

Independent

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Pakistan, Iran should address each other's security concerns: NSC

Reiterates resolve to safeguard its sovereignty, territorial integrity at all cost; Security and safety of the people of Pakistan was of paramount importance and no stone would be left unturned to ensure it; Forum also reiterated the resolve to deal with the menace of terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, with an iron hand

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Security Committee (NSC) Friday observed that Iran was a neighbourly and brotherly Muslim country and existing multiple communication channels between the two countries should be mutually utilised to address each other's security concerns in the larger interest of regional peace and stability.

The committee, which met with Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in the chair to deliberate upon matters of na-

tional security, hoped that in line with the universal principles governing the conduct of good neighbourly relations, the two countries would mutually be able to overcome minor irritants through dialogue and diplomacy and pave the way to further deepen their historic relations.

The forum reviewed the overall security in view of the situation between Pakistan and Iran.

It undertook a wholesome review of the situa-

tion and lauded the professional, calibrated and proportionate response by the Armed Forces of Pakistan against unprovoked and unlawful violation of Pakistan's sovereignty.

During the meeting, participants were briefed about political and diplomatic developments bearing upon the prevailing situation between Pakistan and Iran, and its impact on the overall security milieu in the region.

The forum also took stock of the 'Operation

Marg Bar Sarmachar', which was successfully executed against Pakistani origin Baloch terrorists residing on the ungoverned spaces inside Iran.

An update on the situation along the borders and necessary full preparations done to comprehensively respond to any further violation of national sovereignty was also deliberated about.

The forum reiterated the unflinching resolve that

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ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting of the National Security Committee, in the Federal Capital.



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki presiding over a high level meeting to review steps taken for holding of peaceful elections in the province

Speaks with Iranian FM Jilani expresses Pakistan's readiness to work with Iran based on trust

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Foreign Minister Jilani Abbas Jilani on Friday spoke with his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir-Abdollahian.

Underscoring the close brotherly relations between Pakistan and Iran, the foreign minister expressed Pakistan's desire to work with Iran based on spirit of mutual trust and cooperation.

He stressed that respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty must underpin the cooperation.

The two foreign ministers agreed that working level cooperation and close coordination on counter-

terrorism and other aspects of mutual concern should be strengthened.

They also agreed to de-escalate the situation.

The return of ambassadors of the two countries to their respective capitals was also discussed.

This is the second telephonic interaction between the two foreign ministers this week, as earlier Jilani had received a call from his Iranian counterpart on Wednesday after Iran had violated Pakistan's airspace.

FM Jilani also underscored the need for closer cooperation on security issues.

Agencies issue security alert for Baloch protesters in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (INP): The intelligence agencies have issued a security alert for the participants of a protest being held these days in the Red Zone area of Islamabad, reported on Friday.

The Baloch Yakjehti Council (BYC) and Balochistan Shuhda Forum (BSF) have been staging a protest camp outside the Islamabad National Club for the last several days.

According to the letter by the agencies, due to tension on the Iran-Pakistan border, there is a security threat as anti-national elements and terrorists can target these protest camps to sabotage peace and order in the country.

The letter further says that it should be clear that Balochistan National Party (Mengal) leader Jamal Raisani is already facing a security threat.

Three shot dead over children conflict, accused attempts suicide

PISHIN (INP): An accused gunned down three including father and two sons over children conflict and attempted suicide with same weapon here on Friday.

According to details, the incident took place in Lamaran area of Pishin where an accused shot death three including father and two sons over dispute among the children.

The culprit attempted to suicide with same weapon after committing triple murder and hospitalized in serious condition.

Election will be held on Feb 08 despite Pak-Iran tension: ECP

ISLAMABAD (Online): Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has said it is focusing on holding election on February 8 despite border tension between Pakistan and Iran.

According to ECP spokesperson EC is determined to hold election according to schedule and date announced in this regard.

He said EC is engaged in the preparations for holding election. No such proposal or option is under consideration that election date could be reviewed in the wake of Pakistan-Iran tension.

Iran, Pakistan's interest in restoring relationship to pre-Jan 16 status: PM

Cabinet discusses situation arising from Iranian attack on Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Friday briefed the Caretaker Federal Cabinet about the situation arising from the Iranian attack on Pakistan on January 16.

The details of the attack, as well as Pakistan's response, were shared in the meeting of the Federal Cabinet held under the chairmanship of Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

The cabinet lauded the high professionalism with which the Pakistan Armed Forces responded to the breach of Pakistan's sovereignty and how the entire government machinery worked in unison in that regard.

Addressing the cabinet,

the prime minister affirmed that Pakistan was a law abiding and peace loving country, and it sought friendly and cooperative relations with all countries, particularly its neighbours.

PM Kakar said that Pakistan and Iran were two brotherly countries that had historically enjoyed fraternal and cooperative relations marked by respect and affection. It was in the interest of both countries to take steps to restore the relationship to what it was prior to 16th January, 2024, he added.

The prime minister said that, in that regard, Pakistan would welcome and reciprocate all positive measures from the Iranian side.

Interim Govt decides to hire services of retired security personnel for election duty in Balochistan

Caretaker Chief Minister directs to bring more improvement in measures taken for law and order for elections; create conducive environment for voters

Independent Report

QUETTA: Expressing satisfaction over the measures taken for law and order to conduct the general elections in Balochistan, the caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has directed the concerned authorities to bring more improvement in the measures taken so far.

He also directed to the concerned high ups to remove the complaints and reservation of the election candidates and the general public about the elections.

In addition to this, contingency plans should be prepared for restoration of

peace during the elections as per the regional circumstances.

These and similar other directives were issued by the caretaker Chief Minister while chairing a high level meeting about law and order and general elections in the province, here at the Chief Minister secretariat on Friday morning.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan, Additional Chief Secretary Home, Zahid Saleem, administrative secretaries of the concerned departments, divisional commissioners, deputy commissioners, police high ups besides other concerned senior of-

ficials. Certain important decisions were made about security deployment, installation of CCTV cameras and timely supply of the election material in the province.

The Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretary Home and Divisional Commissioners briefed the meeting about the steps taken and being taken for restoration of peace and conducting elections in the province.

The Chief Minister also directed to create conducive environment for the voters to use their right of franchise.

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QUETTA: Chairman Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party Mehmoood Khan Achakzai addressing a election campaign meeting

IHC orders police to provide record of FIR registered against Baloch demonstrators to counsel

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has directed Islamabad police to provide record of FIR registered against Baloch demonstrators to the counsel of petitioner.

A petition has been filed by Sami Din Baloch in IHC requesting the court to order the respondents not to harass Baloch demonstrators besides directing police provide record of FIR registered against the protesters to the counsel.

Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kiyani resumed the hearing of the case Friday.

The petitioner Bushra Bibi appeared along with her counsel Atta Ullah Kundi.

Advocate General Ayyaz Shaikat and AAG Usman Rasul Ghumman too appeared in the court.

Atta Ullah Kundi while arguing said petitioners have come to know some FIRs have been registered against

Baloch demonstrators within the jurisdiction of Islamabad. It is requested to court to provide record of FIR registered against Baloch demonstrators to the petitioner so that he could resort to the court of respective jurisdiction.

Advocate General (AG) Ayyaz Shaikat while giving arguments said the demonstrators are facing severe security threats due to recent border tension between Pakistan and Iran. It is requested to court to order the demonstrators to return to their homes if they meet their demands. Court does not give order in this regard. This is in jurisdiction of administration.

After hearing the arguments the court ordered Islamabad police to provide record of FIR registered against Baloch demonstrators to the lawyer and wrapped up the case.



RAHIM YAR KHAN: Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addressing the public gathering in in Liaquatpur.

PPP to facilitate destitute, end subsidies of elites after elected to power: Bilawal

LIAQUATPUR (INP): Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said, after elected to power, his party would facilitate the marginalized sections of the society and end Rs1500 billion subsidy being 'given' to elites every year.

While addressing a public gathering in connection with the General Elections 2024 in Liaquatpur on Friday, the PPP Chairman said that his party presented a 10-point agenda to combat inflation, unemployment and poverty. He said that Rs. 300 billion were spent on seven 'unnecessary' federal ministries, vowing to abolish the same.

