PPP accuses PML-N

of attempting to

rig elections

Bilawal blames Nawaz-led party for gradually

sidelining its political opponents

QAMBAR SHAHDAKOT officer (RO) after being

led party.

(INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman

Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has

accused the Pakistan Mus-

lim League Nawaz (PML-

N) of resorting to rigging tactics ahead of the Febru-

ary 8 general elections.

As both political bigwigs eyeing the office of the

prime minister, the PPP

chairman blamed the Nawaz Sharif-led party for

gradually sidelining its po-

litical opponents in a bid to

come into power without

having any electoral com-

"Nawaz-league doesn't want to do fair politics but

it wants to play alone by

ousting all political opponents from the pitch,"

Bilawal said while address-

ing a press conference in Qambar Shahdadkot on

He alleged that some

toral sign by the returning N

QAMBAR SHAHDADKOT: Peoples Party (PPP)

Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari talking to me-

PPP candidates had not

been allotted 'arrow' elec-

Monday.

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

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pressurised by the Nawaz-

served as foreign minister

in the former PML-N-led

coalition government, an-

nounced to approach the

election commission and

courts to challenge the de-

trying to take benefit of re-

cent developments against

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf

(PTI)," Bilawal said, while

referring to the Supreme

Court's verdict that cost the

Imran-led party 'bat' sym-

now a contest between

'lion' and 'arrow', the elec-

toral signs of PML-N and

PPP respectively, in up-

talk, Bilawal asked PPP

workers to strongly re-

sist and thwart conspira-

cies being hatched by PML-

Prior to his media

coming elections.

He said that there is

"In Punjab, PML-N is

The politico, who

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vol. XXV No. 147, Rajab 04, 1445 AH Tuesday January 16, 2024 Pages 08, Price Rs.15

Elections can't be postponed, **ECP tells Senate on polls** delay resolution

Electoral body says it made commitment before the Supreme Court to hold elections on Feb 8, 2024; Okays 250 million watermarked ballot papers for the February 8 polls

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has dismissed the proposal to postpone the general elections, emphasizing that the established polling date of February 8 was mutually determined with the President of Pakistan.

In a letter addressed to the Joint Secretary (Legislation) of the Senate, the ECP conveyed that it would not be prudent to postpone the general elections at this stage. Additionally, the resolution of the upper house of Parliament cannot be currently implemented.

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has already directed the caretaker government to ensure the maintenance of law and order during elections. This ary 5, which proposed the tion.

RAWALPINDI: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff

Committee (CJCSC), General Sahir Shamshad

Mirza exchanging views with Ali Bin Mubarak Al

Khater, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Paki-

Dr. Malik lauds Nawaz's

efforts for development

of Balochistan

for acquittal in cases. The betterment of the country.

QUETTA: Provincial Election Commissioner

Balochistan Ejaz Anwar Chohan meeting with Inspec-

National Party president

also appreciated Nawaz

Balochistan.

Sharif's vision and efforts

The delegation con-

sisted of Mir Kabir, Sardar

Kamil, Jan Muhammad,

Tahir Bizenjo and Ayub

Malik.PML-N president

Shehbaz Sharif, PML-N

Balochistan president Jafir

Khan Mandokhail, Sardar

Ayaz Sadiq, Marriyum

Aurangzeb and others were

also present in the meeting.

The political leaders agreed

to strengthen political co-

operation besides cooper-

ating with each other for

stan during meeting held in Rawalpindi.

LAHORE (APP): A delega-

tion of the National Party

(NP) led by its president Abdul Malik Baloch met

Pakistan Muslim League-

Nawaz (PML-N) Quaid

Muhammad Nawaz Sharif

here on Monday. During

the meeting, overall situa-

tion of the country and po-

litical cooperation regarding

the upcoming general elec-

tions came under discus-

sion. On this occasion,

Nawaz Sharif paid tribute

to the services of late Hasil

Khan Bizenjo for strength-

congratulated Nawaz Sharif

Abdul Malik Baloch

ening democracy

curity framework to create peaceful and credible conduct of the 2024 general elections.

the ECP has made a comgeneral elections on February 8, 2024

Similarly, it is worth noting that previous general elections and local government elections have taken place during the winter sea-

It's worth noting that Independent Senator Dilawar Khan has written a letter to the Senate Chairman, expressing concern that the ECP has not taken any steps to implement his resolution passed on Janu-

ISLAMABAD (APP): includes enhancing the se-postponement of elections. The resolution received a favorable environment for majority support with 14 votes from senators.

Meanwhile the Election Commission (ECP) The letter stated that tasked the Printing Corporation of Pakistan on Monmitment before the Su- day with producing 250 preme Court to conduct the million watermarked ballot papers for the February 8

> According to sources, the ECP sanctioned the printing of ballot papers for the upcoming general elections during its meeting.

> Distinctive watermarks will adorn the ballot papers, which are set to be printed using three different machines. Rigorous security protocols have been ensured for the Printing Corporation premises during the ballot paper produc-

SC is operating under London Plan, alleges **Imran Khan**

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Founder Chairman Ìmran Khan said that everything is happening under the London Plan and he was being punished for exposing Donald Lu and General Bajwa. Holding informal talks with the media on Monday, former Prime Minister Imran Khan said the Supreme Court (SC) is implementing the London

The former PM Imran Khan said his imprisonment, tearing down of the II and the pardoning of Nawaz Sharif's case are also part of the London plan. He said that everything is being done to show that 'they' are above the law.

for development of The PTI founder chairman said he wants to ask Chief Justice of Supreme Court Oazi Faez Isa to read the 8th verse of the fifth Para of the Quran which says that you should not hate your enemies so much that you can't do justice.

Maryam Nawaz says Character involved in excesses against Nawaz facing ultimate justice

OKARA (INP): Senior Vice President of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Maryam Nawaz while referring to the recent resignations tendered by two SC judges has said that every individual involved in committing excesses to Nawaz Sharif was facing ultimate justice.

Speaking after formally launching her election campaign at Iqbal Stadium in Okara on Monday, she appreciated the people who emained loyal to Nawaz Continued on page 2



PML(Q) Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and President Muhammad Shahbaz

We are ready to hold dialogue with every "angry" Pakistani under banner of Pakistan, says Jan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has firmly stated that we are ready to hold dialogue with every "angry" Pakistani under the banner of

"Although we had also made offer for dialogue to the "angry" people in Islamabad, but we didn't get positive response of the offer", regretfully pointed out by Jan Achakzai while addressing a hurriedly called press conference here at the Civil Secretariat on Mon-

The caretaker Provincial Minister Information mentioned that the people of Pakistan expressed wholehearted solidarity with martyrs of Balochistan

He also said that the state has faced every eventuality bravely and courageously for upholding the that their masterminds and Pakistani flag.

He asserted that Pakistan can't be deviated from its principled stance through threats and terrorism, and added that those are threating of moving towards mountains must remember we would take them to task whether they hide in the mountains or in

He also said that those give threats should give up misleading the people, as there is a much difference in their acts and deeds, and everyone knows about it.

Jan Achakzai said that the enemy forces have intensified the terrorism incidents in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhaw as the general elections are nearing. Still, our brave forces are fighting against the menace of terrorism with determination, Jan Achakzai mentioned adding

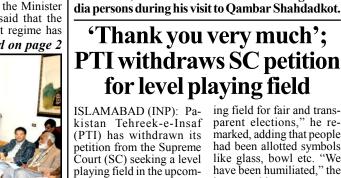
facilitators are coming in the state's grip.

While on the other hand, the so-called intellectuals who are moving foreign agenda are compelled to hide their faces after the strong reaction to their negative propaganda.

He also said that the Pak army and Frontier Corps (North) have established peace in Sibi, Sangan, Harnai and adjoining areas.

The Minister Information particularly referred to the Sibi-Harnai railway section that was restored after 17 years in October last year. He recalled that the Sibi-Harnai railway section had been suspended due to terrorism incidents in 2006

Referring the one-document regime, the Minister Information said that the one-document regime has Continued on page 2



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar presiding over a review meeting of Balochistan Sports Board

Governor Balochistan calls for promoting sports activities at district and Tehsil level

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stressed the need to take steps for promotion of sports activities at the dis-

trict and Tehsil level. The Governor was speaking to a delegation who called on him under leadership of Secretary Sports Javed Anwar Shahwani here at the Governor House on Monday. The Governor said that development of sports is top condition for

physical and mental health of the people. For the purpose, it is result oriented.

necessary to promote sports and encourage the sports persons. He said that there is a need to expand government endeavours at the district and Tehsil level so that our youth can refrain from the unhealthy activities including use of drugs.

The Governor noted with pleasure to know about holding of the meeting of provincial sports board after a long time. He stressed that there is a need to take comprehensive and concrete measures for making the efforts of sports and culture department more

Petrol price slashed by Rs8 per litre

However, the government decided to maintain the price of high-speed diesel.

According to a notification issued by the Ministry of Finance, the price of petrol has been reduced by Rs8 per litre, bringing the new price to Rs259.34 per litre. The price of highspeed diesel will remain unchanged, i.e., Rs276.21 per litre.

LAHORE (INP): The fed-

eral government on Monday slashed petrol price by up to Rs8 per litre for the fortnight starting January

asked: "Do you want to pursue the case or not?"

very much.

ing general elections.

As the hearing of the

PTI's appeal began in the

Supreme Court on Mon-

day, Counsel Latif Khosa

said the party would like

to go to the people's court

for the survival of democ-

racy. "We want to go to the

court of 250 million

people," he asserted, and

told the chief justice of Pa-

kistan (CJP): "Thank you

CJP Qazi Faez Isa

Khosa replied that he had been instructed to withdraw the application. "We came to you for a level play-

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pa-kistan Tehreek-e-Insaf parent elections," he remarked, adding that people had been allotted symbols like glass, bowl etc. "We have been humiliated," the lawyer said.

In response, CJP Isa said whether they wanted to accept the court's decision or not was their choice, adding that the judges should not be blamed for the court's verdict.

CJP Qazi Faez Isa asked: "Do you want to pursue the case or not?" The PTI lawyer replied that he had been instructed to withdraw the application. "We came to you for a level playing field for fair and transparent elections," he remarked, adding that people had been allotted symbols like glass, eggplant, bowl



ISLAMABAD: Iran's Special Representative for Afghanistan Affairs, Hassan Kazmi Qomi called on caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani.

Political parties bound to hold intra-party polls: Solangi

Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Monday said that every political party was bound to hold intra-party elections under their constitu-

The apex court's decision about the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's elections had set a precedent which would further promote democracy within the parties, the minister said while speaking in a talk show of the Pakistan Television.

He said the Election Commission did not take notice of the irregularities in the PTI's intra-party elections, rather a complaint to the effect was filed with it.

"Democracy is not only necessary in the country but also within the politi-

ISLAMABAD (APP): cal parties," he said. Every one in democracy had the right to criticise and the caretaker government could not usurp that fundamental right, the minister added.

The basic role of the caretaker government was to act as a bridge between two elected governments, and the incumbents were its responsibilities amicably, he remarked. Solangi said under Ar-

ticle 218(3) of the Constitution, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) was responsible for holding free, fair and transparent elections and the caretaker government was committed to assist it in that regard.

He said that every citizen should exercise their right to vote a per con-

tor General of Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh Nawab Shahwani withdraws candidature in favour of Sardar Akhtar Mengal

Independent Report QUETTA: The tribal and political personality, Nawab Muhammad Khan Shahwani has announced to withdraw his candidature in favour of the President Balochistan National Party, Sardar Akhtar Mengal from

NA-261. Nawab Shahwani announced this while addressing a joint press conference

along with leaders of BNP at Quetta press club on Monday.

Present on the occasion were the BNP leaders Sajid Tareen Advocate, Agha Hasan Baloch, Malik Naseer Shahwani and oth-

The BNP candidate Asif Baloch from PB-37

Continued on page 2

Elections must be held on Feb 8, says Bizenjo

Independent Report QUETTA: The former Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Quddus try on February 8, 2024.

Bizenjo has insisted that the general elections should be conducted in the coun-He said that the elections had been conducted in 2013 despite the worst cir-

year 2018 when there was He said that there is no

cumstances and so in the

such situation that the elections could not be conducted in the province.

Referring his joining the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo said that the basic purpose behind his joining the PPP was to raise issues of the province while remaining in a bigger political

party.

He said that he found PPP better than other political parties.

Quetta safe city project completed; would be inaugurated this month

Over 1400 cameras installed at 225 places:

Caretaker Chief Minister says Safe city project an important development for protection of life and property of masses in metropolis

Independent Report

QUETTA: The work on otherwise much-delayed Quetta safe city project has been completed on special directives of the caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki, and it is likely to be inaugurated by the end of this month. This was announced in an official handout issued here by the Chief Minister's secretariat on Monday. According to the Project Director of Quetta safe city Project, the work on the crucial project had been started in year 2014. Under the project, over 1400 cameras have been in-

stalled at some 225 places all over the Quetta city.

The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki described the initiation of Quetta safe city project is an important development for protection of life and property of the masses. He said that the provincial government and law enforcement agencies would implement the initiatives for restoration of peace in the metropolis. It may be mentioned here that the command and control center of the Quetta safe city project is equipped with modern technology and best human resource. This is the first locally designed and prepared

project of Pakistan, which has been connected with the

and surveillance for restoration of peace in the city.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over a meeting regarding Green Pakistan Initiative

Speakers of national conference call for free access to safe water for all

ISLAMABAD (INP): The speakers of national water conference including policymakers, researchers, farmers, and various stakeholders have unanimously called for the free availability of clean and safe water for everyone,

coupled with sustainable usage for agricultural practices.
The conference titled: "Water, People, and Equity: Building a Better Future for All", was organized by Indus Consortium, an organization dedicated to environmental and humanitarian causes, with the support of Oxfam and the Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) at local hotel of Islamabad on Monday.

Representatives from academia, tail-end farmers, and government departments such as Indus River System Authority (IRSA), Sindh Water Sector and Barrage Improvement, Planning and Development (P&D), Sindh Irrigation and Drainage Authority (SIDA), Punjab Irrigation and Drainage Authority (PIDA), and other stakeholders from across the country who participated in the conference, welcomed the Sindh Water Policy. They urged its swift implementation and expressed hopes for the development of similar policies in other provinces, with a particular emphasis on Punjab.

The Sindh Water Policy, largely shaped by input from tail-end and women farmers, is mostly based on recommendation to the government by the Indus Consortium. The organization worked closely with farmer communities at three canals in Sindh and Punjab: Akram Wah in Sindh, and Dajal Canal and Rangpur Canals in Punjab.

The participants passionately demanded not only safe and free drinking water but also sustainable agricultural practices for farmers across the country.

Zarif Iqbal Khero, Chief Engineer, and Ex-Secretary rrigation Sindh presented the session on Sindh Water Policy, the role of civil society and Indus Consortium, said that there was a programme for the implementation of the Sindh Water Policy and it would be improved. He said that sustainable management of water was a part of He said Punjab was provided more water than its

share in water accord while Sindh faced water scarcity issues. He said Punjab developed more canals and dis-

He said Sindh had issues of sea intrusion as well, as there was the low discharge of water to Indus Delta.



Ministry of Health with the support from the UK Government, UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and Legal Aid Society.

