar Dashti says Timely completion & transparency in dev. projects top priority circles briefed the meeting

Independent Report OUETTA: The Secretary

Communications and Department, Oambar Dashti has categorically stated that the timely completion of all development projects is top priority of the government and as such all the projects should be completed well in time ensuring transparency in them.

The Secretary C&W was chairing a meeting to review the progress of ongoing development projects for the year 2023-24, here on Thursday.

The meeting reviewed the progress of developcircles of the department. The chief engineers of the

about development projects being executed by their respective circles in different areas of the province. The Secretary be-

lieved that a strong and ef-

fective infrastructure and

communication system is

the guarantor of development of Balochistan. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Dashti directed chief engineers of all three circles to expedite pace of development projects so as to move ahead the develop-

efitting the common men. He also said that there is a key role of C&W dement projects of three partment in development and prosperity of the prov-

ment process besides ben-

