

Independent

Member APNS & CPNE

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www.dailyindependent.com.pk Quetta

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vt 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; Vows 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): Care taker Prime Minister (PM) Anwaar ul Haq Kakar has said the terrorists brow-beat 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-

day. 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,

required in fighting terrorism and we firmly believe that we are on right path.

He said terrorists cannot 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

Continued on page 2



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



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Switzerland to Pakistan Georg Steiner called on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Solangi reiterates govt's commitment to combat terrorism on Pakistan's soil

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi said on Thursday that the government was resolute in its commitment to combat terrorism on the soil of this country.

He was delivering his speech as chief guest at the launching ceremony of the Annual Security Assessment Report by the Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS).

"On behalf of the federal government, let me assure you that we are constantly working to address the issue of terrorism through various hard and soft measures", he said.

He said that Pakistan had repeatedly asked interim Afghan government to address Pakistan's counter-terrorism concerns,

especially the space available to militant groups like TTP to operate in and from Afghanistan.

"Pakistan expects a positive response from the Afghan government. Pakistan has also raised the issue of access to modern weapons in Afghanistan to these militant groups besides involvement of Afghan nationals in anti-state violence in Pakistan", he said adding without addressing the issue of terrorism, both countries could not embark on the journey of economic growth and development.

Murtaza Solangi said on Thursday that there would be no negotiations with armed terrorist groups. "There will be no talks with terrorists as long as they are armed and do not accept the constitution of

Continued on page 2

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 6.0 magnitude earthquake on Thursday afternoon caused panic among residents of the twin cities and other part of the country.

According to Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), the seismic activity was felt in the Federal Capital Islamabad, Rawalpindi and neighboring regions, Lahore, Muzferabad, 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) Sui 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 supply 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 spokesman said that we were trying to complete the repair work of the affected pipeline as soon as possible.

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 progress.

A day after Justice Naqvi Justice Ijazul Ahsan also steps down as SC judge

ISLAMABAD (INP): Supreme Court senior judge 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 Alvi.

The development comes a day after Justice (ret'd) Naqvi stepped down from his post as SC judge.

Supreme Court Justice Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi tendered his resignation on January 10, as the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) was hearing a reference against him over the misconduct alle-

gations revolving around amassing wealth beyond 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 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 letter reads.

Earlier on the day, President Alvi accepted the resignation of Justice Mazahar Naqvi.

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

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) on Thursday gave Justice (ret'd) 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 Alvi earlier today, asking him to appear before the

body tomorrow if he wants to give his viewpoint against the complaints lodged against him.

During the course of 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 allegations were true and he did 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 president.

"If allegations had been proven, then the council

would have requested the president for the judge's dismissal."

All institutions, including SC, were accountable to the people, remarked Justice Isa, adding, "If everyone learns this thing, all the problems will be solved."

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

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



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 Milli Awami Party (PkMAP), Mahmood 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



Pashtoons to make their both ends meet despite their land is rich in the natural resources.

He said that it is an unfair to occupy land of others, but it is also not appropriate to leave their land for others.

He said that we have to demonstrate unity to rid our land of the occupant elements.

The Chairman PkMAP was addressing a public meeting at the residence of Nasrullah Achakzai in Killi Shero Manari on Thursday.

A large number of

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 approximately 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.

Governor calls for promoting brotherhood, respect to difference of opinion

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 fair.

These and similar other views were expressed by the Governor while speaking to a delegation comprising the religious leaders

called on him under leadership of Sardar Iqbal Khilji here on Thursday at the Governor House.

The Governor maintained that we are the inhabitants 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 country out of current crises, as it had a very clear manifesto for people's welfare.

Addressing a public gathering at 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



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

AUCKLAND (INP): 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."