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf exchanging views with High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Pakistan Admiral (Retd) Ravindra C Wijegunarathne at Naval Headquarters Islamabad

Tough contest expected on all 5 **NA constituencies of Peshawar**

PESHAWAR (APP): A tough contest is expected in the contest is amongst a all five National Assembly and 12 provincial assembly constituencies of the district of Peshawar, the provincial capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the general elections of 2024.

two general elections of 2013 and 2018 were swept by the candidates of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), but due to the poor performance of the previous federal and provincial governments, other political parties have not only strengthened their roots, rather they also getting benefits of the prevailing political situation

suburban constituency former PTI MNA Noor Alam Khan is this time conticket of JUI-F, is facing Sajid Nawaz, another former MNA of the PTI who contesting election on the symbol of Key Chain, Kiramatullah Khan Chagarmati of PPP, a former Speaker of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, while ANP has fielded a retired professor Fayyaz Khan and Jamaat-i-Islami has allotted ticket to a former provincial minister Hafiz Hashmat Khan.

also in the field on the ticket of PML-N. In the elections of 2008, Noor Alam Khan was elected on the PPP

In NA-29 Peshawar-II, former PTI-affiliated MNA Arbab Aamir Ayub, who is in the field on the electoral symbol of Bowl against Amjad Aziz of PPP, Saqibullah Khan Chamkani of ANP, Sobia Shahid Though the previous PML-N, Akhundzada Irfanullah Shah of JUI-F while JI has fielded a former judge Malik Ghulam

Mohyuddin. Ás all political parties claim equal popularity, therefore a very tough contest is expected among all contestants.

Similarly, in NA-30 Peshawar-III, another suburban constituency Nasir Khan Musazai of JUI-F is In NA-28 Peshawar-I, facing Arbab Zain Omar of ANP, Raees Khan of PML-N, Kashif Azam of JI, Niaz Mohammad of PPP and testing election on the Shandana Gulzar of PTI, who is contesting election on the symbol of Bowl. Nasir Khan Musazai is a former PTI MNA from the constituency Shandana Gulzar has remained MNA in women's reserved seat

NA-31 Peshawar-IV is mostly comprised of the posh localities of Cantonment, University Town, Hayatabad, and Regi Lalma Township wherein Arbab Alamgir Khan Khalil of Arbab Khizar Hayat is PPP is facing Pir Haroon Shah of ANP, Sobia Shahid of PML-N, Imdad Khan Khalil of JI and Mohammad Saeed Jan of

JUI-F. PTI is supporting

an independent candidate Arbab Sher Ali, who is contesting on the election symbol of Traffic Light. Arbab Sheri Ali the close relative of Arbab Alamgir

Arbab Alamgir Khan Khalil, son of former chief minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Jehangir Khan Khalil has served as federal minister for communications from 2008-13 of PPP-led coalition government while his spouse Asma Alamgir was special assistant to then rime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani.

In NA-32 Peshawar-V, is consisting of the urban localities including Jehangir Pura, Dabgari Gardens, Gunj, Qissa Khwani, Karimpura, Lahori and Ahmad Bilour of ANP is facing Abidullah Khan Yousafzai of PPP, Sher Rehman of PML-N Tariq Mateen of JI and Hussain Ahmad Madni of JUI-F while Asif Khan of PTI is going to contest as an independent candidate the symbol of

Handcart. Haji Ghulam Ahmad Bilour is an ANP stalwart and political veteran who has contested all previous elections since 1988 except in 2002 due to the conditionality of the qualification of graduation. In the general elections of 2013, he had lost against PTI Chairman, Imran Khan. However, in the by-election, he succeeded in regaining his

NawabShahwani withdraws...

Continued from page 1 constituency of the provincial assembly, also present on the occasion, announced to withdraw in favour of Nawab Muhammad Khan Shahwani

Speaking on the occasion, Nawab Shahwani said that we have made alliance with BNP on the seats of provincial and national assemblies.

He said that BNP has withdrawn its candidate in his favour on the provincial assembly seat while we would support its candidate Sardar Akhtar Mengal on the national assembly seat. He said that we are

thankful to Sardar Akhtar Mengal for making election alliance with us. He said that Sardar Akhtar Mengal has been serving the Baloch nation

with sincerity. He also said that the issue of Balochistan would be resolved through dialogue, and our political struggle is also aimed at re-

solving it The BNP leader Sajid Tareen said that BNP decided to make alliance with real leaders and parties of the province.

He said that Sardar Akhtar Mengal is candidate from NA-261. As per the alliance, Nawab Shahwani would support Sardar Akhtar Mengal on the seat f National Assembly while BNP's candidate has withdrawn in favour of Nawab

assembly seat.

Shahwani on the provincial

2024 polls tion symbol.

ECP reveals minority

seat candidates for

According to the schedule issued by the Election Commission, appeals for the acceptance or rejection of nomination papers by returning officers can be submitted until January 16. and the Appellate Tribunal will hear them until January 19. The revised list of candidates will be released on January 20, withdrawal of nomination papers can be done until January 22, and the final list of candition for minority seats as they did not secure the electric dates will be unveiled on January 23.

We will not boycott election come what may: Awan

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI leader and senior lawyer Babar Awan has made it clear we will not boycott election come what may.

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The Election Commission

has unveiled the prelimi-

nary list of candidates con-

tending for seats reserved

for minorities in the Na-

by ECP, nomination papers

of 37 candidates have been

approved for the 10 Na-

Court's decision, Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is ex-

cluded from the competi-

tional Assembly seats.

According to list issued

In light of the Supreme

tional Assembly.

"PTI will not boycott election at any cost. Bat has been snatched from us and pitch has been uprooted, he said this while talking to media men in Islamabad High Court (IHC) Monday.

He held Nawaz Sharif has already fought with two chiefs. No stability will come in the country if he comes to power. If election are held this way then the government will not be able to run for two months. He went on to say the largest party of Pakistan was deprived of election symbol due to technicality and not due to law and constitution. If some party works against solidarity and integrity then reference will be sent against it.

Unfortunately what symbol election commission has selected they are too violation of article 14 of the constitution. Somewhere there is turnip somewhere shoes. You can see what symbols have been chosen.



QUETTA: Jamhoori Watan Party (JWP) President, Nawabzada Shahzain Bugti addresses to media persons during press conference, at Bugti House

Toshakhana luxury vehicles, gifts case: AC directs NAB to file inquiry report within week ISLAMABAD (Online):

During the hearing of Toshakhana luxury vehicles and gifts case against former premiers Nawaz Sharif, Yousuf Raza Gillani and former president Asif Ali Zardari, Accountability Court (AC) Islamabad has directed NAB to file report in respect of Nawaz Sharif within a week.

The court adjourned the hearing of the case till January 24. Tosha khana luxury vehicles case came up for hearing before AC Islamabad led by judge Muhammad Bashir Mon-

NAB prosecutor and defence counsels appeared

in the court. NAB's inquiry report in respect of Nawaz Sharif could not be presented in AC on Monday as well.

The court directed NAB to submit inquiry report in respect of Nawaz Sharif within a week.

Raja Faisal Younis counsel for Yousuf Raza Gillani filed exemption from attendance pleas in respect of former president Asif Ali Zardari and Yousuf Raza Gillani in the court.

The court while ac cepting exemption pleas of Asif Ali Zardari and Yousuf Raza Gillani adjourned the hearing of the case till January 24.

Salman Chaudhry assumes charge as IG NH&MP

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Salman Chaudhry PSP a Grade-21 Police officer of Policr Ser-

vice of Pakistan, assumed

charge as Inspector Gen-

eral, National Highways & Motorway Police. He is the 22nd Inspector General of National Highways & Motorway Police. Before his posting as IG, NHMP, he was working as Additional Inspector General Police in Baluchistan.

On his arrival at

sented a Guard of Honor subsequent to which he held a brief meeting with officers of HQs. The new commander committed to resolve core issues with his best efforts and will focus on to strengthen the organization to improve public services. During his illustrious career, he undertook various important assign-He is considered as the

most professional police officer. He lauded that National Highways and NHMP Headquarters in Motorway Police is a well Islamabad, he was pre- reputed force and we have

siasm to enhance credibility level of this department at national & international

He urges that I want to energize this department with the all best efforts. In his opening address he emphasized that my officers are my assets and my success is hidden in their professionalism and commitment. There is a dire need that commanding officers and field formations should work hard to focus on help culture and courtesy with



Salman Chaudhry assumed the charge of 22nd Inspector General of National Highways and Motorway Police

We are ready to... Continued from page

been enforced at all entry and exit points along Afghanistan border.

He said that the Passport and visa has been declared compulsory for the people coming from Afghanistan and going there at the Noorwahab area at Pak Afghan border adjacent to Chaghai since January 5

However, the business men can continue using crossing as per routine till January 31, 2024.

The Minister also referred to the Quetta safe city project saying that by the grace of Allah Almighty the project has been completed. The people of Quetta could be benefitting from the important project for we are thankful to the Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Domki who took special interest in its competition.

Dense fog to engulf plains of Punjab, KP, upper Sindh for two days: PMD ISLAMABAD (APP): plain areas of the country,

Dense fog will engulf plain while areas of Punjab, Khyberparts Pakhtunkhwa and upper during the ne days, according to the Pakistan Meteorological Department.

Frost is likely to occur at few places in Pothohar region during morning. Day temperatures are likely to remain below normal in most parts of Punjab due

to dense for The PMD has advised citizens to remain cautious during the dense fog condi-

The synoptic situation says that continental air was prevailing over most parts of the country.

Mainly cold and dry

During the last 24 hours, cold and dry weather prevailed over most parts of the country, while very cold in northern parts.

while very cold in northern

(snowfall over mountains)

is likely at isolated places

However

in Gilgit-Baltistan.

Dense fog/smog prevailed over plain areas of Punjab. Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and upper

Sindh

The lowest minimum temperatures recorded were Leh -08C, Skardu -06, Kalam, Gilgit, Gupis -05, Srinagar -04, Kalat, Hunza, Astore and Rawalakot -



TEHRAN: Group photo of Vice Chancellor Allama Iqbal Open University Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood and others in the delegation that visited Al-Zahra Women University under the leadership of Chairman HEC.

Character involved in excesses...

for PB-45 during meeting held in Quetta.

QUETTA: Awami National Party (ANP) Candidate

for PB-38, Malik Naeem Khan Bazai exchanging

views with Nasrullah Zehrey, PKMAP Candidate

Continued from page 1 Sharif and his party despite the tough period they had

gone through Despite fog and intense cold weather a large num- from the office again and ber of people attended the

rally.

Maryam Nawaz said, "They were acting like pharaohs, but are now running away like rats. A person standing for truth like Nawaz never back down. Nawaz had left the office with grace, they are escaping while trying to hide their faces.

She said a terrorist party couldn't get an election symbol and proposed "petrol bomb" as election symbol for them to share their reality

The PTI chairman was in habit of favouritism when the judges used to greet him by saying "good to see you", she said and added that he had lost the facilitators and patronage.

'The facility of issuing decisions on basis of phone [calls] made by the motherin-law [of former chief justice Umar Ata Bandial] isn't available now," she said. "You and your facilitators have been caught redhanded while cheating.

Nawaz was removed again, but brought back each time by these umpires. Maryam said while pointing to the crowd and asked the people to give a heavy mandate to the three-time prime minister for an effective government and swift

decision making.
The PML-N chief organizer said that Nawaz was already busy in devising plans to ensure cheaper services and goods to the masses and promised that she would work for extending their basic rights to women, including employ-

ment opportunities. She also told the gathering that modern health and education facilities would be provided at district level after winning the February

8 elections. Earlier, a charged crowd greeted her at Phoolnagar in Kasur, as she reached the town on her way to Okara from Lahore

China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) emerges as a key driver of transformative and all-round developments in Pakistan, with

tiatives poised to redefine fresh face of progress and growth in the year 2024. A highlight among these is the Mainline-I (ML-I) project, set to commence early in the year, represent-

ing a monumental leap in

rail infrastructure.

several groundbreaking ini-

The two-phase plan involves laying a 930-kilometer rail track from Karachi to Multan in the first phase, addressing infrastructure damaged by the 2022 floods. Subsequently, the second phase extends the rail track from Multan to Peshawar, aligning with future demands, according to a report car-

ried by Gwadar Pro on Monday. In parallel, the inauguration of Gwadar International Airport is expected in mid 2024. Spanning 4.300 acres, this airport

ISLAMABAD (INP): boasts a runway accommodating large aircraft and a modern terminal building.

With an estimated cost of \$246 million, its completion will not only mark a new era for air travel in Pakistan but also solidifies the enduring partnership between China and Pakistan. In 2024, CPEC is set

to achieve notable milestones other than the groundbreaking of ML-1 in the realm of transportation infrastructure, contributing to enhanced connectivity and economic development. The completion or significant progress of several key projects is anticipated to reshape the region's transportation landscape.

Zhob-Quetta (Kuchlak) (N-50) project, spanning 305 km, promises to improve connectivity between Zhob and Quetta, facilitating smoother movement of goods and people. Likewise, Khuzdar-Basima Road (N-30), covering a distance of 106 km, is expected to enhance accessibility and

connectivity in Khuzdar. The Hoshab-Awaran Road Section (M-8) project, stretching over 146 km, will contribute to the development of infrastructure in

growth Additionally, KKH Alternate Route Shandur-Chitral Road, spanning 153 km, holds the promise of improved connectivity and accessibility to the picturesque Chitral region.

The completion or progress of the Nokundi-Mashkhel Road, covering 103 km. will bolster transportation links in Nokundi and Mashkhel, promoting economic activities in these regions. As these projects advance, they not only signify improvements in transportation but also reflect the broader impact of CPEC in fostering economic development, regional integration, and connectivity throughout Paki-

CPEC has played a pivotal role in propelling social and economic devel-

there are high expectations for significant advancements in various ongoing projects in the year of 2024. One noteworthy Awaran, fostering economic endeavor is China-Pakistan Joint Agricultural Technology Laboratory, poised to make strides in enhancing agricultural practices through collaborative research.

The provision of agricultural equipment and tools is anticipated to witness notable progress, contributing to productivity in the agricultural sector.

The commitment to advancing the country's academic infrastructure is exemplified by the establishment of smart classrooms for higher education. Furthermore, the targeted maintenance and renovation efforts focusing on 50 schools in newly merged districts are expected to make substantial headway in improving educational facilities.

The deployment of solar-powered lighting

CPEC emerges as a key driver of all-round dev. in Pakistan opment in Pakistan, and equipment aligns with sustainable energy goals, while the overseas student scholarship program signals continued dedication to human capital development. In the healthcare sector, the expected progress in providing medical equipment and materials, along with the ongoing Gwadar hospital project, underscores the focus on healthcare improvements.

Initiatives like Brightness Journey in Pakistan, coupled with projects addressing drinking water equipment and Gwadar Desalination Plant, are poised to meet crucial needs of the population. Lastly, Gwadar Vocational and Technical Project aims to equip local workforce with essential skills for the evolving job market.

Together, these initiatives under CPEC reflect a comprehensive approach to fostering social progress and economic prosperity in Pakistan, with a focus on anticipated developments in 2024.