He said that Rs300 billion being wasted on unnecessary ministries would be spent on welfare of the public.

Benzair Bhutto and Asif Ali Zardari had always fulfilled their promises with the people, Bilawal said adding that he would also live up to the expectations of the people after 'becoming' the prime minister.

The PPP's would give free electricity up to 300 units and establish three million houses for the needy people, he said adding that Benazir Income Support Programme was launched earlier and now farmers will get the card.

The Chairman PPP said that his party's government provided financial assistance to the people through Benazir Income Support Programme in the previous tenure and now it would issue, Mazdoor Card, Kisan Card and Youth Card

QUETTA: National Party's Chief Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch addressing press conference regarding upcoming election in Quetta Press Club.

Maryam lauds PML-N's steadfastness against challenges

KHANEWAL (INP): Pakistan Muslim League Senior Vice President and Chief Organiser Maryam Nawaz Sharif heaped praise on the steadfastness of the party despite facing a litany of challenges.

She emphasised, "good and bad times are very part of politics but the PML-N has not left the field and is always ready to serve the masses with a renewed zeal." She made these remarks while addressing a rally in Khanewal where the PML-N chief organiser said she could not be more grateful as a lot of people have come to attend the PML-N's power show despite the inclemency of the weather.

Earthquake of magnitude 3.6 jolts Harnai, surroundings

QUETTA (INP): An earthquake of magnitude 3.6 on Richter scale jolted Harnai and surrounding areas of Quetta city on Friday afternoon, reported Pakistan's National Seismic Monitoring Center (PNSMC). According to PNSMC, tremours measuring 3.6 on Richter scale were felt in Harnai and surrounding areas of the provincial capital Quetta.

The epicentre of the quake was stated to be at distance of 45 kilometres in Harnai Southeast at a depth of 15 kilometres.

Pak's armed forces gave befitting response to elements challenging sovereignty of Pakistan: Jan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has stated that the armed forces of Pakistan have given befitting response to the elements challenging the sovereignty of Pakistan.

He said that the armed forces under leadership of Chief of Army Staff, General Syed Asim Munir have made the whole nation proud by giving befitting response to Iran.

On this, the people of Pakistan especially of Balochistan are indebted to

the Army Chief, he said adding that not only the network of terrorism of India has been exposed but those exploiting the issue of missing Balochs in Islamabad has also been exposed with his (COAS) very initiative.

The caretaker Minister Information was addressing a hurriedly called press conference at the Sikandar Jamali Auditorium, Civil secretariat on Friday.

He said that with the armed forces' befitting re-

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Caretaker Home Minister Captain (ret'd) Muhammad Zubair Jamali visiting District Jail Dera Murad Jamali

90 percent soldiers will to vote PTI: Imran Khan

RAWALPINDI (Online): PTI founder Imran Khan has claimed 90 percent soldiers of Pakistan army will vote for PTI

"Gen @ Bajwa told me the entire army is with me. Decisions of Bajwa ruined Pakistan. But army is not at fault, he said this in his informal talks with journalists here in Adiala jail.

He went on to say Nawaz Sharif has come out to launch election campaign. Tell me who "arailo kattan ruled the country for 16 months. The economy was devastated for 16 months. 15 lac professional left the country.

The biggest problem was external deficit which they had left behind, he added.

Our government left growth rate 6.7 percent which they reduced to zero,

he remarked. In our tenure inflation remained 12.4 percent which they took to 36 percent. Terrorism graph desended. Our relations with the government of Afghanistan president Ashraf Ghani were good, he remarked. But PML-N plagued relations with Afghanistan after coming to government. Pakistan here will try our relations become strained. Pakistan economy is in dire situation. We should not take part in conflicts in such situation. We cannot change our neighbors. He remarked the problems are not resolved through guns.

All faiths preach co-existence, humanity and peace: Mushaal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick has highlighted the core principles of equality saying that all citizens of Pakistan are equal before the law regardless of their faith, caste and race.

She was addressing a consultative session on the promotion of interfaith harmony in Pakistan.

The consultative session was attended with equal representation by members from all faiths and organizations working for interfaith harmony.

The SAPM actively listened to the participants to gain insight into challenges faced by minorities across Pakistan. In response, she assured that meaningful and effective measures would be taken to address these issues.

In her address, Mushaal Hussein Mullick said that Pakistan derives its policies regarding minorities from the golden principles laid out by the founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah in his address to the 1st Constituent Assembly of Pakistan.

She highlighted that Pakistan's first cabinet comprised of members of

all faiths which was a powerful illustration of Pakistan's commitment to unity in diversity. She also drew attention to the representation of unity in the national flag's colors.

Mushaal Mullick underscored the universal teachings of co-existence, humanity, and peace inherent in all faiths. She expressed concern over the misrepresentation of religions by certain factions which was leading to the promotion of hatred on a global scale. In particular, she highlighted the menace of Zionist and Hindutva ideologies and emphasized that both posed a significant and grave threat to global peace.

Mushaal threw light on the invaluable contributions of Pakistan's minorities in the nation's progress. She also highlighted the efforts of people of all faiths in the creation of the country.

She expressed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to ensuring that minorities had the opportunity to visit their sacred sites within the country. She said that the Kartarpur Corridor was an example of such commitment through which thousands of Sikh Yatries visited their holy places across

the border on annual basis. This initiative served as a testament to Pakistan's dedication to the promotion of religious harmony in its diverse population, she added.

She reiterated her firm commitment to the establishment of interfaith societies within educational institutions throughout Pakistan. She advocated for adjustments in the educational curriculum to promote values of peace and respect for all faiths.

She expressed her intention to collaborate with the Higher Education Commission to introduce scholarships specifically tailored for minorities across all levels in educational institutions. She further said that steps were being taken to effectively implement education and employment quotas reserved for minorities. Mushaal emphasized the empowerment of district-level interfaith committees. She said that instructions to district administrations would be issued to convene regular meetings of these committees. She further said that the empowerment of these committees would ensure that the challenges faced by minorities were promptly and effectively addressed at the grassroots level.



QUETTA: A delegation led by Caretaker Provincial Minister Sardar Ejaz Khan Jaffar meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

New Zealand chase down 159 to win fourth T20 against Pakistan

Sports Desk

CHRISTCHURCH: Daryl Mitchell and Glenn Phillips combined to steer New Zealand to a seven-wicket win over Pakistan in the fourth Twenty20 international in Christchurch on Friday and place them on the verge of a series clean sweep.

The Black Caps pair scored unbeaten half-centuries in a 139-run stand as the home side reached 159-3 in the 19th over in response to Pakistan's 158-5.

They were forced to mount a rearguard action after Pakistan captain Shaheen Shah Afridi knocked over New Zealand's top order, reducing them to 3-20 in the third over.

Mitchell scored 72 off 44 balls and Phillips 70 off 52, accelerating over the closing stages to complete victory with 11 balls to spare, having begun their partnership in cautious fashion.

New Zealand can wrap up the series 5-0 in Sunday's final match at the same Hagley Oval venue.

Pakistan paid for their inability to support opening batter Mohammad Rizwan, who crafted an unbeaten 90 off 63 balls to dominate his side's innings.

Rizwan found ways to keep the score ticking over against a disciplined New Zealand attack, led by

seamers Matt Henry (2-27) and Lockie Ferguson (2-27).

The 31-year-old threatened to reach his second T20 international century but was denied the strike over the closing stages of an innings that featured a relatively low percentage of boundaries: six fours and two sixes.

All-rounder Mohammad Nawaz was the only other player to surpass 20 runs, whacking pace bowler Adam Milne for three successive sixes in his final over to post 21 off nine balls.

Babar Azam, who scored half-centuries in each of the first three games, fell for 19 when he skied an attempted pull off Milne in the seventh over.

Pace bowler Afridi had Pakistan right in the contest when he knocked over Finn Allen, Tim Seifert and Will Young cheaply and finished with figures of 3-34.

Allen's wicket was particularly cherished following the opener's sensational 137 in game three on Wednesday.