He further mentioned 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 2024. "Babar and Rizwan will always be the best opening pair for Pakistan. But, I

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 square off in the first T20I of the five-match series tomorrow at Eden Park. Pakistan squad for New Zealand T20Is: Shaheen Shah Afridi ©, Aamer Jamal, Abbas Afridi, Azam Khan (wk), Babar Azam, Fakhar Zaman, Haris Rauf, Haseebullah (wk), Iftikhar Ahmed, Mohammad Nawaz,

Mohammad Rizwan (vc/wk), Mohammad Wasim Jr, 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, Hamilton; 3rd T20 - 17 January 2024 at University Oval, Dunedin; 4th T20 - 19 January 2024 at Hagley Oval, Christchurch; 5th T20 - 21 January 2024 at Hagley Oval, Christchurch.



USTA MUHAMMAD: Caretaker Home Minister Captain (ret'd) Mir Zubair Khan Jamali presiding over a meeting regarding general elections at Deputy Commissioner Office

Govt constitutionally bound to meet ECP requirements: Solangi

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, February 8, 2024. 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 situation. 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.

FO expresses regret over unleashing of Pakistan bashing narrative in India

ISLAMABAD (INP): 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 domestic political gains. She said the book of the former

Indian diplomat appears 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 behaved responsibly to de-escalate the situation while demonstrating its

capacity to respond when its 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 India. Responding to volley of questions regarding Afghanistan, the Foreign Office Spokesperson once again demanded the Afghan authorities take effective action against terrorist elements including the TTP leadership.



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): 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. Attorney General (AG) Mansoor Usman Awan and counsel Suleman Akram Raja appeared in the court. 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 admitted that December 14 order

was not correct. Justice Miangul 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 issued in this regard. The AG while assuring to do in-camera proceedings afresh said we are ready to record statements of 13 witnesses. It is pertinent to mention here Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Aamer Farooq while reserving judgment on special prosecutor plea for in-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 prosecutors Shah Khawar and

Zulfiqar Abbas Naqvi had appeared in the court during the hearing of bail plea of Imran Khan. Prosecutors had taken plea in the court cipher case is being tried under official secret act. Former prime minister and foreign minister were arrested in this case. It was decided due to sensitivity of case that in-camera proceedings will be conducted in trial. Let the petitioner counsels complete their arguments. I will want to make submissions only before the court. Barrister Suleman 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 how we have to run it.



QUETTA: Health and Rural Development (HARD) Balochistan Leader, Shazia Baloch addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club.

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 to the same person. PPP and PML-N have awarded ticket to Yaqoob Bazejo for NA-259 Gwadar-Ketch. It is interesting to note Yaqoob Bazejo belongs to none of these two parties. Yaqoob Bazejo name is included in the candidates list issued by PML-N on January 3. His name is included in the list issued by media cells of PPP. Such reports are coming on website Yaqoob Bazejo has accepted PPP ticket for contesting election from Gwadar-Ketch.

PkMAP chairman urges...

Continued from page 1 The 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 Khan 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 of Islam, he added.

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) Giza-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 Mach 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 of FC. 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 doorsteps, 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 camps would be set up in the future.

Solangi reiterates govt's...

Continued from page 1 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. "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 report. "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 invaluable



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

Whosoever does not accept...

Continued from page 1 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

Only PPP can...

Continued from page 1 never compromised on democratic norms. He said the PPP had already introduced Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) for downtrodden segments of society. After coming to power, the PPP would also introduce Benazir Kisan Card, Benazir Mazdoor Card and Benazir Youth Card, in addition to initiating free medical treatment, free education, free electricity up to 300 units, Waseela-e-Haq, Waseela-e-Rozgar and other programmes. He also announced establishment of a university in Tandlianwala if his party was voted to power, along with giving proprietary rights to people living in Kutchi Abadis and construction of 3 million houses. 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. 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.



QUETTA: Contract employees of Fatima Jinnah Chest Hospital are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Quetta press club.

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

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

The snorkel 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 Sindh Water Board Asadullah Khan and other officers and mayors.

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.

Justice Baqar emphasized the importance of having a proper firefighting mechanism in place. To achieve this, the Sindh government has already ordered a fire safety audit of buildings. The aim is to identify any

defects in the buildings and 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-the-art 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 departments that are well-equipped to handle fire incidents.