Country needs smart solutions to combat current challenges: Education Minister

and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindhi Monday emphasized on adopting smart solutions for addressing the current challenges being faced by the country, match-

ing the pace of the developed countries. He was speaking at the launching ceremony of "Global Education Monitoring Report 2023" arranged by the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training

in collaboration with UNESCO, EdTech Hub, and ITA. Madad Ali said that the current challenges being faced by the country require smart solutions and it is high time that Pakistan matches the pace of the developed countries of the world.

Chairing the event, the minister said that it is heartening to see that Pakistan has recently given high importance to the use of technology in imparting education. "Evaluating technology's role in imparting education is need of the hour", he added.

He said that the role of technology in reducing the number of out-of-school children in the country is of of technology are completely curbed. great significance, which he termed as his top priority.

He said that quality of education is another challenge that has been given the highest priority under his

suring that the schools in the federal area have the basic necessities available to provide a safe, secure and enabling environment to students.

Madad Ali said that the Ministry of Education was adept in making sure that technology's benefits can be passed on to the masses in the COVID 19 era.

teleschool and educational radio channels in the COVID era by the education ministry. Madad Ali highlighted the findings of the report which pointed out that technology can also leave behind

He highlighted the development and launch of

under privileged students. He said that his ministry will ensure that the use of

technology is adapted in such a way that no child is left behind irrespective of his/her background. He said that his ministry will ensure that our learning outcomes and educational programmes will be aligned

with technology in such a way that the negative aspects Madad Ali said that he hoped that the fundamental right to education of all children of Pakistan would be



Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment, Mushaal Hussein Mullick addressing the second consultative meeting of Kashmir Advisory Committee in Islamabad.

guaranteed through the smart use of technology.

Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training in collaboration with UNESCO, EdTech Hub, and ITA hosted the national launch of the 2023

Anti-rape crisis cell established at PIMS

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Law and Justice on Monday inaugurated the model Anti-Rape Crisis Cell (ARCC) at the Pakistan Institute of Mediation Institute Institute of Mediation Institute Insti cal Sciences (PIMS).

The cell was established in collaboration with establishment of this crisis UK Aid, United Nations Populations Find (UNFPA) and Legal Aid

Society (LAS). The event was attended by British High Commissioner to Pakistan Ms. Jane Marriot, along with UNFPA Country Director Dr. Luay Shabaneh, Federal Law Secretary Raja Naeem Akbar, Federal ne (Trial and Investigation) Act, 2021 Ms. Ayesha Raza Farooq, PIMS Executive Director Prof. Dr. Rana Imran Sikandar, several senior government officials and members of the civil soci-

The launch of a model facility such as this signifies the government's commitment to improve access to justice for survivors of sexual violence under the Anti-Rape (Trial and Investigation) Act 2021 through a coordinated and targeted response mecha-

Raja Naeem Akbar Islamabad.

He mentioned that the cell is a testament to the dedication of the state and the collaboration of various stakeholders in our ongoing battle against sexual vio-

Ms Ayesha Raza Farooq said, "In essence, the establishment of the Anti-Rape Crisis Cells is not just a legal initiative, it is a comprehensive and un-Health Secretary Iftikhar wavering commitment to Ali Shallwani, Chairperson creating a society free from of the Special Committee on the shackles of sexual viosupported, and justice pre-

> Prof. Dr. Rana Imran Sikandar committed that the Hospital will provide specialized training sessions for all relevant healthcare officials, such as doctors and nurses on trauma-informed care and the specific needs of sexual

violence survivors. Iftikhar Ali Shallwani stated that the social evils of sexual violence exist in any country around the globe and urged to handle



SLAMABAD: Barrister Abdulwahid Qureshi become President of Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) Lawyers wing.

GE2024: PID strives to foster electoral understanding among masses

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Press Information Department (PID) is committed to foster electoral understanding among the masses through awareness PID organized its first semicampaigns ahead of the general elections in 2024.

The PID, in this regard, has already launched a series of seminars to ensure active civic engagement and participation in the electoral process and elections slated for February 8.

According to the PID, the stakeholders being invited to the seminars included representatives from mainstream political parties, the Election Commission of Pakistan, media, academia, civil society and the general public.

It said these seminars would serve as a platform to educate citizens on the importance of voting, the electoral system, and the role of elected representatives. "By fostering public awareness, the seminars seek to empower individu- the Capital city on differals to make informed deci- ent topics.

sions, ultimately contributing to a more robust and accountable democratic system," the PID added.

On January 11, the nar titled 'Pakistan elections 2024: The Economic Reforms Agenda of Political Parties' here at a local hotel in Islamabad which had across-the-board representation from the stakeholders. According to the PID, the spotlight was on the economic reform agendas presented by political parties of Pakistan gearing

up for the 2024 elections. 'The electorate is keenly interested in the economic visions put forth by diverse political entities and this exploration aims to provide a concise overview of the economic landscapes envisioned by the key players in Pakistan's political arena." For general public knowledge, it is informed that the PID had planned three more seminars here in

CDA decides to build model village in Islamabad

SLAMABAD (APP): The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has decided to build a new model village in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT).

This model village will be built on 3621 kanal of land which will be completed within two years. The 4500 residential plots of 10-marla will be developed in this model village A commercial center and three class 3 shopping centres will be built in this village. A Jamia mosque will be constructed and a health centre will also be estab-

lished in this model village. CDA official said all the plots of this model vilaffected people whose land was acquired by CDA for Park Enclave.

The plots will be given to the affected people of Mauza Kurri and Rihara in this model village.

This project has been facing dillydally for nine years. Now Islamabad High Court (IHC) ordered CDA to initiate this project and complete it within two vears

Police arrest suspects in assassination case of cleric

SLAMABAD (APP): In a ignificant development, slamabad police said on Monday that they have apprehended two suspects elieved to be involved in the assassination of a cleric Maulana Masood Rehman Usmani.

According to a police spokesman, the initial reports suggested that the arrested individuals have alleged affiliations with a banned organization, a private news channel reported.

Religious leader Maulana Masood ur Rehman Usmani was shot earlier this month here in Islamabad when unknown assailants opened fire on his

Famous urdu poet, Sufi scholar Wasif remembered

ISLAMABAD (APP): Famous Urdu poet, teacher, writer and Sufi scholar Wasif Ali Wasif was remembered on the occasion of his birthday on Monday.

He was born on January 15, 1929, in Khushab and is famous for his unique literary style. Probably no contemporary Urdu writer is more cited in quotations than him. Master of aphorism, he has almost a miraculous ability to capture a rainbow of meaning in a few dewdrops of well-chosen words.

Many of his aphorisms have become proverbs in recent years.

His book "Kiran Kiran Suraj" containing these aphorisms remained a best seller for many many

Ulema to highlight energy efficiency, conservation in Friday prayer sermons religious standpoint.

of thought will highlight the importance of energy efficiency and conservation from a religious perspective in their Friday prayer sermons across the country.

This commitment was formalized through a declaration signed by Ulema who participated in a oneday seminar organized by the National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (NEECA) on energy conservation from a the Managing Director of

ISLAMABAD (Online):

Bushra Bibi, wife of PTI

founder Imran Khan has

challenged Nikah during

iddat case in Islamabad

petitioner will try to get fix

the case for hearing in IHC

petition that the petition

filed against Bushra Bibi

and her husband PTI

founder is based on

malafide intent. Former

husband Khawar Manika

got registered complaint

The lawyers of the

It has been said in the

High Court (IHC).

The declaration affirms the Ulema's agreement to raise awareness about energy conservation through their sermons, expressing their dedication to a national-level energy con-

servation drive. They presented their views in light of the Quran and Sunnah, emphasizing the significance of energy conservation and its social, moral, and religious impli-cations. Sardar Mohazzam,

under ill intent with nefari-

ous designs. False allegation

of nikah during iddat was

leveled on the basis of false

and fabricated documents.

said according to former

husband he divorced me

(Bushra Bibi) on Novem-

ber 14, 2017. Khawar

Manika had pronounced

triple talaq on April 15, 2017. She shifted to her

mother's home in August

2017. She stayed in her

mother's home till her mar-

riage with PTI founder on

ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gul Bar Khan along with

the provincial ministers are offering condolences and praying to the family mem-

bers of the well-known religious scholar Allama Sheikh Mohsin Najafi (Late).

nounced by the government

urged the citizens to pro-

vide their accurate data at

the time of registration

while those who will pro-

vide false information will

never be allowed to become

any complaint about the

programme can contact the

toll-free number 0800-

26477 and official social

media accounts of BISP.

'We are ready to resolve

the complaints of the citi-

zens in a shortest possible

The DG said, "We encourage not only the poor

segments to participate in

the survey but also middle

class, lower and upper

middle class for compila-

"The compilation of their data will help the gov-

ernment provide them any

subsidy or facility in the

time of any emergency situ-

ation in future on the basis

of their socio- economic

tion of their data".

data", he added

ISLAMABAD: Agypsy family holding dry woods

moving towards their destination from Sector G-7

to use it for domestic use due to load shedding of

The citizens having

part of this programme.

The DG NSER has

in the future, he said.

BISP registration process

continues smoothly

ISLAMABAD (APP): to give any subsidy, if an-

The registration process in

the National Socio-Economic registry (NSER) Sur-

vey of the Benazir Income

Support Programme (BISP)

is successfully continued

across the country through

the registration centers es-

tablished by the Tehsil of-

This was stated by the Director General, National

Socio-Economic Registry (NSER), BISP, Naveed

Akbar in a video message

released through a social media platform. The DG

stated that the citizens, be-

longing to the low-income

groups, can register with

the Benazir Income Sup-

port Programme through

visiting the registration cen-

ters opened from Monday

bring Computerized Na-

tional Identity Cards, B-

Forms of children for regis-

quired to bring electricity or

gas bills, if have connec-

tions, so that we can enter

these bills in the database

gas in Federal Capital.

They are required to

The citizens are re-

till Saturday.

tration purpose.

fices of the programme.

January 01, 2018.

The petition further

Bushra challenges

Nikah during iddat

case in IHC

Ulema for collaborating with NEECA on this national cause

He said that achieving behavioral change at the national level requires collective efforts, and Ulema, through their sermons, can significantly impact society by discouraging the wasteful use of energy. He said that NEECA has developed a booklet with the support of Ulema, focusing on energy conservation from a religious perspective.

FGEHA continues operation against illegal

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) has continued a targeted operation against illegal encroachments in the Green Belt area between Sector G-13 and G-12, as well as in G-15/3 in Islamabad. The encroachment operation was launched in collaboration Encroachment Wing Islamabad Police, and IC Administration which aimed to address unauthorized constructions

encroachments

Posters urge

people to voice

for demand of

UN resolutions

ISLAMABAD (APP)

Posters have appeared in

parts of Indian illegally oc-

cupied Jammu and Kashmir

urging people to raise

voices for the resolution of

the Kashmir dispute based

on the right to self-deter-

mination, pledged to the

Kashmiris in its resolution

passed on 5th January

Media Service, the posters

displayed in Islamabad dis-

trict by pro-freedom orga

nizations, said that the BJP

government while continu-

ing their atrocities and state

terrorism is changing the

demography of the territory

keeping Kashmiris under

According to Kashmir



Advisor to the Prime Minister on Aviation, Air

US President Advisor

on Arts Shahid calls on

Minister for Culture ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa- businessman Shahid Ahmed

Khan. Advisor to the Presi-

dent of the United States

said that he had frequently

travelled to Pakistan and

was interested in working

on the rich cultural heritage

the Minister also offered

Fateha on the sad demise

of Shahid Ahmed Khan

the President of the United States on Arts Shahid

Ahmed Khan along with

Minister for National Heri-

tage and Culture Jamal Shah

visited Islamabad Museum

located at Sir Syed Memo-

During the meeting,

Later, the Advisor to

of the region.

mother.

rial Building

kistani-American business-

man Shahid Ahmed Khan,

Advisor to the President of

United States on Arts on

Monday called on Interim

Federal Minister for Na-

tional Heritage and Culture

Jamal Shah here at Culture

Division. During the meet-

ing, the Minister highlighted

the important role of cul-

tural exchanges in strength-

ening bilateral relations be-

United States.

tween Pakistan and the

such exchanges people of

both countries could better

understand each other's

perspectives and cultures.

He said that through

Pakistani-American

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: According to the details, the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (IĈCPO) Ďr Akbar Nasir Khan chaired a meeting with foreign diplomats and regional security officers of embassies at Diplomatic Enclave, a public relations officer said.

He said that, CPO Security Division, SSP Security Division and officials from other law enforcement

ranged every year. Emphasizing the utmost priority of ensuring the security of foreign missions, embassies, and offices, ICCPO highlighted the continuous enhancement of security measures at the diplomatic enclave through modern technology.
ICCPO Dr. Akbar

Nasir Khan said that, as part of these efforts the protective barrier of the diplomatic enclave is reconstructed, while modern cameras



departments were also ent during the occasion. During the meeting,

the ICCPO wished a Happy New Year to the meeting participants and briefed the foreign diplomats and embassies regional security officers about the steps taken by Islamabad Capital Police to ensure foolproof security arrangements around the diplomatic enclave. This meeting was ar- added.

equipped with advanced technology are being installed along the internal and external roads, perimeter walls, and surrounding routes

Effective measures are being taken for the surveillance and monitoring of vehicles, motorcyclists, and pedestrians, with increased emphasis on mobile and foot patrols within the diplomatic enclave, he

NASTP park aims to transform country into Knowledge economy, create jobs: DG

ISLAMABAD (APP): Di- country's leading researchrector General National Aerospace Science and Technology Park (NASTP) Air Vice Marshal (RETD) Asad Ikram said on Monday that the 'Digital Science Park' was established in Karachi to transform the country into a knowledgebased economy and provide employment opportunities for the youth.

Talking to PTV news channel, he said that it was part of a strategic initiative designed to benefit the country in numerous ways, adding, that these parks will serve as a launchpad for the

ers, innovators, and entrepreneurs

He added that NASTP is a project of national and strategic significance that would yield manifold benefits for the country, adding, that it would spur technological progress and foster self-reliance by offering a platform to the

He said that under this project we will set a model for the whole nation, adding, that the 'Digital Science Park' would conceived as a world-class facility that will promote multidisciplinary

innovations. The government will give special emphasis to science and technology education to enable the youth to reach their potential, he further mentioned.

'Equipping the youth with the latest technologies will help create immense opportunities for them," he added.

Replying to a question, he said that NSTP will include agriculture technology, automobile technology, education technology, and energy technology and will create a further scope of

Daily Soice of Masse. Independent

Tuesday January 16, 2024

Missing empathy

In recent days, the missing persons' issue has attracted much back and forth between a group of determined protesters seeking the whereabouts of their disappeared loved ones, and a caretaker government that simply refuses to recognise their anguish as legitimate.

Amidst repeated attempts to gaslight the protesters and paint them as troublemakers, a fresh report submitted by the Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances gives the lie to the state's position that it has been unfairly criticised.

In the report, requisitioned by the Supreme Court, the commission has conceded that merely seven per cent of the production orders issued by it have ever been complied with.

Considering that production orders are issued for individuals believed to be in state custody, it is no wonder that the vast majority of victims' families see the authorities as complicit in the disappearance of their loved ones.

Last week, an Islamabad High Court justice underlined once again that the higher authorities, including the prime minister and his cabinet, are responsible for ensuring the right to liberty of all Pakistani citizens.