However, Mitchell and Phillips gradually pulled momentum back in New Zealand's favour and Pakistan potentially blew their last chance at victory when Sahibzada Farhan dropped a straightforward chance in the deep offered by Mitchell in the 14th over.

Zaka Ashraf resigns as PCB Management Committee head

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Zaka Ashraf announced on Friday that he had decided to tender his resignation as chairman and member of the PCB management committee to caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar.

He made the announcement after chairing the fourth meeting of the MC at the National Cricket Academy in Lahore. He thanked members of the MC, the PCB management, and staff for their support during this tenure.

Members of the committee expressed their gratitude to the chairman MC for his leadership.

In his remarks, Mr Ashraf thanked the prime minister for the confidence and trust reposed by him and extended his best wishes and prayers for the betterment of Pakistan and

Pakistan cricket.

The meeting was attended by the ten members of the committee. One member, Khurram Karim Somroo joined the meeting online while the remaining nine members—Kalim Ullah Khan, Ashfaq Akhtar, Muhammad Mussadiq Islam, Azmat Pervez, Zaheer Abbas, Khawaja Nadeem, Mustafa Ramday, ASC, Zulfiqar Malik and Zaka Ashraf (chair) — were present in person.

Members were briefed on PCB affairs and financial matters. The CFO presented periodic Management Accounts and financial projections for the remaining current fiscal year.

Zaka Ashraf provided a summary of the milestones achieved during the tenure of the current MC which was constituted in the first week of July.

He highlighted that a significant increase was witnessed in PCB contributions from the ICC, adding that BCCL [Board of Control for Cricket in India] delegation visited Pakistan for first time since 2008.

He said Pakistan won the Emerging Asia Cup (Pakistan Shahaens) and away Test series against Sri Lanka during his tenure, adding that the team again regained the No.1 ODI spot in ICC rankings.

Mr Ashraf said Pakistan hosted Asia Cup after 15 years during his tenure. He highlighted that up to 80 women's domestic contracts were offered for the first time.

"MoU executed with Middlesex County Cricket Club (MCCC) for collaboration on multiple projects for cricket development," he said.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over a meeting

Nikah in Iddat: IHC stops trial court to record witnesses' statement

ISLAMABAD (INP):—The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday stopped trial court from recording statement of witnesses in PTI founder and Bushra Bibi in Nikah during Iddat case.

Chief Justice of the IHC Justice Aamer Farooq conducted hearing of a petition filed against PTI founder and Bushra Bibi's Nikah during Iddat. Salman Akram Raja appeared in court on behalf of former prime minister and Bushra Bibi.

Raja, giving arguments in the case, said the whole district judiciary was busy in Adiala Jail. "Today, they will record statements of the witnesses," he told court. Justice Aamer Farooq said the court would stop them from recording statements, but it should be

told about the case first. The court then asked how much period the Iddat lasts. Raja replied even if they suppose petitioner's statement was true, the Nikah was solemnized after 48 days.

He said Iddat usually last for 90 days, but Maulana Taqi Usmani had given an explanation over that.

There was also a verdict issued by the apex court on Iddat period.

The court said even if the Nikah was solemnized during Iddat period, it could be regularized. If Nikah was not solemnized as per regular norms, what crime had been committed, asked the IHC CJ. Later, the court stopped trial court from recording statement of witnesses in Nikah during Iddat case.

Five killed, 15 injured in multiple collision of vehicles

SEHWAN SHARIF (INP): At least five people were killed and 15 others injured in multiple collision of vehicles on Indus Highway on Friday.

According to details, an over speeding car, van and a truck collided near Manjhand at Koreja Goth area of Sehwan Sharif.

As a result of ac-

cident, five people were killed on the spot while 15 others sustained injuries.

Police and rescue teams reached the scene and shifted the bodies and injured to hospital.

According to hospital sources, condition of various injured people was critical and it was feared that death toll could rise further.

Pak's armed forces gave befitting...

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sponse, the drama of Baloch women in Islamabad prepared in India has also been flopped.

He said that we have been saying time and again that the issue of missing persons is going to be resolved, but Mah Rang was himself exposed who was otherwise misleading the Baloch-loving Pakistani people together with some so-called intellectuals.

He referred to the statement of Mah Rang in her press conference in Islamabad as she had claimed that the heirs of terrorists killed in Iran are present in the protest camp of Islamabad.

Even, she (Mag Rang) levelled allegations against him (Jan Achakzai) and the caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar that they would be responsible for anything happened with her and other protest-

ors in Islamabad, the Minister Information maintained.

He said that the facilitators of Mah Rang remained in the forefront to defame Pakistani institutions.

Jan Achakzai asked them (facilitators) as whether they are also playing in the hands of anti-Pakistan forces or they were misled. If so, then they should tender apology to the nation with sincerity, he added.

Jan Achakzai asserted that he has already made it clear that enemy would never succeed in its nefarious designs, and we have the capability to face the enemy forces everywhere.

The Minister Information on the occasion criticized a political party which tried to demoralize our forces by making false propaganda after the Iranian strike against Pakistan.

Dr Nadeem condemns attack on polio officer

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan on Friday strongly condemned the attack on polio officer Dr. Abdul Rehman in Bajaur. "I am deeply saddened by the martyrdom of Dr. Abdul Rahman on polio duty," Dr. Nadeem Jan said in a statement.

He said that he was in constant contact with the family of Dr. Abdul Rahman after receiving the news of the attack. "I instructed to transfer Dr. Abdul Rehman to Islamabad for the best medical treatment but before transferring to Islamabad, he expired." He said that Dr. Abdul Rahman's killers will be arrested and set a lesson.



QUETTA: Quetta Administrator, Jabbar Baloch exchanging views with a delegation of Pakistan Administrative Services during meeting held in Quetta.

Pakistan, Iran....

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sovereignty and territorial integrity of Pakistan were absolutely inviolable and sacrosanct, and any attempt by anyone to breach it on any pretext would be responded with full might of the state.

The meeting reaffirmed that the security and safety of the people of Pakistan were of paramount importance and no stone would be left unturned to ensure it.

The forum impressed upon Pakistan's commitment to sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries in accordance with the United Nations Charter and international norms. The committee also reiterated the resolve to deal with the menace of terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, with an iron hand. The meeting was attended by the caretaker ministers for Defence, Foreign Affairs, Finance and Information, Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, Chief of the Army Staff, Chief of Naval Staff and Chief of Air Staff as well as heads of intelligence agencies.

Pakistan always stood by Iran in all aspects, message of Pak Envoy

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan Ambassador to Iran Mudassar Tipu has given positive message for Iran on Twitter (X).

Pakistani Ambassador to Iran said that Pakistan has always stood by Iran in all aspects.

He said that coopera-

tion and mutual interest between both brotherly countries is important for peace and stability in the complex regional environment.

Ambassador Mudassar Tipu said that Pakistan is committed to its values of promoting peace, stability and development.

TENDER NOTICE

The Science And IT Department invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. TSE-232401372271 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. Tender Fee Rs. 500/-

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: 3 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity 2,500,000 in Previous 3 Years. Turn over of at least 2,500,000 PKR in 3 Subsequent Previous Years. Presence in Active Tax Payer List. Sales Tax Certificate. The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. JV is not permissible. Submission of the required Bid Security in case Bid Security is not found as required during financial evaluation the bidding firm shall be declared as in-eligible and non-responsive. Submission of the required Bidding document Fee. Must agree to serve the contract within 30 (mention Days). The bidder must have functional corporate office in Quetta. As required by the procuring agency in the Data-sheet. Must unconditionally agree with all the instructions, terms and conditions specified in the bidding document or agreement. Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 500 PKR Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 06 February, 2024 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 06 February, 2024 till 11:30 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 12:30 PM Address: Room # 16, First Floor Block # 14 Civi il Secretariat, Quetta Phone no: 3337881277 Fax no: 0819201745 Email: khanengr@gmail.com

SECTION OFFICER SCIENCE AND IT DEPARTMENT

PRQ No.1352/19-1-2024

Solangi grieved over demise of Chairman PEMRA's elder brother

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Friday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the demise of Zafar Baig who was the elder brother of Chairman Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) Muhammad Salim Baig.