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

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

LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Health and Population Welfare Dr Jamal Nasir Thursday urged people to remain vigilant while maintaining a healthy diet and using face masks as 'pneumonia cases' were continuously rising due to smog weather.

Talking to a private news channel he pointed out that people with weak immunity due to chronic cardiac, kidney and liver diseases or diabetes could easily contract the respiratory disease in cold weather.

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

to use plenty of rest, warm beverages, steam baths or the use of humidifiers in houses for air moisture and timely consultations with doctors.

May 9 incident Court approves 14 days judicial remand of PTI founder in 12 cases

RAWALPINDI (Online): 14 days judicial remand of PTI founder Imran Khan in 12 cases related to May 9 incident has been approved.

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 Terrorism Court (ATC) led by judge Ijaz Asif.

Imran Khan was presented in the court on completion of two days physical remand.

Malik Faisal and Shahbaz Khosa represented PTI founder in the court.

He said that the major cause of increased cases was undiagnosed influenza and pneumonia cases, adding, citizens to immediately consult doctors and receive treatment after having respiratory issues.

He confirmed that the number of pneumonia cases was higher than the previous year, adding, a precautionary measure to protect young children 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 with district administrations closely monitoring all industries and brick kilns. In addition to the school mask mandate, the public has been urged to use masks as well.

PML-N issues ticket to father in law of Gogi from Gujranwala

LAHORE (Online): PML-N has issued party ticket to Chaudhry Muhammad Iqbal father in law of Farah Gogi from Gujranwala for election-2024.

PML-N has announced party candidates from Gujranwala division.

Chaudhry Muhammad Iqbal will be PML-N candidate from PP-68 Gujranwala. He was elected MPA on PML-N ticket earlier. He was defeated by Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi in the election for speaker Punjab 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 Thursday.

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

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

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

In the fourth operation, 26.4 kg of hashish was recovered near Sher Shah Toll Plaza Multan and an accused was arrested.

In the fifth operation, five kg of hashish was recovered from the Zakhakel area of Khyber.

Cases under the Anti-Narcotics Act have been registered against the arrested accused and further investigations are under process.



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

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

PESHAWAR (APP): 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 health and increasing use of modern tobacco products among youth.

He expressed these views while talking with a delegation that called on him under the chairmanship of Qamar Naseem, Programme Manager Blue Veins, a non-governmental organization.

Other members of the delegation included Ajmal Shah, Coordinator Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tobacco Control Cell, Dr. Ihtisham, Chest Specialist LRH, Dr. Qazi Shahbaz, Chairman Provincial Doctors

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

Speaking during the meeting, Qamar Naseem apprised Governor Haji Ghulam Ali that new tobacco products are emerging in the whole world at a very fast speed.

In our country, he continued, these products are available very easily in markets and due to deceiving slogans of harm reduction or 'Quit smoking and start vaping' is attracting a large number of people towards consumption of smokeless tobacco.

Qamar said due to lack of latest legislation in the

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.

Minister stresses post-election focus on education for progress

LAHORE: Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindh emphasized the crucial role of education in propelling 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. Encouraging political parties to prioritise 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 private sector's contribution while stressing the elected governments' responsibility in providing accessible and high-quality education.

IGP for compilation of data of criminals on bail

KARACHI (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh Riffat 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 provided a briefing, emphasizing the importance of maintaining detailed records and

status of criminals involved in street crime and property cases who had been released on bail.

IGP Sindh Riffat 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.



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.

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

PESHAWAR (APP): Known as Switzerland of Pakistan, Swat district started attracting a significant number of adventure and snow sports enthusiasts due to its seven unique features including snowfall, ice skiing, snow-capped mountainous valleys and trout fish, making it an ideal winter tourism destination of Pakistan.