He also expressed the hope that the officials directly responsible for disappearing citizens will one day be prosecuted. He made these remarks as protests were roiling In contrast, the northern Balochistan, where more people region, stretching from Gepco to Gilgit-Baltistan, have reportedly been disappeared despite the massive spotlight shining on this issue.

Meanwhile in Islamabad, the veals the gravity of the situation. In 2022, the north-Baloch Yakjehti Committee, led by Mahrang Baloch, continues to wait on the government in Islamabad, hoping it would make some attempt at rapprochement. Along with other BYC leaders, she remains camped outside the National Press Club, still knocking on the state's door, still hoping the Baloch will be welcomed in.

One hopes it won't be long. From the 'welcome' given to these protesters by the Islamabad police, the hurtful remarks made about their 'duplicity' by the caretaker prime minister, and a fresh insult from the Balochistan caretaker mocracy. information minister, who on Wednesday accused the protesters of using their grief to get visas for other countries, the state has made a mess of the situation.

There has recently been a global outcry against the subjugation of historically disadvantaged people, and this the common flaw of inadseems like a particularly bad time for Pakistan to be presenting itself as a case study. One wonders what the state believes it stands to gain from such tac-

The country is in turmoil: internal security is weakening, the political arena remains gripped in chaos, the economy is on the ventilator, and too many social groups seem unhappy about the state's oppressive policies towards them.

Given the breadth of challenges facing the country, those the required details remain who have assumed responsibility for it must start putting out fires, not stirring up more structural changes like fiscal devolution. The ANP trouble for future generations. manifesto primarily ad-

Pakistan's Afghan predicament



Maleeha Lodhi

While engagement continues between Pakistani officials and Taliban authorities the core issue at the heart of tensions between the two countries is nowhere near reso-

Over the past year, relations have become increasingly strained as Pakistan's security concerns about the outlawed Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), based in Afgha-nistan, have not elicited a meaningful response from Kabul. Pakistan's repeated public warnings to the Taliban about the consequences of TTP's crossborder attacks seemed to have little effect.

When the Taliban returned to power in August 2021, Islamabad hoped this would help Pakistan secure its western border. But this expectation was not met. Instead, there was a marked

and terrorist attacks targeting Pakistan's security forces. Successive reports the UN Security Council's Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team found the "TTP benefitted the most of all the foreign extremist groups in Afghanistan from the Taliban takeover"

ment, contained in a leaked defence ministry report last May, was similar. The report said that Kabul's unwillingness to act against the TTP and its regrouping in Afghanistan after the Taliban's assumption of power posed a growing threat to Pakistan's security. Meanwhile statements

Pakistan's own assess-

by the military voiced serious concerns about "the safe havens and liberty of action available to the TTP in Afghan-istan". In July, Army Chief General Asim Munir warned of an "effective response" by the country's security forces if attacks continued from Afghanistan. Other Pakistani officials asked Kabul to choose between the TTP and Pakistan.

The surge in terrorist activities in 2023 led to a beginning to wear thin. significant rise in the casual-

which hit an eight-year high. This left Islamabad increasingly frustrated. Attacks by TTP became more audacious after the collapse of its ceasefire with the government in November 2022. The short-lived ceasefire was itself a misguided and futile attempt by the Pakistani authorities to end the armed group's 14-year war on Pakistan.

A wave of violence followed. In one of the worst incidents of terrorism, the TTP attacked a mosque in Peshawar's police lines in January 2023, which claimed nearly a hundred lives and shook the country. Then too dire warnings were issued by Pakistani officials to the Taliban authorities. But to little avail. Several rounds of talks

and multiple interactions

with Taliban officials last

year produced no outcome.

In these talks Taliban lead-

ers offered assurances about restraining the TTP but asked for time to accomplish this. They also argued that containing TTP was a question of their capacity and not commitment. Islamabad's patience was

was dispatched to Kabul in February 2023 to convey Pakistan's red line on terror attacks from Afghan soil and secure a firm commitment from Kabul to rein in TTP and deny it the sanctuary its fighters enjoy there. In these parleys Taliban leaders apparently asked for financial help, ostensibly to disarm and resettle TTP fighters, estimated to be around 5,000, away from the border with Pakistan.

All this amounted to nothing especially as this was accompanied by Taliban leaders' 'advice' that Pakistan should revive negotiations with the TTP. This in fact proved to be a turning point urging Islamabad to rethink its Afghan policy. Against this backdrop

Pakistani authorities began to shift course and adopted a tougher policy towards Kabul. Any talks with TTP were firmly rejected. A number of actions followed, designed to mount pressure on the Taliban leadership and raise the costs of its noncooperation on TTP. They included the de-

cision to deport tens of thousands of undocumented Afghans from the country

regulations governing transit trade by imposition of a ban on many import items from Pakistan (which led to thousands of stranded containers that were prevented from going to Afghanistan.) Islamabad also intensified public criticism of Kabul, accusing it of harbouring Pakistan's enemies. All this showed that Islamabad was prepared to deploy several levers to pressure the Taliban

In response, Kabul indicated its keenness to mend ties with Islamabad while urging it to decouple trade from terrorism and desist from forcing it to take actions under pressure. The recent visit of an Afghan delegation to Pakistan marked an effort to reengage on issues of priority for both sides at a time when a regular meeting of the joint coordination committee was also due.

Led by Kandahar Governor Mullah Sherin Akhund, reputed to be a close confidante of Taliban supreme leader Mullah Hibatullah Akhundzada, the delegation was deemed as a serious effort to defuse ten-The Afghan sions. delegation's 'asks' included A high-level delegation and substantial change in the release of containers Courtesy Dawn

among other trade issues and a slowing down of the repatriation process for the winter months. The Pakistani side made it clear that movement on the core issue of TTP was essential to address other issues and that patience on that count had already run out.

In playing for time and not setting out any plan of action to deal with TTP, this again raised the question of the Taliban's seriousness. That Mullah Sherin offered to take Pakistan's message back to the Taliban chief was about the only outcome from the parleys on TTP. Pakistani officials see this as a test in coming months of the top Taliban leadership's intentions. They say the jury is out on whether it will change course and address the issue. But then the jury has been out for quite some

The key question is what are Pakistan's options if the Taliban show continued unwillingness to act against the TTP. There are no easy answers as there are limits to the leverage Pakistan can use in a coercive approach without risking a rupture in relations, which it would want to avoid. --

the electricity challenge **Tackling**

Dr Khalid Waleed

Pakistan is once again facing a shortfall of electricity in winter. Last year, there was a nationwide electricity blackout on account of similar issues. It then becomes essential to discuss in detail the various conundrums and need for integrated planning in the power sector.

The country's power infrastructure is primarily structured along the southnorth, with major power lines connecting the southern and northern regions. These regions are not only geographically distinct but also differ in their electricity generation profiles.

The southern area, extending from the coastal belts of Sindh and Balochistan to the Guddo Thermal Power Station, includes diverse electricity suppliers like K-Electric, Hesco, Sepco, and Qesco. comprises areas serviced by Iesco, Hazeco, and Pesco.

A closer look at power consumption patterns reern region consumed about 24,389 GWh of electricity, while the central region, which spans from Guddo to Gujranwala Electric Power Company and includes service areas of Mepco, Fesco, Lesco, and Gepco, consumed a staggering 71,721 GWh.

This geographical distribution of power generation and consumption leads to what can be termed as the 'consumption conundrum'. Each region has a heterogeneous mix of electricity generation sources: the north is rich in hydro resources, the south boasts coal, nuclear, and wind plants, and the central region, being the most urbanized, generates the majority of the electricity demand.

Adding to this conundrum is the power generation mix predominantly reliant on fossil fuels. The majority of these fossil fuelbased power plants, except for a few like those in Kot Addu and Port Oasim are located in the north. This region also houses major hydro dams like Tarbela and Mangla.

However, the bulk of nuclear power generation, which forms a minor share of the overall mix, is situeven distribution creates a availability, cease power 'north-south generation conundrum'. During winter, when hydro dams reduce their output, the central and northern regions increasingly depend on electricity from the south.

This dependency exacerbates the power shortfall, as the dated transmission system struggles with frequent tripping and is prone to nationwide blackouts, especially under foggy or smoggy conditions. This phenomenon is aptly described as the 'south-north barrier'.

The seasonal variation in electricity demand further complicates the situation. Climate change, with its impact on rising temperatures, has led to a significant increase in electricity demand during summer, primarily for cooling purposes. This seasonal fluctuation sees summer peak demands soaring to around 30,000MW, contrasting sharply with the winter demand of approximately 18,000MW.

Concurrently there is an increased demand for gas in winter, leading to what can be described as an 'energy-economics-conundrum'. Hydro dams, which ated in the south. This unare dependent on water

generation due to canal closures in winter. Additionally, many fossil fuel plants undergo maintenance shutdowns in preparation for the summer peak season.

Economic constraints compel planners to limit electricity generation from expensive imported power plants (while still incurring capacity charges) and to rely more on indigenous coal-based plants. This strategy, while economically motivated, leaves the system vulnerable to tripping, widespread interruptions, and outages. The energy economics conundrum combined with the southnorth transmission barrier and power consumption conundrum cause short fall and inefficient transmission of power in winter.

Addressing these conundrums, especially dur-ing the winter season, requires a comprehensive and strategic approach. Implementing an array of solutions that encompass intetion, foreign investment, and organizational transformation can pave the way for a more resilient and efficient power system.

tions: First, integrated planning is paramount. There is a need for a cohesive national energy strategy that harmoniously integrates the various facets of power generation, transmission, and distribution.

This plan should be sensitive to Pakistan's geographical and seasonal energy dynamics and aim for a well-balanced mix of energy sources, considering the regional disparities in energy production and consumption. Second. a transition towards renewable energy should be prioritized. Pakistan's rich potential in solar and wind energy, particularly in its southern and central regions, offers a sustainable solution to the 'north-south generation conundrum'. This transition should encompass both large-scale renewable projects and smaller, local

initiatives. and modernization of the grid system is crucial. Upgrated planning, renewable energy transition, digitizagies will enhance its efficiency and reliability. Implementing smart grid technologies can lead to better demand management, reduced Here's a detailed ex- transmission losses, and a

ploration of these solu- more responsive system in case of faults or emergencies. Fourth, attracting Chinese investment into the transmission system can be a game-changer. Building on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) partnership, Chinese expertise and funding can significantly contribute to upgrading Pakistan's transmission infrastructure, bringing in both capital and technical knowledge. Last, investing in capacity building and public awareness is critical. A team of engineers, economists and environmental experts can steer the power sector towards sustainability. Training programmes and awareness campaigns about energy conservation and the benefits of renewable energy will be key in the successful implementation of these policies.

A comprehensive approach that combines technological innovation infrastructural improve-Third, the digitization ments, strategic planning, regulatory reforms, and collaborative efforts across various stakeholders is escome its winter electricity transmission challenges and move towards a more sustainable and efficient energy future. -- Courtesy TheNews

Empowering local governance



Abdullah Khalid

As the promise of elections looms, manifestos take centre stage, promising reform and progress. In our volatile context, empowering local governments is a crucial, yet often overlooked pathway towards a more responsive and resilient de-

Despite constitutional provisions for devolution, Pakistan's local governance system remains hobbled by a plethora of challenges Over-centra-lisation, inadequate financial resources, weak institutional capacities and limited citizen have parti--cipation plagued this tier of government. Though varying in detail, existing Local Gov-ernment Acts share equate devolution and excessive provincial control. As general elections

approach, parties are driven by political considerations, which shape their approaches to local governance. A review of some manifestos reveals inconsistent approaches to local governance. The PML-N, while promising devolution and financial autonomy, focuses on party-aligned initiatives. The PTI manifesto touches upon citizen participation and local development but lacks concrete mechanisms for implemen-The emphasises that rural development aligns with local vague. The PML-Q focuses

on administrative reforms

and overlooks the need for

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's specific needs but merely offers insights into a broader vision for local governance. The JUI focuses on religious values and social conservatism but doesn't adequately address the systemic issues hindering local governments. The MQM's urbancentric approach highlights the need for tailored solutions for diverse local con-

texts but lacks comprehen-

The pathway to

democratic empowerment is linked to genuine empowerment of local governments. This demands action on multiple fronts, particularly on the legislative side. There is a dire need for a constitutional amendment to dedicate a chapter to local government, outlining its autonomy, functions, and financial resources. Another important factor is an independent election commission. Establishing an independent body to oversee local elections, prevent manipulation, and ensure transparency is crucial and pivotal for the empowerment and strengthening of local governments. Grants also need to be tied to service delivery indicators. Most experts may not be of this opinion, but by extending RTI laws to local governments, transparency

and citizen oversight can be The policy landscape presents a curious paradox. On one hand, the National Finance Commis-sion (NFC) Award and the 18th Amendment stand as cornerstones of devolution, transferring significant financial and administrative responsibilities to local governments. The NFC Award, in particular, mandates a minimum of 57.5 per cent of divisible federal resources to be distributed among the provinces, with a further 10pc earmarked for local governments. The 18th Amendment, for its part, devolved 26 subjects, including education, health, and sanitation, to local

Local government

representatives can be more than just service providers. They can become catalysts for progress in diverse areas such as ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance), Corporate Social Responsibility, and Disaster Risk Management. Local governments can proenvironmental sustainability through waste management, renewable energy projects, and green infrastructure development. Additionally, they can champion social causes like women's empowerment, youth development, and minority inclusion. Local governments can foster partnerships with businesses and civil society organisations to address pressing issues like poverty, illiteracy, and healthcare access. This can create a collaborative ecosystem for social good and shared responsibility. Local governments can also be pivotal in disaster preparedness and response, leading community-based initiatives for early warning systems, evacuation plans, and post-disaster

rebuilding efforts. Pakistan's political manifestos must transcend rhetoric and translate into genuine commitment to local government empowerment. A comprehensive vision is needed, encompassing legislative reforms, capacity building, financial independence, and citizen participation. Only then can local governments become the engines of development, democracy, and social justice Pakistan desperately needs. The upcoming elections present a critical opportunity for parties to break free from political expediency and embrace a fransformative vision for local governance. The future of Pakistan's democracy hangs in the balance. -- Courtesy Dawn

Southern promises



Zarrar Khuhro

Why South Africa? Of all the 195 countries that make up this world, why was it this nation that took Israel to court for its genocide of the Palestinian people?

Unlike the Muslim and Arab countries, South Africa has no real ethnic, cultural or religious affinity with Palestine and — unlike the Arab states — is located over 7,000km from Gaza. Why then did South Africa take on the Zionist state when those much closer — in all senses — to Palestine have chosen to remain silent spectators to mass murder?

The answer lies in history and in the shared experience of brutalisation by a white supremacist settler regime that prides itself on apartheid and bloody repression. Israel was created in 1948, the same year that the apartheid regime came

into force in South Africa. This coincidence aside, both states soon recognised that their status as white settler colonies established at the expense of local populations made them brothers in arms. This unholy dalliance officially began in 1953 when Daniel Malan, the prime minister of apartheid South Africa, conducted an official tour of Israel, which marked the beginning of a very close

alliance. In years to come, the alliance grew stronger with both apartheid nations learning from and supporting each other in repressing their respective native populations. Palestinian population centres were cut off from each other in much

rica created 'Bantustans', powerless black African statelets meant to ensure the exclusion of blacks from the South African political system.