The minister, in a condolence message, prayed to the Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss.

Interim Govt...

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Similarly, he directed to start work without any delay on the steps proposed for meeting the shortage of security personnel. Earlier, during the briefing, it was informed that some 8,000 CCTV cameras would be installed at the sensitive and most sensitive polling stations of the province. It was also informed that the deployment of the police and levies personnel as to be required for the elections. The services of retired security personnel would also be hired for election duty. The supply of election material would be done in remote and inaccessible areas of the province by the helicopter, it was decided in the meeting.



QUETTA: Secretary Finance Babar Khan presenting a shield to Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

Ruthless Australia pummel depleted West Indies inside three days

MELBOURNE (INP): Josh Hazlewood finished with a nine-wicket match haul as world champions Australia crushed a depleted West Indies by 10 wickets inside seven sessions of the opening test in the two-match series at the Adelaide Oval on Friday.

Usman Khawaja was forced to retire hurt after being struck in the head by West Indies debutant quick Shamar Joseph with one run required for victory and Marnus Labuschagne got the home side over the line off the second ball he faced.

A handy first-innings lead of 95 had put the hosts in charge of the low-scoring contest and their victory was merely a matter of time after Hazlewood, who claimed 5-35 in the second innings, blew away the West Indies top order

on Thursday.

West Indies followed their first innings 188 with another below-par total of 120, losing their last four wickets for 47 runs on Friday morning, which left Australia needing 26 to go 1-0 up in the two-test series. The home side knocked off the target in 6.4 overs to triumph inside three days and cement their position at the top of the World Test Championship (WTC) standings.

"Great test match, good to have it over in three days," Australia captain Pat Cummins said. "It was a wicket where you felt like you were a ball away from nicking it. Don't think anyone even got over a fifty for us even Trav." he said referring to player-of-the-match Travis Head, who smashed the match's only individual hundred.

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR
NADRA REGIONAL HEAD OFFICE
QUETTA

RENTAL OFFICE SPACE REQUIRED
FOR NADRA REGISTRATION CENTER NOSHKI

1. Official accommodation for NRC at following tehsil/city is required with facilities / requirements mentioned as under:-

S#	Site Location /NRC	Tehsil	District	Preferred Covered Area
a.	NRC Noshki	Noshki	Chaghi	2000 to 3500 Sqft

- Accommodation should be persisting in the main city.
- Space measuring of covered area preferably from 2000 sqft to 3500 sqft.
- Should be at prominent place having independent entrance.
- Security wise viable location and easily accessible for general public.
- Dedicated Electrical Meter/Connection.
- Proper Outer Door (preferable).
- Ramp for wheel chair for disabled citizens.
- Sufficient parking space for staff and general public
- Tenancy for a longer period (i.e 10 years).

NOTE Interested parties / owners can purchase the bidding documents on submission of a written application at a cost of Rs. 1000/- from below mentioned address between 08:30 AM to 4:30 PM (except gazetted holidays). The bids proposal should be submitted duly completed in all respect by 06th Feb, 2024 at 11:30 hours (under Single Stage - Two Envelope Bidding Procedure). The envelopes shall be clearly marked as General and Financial proposals. General Bids / Proposal will be opened by 06th Feb, 2024 at 12:00 hours at Regional Head Office NADRA New Zarghoon Road Quetta in respect of available bidder. Bids / Proposals must include the following documents in addition to any other information that the bidder may find necessary. Moreover, detail terms and conditions, required specification, evaluation criteria are mentioned in bidding documents

- Attested photocopy of ownership / lease leased property documents.
- Attested photocopy of valid approved Site Plan, CNIC, NTN, GST & SST.
- Completion Certificate of the building (if available).
- Undertaking / Non Judicial Stamp Paper of Rs.100/- Certifying that owner / building is not temporary / permanently debarred from any Government agency / authority / department (without bearing any responsibility on NADRA whatsoever in this regard).

Bidding documents received after submission of due date/time mentioned above will not be entertained.

Quoted price shall be inclusive of all taxes, except GST / SST, which shall be mentioned separately.

No brokerage / service charges will be paid in case of real estate agent.

Opening date / time of Financial Proposal will be informed to all successful bidder of General Proposal Evaluation.

NADRA reserves the rights to reject all bids / proposals under PPR Rules 33 and can cancel the bidding process before acceptance of bid proposal.

Bid can also be reject if owner of selected building fail to produce acceptable reply / property documents.

This advertisement is also available on PPR website at www.ppr.gov.pk

Assistant Director (Admin) PID(Q)227/23
Regional Head Office NADRA
New Zarghoon Road, Quetta
Ph: 081-9211853

Chairman PMIC expresses concerns of PM over delays in completion of PSDP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Prime Minister's Inspection Commission (PMIC), Brig. (Retd.) Muzaffar Ali Ranjha has taken cognizance of the concerns of the Prime Minister over the unwarranted delays in the completion of Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) projects.

The Chairman of PMIC, Brig. (Retd.) Muzaffar Ali Ranjha, expressed these views while chairing a meeting at the Prime Minister's Inspection Commission, Prime Minister's Office, Islamabad, said a news release.

The meeting was attended by PMIC Officer Engr. Aamir Hasan, Member, Muhammad Saleh Narejo, Director, and officers from the Ministry of Finance. Also present were representatives from all other concerned stakeholders, including the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan, the Chief Engineer PWD Highways (South), and the Project Director of the Government of AJ&K, NESPAK, and FWO.

After showing dissatisfaction over the implementation status the monitoring task has been given to Engr. Aamir Hasan, Member PMIC and former retired Federal Secretary for ensuring effective supervision of the project, currently under Monitoring, Evolution and Inspection at PMIC, said in a news release.

The representatives of the Ministry of Finance and all other concerned stakeholders Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan, the Chief Engineer PWD Highways (South) and the Project Director of the Government of AJ&K, NESPAK and FWO briefed the Chairman on the latest progress of the project.

The Project Director of the Rathoua Haryam bridge briefed the issues about the design of the bridge, revision of PC-I and allocation of funds.

After detailed deliberations with the representatives of the Ministry of Finance and all other con-

cerned stakeholders Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan, Chief Engineer PWD Highways (South) and Project Director of Government of AJ&K, NESPAK and FWO; it was decided that FWO immediately share the design of the bridge with the NESPAK for vetting and NESPAK after vetting the design of the bridge would submit their expert opinion on it to FWO before January 25, accordingly the revision of PC-I will be processed at Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives for the approval of revision of PC-I.

It would facilitate the local people of AJ&K and will curtail the travelling distance between Mirpur and Islamgarh, Chaksawari, Dudyal, Kotli and Charhoi by 21 km and travelling time by 25 minutes.

The Chairman, PMIC has stressed for completion of the project in true letter and spirit. The progress report of the project will be submitted to the Prime Minister.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Division Jamal Shah cutting ribbon to inaugurate calligraphic exhibition titled "Mashq-e-Ishq" by Gen. (R) Humayun Khan Bangash at PNCA.

Railways Hospitals to be opened for general public

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways has planned to open all its hospitals for the general public to provide state-of-the-art medical facilities to its employees and the general public across the country.

"The decision to open all the hospitals of the department in January has been taken on the directions of Minister for Railways, Shahid Ashraf Tarar," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP.

The official said the minister has appreciated the management of Pakistan Railways for already opening the Cairns Hospital,

Lahore for the general public within a stipulated time frame. "Pakistan Railways will take all possible measures to improve railway health sector services in which the expertise of private health experts will also be taken," the official added.

He said that Pakistan Railways will not engage the public-private partners to upgrade and improve the services of hospitals. The department directed the concerned officials to submit a business model shortly to earn revenue from Railway Hospitals.

To a question, he said Pakistan Railways has

started the upgradation of five major railway stations across the country on modern lines to facilitate the passengers and help the department generate more revenue. "The purpose of upgrading the railway stations is to make them commercial hubs for business activities and facilitate the passengers," he added.

He said the stations included Karachi, Lahore, Faisalabad, Peshawar and Quetta, while the department was taking other steps to improve the performance of Pakistan Railways and would provide maximum facilities to the masses.