Arriving for 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' destination due to its seven

unique features including river rafting, adventure snow, ice hockey, trout fish, snowfall and easy accessibility through Swat motorway. It is my third consecutive yearly visit to Kalam and Malam Jabba to enjoy snowfall, skiing and its famous trout fish along with my family in its peaceful but cold weather," he told APP.

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

Bakht Zada Khan, senior research officer of

the archeology department 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 Buddha 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

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 order to make this campaign successful, it had been decided to establish a task force at the district level and to form a body of

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 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 Authority (TEVTA) has been assigned the task of conducting a feasibility study about identification of suitable institutions for the purpose, he added.



HYDERABAD: Peoples Party (PPP) Leader, Aseefa Bhutto Zardari being welcomed by party workers upon her arrival in Hyderabad.

Lawyers Grand Alliance organizes event

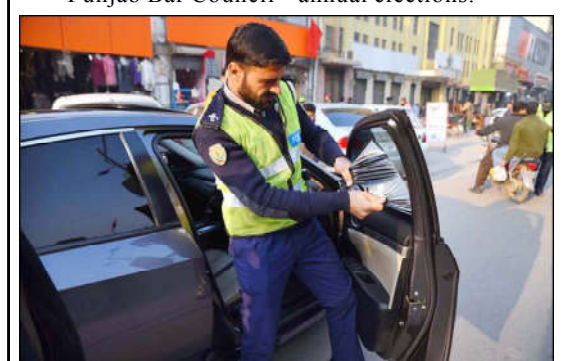
Rana Shahid Mehmood

KOT ADDU: According 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 Naem Akhtar Advocate, General Secretary Imran Mustafa Bhatti Advocate, Joint Secretary Waqar Ahmed Dogar, Finance Secretary Shahzadul Haque, Library Secretary Noman Ali Chaudhry, Editor Furqan Majeed and other candidates also organized lunch for the participants of the event on behalf of the members.

Ijaz Ahmad Khan Gormani said that the 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 activating the dispensary.

He said that the 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 the petitioners and lawyers on priority basis and make the Grand Alliance group successful in the annual elections.



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

Health minister advocates raising age limit for girl marriages

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Dr. Jamal Nasir Thursday emphasized the necessity of increasing the age limit for girl marriages.

In a consultative session, organised by the 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.

Dr. Nasir pointed out that subjecting minor girls or those not physically or emotionally mature to

marriage could result in multiple problems for them. He emphasised the importance of protecting the fundamental rights of females, backed by medical evidence showing their genetic and natural vulnerability. Early 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 unity to end child marriages, emphasising the need for access to education, healthcare.



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

Abbas agrees to reunite West Bank, Gaza: Blinken

US supports establishment of independent Palestinian state

Monitoring Desk
MANAMA: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Wednesday that Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas was committed to reforming the Palestinian Authority in a way that could "reunite" Gaza and the occupied West Bank under its leadership.

ity, policy and governance 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.

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.



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

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.

plot to assassinate Ecuador's attorney general. Ecuador President Daniel Noboa said on Wednesday that his country was "at war" with drug gangs who are holding more than 130 prison guards and other staff hostage and who briefly captured a TV station live on air and set off explosions in a surge of violence that has left city streets deserted.

London mayor says Brexit has cost UK over \$178 billion so far

LONDON (Internews): Britain's departure from the European Union has reduced 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% by 2035.

Brexit isn't working. The hard-line version of Brexit we've ended up with is dragging our economy down and pushing up the cost of living," Khan said in remarks released before a speech he is due to give later on Thursday.

US judge allows first nitrogen-gas execution to proceed

ALABAMA (INP): A federal judge ruled on Wednesday that Alabama can proceed later this month with the first execution by nitrogen gas asphyxiation, saying that the condemned prisoner was unlikely to show the new method amounts to cruel or unusual punishment.

to a cylinder of nitrogen in a tented to deprive him of oxygen.



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.

America's announcement of relaxation in visa conditions

WASHINGTON (Online): United States (US) has announced relaxation of visa conditions, the US Department of State has changed the preconditions for all non-immigrant visa interview waivers.