The similarity was acknowledged and celebrated at the highest levels, with African PM Hendrick Verwoerd, known as the architect of the Bantustan project, himself saying "The Jews took Israel from the Arabs after the Arabs had lived there for a thousand years. Israel, like South Africa, is an apart-

heid state. And while Israel would loudly condemn apartheid on international forums the reality was that it considered South Africa a kindred nation, with Israeli general Rafael Eitan saying that South African blacks "want to gain control over the white minority just like the Arabs here want to gain control over us... And we, like the white minority in South Africa, must act to prevent them from taking over.'

Keeping these populations in check was also a shared priority and Israel would provide anti-riot vehicles, weapons and training for the forces of white South Africa; in the '80s hundreds of Israeli military advisors were stationed in South Africa while Pretoria's troops were training in Israel. Israel also helped

their ideological cousins deprogramme, with Pretoria finishing at least six nuclear bombs, all of which were later dismantled when South African president F.W. De Klerk abandoned the nuclear programme in an effort to rehabilitate South Africa's global im-

Speaking of image, Israel often ran interference for South Africa in an effort to insulate their ally from foreign pressure, setting up a 'Joint Secretariat for Political and Psycho-

the same way as South Af- logical Warfare' in 1975 to conduct "propaganda and psychological warfare," as part of a well-funded bilateral campaign to rehabilitate South Africa's international image.

But every action has a reaction, and as Israel cosied up to apartheid South Africa, the Palestine Liberation Organisation deepened its ties with Nelson Mandela's African

National Congress. Just as South Africa's white supremacist PM was one of the first major heads of state to visit Israel, one of the first leaders Mandela met on his release from jail in 1990 was none other than Yasser Arafat, who also asked Mandela's advice prior to the Oslo Accords. Mandela him-self remained a lifelong supporter of the Palestinian cause and famously remar-ked that "Our freedom is incomplete without the freedom of Pales-tinians.

s a result, the powerful Israeli lobby sp--a--red no effort when it came to demonising Mandela and the ANC, with the Israeliba-c-k--ed Anti-Defamation League condemning the ANC as "totalitarian, anti-humane, anti-democratic, anti-Israel and anti-American.

Israel's greatest ally and partner in crime, the US, played a malign role as well, with strong evidence indicating that the CIA played a part in tracking Mandela's movements and leaking that information to the apartheid regime, leading to his 27year-long incarceration. Mandela himself remained on the USA's terrorist atchlist till 2008.

Today, we see history come full circle, with the sons and daughters of those who struggled against oppression and injustice in outh Africa seeking to free their Palestinian brothers and sisters from the shackles of a murderous regime. Courtesy Dawn

LHC wraps up petition seeking disbandment of Punjab care taker set up

has wrapped up petitions taker set up in Punjab and reply from federation

The petitions filed by Sheikh Rashid and Zaman Virdig came up for hearing before single bench of LHC led by Justice Shahid

Federal government, election commission and governor Punjab have been made respondents in the

The petitioner took the plea the sitting government has completed its tenure after Supreme

LAHORE (Online): Court (SC) order for Lahore High Court (LHC) holding election on May 14 in Punjab. No care taker seeking abolition of care set up can stay after 90 days. The incumbent care constitution of new care taker government is taker set up declaring them in-fructuous in the light of unconstitutionally in

government of Punjab be abolished forthwith and order be issued for establishment of new interim set up in Punjab. The counsel for

federal government argued the said matter is pending hearing in Supreme Court (SC) too. SC has given order to hold election. Election schedule has been issued. The elections are going to be held on



KARACHI: Lady Health Workers and vaccinators of Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Karachi press club.

Home Deptt seeks details of focal persons other staff for election duty from DEOs

PESHAWAR (APP): The letter of the Home Home Department of Department, the education sought the details of focal

of all districts. should be nominated by all the district education officers and their data been established.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has department has instructed all the district education persons and other staff officers to formally including watchmen for nominate focal persons in election duty from the District Education Officers connection with the general election 2024 and send A letter issued here said that the focal persons related details. It further directed the DEOs to assign responsibilities to the watchmen of the schools should be sent at the where polling stations have earliest, adding that all the been set up and regularly watchmen should be share the details with the assigned duties wherever Education Department so the polling stations have that the data could be n established. shared with the Election Commission.

PHC extends pre-arrest bail of three PTI leaders

PESHAWAR (APP): A judge of Peshawar High Court (PHC) Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim on Monday extended the pre-arrest bail of three PTI leaders Aftab Alam, Dawood Shah and Shafuullah till January 29.

The lawyer of the petitioners said that Aftab Alam was a candidate from PK 90, Dawood Shah from PK 91 and Shafiullah from elections, adding that six

convention in Kohat on December 10

Meanwhile, candidate Shehryar Afridi approached the High Court against the allotment of a random election symbol to him by the returning officer.

In his petition, he said that the Election Commission had allotted a random symbol of "bottle" without his consultation. PK 92 for upcoming adding that despite repeated contacts the cases have been registered Returning Officer did not against them for holding a give any response.

Dera police seize illegal fuel worth over Rs 2.247 million

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): The drive against business and smuggling of illegal fuel continued successfully across the district as Dera police seized illicit fuel worth Rs 2.247 million during different operations.

According to a police spokesman, the police have launched a crackdown against the sale and smuggling of illegal fuel the district following the directives of District Police Officer

Qaisrani. He said a team of Mughalkot police station led by SDPO Darazinda Circle Sherullah Khan along with SHO Fawad Khan Sherani, during the checking of different vehicles, recovered 6000 litres of Iranian Diesel.

Similarly, a team of Daraban Police Station led by SDPO Daraban Circle Malik Aneesul Hasan along with SHO Abdul Ghaffar Khan recovered 2000 litres of Iranian Diesel from a vehicle bearing registration number (LTD-3197).



LAHORE: Patron-in-Chief of Private Nursing Colleges Federation Mahmood Sadiq Dhotar and President of Lahore Press Club Arshad Ansari are signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in the ceremony regarding the admission of children of journalists on scholarship in private Nursing



Services/Mobile App at Lahore Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education

Naqvi inaugurates 37 police stations, 5 projects in Gujranwala

Mohsin Naqvi, accompanied by the cabinet, embarked on an extensive 6-hour visit to Gujranwala, inaugurating 37 police stations, 5 projects, and inspecting the Lahore Sialkot Motorway Link Road.

The link road to Gujranwala is slated for traffic opening by January 31, accompanied by the construction of a flyover at 'Chan Da Qila' to connect the Expressway with GT Road, said a handout issued here on Monday.
The CM commended

Independent Report the progress on of a committee to finalize ongoing work at AHORE: Punjab Gujranwala's roads, the design of the 'Chan Da Gujranwala University and Caretaker Chief Minister announcing the formation Qila' Flyover. Updates on hospital upgrades.

CM inaugurates 'Arfa Teacher Chatbot'in honor of Arfa Karim

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi paid a heartfelt tribute to Arfa Karim, the great daughter of the nation, during his visit to the Arfa Software Technology Park on Ferozepur Road here on Monday.

The CM inaugurated the "Arfa Teacher Chatbot" in honor of the visionary Arfa

Karim and, as a symbol of remembrance, lit candles at the technology park. He also visited the Arfa Karim Technology Incubator, commending the Arfa Karim Foundation's endeavors in advancing IT initiatives.

Mohsin Naqvi expressed appreciation for the Arfa Karim Foundation team introduced to him, stating that there could be no better homage to Arfa Karim. He emphasized the role of digitalization and IT in aligning educational visions with contemporary requirements. The newly launched "Arfa Teacher Chatbot" is positioned as a tool to enhance Pakistan's positive global image and contribute to skill development.

at public sector under the direction of chairman PITB Muhammad Waseem.

LPC, Private Nursing Colleges sign MoU

LAHORE (APP): The wery welcome thing for the MoU signing ceremony between Private Nursing they will be able to get between Private Nursing Colleges Federation and Lahore Press Club (LPC) was held on Monday in a

Nursing Colleges today.
Federation Mehmood Dr. Sania Khera said Sadiq, President Nadeem Pal, Dr. Sania Khera, Lahore Press Club President Arshad Ansari, Secretary Zahid Abid, Senior Vice President Shiraz Hasnat, Vice President Amjad Usmani and all members of the governing participated

Arshad Ansari, while thanking the officials of the

nursing education at a low cost. He said that the profession of nursing deserves high respect and In the ceremony, it is a field in which there Patron-in-Chief of Private are job opportunities even it is a field in which there

> that serving humanity is the mission of her federation and under this mission she is here today. He said that he and his team will also organize a medical camp in Lahore Press Club every On this occasion, a

luncheon was also organized in honor of the newly elected body of Lahore Press Club, Shields Private Nursing Colleges
Federation, said that it is a were also presented to the newly elected officials.

PITB, Al-Khidmat Foundation sign MoU

LAHORE (APP): The Faisal Information Technology Board's e-filing and office automation system received a huge success at government level. Now the private sector also requested its services. The PITB and Al-Khidmat foundation signed an MOU here on Monday. Following the successful implementation of e-Foas

supervision of Government Services Wing Muhammad Waseem Bhatti, private sector had also taken up the services. The MoU was signed between the Government Digital Services Wing of the PITB Al-Khidmat Foundation. Director Government Digital Services Wing



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori addressing a press conference at Governor House. Zafar Abbas of JDC is also present on the occasion.

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The enchanting landscapes

of Gilgit-Baltistan are set

witness

unprecedented celebration

of winter sports as the

annual seven-day Winter

Feast commenced on

mark a historic milestone

with the inclusion of the

National Ice Hockey

Championship, promising

a week of exhilarating

competitions and cultural

events, according to event

the festival's history, they

said that the National Ice

Hockey Championship

takes center stage, drawing

teams from various regions,

including both male and

female competitors. The

icy battlegrounds are ready

to host an intense

showdown of skill, speed,

For the first time in

This year's festivities

Monday.

organizers

Excitement at peak as

Gilgit-Baltistan's annual

Winter Feast kicks off

and teamwork as the

hockey, the festival boasts

a lineup of diverse

competitions, including Ice

Skating and traditional

local games such as Basra,

Pindok, and Baalbut.

Participants from across

Gilgit-Baltistan are gearing

up to showcase their

prowess in these unique

and culturally significant

of this year's event is the

active participation of

female teams in various

competitions, breaking

barriers and showcasing

talent

winter sports.

of athletics.

festival reflects

determination of women in

inclusive nature of the

commitment to promoting

gender equality in the realm

One of the highlights

contests.

Beyond the thrill of ice

players vie for victory

Passenger bus overturns due to fog, 2 people die, 26 injured in Gujranwala

GUJRANWALA (Online): A passenger bus has been overturned due to heavy fog in Gujranwala as a result of which 2 passengers were killed and 26 were seriously injured. There were 50

passengers in the bus. According to details, the bus full of passengers was going from Kohat to when uncontrollably overturned due to heavy fog in Gujranwala while taking a

2 passengers died on the scene while 26 are seriously injured as a result

of the incident. After the incident, the escue teams reached the scene. The dead bodies and injured have been shifted to nearby hospital in which many of them are said to be in critical condition.

Three found dead

FAISALABAD (APP): Three persons were found dead in the areas of two police stations during the last 24 hours.

A police report said that a 45-year-old man was found dead near Chak No 225-RB while another person about 35 was found Dhudiwala, from Jarranwala road in Saddar police limits. Third body, about 45, was recovered

KARACHI: A view of the newly born cubs of African **Resolving the issues** of the masses is top priority: DIG Hazara

(APP): Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Police Hazara division Mohammad Ijaz Khan Monday lauded the people of Kohistan for their cooperation with the police, recognizing their efforts as commendable for the betterment of the

He expressed these views while addressing a Khuli Kuthcery at Koz Paro police station Kolai Palis and meeting with a delegation of the elders.

The DIG also assured the immediate resolution of within jurisdiction and committed to conveying valuable suggestions and concerns to higher authorities

expressed gratitude to DIG Hazara for his presence and brought attention to pertinent issues related to policing and law enforcement in the region.

DIG Mohammad Ijaz Khan while addressing the community during the Khuli Kutchery expressed appreciation for the involvement of religious scholars, dignitaries, and people in police meetings. He underscored that the top priority for the Hazara Police is to promptly address the concerns of the people and facilitate free and speedy access to

DIG Hazara urged the community to collaborate in identifying drug dealers, delegation and other offenders.

'Women-driven EV 'Pink scooties' to take over streets of Punjab soon, Minister Scooties', adding, that the reflects the government's

Independent Report

Transport Ibrahim Hasan Murad said on Monday that the Punjab government has initiated a plan to introduce 'Pink EV Pink Scooties' to make women safer, which will provide livelihood to women for economic and domestic needs.

Talking to the PTV news channel, he said that the government of Punjab has initiated a program scheme to empower Pakistani females by atmosphere.

the first phase of this He explained that this

positive impacts on women and girls, adding, that women with Pink EV scooters will not wait at the bus stops for long hours for buses, vans and other transport they can travel from one place to another with a safe and friendly 'Pink ambitious

government through a commitment to sustainable lucky draw will give over transportation solutions 2000 to 3000 scooties in and environmental conservation, he added. Talking about EV

motorbikes and Rickshaws, scheme has various he said that this initiative aims to provide a sustainable and ecofriendly mode of transportation while promoting the use of electric vehicles.

He said the Punjab government has begun the registration of electric vehicles through the initiative Punjab Bank of Pakistan.



casualties is reported due to slow speed, three bogies of Shalimar Express derailed from the tracks near Bin Qasim Railway in Karachi.

Two killed, five injured in various incidents

FAISALABAD (APP): Two persons were killed while five others were injured in separate incidents near here on Monday.

According to Rescue-1122, a security guard was on duty in a private housing colony when he accidentally touched the heater, suffered fatal shock and died on-the-spot. In the meantime, his clothes caught fire from the heater and the body was burnt The victim was identified as Muhammad Shahbaz s o Allah Rakha.

The dead body was handed over to Khurrianwala police station.

An addict, about 50 was found unconscious near Digluspura.

ANF recovers 417 kg drugs in 7 operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting seven operations across the country managed to recover 417 kg of drugs and arrested six accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday. He informed that 156 kg hashish and 48 kg opium were recovered near Mandra Toll Plaza Rawalpindi and two suspects were arrested.

52 kg hashish, 41 kg opium and 21 kg morphine were recovered from the Nokandi area.

Commissioner reviews progress on new e-registry centers

LAHORE Commissioner Muhammad Ali Randhawa has revealed plans to set up state-of-the-art eregistry centers in Raiwind and Shalimar.

The officers have assigned responsibilities for the successful establishment and operation of the new e-registry centers in the provincial capital.

In a meeting held on Monday at his office, the commissioner examined progress of establishing eregistry centers in Lahore. Stressing the collaborative role of these centers with centers would adhere to communities, deadlines.

(APP): Randhawa underlined his commitment to providing relief in accordance with contemporary needs. The proven success of Punjab's first e-registry model center has already delivered significant relief to citizens.