ISSI welcomes Italian think-tank's president

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a fruitful in-house session with President of the Centre for International Studies (CeSI), Italy, Andrea Margelletti. The meeting brought together key representatives from both organizations, including ISSI Director General Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, the CSP director and research team, and members of the Italian mission in Pakistan.

The exchange of views covered key global and regional developments of mutual interest. There was a particular focus on Pakistan-Italy relations, which both sides acknowledged as robust and enduring in nature. They expressed gratification that the bilateral relationship was steadily ex-

panding across a broad spectrum. In the global and regional arena, the two sides discussed Ukraine and the security issues in Europe; developments in the Asia-Pacific; situation in the Middle East since October 7, 2023; regional stability in South Asia; post-August 2021 Afghanistan; and recent developments in West Asia.

"These in-depth exchanges underscored the shared commitment of both institutions to actively promote and contribute to mutual understanding on issues related to global peace and stability. The dialogue reflected a shared recognition of the intricate interconnections between regional and international dynamics, underscoring the importance of cooperative efforts in fostering a more secure and harmonious global environment."

I'bad Capital Police set to promote road safety awareness in primary schools

ISLAMABAD: According to the details, the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer

ICCPO said that, the distribution of meals has shown a 50% improvement in attendance and overall



(ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan conducted a visit to G-6/2 primary school, a public relations officer said.

During the visit, the ICCPO was accompanied by Federal Special Secretary for Education, Mohi-ud-Din Wani, and representatives from the NGO, who initiated the distribution of nutritious meals among the students.

On the occasion, the

health among the students. He further said that, the Islamabad Capital Police is set to provide road safety awareness in 100 primary schools, impacting students and promoting adherence to traffic regulations. "Our objective is not only to educate children but also to integrate traffic awareness into their educational activities, ICCPO added.

Chinese embassy delegation visits Central Police Office

ISLAMABAD: The delegation of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Pakistan visited the Central Police Office (CPO) here and met with Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan.

The Additional Inspector General of Police, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and other senior police officers were also present on the occasion, said a press release issued on Friday.

The delegation, under the leadership of the Chinese Consul, gifted protective equipment to the Islamabad Capital Police and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Police on behalf of the People's Republic of China, for which the ICCPO thanked the Chinese Ambassador.

He told the delegation that the Islamabad Capital Police has taken several crucial measures for the security of the Chinese Embassy.

The delegation was also briefed about the establishment of the Special Protection Unit (SPU) of the Islamabad Capital Police. ICCPO also expressed its gratitude to the People's Republic of China for organizing various training programs to increase the capacity building of police officials.

COMSTech organizes public lecture on 'Game Changing Technologies'

ISLAMABAD (APP): COMSTech-the OIC Ministerial Standing Committee of Scientific and Technological Cooperation Friday organized a public lecture on game-changing technologies.

The lecture was delivered by Prof. Dr. Javid Leghari, former Chairman Higher Education Commission, Senator, former Acting Coordinator General COMSTech and President of the Forum for Dialogue and Diplomacy, Houston. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Leghari said that in the rapidly evolving landscape of innovation, we find ourselves on the cusp of a new era driven by groundbreaking technolo-

gies that have the potential to revolutionize every aspect of daily life. He said that Artificial Intelligence, Virtual Reality, Metaverse, Quantum Computing, Robotics and automation, and drones are some of these game-changing technologies.

Prof. Leghari said that in today's world skills are becoming more important than degrees. He informed that technology companies are not asking for degrees, they are looking for skills, and three, six or nine month's skill development courses are more effective than a degree.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Secretary for Interior Aftab Akbar Durrani in a meeting with UNHCR Representative Philippa Candler.

Posters urge IIOJK people to pay tributes to martyrs, observe Jan 26 as Black Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): Posters have appeared in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir urging the people to pay tributes to martyrs and observe India's Republic Day on 26 January as Black Day.

The posters, pasted on pillars, poles and walls in different areas of the territory, said the purpose of the paying tributes to the Kashmiri martyrs and observing 26 January as Black Day is to register their protest against the forcible occupation of their motherland by India.

Terminating the so-called Indian Republic Day celebrations in IIOJK a cruel joke, the posters, displayed by All Parties Hurriyat Conference and other Hurriyat organizations in different parts of the territory, read that India should read the clear message from the people of Kashmir that

they have always rejected its illegal occupation.

The posters, also circulating on social media, have further asked the people to hold special prayers for the Kashmiri martyrs on the anniversaries of these massacres. Meanwhile, the Jammu Kashmir National Front spokesperson Haseeb Wani in a statement in Srinagar appealed to the Kashmiri people to observe India's Republic Day as Black Day, saying that the fascist occupation of their motherland, which has denied the basic rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, has no justification to celebrate its Republic Day in the occupied territory.

Condemning India's illegal and forced occupation of Jammu and Kashmir, he said, "For the past several decades, the Indian forces have been badly involved in violating the basic political.

Pak Norway envoy attends seminar on educational collaboration

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Pakistan in Norway Saadia Altaf Oazi and Deputy Head of Mission Rabail Mustafa Soomro on Friday visited the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) to attend a seminar on educational collaboration opportunities and projects between Pakistan and Norway. The seminar was arranged by the university's international office in collaboration with professors and students at NTNU and Sukkur IBA University of Pakistan, according to the embassy's post on X. The seminar also provided an opportunity to engage with the Norwegian Partnership Programme for Global Academic Cooperation (NORPART) and RAPID-Erasmus+ programs.

Mother, two kids suffer burns in gas cylinder blast

ISLAMABAD (APP): A mother and her two children sustained burn injuries when an LPG cylinder exploded at Faisal Colony Dalazak Road Peshawar on Friday morning.

Rescue teams and ambulances reached the scene and shifted the injured to the hospital, a Private news channel reported.

Motorway sections temporarily closed due to dense fog

ISLAMABAD (APP): In response to the prevailing dense fog conditions, several sections of major motorways in the country have been temporarily closed.

According to National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP), the closed sections include M-1 from Burhan to Swabi and Rashakai to Peshawar toll plaza. M-2 from Kot Momin to Lillah, Islamabad toll plaza to Thallian, Chakari to Neela Dullah, Kot Momin to Pindi Bhattian, Feroqabad to Pindi Bhattian, Thokar Niaz Baig to Feroqabad and Balkasar to Kallar

Kahar, PTV News reported.

M-4 Faisalabad Interchange to Pindi Bhattian, Gojra Interchange to Faisalabad interchange, Abdul Hakeem to Gojra and Abdul Hakeem to Sher Shah and M-5 from Rahim Yar Khan to Rohri and Zahir peer to Uch Sharif have been closed.

The commuters were urged to stay informed and plan their travel accordingly. For the latest updates and information, individuals are advised to contact the National Highway and Motorway helpline at 130 or check their official social media platforms.

Madad directs to accommodate teachers serving on deputation in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindhi Friday issued directives for accommodating those teachers serving in Islamabad under the Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) for more than 20 years on wedlock policy.

The minister said that during a meeting with a delegation of teachers serving on deputation in FDE from provinces, said a press release. Madad Ali Sindhi said that teachers that have served in the capital for more than 20 years through the wedlock policy.



ISLAMABAD: Supporters of Pakistan Muslim League (N) sitting in a campaign office alongside a road at sector G-9 at Karachi Company in the Federal Capital, ahead of the upcoming general elections.

Elections to be held on time, Tariq Fazal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) senior leader Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry on Friday said that the elections will be held on time and PML-N will soon unveil a comprehensive and dedicated election manifesto for the welfare of the people.

Talking to a private news channel, he said that the leadership of Pakistan Muslim League (N) has always fulfilled its promises and will do so again.

He said that his leadership had successfully offset the energy shortfall and eliminated terrorism from the country.

Remembering singer Mehnaz Begum on her death anniversary

ISLAMABAD (APP): The death anniversary of renowned Pakistani singer, Mehnaz Begum was observed on Friday.

Born as Kaneez Raza in Karachi in 1955, Mehnaz Begum's mesmerizing voice left an indelible mark on the hearts of music enthusiasts for four glorious decades.