Washington attracts a large number of international students, and is among the top destinations for higher education due to its excellent academic institutions, diverse academic programs and research opportunities.

Global trade drops 1.3% on Red Sea attacks - IfW 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 said.



Al Jazeera journalist Wael Al-Dahdoh attends the funeral of his son, Palestinian journalist Hamza Al-Dahdoh, 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 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 Islands-flagged 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 was turned off as it headed in the direction of the Iranian port of Bandar-e-Jask.

WHO cancels sixth aid mission to Gaza over security concerns

LONDON: The World Health 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 infectious disease there.

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.

The UN body's director general, 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.



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.

Boeing CEO admits error as planes remain grounded

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.

into its quality controls and processes. Calhoun's remarks were Boeing's first public acknowledgment of errors since a so-called door plug snapped off the fuselage of a nearly full 737 MAX 9 on Friday, leaving a gaping hole next to a miraculously empty seat.

World added 50% more renewable energy capacity last year over 2022

PARIS (INP): The world added 50 percent more renewable energy capacity in 2023 over the year before, the International Energy Agency said Thursday, predicting booming growth in the next five years.

worldwide," the energy watchdog said in a statement. It said the largest 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.

Afghan women detained over 'improper' hijab

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

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 seekers.

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.

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.

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".

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".

Brazil expresses support for South African genocide case against Israel

SAO PAULO (Internews): 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 Convention for the Prevention 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.

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

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.

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.

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 imbuing 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.

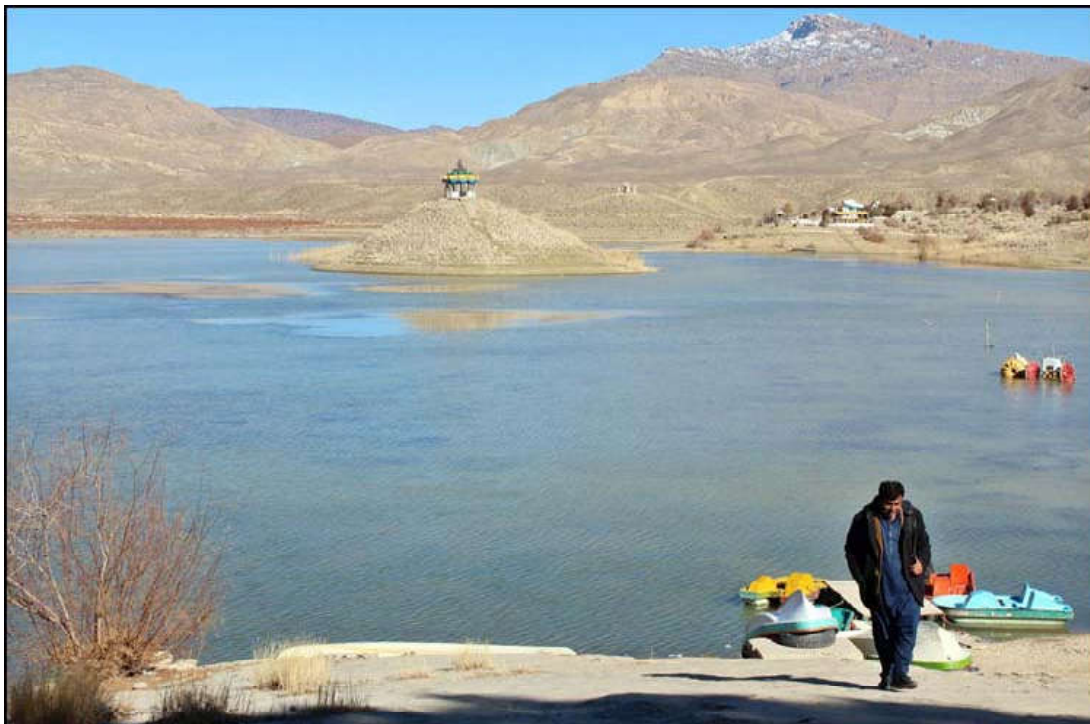
He said the government was taking every step possible to facilitate the IT sector by creating an enabling environment and an ecosystem through a broad range of legislative, policy, regulatory and operational initiatives with a focus on inclusion to help reap full benefits of digitalization.