Randhawa affirmed

that the upcoming registration centers would mirror the efficiency of the initial model, embracing a corporate sector approach He emphasized a rigorous evaluation of project progress on a daily, 24hour basis. The commissioner

said that these e-registry

Federal Ombudsman regional office to hold 'Khuli Kutchery'

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Following the directives of Federal Ömbudsman Ejaz Ahmed Qureshi, a Khuli Kutchery will be held in Tehsil Municipal Office (TMA) Ghazi on Tuesday. Advisor Abdul Ghaffoor Baig from the Federal Ombudsman Regional Office Abbottabad will preside over the Kutchery

to listen to complaints. Federal Ombudsman Secretary Regional Office Abbottabad Advisor Abdul Ghaffoor Baig, along with Deputy Advisor Khalid

Saeed will inaugurate the Khuli Kutchery in TMA office Ghazi on Tuesday at

The Khuli Kutchery will address complaints related to departments in Lora. Abdul Ghaffoor Baig has informed the people of Tehsil Ghazi and its adjacent areas that they can present their complaints at

this Khuli Kutchery. if anyone has any complaint related to WAPDA, NADRA, Post Office, National Highways

内江市人民政府

NEIJIANG: Ambassador of Pakistan to China, Mr. Khalil Hashmi addressing

a ceremony arranged by the city government of Neijiang city, celebrating the arrival of the first batch of 182 tons of Pakistani dry chilies.

Huge opportunities of

investment available in

AJK: Barrister Sultan

twin industrial districts of

Mirpur and Bhimbher in

Referring to the region's favourable climate

and investment-friendly

environment, the president

said that the Private sector

can invest in various

sectors of Azad Kashmir.

He said that besides it is

natural resources Azad

Kashmir has huge human

people from Azad Kashmir

are working in Europe,

Middle East and North

America", he said that

there was no law and order

problem in Azad Jammu

Kashmir while the literacy

sold during July-December

2023-24 as compared to the

sale of 8,906 units during

Yaris car sales also declined

by 56.24 per cent as it

went down to 5,279 units

from 12,065 units in the

also decreased by 68.75 per

cent as its sales went down

to 2,230 units from 7,136

units last year. Sale of

Suzuki Cultus declined to

previous year.

Toyota Corolla and

Suzuki Swift's sales

July-December 2022-23.

"About 1.5 million

particular.

Azad Jammu and Kashmir

President Barrister Sultan

Mahmood Chaudhry said

on Monday that huge

nvestment stood available

oublic representative

delegations at Jammu

Kashmir house in the

federal metropolis, the President invited the

intending entrepreneurs

from across the country besides the UK-based

community to take benefit

of the bright opportunities

of the available huge

potential for investment in

first six months of the

current financial year 2023-

24 has dropped by 55.50

per cent as compared to

the same months of last

year, a recent data released

by Pakistan Automobile

Manufacturing Association

data, as many as 30,662 cars were sold during the

months under review as

opposed to 68,912 units in

the same months of last

According to the

(PAMA) said.

Diaspora

trade and industrial sectors rate was higher than the

Cars'sale drops

55% during Jul-Dec

ISLAMABAD (APP): showed that 3,938 units of

The sale of cars during the Honda Civic and City were

in AJK especially in the provinces of Pakistan.

Talking to various

opportunities

in different sectors.

中国-内江

proposed Muzaffarabad

Mansehra and Mirpur

motorway and Dry port in

the lake view city would

further increase the scope

of investment in the region.

investment areas in Azad

Kashmir, the president said

that some of the key

sectors for investment in

Azad Kashmir included

hydel power generation,

tourism, minerals, IT and

to invest their capital in

Azad Jammu & Kashmir

the AJK president assured

them that they will be

provided with all support

and facilities at the

Gold rates

increase by

Rs.450

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The per tola price of 24

karat gold increased by

Rs.450 and was sold at

Rs.217,900 on Monday

compared to its sale at

Rs.217,450 on last trading

of 24 karat gold also

increased by Rs.386 to

Rs.186,814 from Rs.

186,428 whereas the prices

of 10 gram 22 karat gold

went up to Rs.171,246

from Rs. 170,893 the All

Sindh Sarafa Jewellers

The price of 10 grams

government level

Encouraging investors

small-scale industries.

Referring to the key

ADB's food security forum scheduled in April to tackle escalating food crisis

ISLAMABAD (APP): commitment to allocate a sustainable and resilient The Asia and the Pacific minimum of \$14 billion of food systems, essential for Food Security Forum 2024 is set to take center stage from April 8 to 12, 2024, in Manila, Philippines to discuss actions for easing a worsening food crisis in

This pivotal event, announced by the Asian Development Bank Development (ADB), aims to facilitate discussions on immediate actions to alleviate the worsening food crisis and strategize for long-term food security against the adverse impacts of climate change and biodiversity

The forum would initiatives. serve as an opportunity to evaluate the interim into discussions focused on

support food security between 2022 and 2025.

Additionally, it will outline ADB's forward program on food security, forging partnerships with diverse array of engagement stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region.

According to the ADB announcement, the Asia and the Pacific Food Security Forum 2024 will partners to showcase innovative research,

its own resources to navigating the challenges of climate, food, and nature in

> The significance of the forum extends beyond showcasing initiatives; it is policymakers, government officials, development practitioners, food system and climate change experts as well as ADB staff.

These interactions act as a platform for both aim to build robust public and private sector partnerships in the realms of policies, project their thought leadership implementation, and accelerating Participants will delve transformation of food systems in Asia and the



LAHORE: Warm clothes are being selling at a roadside stalls as the demand of warm clothes and shoes increased in city during the winter season, near

New cargo route important | driver for Pakistan-China trade: Ambassador Hashmi

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan Ambassador to China, Khalil Hashmi said that the new cargo route between Pakistan and China is an important driver for trade between the countries and a significant step forward in bilateral connectivity

development and an goods mainly include important driver for trade textiles, 3C electronic between Pakistan and China. A significant step forward in bilateral connectivity spectrum," he said in a statement.

Ambassador Hashmi said, four airlines with several weekly commercial flights were already operating between the both countries. The new air cargo

route was launched last week linking Ezhou Huahu Airport in central China's Hubei Province with

this year departing from Ezhou Huahu Airport. China's first cargo-focused

The Ezhou-Lahore route is planned to operate three times a week providing over 300 tons of air transport capacity from Ezhou to Lahore every welcome week. The transported

products, electronic equipment, etc.

The opening of this international cargo route will provide an efficient and stable air logistics channel for economic and trade exchanges between China and Pakistan, and provide more logistics convenience for Chinese brands to explore the

Pakistani market. SF Airlines, the aviation branch of China's leading courier enterprise SF Express, to date has The Ezhou-Lahore launched a total of 11 cargo route is the first international cargo routes international air cargo route from Ezhou to global launched by SF Airlines in destinations.

Action ordered against FBR taxmen on complaints of fish exporters

Ombudsman (FTO) has directed the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to initiate action against the officers involved in 'choking' an export-oriented sector and jeopardising the inflow of foreign exchange. The Ombudsman initiated Own Motion (OM) investigation on allegations levelled by Pakistan Exporters Association – of issuance of multiple notices to fish exporters and demanding bribe to settle those causing harassment and hurting inflow of foreign exchange. According to an order

ISLAMABAD (INP): On complaints of fish exporters, the Federal Tax unexplainable withdrawals in certain cases and imposition of heavy taxes in some identical cases by Commissioner Zonal RTO-l Karachi and his team from the exporters of fish, earning foreign exchange for the country causing fear, agony harassment tantamount to maladministration. The stated that the export of fish products mostly to China, Thailand and Middle East countries, is fetching foreign exchange worth \$450 million. "Since the exporters earn foreign exchange to reduce trade deficit, the government has facilitated the exporters by issued by the FTO, the deducting only one percent.

FPCCI to hold **Round Table** Discussion on **Packaging** Sector on 17th

LAHORE (APP): Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) will hold "Round Table Discussion" Packaging Sector Challenges Opportunities" here at its Regional Office on January 17, (Wednesday). **FPCCI**

spokesman told media here Monday that the packaging sector's "industry status" and issues will be discussed. All the stakeholders of the packaging sectors will attend the discussion. There will be five sessions in the packaging sectors. in the Round Table Discussion. The first will session will be introductory in which FPCCI Regional Chairman and Vice President Zaki session Aijaz, Managing Director and CEO of Packages and CEO of Packages Limited, Syed Hyder Ali, Director & CEO of Century Paper & Board Mills Limited, Aftab Ahmed, CEO of Roshan Packages Limited.

Utility stores witness historic surge in sales

ISLAMABAD (INP) The utility stores in akistan have witnessed a historic surge in sales, reportedly due to the impact of government subsidies on essential commodities.

Sources close to the development revealed during the fiscal year 2022-23, utility stores recorded sales of Rs. 137.15 billion without subsidized items, whereas the sales of utilized subsidies were recorded at Rs. 151 billion, posting a net profit of Rs

Sources indicate that the surge in sales was recorded due to subsidies on essential commodities such as flour, sugar, ghee, pulses, and rice. Sources stated that the Utility Stores Corporation.



of the current month were achieved by 102.67 percent, said Food Security Commissioner Imtiaz Ali Gopang. He said that the crop sowing has gained momentum across the wheat-producing areas in the country as Punjab Province has completed wheat sowing over 103.09 percent of areas as against the set targets.

crop sowing over 16.48 million acres compared to the fixed targets of 15.99 million acres during the current season. Meanwhile, Sindh

Province has achieved 106.66 percent of its targets as wheat cultivation in different divisions of the province was completed over 3.16 million acres as

China, Pakistan to forge strong software cooperation

Conference successfully held in Chengdu, China. The Cooperation Negotiation on Standardization and Internationalization, a sub forum of the conference, highlighted the significance of the growing software partnership between China and Pakistan.

During the event, Muhammad Zohaib Khan, Chairman of the Pakistan Software Association, provided an insightful overview of Pakistan's industry, highlighting the country's significant advancements in cybersecurity, AI, gaming, and animation. He also emphasized the attractive incentives available through the Special Technology Authority (STZA).

"Pakistani companies possess expertise in niche areas such as Fintech, Healthcare, E-commerce, and other solutions that are

BEIJING (APP): The 21st in high demand globally. International Collaboration between Software Corporation China and Pakistan can extend beyond services to include joint ventures and co-development initiatives." Mr. Khan stated, he highlighted the impact of Pakistani IT companies in African particularly in sectors like FinTech and Gulf Tech. 'Chinese companies seeking access to these markets can explore collaboration opportunities with their Pakistani counterparts,

> (CEN) reported. In turn, Pakistani companies can seek partnerships with Chinese counterparts to gain access to advanced technologies and research and development resources.

China Economic Net

During the conference, the Pakistan Software Association released introductions and contact information of 38 Pakistani



handcart to use as fuel at traditional mud oven at Misri Shah area of the Provincial Capital.

Financial, digital literacy significant to empower women: President FPCCI

President Federation Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Atif Ikram Sheikh on Monday said that financial and digital literacy is significant for women's

economic empowerment. A delegation of the Islamabad ~ Women's Industry (IWCCI) led by Ms. Samina Fazil Founder

felicitation on their victory in the recent elections of FPCCI, said a press release issued here.

While speaking on the occasion, President FPCCI Mr. Atif İkram Sheikh said that women empowerment is at the top of our agenda without which the dream Chamber of Commerce and of national development cannot be achieved.

President FPCCI said President of IWCCI visited that IWCCI is one of the the Federation of Pakistan most effective women's Chambers of Commerce chambers in the country and Industry FPCCI to which is playing a laudable meet President FPCCI Mr. role in empowering women AtifI kram Sheikh and all through entrepreneurship United Business Group and that the FPCCI.

New BoD of Lahore **Parking Company formed**

the directives of the Punjab chief minister, a new board for a the parking company has been formed to initiate effective measures.

Administrator Metropolitan Corporation Lahore Rafia Haider issued a notification for the Corporation Lahore. The establishment of the additional secretary Lahore Parking Company's new board, comprising

seven members. board of The term, including the deputy commissioner Lahore and secretary District Regional

LAHORE (APP): Under Transport Authority

appointed board will include the chief executive officer of Lahore Parking Company, chief traffic officer, and chief officer of Metropolitan

LG&CD and additional secretary Finance Department will also serve as members. The first directors has been meeting of the BoD will nominated for a three-year recommend a chairman. Administrator MCL Rafia Haider said the selected directors would present.



fixed at 22.22 million acres as the cultivation targets till the largest wheat- the cultivation targets till the largest wheat- 2.97 million acres.

HYDERABAD: Avendor displaying quilts to attract the customers at his shop during winter season. the customers at his shop during winter season.

Pak needs extensive information outflow, data governance to revolutionize agrifood system: Experts



ISLAMABAD: A vendor selling dry fruits at his roadside setup in Federal Capital.

on the potential of agricultural food systems and lessening climate impacts have underscored the need to enhance the extensive flow of information to the stakeholders including media and manage the data

governance for the advanced studies lying on shelves revolutionize the agrifood This was the gist of the Monday series webinar of the Sustainable

Development Policy Institute (SDPI) titled

"Potential of Agrifood Systems and Mitigating

ISLAMABAD (APP): Climate Impacts" held here However, it is important to was a starting step but would have to adapt to The experts at a webinar that was participated understand their impacts rather a positive one in the that was participated virtually by many online participants including members of academia, media and professionals.

Opening the discussion, the Executive Director, SDPI Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri said food is a necessity and climate change is a reality that threatened its access and availability to the masses due to environmental degradation.

He said the year 2023 was declared the hottest year in our history and La Nina and El Nino impacts were creating havoc in the countries bearing the burden of its effects.

on the agriculture and food sectors. Dr Suleri mentioned

that in adverse weather scenarios services and manufacturing sectors can halt their services but the food and agriculture sectors will face irreversible impacts of crops and species loss due to shift in weather patterns. He said, at the COP-

28 moot, the FAO's baby step of producing a report on food system sustainability underlined the target of 32 percent CO2 removal from the

right direction.

He mentioned that the SDPI is conducting the dialogue as part of its series of efforts after its hackathon held before its flagship SDC conference in 2023 on food and agriculture with the support of the Canadian mission in Pakistan.

The UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Representative in Pakistan, Florence Rolle said that climate change is real and could not be denied anymore, either the world recorded the first or second crop sector through hottest year in its history. different strategies which She added that Pakistan

climate change and extend effective incentives to its farmers conservation and crop productivity through alternative crops ensuring crop diversification.

She proposed that the country's due to rising temperature variability could focus on early crop sowing that can help generate more produce with the available water and resources provided the growing shift in pattern. She added that there was much scientific evidence on early crop sowing, however, the issue is that more production in the cotton crop

Yemen Houthi rebels fire missile at US warship in Red Sea in first attack after American-led strikes

Monitoring Desk JERUSALEM: Yemen's Houthi rebels fired an antiship cruise missile toward an American destroyer in the Red Sea but a U.S. fighter jet shot it down in the latest attack roiling global shipping amid Israel's war with Hamas in the Gaza Strip, officials

The attack on Sunday marks the first U.S.-acknowledged fire by the Houthis since America and allied nations began strikes Friday on the rebels following weeks of assaults on shipping in the Red

dor linking Asian and commerce as necessary. Mideast energy and cargo shipments to the Suez Canal onward to Europe over the Israel-Hamas war, attacks that threaten to widen that conflict into a regional conflagration.

The Houthis, a Shiite rebel group allied with Iran that seized Yemen's capital in 2014, did not immediately acknowledge the attack.