Hailing from a distinguished musical lineage as the daughter of the renowned singer and ghazal maestro, Kajjan Begum, Mehnaz Begum officially stepped into the world of music in 1972 after earning her Bachelor's degree from Sir Syed Girls College.

"With the construction of more filtration plants in Islamabad, we have ensured that clean drinking water is easily available to the citizens," he remarked.

He informed that filtration plants in all sectors of Islamabad are operational and people are fully benefiting from this facility. "Our senior staff and officials randomly inspect these plants to monitor their performance. The area is cleaned and the filters are replaced in time."

He said the tests of water supplied from these plants are conducted every month by PCRWR and the CDA laboratory to ensure that contaminants are properly removed and healthy and safe water is provided to citizens.

"To avoid rush at these plants, we have now started them operating round the clock," he said. "Now it is up to their convenience as when can come to these facilities for getting water."



ISLAMABAD: Girls are enjoying riding train during a festival at Jinnah Convention Center in the Federal Capital.

Time to upgrade clean drinking water facility for Isoolites

ISLAMABAD (APP): With federal capital's population surpassing two million, the natural resources available for the city are getting under severe stress as citizens have to face issues like water scarcity, waste disposal and roads infrastructure.

The citizens are worried about uninterrupted supply of water for domestic use especially clean drinking water as contaminated water in most parts of the country had already resulted in ailment of millions of Pakistanis with Hepatitis, Diarrhea and other stomach related diseases.

Although the Capital Development Authority (CDA) continuously remains on its toes to meet growing water demands of citizens, many residents of Islamabad believe to expand this network across the Capital Territory.

Keeping in view the density of the underground water, the Authority has installed water filtration

plants at various locations to facilitate residents and save them from water borne diseases.

The Authority is presently operating over 100 filtration plants in settled sectors of Islamabad. But, the situation in some adjacent areas yet needs improvement where these plants are managed by the representatives' local governments.

Despite scattered complaints about hygiene and cleanliness, overall situation is stated to be better than three, four years ago. "This is a noble endeavor by CDA as clean drinking water is requirement of every individual," said Kashif Munir, a resident of sector G-10. "But, the Authority needs to fully cognizant of fulfilling health and hygiene standards at these plants."

Claiming about lesser efficiency of filtration plants in Sabzi Mandi, G-10/3 and I-9, Kashif drew attention of the Authority towards proper maintenance of these plants.

Some plants are in poor condition with water leakage becoming a routine matter," he said. "These plants need proper supervision and security and timely repair and maintenance to control water wastage and keep the places clean."

As contaminated drinking water poses serious health hazards and ailment and death sometimes, there is dire need for policies to ensure clean drinking water for all.

Such initiative would not save the precious money of citizens being incurred on curing water borne diseases but also help save this precious resource for coming generations.

Qasim Khan, a resident of I-9 has also mentioned to problems like delayed repair of poorly performing plants as well as their capacity to cater the needs of people.

"The Authority must comply with the protocols of cleanliness, repair and

upgradation of these plants to make the citizens fully benefit from this facility," he suggested.

"Sometimes the ground staff keeps oblivious to maintenance that worsens the situation," he said. "Therefore, periodical maintenance and checking water quality was imperative."

He observed that at some plants the taps were insufficient to meet masses needs. "At such plants people have to wait for inordinate amounts of time to get water because of the lesser taps."

On the other hand, the officials of Capital Development Authority claim that Water Supply Department of CDA takes all necessary steps to ensure supply of clean drinking water in the city.

"We are presently running over 100 filtration plants operated by designated staff. This figure is three times higher what we had on ground four years back," the official claimed.



ISLAMABAD: People crossing nullah through temporary wooden ladder along road at Pirwadhai.

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Bilateral breakdown

In a shocking turn of events, Pakistan-Iran ties have hit rock bottom in a matter of days, sparked by Tehran's unprovoked strike in Panjgur.

On Tuesday, the caretaker prime minister and the Iranian foreign minister were exchanging pleasantries in Davos, while both navies were conducting joint drills in the Strait of Hormuz.

Later that day, Tehran would strike Pakistani territory in an unprecedented move, claiming to have hit anti-Iran terrorists. Pakistan insisted two children were killed in the ill-advised action. After downgrading diplomatic ties, Pakistan on Thursday struck Iranian territory.

According to ISPR, terrorists belonging to Baloch separatist outfits were neutralised in Operation Marg Bar Samachar near Saravan. Iran claims "foreign nationals" were killed in the Pakistani action.

The immediate need is to de-escalate matters, and prevent the conflict from spiralling further. While Iran's action in Panjgur was highly condemnable, both states must handle the fallout with care.

It is easy to dial up tensions, but this would not be in the interest of either country. There must be a frank discussion between both capitals about the common problem of militancy. Pakistan says Baloch separatists find shelter in Iran, while Tehran claims Baloch extremist groups such as Jaish al-Adl operate from this side of the border.

Over the years, both states have lost security men as well as civilians in border clashes and acts of terrorism, and a robust mechanism needs to be discussed in order to prevent the soil of either country from being used against the other.

Relations between Pakistan and Iran have been cordial since independence, and even after Iran took an ideological turn after the 1979 Islamic Revolution, matters did not deteriorate, despite Pakistan's closeness to the American and Saudi camp. While the current crisis is indeed a grave one, both sides can still row back and prevent further acrimony, if they choose to do so.

Admittedly, it will take time to rebuild trust, but neither state can afford hostility. For Pakistan, two borders — India and Afghanistan — remain tense; therefore, it is not in this country's interest to see hostilities break out at its frontier with Iran. Pakistan should seek iron-clad guarantees from the Iranian leadership that its territorial sovereignty will not be violated again.

Thereafter, diplomatic and security officials need to engage regularly to thwart the stratagems of violent non-state actors. Common friends, primarily China and Turkiye, have offered their services to mediate. Tehran and Islamabad should consider these offers positively.

Moreover, bilateral contacts need to be established at the highest levels in both states in order to build confidence and prevent a worsening of the situation. Malign forces would like to see this crisis explode; leaders in both capitals must ensure this does not happen.

After India, Iran learnt a bitter lesson

By Qamar Bashir

Press Secretary to the President(Rtd); Former Press Minister at Embassy of Pakistan to France; Former MD, SRBC



The Pakistani Armed Forces, renowned for their professionalism and tactical expertise, executed Operation Marg Bar Samachar (translated as "Death to Fighters") with remarkable precision and effectiveness. This operation, a direct response to Iran's intrusion, showcased their strategic prowess through a meticulously planned and executed strike, approximately 80 kilometers inside Iranian territory. Utilizing advanced military technology, including killer missiles, loitering ammunition, and standoff mortars, the operation targeted and successfully neutralized hide-outs of the Baloch terrorist outfits BLA and BLF.

This carefully calibrated retaliation, far from being an act of aggression, was a necessary measure of self-defense. The operation's flawless execution, coupled with its strategic restraint, underscores Pakistan's position as a responsible military power, fully capable of defending its national interests while adhering to international norms and standards of warfare. This decisive action sent a strong message about Pakistan's ability to respond to threats with precision and professionalism, cementing its status as a formidable force in the region.

In total disbelief, the unprovoked and aggressive action by Iran was perceived in Islamabad and across Pakistan as a profound betrayal and deceit by a nation long regarded

as a close ally sparked a deep-seated anguish among the Pakistani armed forces, government, and citizens alike. It was not just the act itself but the sense of treachery from a country considered a brotherly friend that intensified the emotional response. The people of Pakistan felt an acute sense of being backstabbed, not by a known adversary like India, but by a nation with whom they shared a bond of brotherhood and solidarity. This event has not only caused a strategic reevaluation in Islamabad but has also left an indelible mark on the collective psyche of the Pakistani nation, reshaping perceptions and potentially altering the course of regional alliances and diplomatic relations.