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 reputation as a leading offshore outsourcing destination through innovation, availability of talent, government incentives and

other initiatives for the IT 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 promoting the ICT industry."



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 secretary on the occasion of the resignation of Sardar Ashraf Khan Kakar, the head of Kakar National Jirga and independent candidate

from NA-262 constituency of the Provincial Assembly, in favor of Haji Ramzan Achakzai, the candidate of the PPP. Sardar Ashraf 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, 263 and 264 and Quetta.

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 January 15.

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 made.

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.

PML-N leaves 11 provincial, 7 NA seats vacant for seat adjustment with IPP

LAHORE (INP): The Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) has left 11 provincial and 7 National Assembly (NA) seats vacant for seat adjustment with the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) in the upcoming general 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 from NA-143 Chichawatani.

Similarly, there is a possibility of seat adjustment with Aamir Kayani from NA-47 Islamabad, Ghulam Sarwar Khan from NA-54 Taxila, and Engineer Gul Asghar from NA-88 Khushab.

Ammar Siddique Khan from PP-12 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 expected to adjust seats.

PP-149 Lahore Aleem Khan, PP-180 Kasur Colonel @ Hashim Dogar, PP-204 Sahiwal Falak Sher Langrial are also likely to be adjusted.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi said on Thursday that major political parties would have to give vision for the economic future of the country.

Delivering his speech at the seminar on "Pakistan Elections 2024: Economic Reform Agenda of Political Parties", hosted by Press Information Department here, he said, "Political parties should give a vision for the betterment of the country." The minister said emphatically that improvement of the economy and economics was the need

of the hour.

Stressing the need to discuss the country's issues openly, he said that everyone should agree on the economic direction of the country.

There was no ban on politics, but there should be no politics on the future of the country, Murtaza Solangi maintained.

The minister opined that politics was the concentration of economy and economic interests. "Our main issues are education, health, gender equality," Murtaza Solangi remarked.

The minister requested the future rulers and political parties to bring realistic economic re-

form agenda and do not 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 said.

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.

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The minister requested the future rulers and political parties to bring realistic economic re-

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

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Chief Justice of Pakistan (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 Punjab and KP and not I."

The CJP remarked while presiding over 3-member bench of Supreme Court (SC) during the hearing of petition against delay in Punjab, KP polls here Thursday.

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

while presiding over 3-member bench of Supreme Court (SC) during the hearing of petition against delay in Punjab, KP polls here Thursday.

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

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 scene.

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

An investigation into the case has been launched, said police.

Quetta Administration to expedite land record digitalization

QUETTA (APP): The Quetta Administration is committed to digitalize 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 Muhammad Hamza Shafaqat 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 expressed satisfaction over the progress made so far in

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 Sami Gilani from Bahawalpur.

Meanwhile, Abdul Ghaffar Watto from Bahawalnagar and Amir Gopang secured tickets in Muzaffargarh, while 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).



QUETTA: Chief of Balochistan Grant Alliance Haji Mir Lashkari Khan Raisani addressing a 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 Shafaqat 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

Zarghooon road.

The Commissioner was chairing meeting held to review the issues related to traffic and solution in Quetta 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 departments.

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 rickshaws 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 encroachments on daily basis, he maintained.

Pakistan passport ranks as 4th worst around globe

ISLAMABAD (INP): The 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 UK-based 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

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.

Qambar Dashti says Timely completion & transparency in dev. projects top priority

Independent Report
 QUETTA: The Secretary Communications and Works Department, Qambar 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 development projects of three circles of the department. The chief engineers of the



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



QUETTA: Secretary Communication & Works Qambar Dashti presiding over a meeting to review progress on ongoing development projects.