It wasn't immediately clear whether the U.S. would retaliate for the latest attack, though President Joe Biden has said he 'will not hesitate to direct

The Houthi fire on Sunday went in the direction of the USS Laboon, an Arleigh Burke-class destroyer operating in the south-ern reaches of the Red Sea, the U.S. military's Central Command said in statement.

The missile came from near Hodeida, a Red Sea port city long held by the Houthis, the U.S. said.

"An anti-ship cruise missile was fired from Iranian-backed Houthi militant areas of Yemen toward USS Laboon," Central

Arab partnership

on Palestine

awaits Israeli

commitment: US

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: Arab na-

tions are ready to collaborate

with the US on both short-

term and long-term solutions

for Palestinians in Gaza, but

this partnership is contingent

upon Israel's willingness to

Department.

MSNBC's

articipate, says the US State

Mitchell, the department's

spokesperson Matthew

Miller reviewed Secretary

of State Antony Blinken's

seven-day visit to the

Middle East, highlighted the

willingness of Arab nations

to work with the US on

Palestinian issues. How-

ever, he emphasised that

this cooperation depends

on Israel's commitment to

the process.
"We've traveled to

nine countries and met with

leaders in each of those, se-

curing agreements with all

of these Arab partners, as

well as with Turkiye,"

Miller stated. "They were

ready to coordinate with the

United States and take real

steps to improve the lives

of the Palestinian people in Gaza and to rebuild Gaza.

China warns

against bids to

'split apart' its

territory

Monitoring Desk

BEIJING: China's Fore-i-gn Minister Wang Yi

has said Taiwan's election,

irrespective of its outcome,

can never change the mere

fact that there is only one

China and Taiwan is a part

of it.
"Taiwan has never

been a country. It wasn't in

the past, and it certainly

Wang Yi said in a joint press

conference with his Egyp-

tian counterpart Sameh

Shoukry in Cairo.

won't be in the future,

In an interview with

Andrea



Guatemalan Congress representatives take the oath on the day where Guatemala's President-elect Bernardo Arevalo is expected to be sworn into office, in Guatemala City, Guatemala.

Gaza death toll tops 24,000 as Israel strikes targets in north and south

Monitoring Desk GAZA: Israeli strikes hit Gaza City and soldiers battled militants in southern Gaza on Monday after the U.S., its top ally, said it was time to scale back operations. Palestinian authorities said the death toll in the enclave passed 24,000.

South Africa has accused Israel of genocide in the war against Hamas, an allegation Israel has rejected. and saw some 250 others

solve, the United Nations' top court could rule within weeks on South Africa's request for an order of an immediate suspension of Israel's offensive. It's unclear if Israel would comply with any court order. The Oct. 7 Hamas attack from Gaza into southern Israel that triggered the war killed around 1,200 people

Although the full case is taken hostage by militants. Philippines to develop islands in South China Sea: military chief

MANILA: The Philippines will develop islands in the South China Sea that it considers part of its territory to make them more habitable for troops, Manila's military chief Romeo Brawner told reporters on Monday. The plans come amid heightened tensions between the Philippines and China, both of whom claim territory in the South China Sea and have traded accusations of aggressive behaviour in the strategic waterway.

Apart from the Second Thomas Shoal, locally known as Ayungin, the Philippines occupies eight other features in the South China Sea, and considers Thomas Shoal in 1999 to asthem part of its exclusive sert its sovereignty claim.

all the nine, especially the islands we are occupying, Brawner said after attending a command conference

led by Philippine President

Ferdinand Marcos Jr. at the

military headquarters. The features include Thitu island, the biggest and most strategically important in the South China Sea. Known locally as Pag-asa, Thitu lies about 300 miles (480 km) west of the Philippine province of Palawan. The military wants to bring a desalination machine for troops living aboard a warship that the Philippines deliberately grounded on Second

Poland's president and government at odds over dismissal of state prosecutor

Monitoring Desk WARSAW: Poland's justice minister acted illegally in dismissing state prosecutor Dariusz Barski, a top presidential aide said on Monday, opening a new front in the conflict between the head of state and

the new government. Justice Minister Adam Bodnar has been tasked with unpicking policies of the previous nationalist Law and Justice (PiS) government which critics say increased political influence over the judicial

Rolling back the PiS reforms is crucial if Poland is to unblock billions of euros in European Union funding that have been frozen over rule-of-law con-

However, it brings the new pro-European government into conflict with President Andrzej Duda, a PiS ally, creating further tension at the beginning of what has already been a turbulent first few weeks of "cohabitation", in which the president and government are from opposing political

Any effort to that end, Wang warned, "seriously threatens the well-being of Taiwan compatriots, seriously harms the fundamental interests of the Chinese nation, and seriously jeopardises peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait region". Anyone trying to split apart China's territory would be "harshly pun-



CALAIS: Migrants who survived a shipwreck leave a reception centre in



Swiss Federal Minister Guy Parmelin and Wang Shouwen, Chinese Vice Minister of the Ministry of Commerce shake hands after signing a joint statement of the free trade agreement, next to Swiss President Viola Amherd and Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China, Li Qiang during an official visit in Kehrsatz near Bern, Switzerland.

Pacific nation Nauru cuts ties to Taiwan, switches to China

Monitoring Desk AIPEI: The South Pacific nation of Nauru announced on Monday it was severing diplomatic ties with Taiwan would

recognise China. The announcement came days after Taiwan elected the independenceleaning Lai Ching-te as its next president

In a media release, the Nauru government said it would no longer recognise Taiwan "as a separate coun-

try" but "rather as an in-alienable part of China's

China claims democratic, self-ruled Taiwan as its own territory and has vowed to one day seize it, by force if needed.

Nauru said it would 'sever diplomatic relations" with Taiwan immediately, and "no longer develop any official relations or official exchanges with Taiwan'

War on Gazans rages amid calls for ceasefire

GAZA STRIP: Israeli tanks and aircraft hit areas in central and southern Gaza on Sunday, the 100th day of the ongoing aggression that has claimed a surging civilian death toll and ravaged the besieged Palestinian territory. The conflict has created a dire humanitarian crisis for the 2.4 million people in Hamas-ruled Gaza, the United Nations and aid groups warn, and reduced much of the coastal strip to rubble. According to the health ministry in Gaza, at least 23,968 people have

them women and children. On the other hand, China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi in a press conference with his Egyptian counterpart Sameh Shoukry called for a ceasefire in Gaza and the restoration of Pal- alties in Gaza

been killed, the majority of

"It is necessary to insist on the establishment of an independent, fully sovereign state of Palestine on the 1967 borders, with east Jerusalem as its capital."

A joint statement from the two ministers urged an immediate end "to all acts of violence, killing and targeting of civilians and civilian establishments" Wang called for "an in-

ternational summit for peace to find a just, comprehensive and lasting soution to the Palestinian cause by ending the (Israeli) occupation and establishing an independent, contiguous Palestinian state." However, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, whose government has faced growing international pressure over civilian casu-

22 miners killed in Tanzania landslide

Monitoring Desk two people have lost their lives following a landslide at a mine in northern Tanzania, officials said on Sun-

The accident occurred in Simuyu region's Bariadi district, more than 500 kilometres north of the capital, Dodoma, burying the miners under heavy debris. "As we close the rescue operations, the death toll remains 22, all men, Faustine Mtitu, acting commander for the region's fire and rescue force, told reporters on Sunday.

Putin and India's Modi discuss Ukraine, wish each other well in elections -Kremlin

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Russian Presi dent Vladimir Putin held a phone call on Monday with İndian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, discussing Ukraine and wishing each other well in upcoming elections, the Kremlin said.

The two leaders "ex ressed interest in further intensifying mutually beneficial bilateral ties" and touched upon "the situation in Ukraine", according to a statement posted on the Kremlin's website.

They also wished each other success in upcoming parliamentary elec tions in India.



Britain's Secretary of State for Defence Grant Shapps gives a speech at Lancaster House, in London, Britain.

President Tshisekedi's ruling party leads in Congo legislative election

Monitoring Desk KINSHASA: Democratic Republic of Congo President Felix Tshisekedi's UDPS party won 66 seats in the December parliamentary election, placing it ahead of 44 other parties that won one or more seats in the 500-member house, provisional results showed on Sunday.

The increased number of UDPS seats, up from 35 in the 2018 election, along with gains by allied parties, could enable Tshisekedi to maintain his ruling big tent and 32 seats respectively.

Sacred Union coalition, giving him the majority needed to name a new government. The coalition controlled over 390 seats in the

outgoing legislature. Provisional results announced by Congo's national election commission early on Sunday showed that parties led by some of Tshisekedi's allies including Senate President Modeste Bahati Lukwebo, Defence Minister Jean Pierre Bemba and Economy Minister Vital Kamerhe won 35, 17,

Dense fog disrupts flights, trains in **Indian capital**

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: Dense fog and cold enveloping large

swathes of the northern part of India disrupted flights and train service in the country's capital New Delhi for a second day on At least 463 flights

leaving Delhi were delayed and 87 flights were cancelled on Monday, according to aviation website Flightradar24. More than 500 flights were delayed in Delhi on Sunday.

The aviation regulator said in an email to airlines that they are required to share accurate, real-time information about flight delays to passengers with

immediate effect.

"Airlines may cancel. sufficiently in advance, such flights that are anticipated to be delayed or consequentially delayed on account of (weather) conditions beyond a period of 3 hours with a view to obviate congestion at the airport", the Directorate General of Civil Aviation said in the email, made public on Monday.

At least 18 trains to Delhi from different parts of the country were running late because of dense fog, news agency ANI, in which Reuters has a minority stake, said on X, citing a railway document.

The city's Indira

Jailed Iranian **Nobel winner** hit with new sentence: family **Monitoring Desk**

TEHRAN: An Iranian court has sentenced 2023 Nobel Peace Prize winner Narges Mohammadi to an additional sentence of over one year in prison on charges of spreading propaganda while behind bars, her family said on Monday.

The Revolutionary Mohammadi to 15 months in prison after a trial that she boycotted, her family added in their statement.

She was also ordered to spend two years in exile outside Tehran, given a two-year travel ban, and a two-year ban on using a smartphone, restrictions that would come into force

Britain's **Conservatives** set for 1997-style election defeat, poll predicts Monitoring Desk

ONDON: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's Conservative Party is set for an electoral defeat on a par with its heavy loss to the Labour Party in 1997, according to a YouGov opinion poll published in the Telegraph newspaper. Ahead of an election

expected later in 2024, the poll predicted Labour was on course to win 385 seats in parliament while the Conservatives will retain just 169, losing more seats than they did in 1997.

83 countries hold Ukraine talks

Monitoring Desk DAVOS: More than 80 countries held talks on Sunday seeking common ground on Ukraine's peace formula, as the Swiss cohosts admitted that including Russia in negotiations remains some way off.

National security advisers from 83 countries held a fourth round of discussions based on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's 10-point proposals for a lasting and just peace in Ukraine. The talks were cochaired by Ukrainian presidential aide Andriv Yermak, who heads Zelensky's office, and Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis.

"The purpose is to prepare so that we are ready and ripe to launch a process with Russia — when the time comes," Cassis told a press conference

He said the talks had find a way to include Russia at some point, but thus far, neither Kyiv nor Moscow was ready to take such a step. The meeting was being held in the luxury ski resort of Davos in eastern Switzerland, on the eve of the five-day World Economic Forum. Zelensky is due to travel to Switzerland on Monday and will visit the annual summit of the globe's business and political elite. Yermak said the talks

were open, constructive and detailed on the key principles in reaching a "comprehensive, just and lasting peace for Ukraine". While there were differences on how to achieve peace, "we are very joined in the main principles if independence, territorial integrity, sovereignty and the norm of international law and the statutes of United Nations".

QatarEnergy pauses LNG shipments through Red Sea, seeking security advice

Monitoring Desk DOHA: QatarEnergy, one of the world's largest ex-

porters of liquefied natural gas, has stopped sending tankers via the Red Sea although production continues, a source with knowledge of the matter told Reuters on Monday. At least four tankers used to carry Qatari LNG

were held up over the week-end after US and British forces carried out air and sea strikes on Yemen in response to Houthi attacks on ships in the Red Sea, part of a route that accounts for about 15% of the world's shipping traffic. The Al Ghariya, Al

Huwaila and Al Nuaman had loaded LNG at Ras Laffan in Qatar and were supposed to head to the Suez Canal but stopped off the coast of Oman on Jan. 14, according to LSEG shiptracking data. The Al

the Red Sea. 'It is a pause to get security advice, if passing (through the) Red Sea re-

along its route on Jan. 13 in

mains unsafe we will go via the Cape," said a source with direct knowledge of the matter, referring to the considerably longer route round the Cape of Good Hope at Africa's southern tip. The Qatari government's International Media Office and QatarEnergy did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Shipowners and managers of the four vessels including Teekay Shipping Glasgow, Pronav Ship Management, Nakilat Shipping Qatar Ltd and Shell's shipping and char-tering arm STASCO also did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Qatar, the world's second largest exporter of LNG, shipped more than 75 Rekayyat, which was heading back to Qatar, stopped million metric tons of the fuel in 2023.

Mexico sent 25,000 troops to Acapulco after Hurricane Otis. But it hasn't stopped the violence

Monitoring Desk in a statement Thursday.

25,000 troops to Acapulco after the resort was hit by Hurricane Otis on Oct. 25, but apparently that hasn't stopped the violence this

The main Acapulco business chamber reported that gang threats and attacks have caused about 90% of the city's passenger vans to stop running, affecting the resort's main form of transport. The chamber said the violence was forcing businesses to close early on Thursday and Friday.

"Organized groups of people who have no conscience or commitment to Acapulco have committed criminal acts in broad daylight, threatening civilians with direct armed attacks, and this caused 90% of public transportation to shut down," wrote Alejandro Martínez Sidney, president of the National Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Services

in Acapulco.
"If this situation con-

Mexican government sent into Friday, with few vans or buses seen in the streets

Martínez Sidney was apparently referring to attacks on the privately-own and operate passenger vans in recent days. Local media reported that at least three vans had been burned, a practice that gangs often use to enforce extortion demands for daily protection payments from van drivers.

The Category 5 hurricane killed 52 people and left 32 missing, and severely damaged almost all

of the resort's hotels. The government has pledged to build about three dozen barracks for the quasi-military National Guard in Acapulco. But even with throngs of troops now on the streets, the drug gang violence that has beset Acapulco for almost two decades appears to

have continued. Acapulco's economy depends almost completely on tourism, and there are comparitively few visitors in the city, in part because tinues, we will be forced to only about 4,500 hotel close businesses," he wrote rooms have been repaired.

Five die trying to cross Channel to UK in freezing cold

Monitoring Desk

CALAIS: Five migrants died and a sixth was in critical condition on Sunday after trying to reach Britain from northern France in freezing temperatures, the French maritime authority

More than 30 people were rescued, the maritime prefecture said in a statement. The fatalities were the first reported migrant deaths on the Channel in 2024. Authorities said four migrants died overnight, while a fifth body was found later on the beach.

The group was attempting to reach a vessel off the resort town of Wimereux when their small boat got into difficulty around two am, the maritime prefecture said.

The crew of a French tow vessel, the Abeille Normandie, went to the rescue and spotted "unconscious and lifeless people" in the water, an official said, estimating the water temperature at nine degrees Celsius. Along the

Wimereux embankment a journalist saw items of clothing and shoes abandoned by the migrants. The survivors were taken to a shelter in Calais.