Perhaps soon after the attacks, Iran realized that it has committed a strategic and tactical mistake by equating Syria and Iraq with Pakistan in terms of military retaliation capabilities, especially considering Pakistan's status as a nuclear-armed nation with highly trained armed forces. It realized that while Syria and Iraq due to various internal and external factors, were not in a position to respond with equivalent military might, Pakistan, a nuclear-armed state with a well-trained and equipped military, presents a vastly different scenario. The capacity for significant military response from Pakistan is considerably higher, making any aggressive action towards it riskier.

Pakistan's status as a nuclear power adds a critical dimension to its defense capabilities. The nuclear deterrent is a significant factor that any adversary must consider before engaging in military actions against Pakistan. Nuclear capabilities are not just about the potential use of nuclear weapons, but they also serve as a strategic deterrent in international relations, signaling severe consequences in the event of escalated conflicts.

This incident resurrected the memories of India's similar incursions in the past and the stern lesson it learned from Pakistan's decisive and skillful retaliation. It seemed as though Iran had overlooked or disregarded the clear message Pakistan had sent in the past about its military capabilities and resolve to defend its sovereignty. In 2019, Pakistan's response to India's Balakot airstrike was a masterclass in military strategy and diplomatic tact. Swiftly intercepting an Indian aircraft and capturing its pilot, Pakistan turned a potential escalation point into a diplomatic opportunity. The release of the Indian pilot was a calculated gesture of de-escalation, earning global acclaim for Pakistan's commitment to restraint and peace. This move significantly bolstered Pakistan's international standing, projecting it as a nation prioritizing stability and diplomatic engagement over extended conflict, especially crucial given the nuclear capabilities of both countries.

In stark contrast, the recent tensions with Iran, sparked by Iranian missile strikes resulting in civilian casualties in Pakistan, prompted a different kind of response. Pakistan's military retaliation, precisely targeting militants within Iran's borders, demonstrated assertiveness while carefully avoiding a broader military engagement. This situation diverges from the 2019 scenario with India, reflecting a more intricate and evolving

diplomatic challenge. These two episodes collectively highlight Pakistan's sage approach to regional challenges. The nation has shown its capacity to blend decisive military action with diplomatic sensibility effectively. The response to India in 2019 displayed Pakistan's adeptness in conflict resolution and peacekeeping. Conversely, the current situation with Iran tests Pakistan's ability to navigate ongoing regional disputes, maintaining a balance between self-defense and a commitment to regional and international peace. These instances underscore Pakistan's role as a key player in a volatile regional landscape, capable of managing complex international relations while steadfastly upholding its national security and sovereignty.

Amidst the already tumultuous landscape of the Middle East, where Israel conducts airstrikes in Gaza and the West Bank, and Hezbollah faces off in Lebanon, the region is a tinderbox of conflict and human suffering. The United States' operations against the Houthis in Yemen, aimed at ensuring the Red Sea's strategic trade route remains open, add another layer to this complex scenario. In such a volatile environment, Iran's decision to launch attacks on three Muslim countries is not only ill-timed but also exacerbates the region's instability. This period is especially harrowing for civilians caught in the crossfire. Daily, innocent lives are lost as collateral damage in the ongoing conflict between Hamas and Israel, while many more suffer the brutalities of winter without adequate food or shelter. It's a time when leader-

ship and unity among Muslim nations are more critical than ever. Instead of opening new battlefronts, exacerbating existing conflicts, and adding to the regional turmoil, this moment calls for a concerted effort towards de-escalation and peace. Iran, with its significant influence in the region, had the opportunity to exercise leadership by working alongside other Muslim countries to douse the flames of conflict. Such actions could have fostered a much-needed sense of unity and purpose among nations already burdened by war and strife. In these pressing times, the focus should be on humanitarian assistance, diplomatic efforts to resolve conflicts, and steps towards lasting peace, rather than engaging in actions that further ignite the volatile landscape of the Middle East.

In the wake of the highly charged and volatile episode between Iran and Pakistan, it is imperative that both nations exercise prudence and seek a path towards de-escalation. The hope is that this unfortunate incident will soon be relegated to the background, paving the way for the restoration of normal diplomatic channels.

It is crucial for Iran and Pakistan to collaboratively develop a robust, credible strategy to dismantle safe havens for militants within their borders. This approach should be transparent, verifiable, and based on mutual trust and cooperation. To effectively counter the menace of terrorism, both nations must engage in regular, in-depth dialogues at various levels, particularly among intelligence agencies and military units. These

discussions should aim to foster understanding, share critical information, and coordinate efforts more efficiently. Additionally, conducting joint and coordinated operations along the border regions could prove instrumental in uprooting the entrenched terrorist networks that threaten the security and stability of both countries.

Such collaborative efforts would not only signify a commitment to combating terrorism but also demonstrate a shared dedication to regional peace and security. By joining forces, Iran and Pakistan can set a powerful example of how cooperation and strategic partnership can overcome challenges and contribute to a safer, more stable region. The urgency of re-establishing a constructive and cooperative relationship between these two nations cannot be overstated, especially in a region that has long been plagued by conflict and instability.

The leadership of both countries should recognize that their people aspire not for war and conflict, but for growth, development, and peace. The path to a prosperous future lies in creating conditions that enable citizens to lead happy and contented lives. This can only be achieved by avoiding war and channeling resources towards the betterment of their nations. Iran and Pakistan have the opportunity to exemplify how countries can contribute positively to regional peace, emphasizing diplomatic engagement over military confrontation. Such efforts would not only benefit their own citizens but also set a precedent for conflict resolution and humanitarian consideration in international relations.

Love of God



Jan-e-Alam Khaki

One of the recurring themes in the Holy Quran that may stimulate any reader's imagination is the description of those who God 'loves' (uhibbu) and those He does not love (la uhibbu). There are numerous descriptions of both kinds, spread throughout the Quran. In this write-up, we will try to get a grasp of these two categories. Let us first describe the selective characteristics of those whom God loves and then look at those who attract God's disapproval or dislike. Thereafter, some implications and lessons learnt from both categories will be shared.

On close checking of the Quranic dictionary (Mo'jam) for the verb 'yuhibbu' (likes or loves), we come to the conclusion that the Quran mentions this verb with the addition of Allah as subject (wallahu yuhibbu) around 12 times. Out of these, only five instances are mentioned here for the sake of brevity and discussion. Allah says He loves those who are doers of good (mohsineen, 2:195); loves those who act equitably (muqsiteen, 60:8); those who are patient (sabirin, 2:153); pious or virtuous (muttaqeen, 2:2); and who keep themselves pure and clean (mutatahhireen, 2:222).

On the other hand, there are around 21 verses wherein Allah mentions those He does not love. Here, we select five such qualities as: transgressors/aggressors (mu'tadin, 7:55); the arrogant

(mustakbirin, 16:23); cruel people/transgressors (zalimeen, 3:140); those who spread fasad on earth (mufsideen, 29:30) and troublemakers or mischief-mongers.

Reflection upon these features reveals certain key points. First, almost all of them relate to ethical or moral conduct (huquq al-ibad). Almost all of them relate to human affairs advising to do good to people or avoid hurting them.

Second, among the behaviours God disapproves of the most, is creating mischief in the world. God does not will any wrong for His creatures (40:31) and He does not will any cruelty to His creatures (3:108). Cruelty is an act most disliked by God. Third, almost none of them are linked to duties related to God (huquq ullah); not that they are not important, but in these two categories, they are not included.

Fourth, almost all these are universal human values admired by all faith traditions and societies. So, one can call them universal moral virtues advocated and accepted by all humanity. Both categories of qualities lead us to the conclusion that Allah likes human goodness and does not like wrongdoing against humans. This leads us to humanism, which regards humans at the central stage of human goodness.

Religion, after all, apart from foundational beliefs, is all about the welfare of the people and creation in general. It is not just religious causes, as surely there are others as well, such as power, possession, wealth, etc. But religious fanaticism and is responsible for so much bloodshed. This is what is discouraged here through God's disapproval of those actions that lead to atrocities perpetrated on humans

through cruel actions. Often, we assume roles and responsibilities and interpret religion in a way that causes many rifts in the world and leads to great misery. These teachings are further echoed in Hadith literature. A well-known Hadith-i-Qudsi rightly rejects those who, though supposedly God-conscious, are irresponsible to those humans who have different needs, such as those pertaining to hunger and sickness. God complains that 'you' (humans), did not care "for Me when I was hungry, sick" — and the examples go on. To which humans respond by saying that You (O God) cannot be sick, etc, to which God then responds, when you saw so and so sick or hungry man, you did not care, implying that all humans are God's creatures. When we care for them, we 'care' for Allah, and when we ignore them, it is as if we actually ignore Him.