According to the maritime prefecture more than 30 were rescued, but one person, had said around 70 migrants were brought in at around three am, including 'entire families with children, some of them very young".
"Some of the survi-

vors did not stay and told us they wanted to go to the Dunkirk train station to reach an accommodation centre in Armentieres," the source added. Authorities launched an investigation into "aggravated manslaughter" and other crimes, the Boulogne-sur-Mer public prosecutor's office

Autopsies would determine the cause of death, which may be due to "drowning" or "thermal shock", prosecutors said. Jean-Claude Lenoir, head of the Salam association.

AJK President rejects India's protest over British envoy's visit to Mirpur-AJK

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): pied Kashmir last year has Azad Jammu Kashmir no moral or legal justifi- Kashmir (IIOJ&K) as an Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK) President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry on Monday rejected India's protest against the recent visit to Mirpur by British High Commissioner Jane Marriott, termed the Indian government's contention on the matter as highly ridiculous.

According to AJK Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry said that the Indian government who hosted G20 summit events in occu-

no moral or legal justification to lodge a protest over the UK envoy's visit to Mirpur, Azad Jammu

or legal justification to said that India should reraise objections over for- frain from its expansioneign diplomats visiting Azad Kashmir", he added. He further said that

envoys of different countries have visited the region (Azad Kashmir) before, and they will continue to do so in the fu-

further worsened since August 5, 2019.

Barrister Sultan said that the international internationally recogcommunity should take nized disputed territory, notice of the fast-deteriorating political and human the AJK President said that Kashmir has never rights situation in the re-"India has no moral been a part of India. He ist designs and realize the

ground reality that it

could no longer hold

Kashmiris hostage by the

litical and human rights

situation in IIOJ&K has

He said that the po-

dint of force.

'The international community should take notice of the crimes committed against Kashmiris by the Indian occupation forces", Sultan urged adding that it was high time that the influential world governments should play their role to help stop bloodshed and violence in



ISLAMABAD: Federal Secretary for Interior, Aftab Akbar Durrani in a meeting with the 2nd Permanent Secretary of British Home Office Simon Ridley.

Senator Dilawar writes letter to Senate chairman for polls delay

Independent Senator Dilawar Khan, who submitted the resolution for the postponement of election in the senate, has written a letter to Chairman Senate.

It has been said in the letter written by Senator Dilawar Khan that Senate had passed the resolution to postpone the election on

This is a matter of concern that Election Commission has not yet taken any steps to postpone the February 8 elections.

It has been said in the letter that attention should have been paid to the con-

Senator Dilawar Khan said that it should be ensured that elections in February 8 are postponed so that people from all over the country can participate in the election activities.

It is pertinent to say that Senator Dilawar Khan presented the resolution in the senate to postpone the general elections and said in this that it is very cold in majority areas so for this reason, it is difficult for these areas to participate in the election process.

The upper house of the Senate had passed the resolution to postpone the

VC UoT inaugurates 3-day training workshop

QUETTA (APP): Vice role played by the admin-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Jan istrative staff in the Muhammad, on Monday, inaugurated a three-day training workshop focused Professional Development" at the University of Turbat

The primary purpose of the workshop was to enhance administrative excellence at all administrative units of the University of at BUITEMS, Quetta, for Turbat. The staff from various administrative sections of the University took part

in the workshop. Speaking on the occasion, the VC said that students, faculty, and administrative staff are the main pillars of the university. He

progress of the institution. He urged the participants to be actively inthe workshop to produce

productive outcomes. The Vice-Chancellor expressed gratitude to Manzoor Hussain, the dedicating valuable time from his busy schedule to share expertise with the University of Turbat's administrative staff. Dr.Riaz Ahmed, Director Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC) at the UoT outlined the objectives of the training work-



QUETTA: Tribal and political personality, Nawab Muhammad Khan Shahwani announcing to withdraw his candidate in favour of President Balochistan National Party, Sardar Akhtar Mengal from NA-261. befitting arrangements made by Pakistan.

OKARA: Chief Organizer PML-N Maryam Nawaz addressing a public gathering **ECP** assigns electoral symbols to 150 political parties for elections

SLAMABAD (APP):Th Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) allotted electoral symbols to around 150 political parties competing for seats in the upcoming general elections for both the National and provincial assemblies.

According to the list uploaded on ECP's website, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) received the 'tiger' symbol, Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPP) the 'arrow,' Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) the 'sword,' Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf-Nazriati (PTI-N) the 'batsman, Ìstehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) the 'eagle,' Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan MOM-P) the 'kite,' Jamiat Jlema-e-Íslam Fazl (JUI-F) the 'book,' Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan (JI) the 'scale,' Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Parliamentarians (PTI-P) the 'turban,' Balochistan National Party (BNP) the 'axe Awami National Party

Pakistan, Kyrgyz agree to strengthen health ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): A bilateral meeting was held between the caretaker Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan and the Health Minister of Kyrgyz Republic Alymkadyr Beishenaliev on the sidelines of the Global Health Security Summit. Dr. Nadeem Jan welcomed the Kyrgyz dignitary and expressed gratitude on behalf of the Government of Pakistan for the participation of the yrgyz delegation in the Global forum hosted by Pakistan. The Kyrgyz Minister appreciated the initiative of Pakistan's Health Minister in organizing the first-ever Global Health Security Summit.

He appreciated the

British Home Office delegation meets **Interior Secretary** United Kingdom.

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation from the British Home Office headed by Simon Ridley met Interior Secretary Aftab Akbar Durrani to discuss issues of mutual interest

British High Commissioner Jane Marriott also participated in the meeting. It was agreed in the meeting to further promote cooperation for the preven-

tion of counter-terrorism and human trafficking. It was also agreed to further increase the cooperation between the law enforcement agencies of the two countries.

Simon Riddley informed the Interior Secretary about fake universities in the UK and discouraging people staying illegally on student visas in the United Kingdom.

The visa system for Pakistani nationals was being fully digitalised whereby the visa acquisitions would become easier. he added.

Aftab Akbar Durrani said that Pakistan was providing all possible facilities for the transfer of Afghan refugees to Britain. He informed the del-

The meeting also reviewed the progress on executely reduced the fee for tradition agreements be-tween Pakistan and the overstaying of illegal mi-grants from \$800 to \$400.

ECP committed to hold general elections on Feb 8: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (Online): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi has said the Election Commission of Pakistan is committed to hold general elections on the 8th next month.

In a post on his X handle, he said the caretaker governments in the center and provinces will fulfill all administrative, financial, and security requirements of the election commission to carry out this responsi-

The Information Minister also shared a letter of the election commission on his X handle which states that the commission has made all necessary arrangements regarding the conduct of the general elections. The letter further reads that the election commission has also submitted

commitment before Su-

preme Court of Pakistan

for holding general elections



QUETTA: Balochistan Grand Alliance (BGA) Chief and NA-263 Candidate, Haji Lashkari Raisani talking to media persons.

Hunger strike to be started if demands not met by govt

All Parties, Traders & Laghri Ittehad dharna continues

Independent Report QUETTA: The All Parties,

Traders and Laghri Ittehad has threatened to start hunger strike in the protest dharna being staged in Chaman, if demands of the alliance were not met.

The speakers belonging to different segments including the political activists, traders and others demanded of the government to withdraw the one document regime and passport for movement on the Pak-Afghan border in Chaman on Monday.

It may be mentioned here that the protest dharma is continued for last 91 days in Chaman.

The dharna is being staged against the enforcement of passport at the border. They said that a

problems due to the pro-

The speakers said that 91 days have been completed of the dharna. They said that hun-

dreds of people participate in the protest despite tough conditions and harsh weather but no steps have been taken to address the They said that a num-

ber of people and tribals have been facing problems due to the protest. They demanded to

end the passport and visa system at the Chaman border and allow the people to move across the border on identity cards and Tazkara as was being done

They said that the economic massacre of the Pashtoons is not acceptable

Courts not to compromise in dispensing justice to masses: AJK CJ

MUZAFFARABAD (APP):Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Chief Justice (CJ) Justice Raja Saeed Akram Khan on Monday said that the superior courts will never compromise on their dignity in dispensing justice to the masses. Addressing the 11th

Judicial Conference under the auspices of the High Court of Azad Jammu and Kashmir here on Monday as chief guest, he pointed out that administrative injustice was the biggest reason behind increasing litigations in the courts that have to intervene to provide remedy to the sufferers and also stressed the lawyers participating in the conference to

the courts' orders rather defying in the interest of clients. The conference was presided over by Chief Justice High Court of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Justice Raja Sadaqat Hussain Khan and was participated by Judges of the higher judiciary, subordinate courts, Minister Law and Parliamentary Affairs Mian Abdul Waheed, Secretary Law Idress Abbasi, Law officers and a large number of lawyers including senior lawyers of the Supreme court.

The conference titled Responsibility of Judiciary, Government, Lawyers and Litigants in the Dispensation of Justice" was told by the additional ensure implementations of registrar of the high court awareness of the litigants.

in his presentation that all the cases of 2018 and earlier had been disposed of by the High Court and subordinate district courts due to the specific administrative measures taken by the Chief Justice of High Court during the last two years.

Senior advocate and President Supreme Court Bar Association Raja Sajjad Ahmad, Sardar Hamid Raza Khan, President High Court Bar Association and Secretary Law Idress Abbasi presented their keynote thesis on the subject at the conference pointing out the hindrances in the dispensation of justice including bad governance, non-cooperation of the lawyers and non-



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar offering fateha on sad demise of Abdul Ghafoor Kalmati, father of former MPA Hamal Kalmati.

Nawaz holds consultative meeting with economic experts

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on Monday held an important consultative meeting with economic experts. The PML-N presi

dent Shehbaz Sharif was also present in the meeting. During the meeting reforms and proposals aimed at solving country's economic problems were discussed. The meeting finalized economic project for

country's economic revival and to end inflation. Points related to in-

crease growth rate, tax reforms, to overcome power crisis and reduce prices of electricity and gas were fi-

Decision taken to cancel Nandi pur, Guddu power plants privatization

ISLAMABD (online): Decision has been taken to annul privatization of Nandi Pur and Guddu power plants.

According Privatization Commission sources proposal has been given to give power plants share to PSO to lower the circular debt of gas sector.

Sources said circular debt of gas sector will be curtailed by Rs 100 billion if shares of power plants are given to PSO. Rs 100 billion are pay

able from Nandi pur and Guddu power plants to sui gas companies. The controlling stakes of Rs 100 billion of the both of the power plants will be given

Siddiqa Khan elected as **Chairperson BoDs SEHER**

Ms. Shabnum Naz elected as Senior Vice Chairperson, Dr. Anjum Pervez as Junior Vice Chairperson and Dr. Irfanullah Tareen as Secretary General

Independent Report QUETTA: The elections of Board of Directors (BoDs) of Society for Empowering Human Resource (SEHER) were held here on Monday.

According to a press release issued here by the Media and Publication Officer of SEHER on Monday, Siddiqa Khan and Dr. Irfanullah Khan Tareen were elected as the Chairperson and Secretary Gen-

eral of BoDs of SEHER. Other office bearers elected are included: Shabnum Naz as senior Vice Chairperson, Dr. Anjum Pervez as Junior Vice

Chairperson, Zaibun Nisa as Joint Secretary General Syed Ghulam Muhammad as Treasure, Mawish Saeed as Secretary Finance Affairs, Fatima Khilji as Secretary Legal Affairs, Zaiba Kamal as Press and Office Secretary.

Meanwhile, all board members and former Chairperson, Zaibun Nisa have congratulated the newly elected Chairperson Siddia

They expressed the hope that the newly elected Chairperson would take the organization to the new heights in future.



QUETTA: Secretary Minority Affairs Muhammad Dawood Bazai meeting with Caretaker Provincial Health Minister Dr. Amir Muhammad Khan Jogezai

No harassment from Bureau, NAB chairman assures officers

tional Accountability Bureau (NAB) Chairman Lieutenant General (retd) Nazir Ahmed Monday assured the government officers that the Bureau would not harass them and they should play their key role in the development of the country. Addressing the civil bureaucrats in Sindh secretariat he said that he was bringing reforms in NAB and no officer would be subjected to a media trial during the process of complaint verification and inquiry. He said that complaints written under fictitious names or anonymous would not be accepted in

KARACHI (APP): Na-

Nazir said that he knew the bureaucrats were working under immense pressure adding that due to the ongoing cases in NAB, the development and construction projects get delayed, which should not happen and the projects should be com-

reaucrats to hold open katcheries and try to solve the problems of the people by listening to them in per-The chairman NAB

announced facilitation desk would be established at the Chief Secretary Sindh Office wherein concerns and complaints of Sindh government officers would be discussed and all efforts would be made to resolve such matters on fast-track basis. He further said that to ensure open door policy and accessibility for all monthly open hearing (Khuli Katcheri) were being conducted at NAB Offices.

In a meeting, Chief Secretary Sindh Dr. Muhammad Fakhre Alam introduced the officers to Chairman NAB. The Chief Secretary Sindh said that there were reports of corruption in the pension fund in Sindh, in which action was being taken against the

2.3mln mosquito nets being distributed in Balochistan's 14 districts to prevent malaria

Balochistan Health Department is working closely with donors to control the malaria disease in the province and provide facilities to the patients.

At least 2.3 million mosquito nets are being distributed in 14 districts of Balochistan with the aim to prevent malaria in respective areas of the

These views were expressed on Monday by Secretary Health Balochistan Abdullah Khan, DG Health Balochistan Dr. Ghulam Farooq Hot, Director Public Health Dr. Faheem Afridi, Director of Malaria Control Program and Board Diseases Amir Iqbal Raisani, Senior Program Manager Marif Niaz Muhammad, BRSP's Abdullah Badeni and Akbar Chakzai while addressing a coordination committee meeting under the auspices of Malaria Control Programme, DMC, Murph, Indus Hospital

They said that malaria is transmitted from one person to another person by the bite of a mosquito. The common symptoms of malaria are fever, chills includes body aches, nausea

effective treatment, malaria patients can suffer severe complications and even die, malaria affects everyone, but children under five and pregnant women are particularly vulnerable, they

They maintained in Pakistan, 1.8 million people out of 5,829,4390 people were affected by malaria in country including Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh in points.

lion positive cases of macases have been reported

laria were reported in Balochistan last year, While one million positive

They said that 14 dis-

ing Bolan (Kachhi), Dera Bugti, Duki, Gwadar, Jafarabad, Jhal Magsi, Kech (Turbat), Kharan, Loralai, Musakhel, Naseerabad and Zhob while 2.3 million of medicine was distributed in The Directorate of

Without prompt and Malaria Control, Indus Hospital and Health Network and Medical Emergency Resilience Foundation are partners in this campaign, they underlined.

They said that during the campaign to distribute mosquito nets, Murph volunteers have gone door to door and registered and provided coupons to them, now they would be given medicated mosquito nets at designated distribution

number of people and tribals have been facing

They They said that 0.7 mil- Balochistan Health Department and Malaria Control Program are also taking steps to provide awareness to the public about health and malaria prevention so that awareness could be created in people to protect tricts of Balochistan includ- them from malaria.



Hotel and Restaurant holding a protest against extra charges in sui gas bills