Inspired by such prophetic traditions, many Sufi teachers, poets and Muslim thinkers have emphasised these humanistic teachings. Probably this is why Maulana Hali rightly says: Prayer, faith and deen (overall) are all aimed at helping humans; so that when a human needs help, others can promptly provide it.

Allama Iqbal challenges us further by saying: There are many boastfully wandering in banu claiming to be the lovers of God; I, for one, will become the lover of the one who loves humans.

Finally, let us remember Abu bin Adam's story, in which he reminds us of a pious mystic who ascends to a mountaintop to 'access' God. Once there, God inspires him to descend, reminding him that He does not dwell on the top of mountains, but among the humans. -- Courtesy Dawn

The bounced cheque



Abdul Moiz Jaferi

There are some people who are born superheroes. Others have superheroism thrust upon them, once a particular robe and wig becomes theirs to wear. But there are yet others who are natural sidekicks; those whose lot it is to let the superheroes really shine, whilst they keep to the background and manage the admin. After all, someone has to keep the bat cave clean and ensure weapon refill orders aren't behind schedule. Even the batmobile needs servicing.

Ijazul Ahsan was Robin to the Batman that was Saqib Nisar. He went around tut-tutting after tasting prison food with chief justice Nisar, and stood around when the latter told off private hospital owners and gave them advice on what to wear whilst on a snap check of their private property. He enthusiastically helped host the Saqib Nisar weekend conferences on population control. He was with the boss at the forefront of the dam-building effort.

Then came Gulzar Ahmed, and Ijaz sahib donned his boots and work hat, and promptly became a city engineer with the new hero in town. He helped the top judge point his magic wand left and right, felling thousands of structures in Karachi for being illegal. This was the kind of superhero work which protected the paper plans of cities at the expense of the people for whom the cities are planned. But that

didn't faze justice Ijaz.

Next came Umar Ata Bandial, and here the sidekick took on a role far more equal to the hero's. It also helped that there was an Imran Khan-led political party that kept asking the Bandial court political questions disguised as requests for interpretive opinion. Turn by turn, Ijaz sahib helped rewrite the Constitution.

When it came to implementing the opinion-based works of fiction, he again helped seat himself on the permanent three-member bench which decided the same situation in two different ways depending on who petitioned it; if Imran Khan was not obeyed by his party, it was a cancer affecting the body politic; if Chaudhry Shujaat Husain wasn't obeyed, dictatorships within political parties became the cancer needing judicial surgery.

Justice Ijaz also has several great achievements outside of the political arena. Such as when he prompted justice Gulzar to add the word 'alleged' in reference to Matuallah Jan's abduction when Gulzar sahib was dictating an order. Or when he dismissed Absar Alam's petition against his removal as Pemra chairman, because his lawyer was absent due to being unwell. Ijaz sahib decided this wasn't good enough because there was no medical certificate filed by the lawyer. Who couldn't file it because he was unwell.

His environment-related record was equal to his other feats. Justice Ijaz was part of the bench which suspended the Lahore High Court order declaring the Ravi Urban Development Authority project as land grabbed from the poor with disastrous environmental impact, and allowed for 'development' to continue. RUDA was a pet project for Imran Khan, who shot

a video there promoting it.

Justice Ihsan talked the big talk when he had another shoulder to shoot over. He took whatever was the flavour of the moment and ran with it as long as there was someone running ahead of him.

He tried his best not to recuse himself from the bench that was hearing justice Isa's petitioning the presidential reference against him when it was pointed out that he would directly benefit from justice Isa being removed through a longer term as chief justice of Pakistan. Justice Isa fought and fought until all of Ijaz sahib's friends couldn't remove him.

Wickedness is a myth invented by good people to account for the curious attractiveness of others, said Oscar Wilde. After Imran Khan was deposed, Ijaz sahib strived hard to account for his curious attractiveness. This journey was a tough one, and occurred after he realised that an ousted Imran Khan needed the constitutional protections he had helped erode.

The hardest part of proving it is actually curious attractiveness must have been when he joined four other judges in declaring the assumption of the Army Act jurisdiction over civilians as being illegal and the relevant sections of the law unconstitutional. Like several of his other pro-democracy decisions that came after Imran Khan needed them this past year, no one took it seriously. Not even his brother judges at the Supreme Court.

It is surprising that justice Ihsan decided to take off the gloves even before the bell was rung. Even before the fight was announced. I wonder who he was afraid of being put up against. Perhaps an earlier version of himself? -- Courtesy Dawn

Governor directs VC IUB to resolve the financial issues of the university on priority

Independent Report
LAHORE: Chancellor/Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman presided over a high-level meeting today at Governor House Lahore to take stock of the administrative and financial affairs of Islamia University Bahawalpur. In the meeting, the committee set up to look into administrative and financial affairs of Islamia University presented a report to the Governor of Punjab. On this occasion, the Punjab Governor directed the Vice-Chancellor of Islamia University Bahawalpur, Professor Dr Naveed Akhtar and other officers to resolve the financial issues of the university on priority. He also directed the VC to hold a meeting of the Syndicate and take decisions quickly. In this regard, Governor Punjab also emphasized that the university should send the

case of additional grant immediately to the government as per its requirements so that it can be implemented soon. It is worth mentioning here that from 2013 to 2018, the federal grant of the university increased continuously, while after 2018, a continuous decrease in the grant was observed. Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rahman said that timely payment of salaries of teachers and staff should be ensured. He said that quick and durable steps should be taken to set the university in the right direction. He urged that unnecessary expenses should be reduced and the sources of income should be increased in such a way that fees are not increased. Previous inquiry reports of Chief Minister Inspection Team (CMIT), Higher Education Commission,

and Higher Education Department were also discussed in the meeting. On this occasion, Governor Punjab issued instructions that the Punjab Government should take necessary steps in the light of these reports. Governor Punjab directed that all these reports should also be presented before the Syndicate so that the Syndicate can take correct decisions in the light of the report presented by these important departments. Governor Punjab said that the university should re-examine the agreement of the academic block construction project, which was stalled due to a dispute with a private company, and ensure its early completion. Apart from this, Governor Punjab also directed to complete the shelved project of Girls Hostels at the earliest so that along with facilities the students.



MUZAFFRABAD: Chairperson of National Commission on the Status of Women Nilofar Bakhtiar posing for a group photograph along with participants after the seminar titled "State Consultation on Ending Child Marriage" at a local hotel in the city.

Sindh govt for ensuring online transaction of workers salaries

KARACHI (APP): The caretaker Sindh government instructed industrialists to ensure online transactions of salaries of industrial workers and implementation of labor rights and other relevant laws and rules. Sindh Provincial Steering Committee for Business and Human Rights, met here on Friday with caretaker provincial minister of Law and Human Rights Muhammad Umar Soomro in chair, also called for elimination of forced or voluntary labor, child labor and discriminatory practices on the basis of gender, color and creed at the workplace. According to a statement issued here, the meeting was attended by Secretary Human Rights Sindh Tahseen Fatima, Secretary Industries

Rashid Ahmed Solangi, Chairman Sindh Human Rights Commission Iqbal Ahmed Detho, secretaries and officers of other departments concerned and industrialists. Umar Soomro directed the Departments of Labor and Industry that the salaries of the workers working in the industries and factories should be made online under the law so that it is known whether they are getting the wages set by the government or not. He warned that action should be taken against those who do not comply with the law. The meeting was briefed by all the relevant departments about progress made on the important regulations of GSP Plus. The caretaker minister said that non-implementation of labor rights and environmental protection.

Traffic Police intensifies crackdown on violations

LAHORE (APP): Chief Traffic Officer Ammara Athar on Friday issued a clear directive to the wardens to intensify the crackdown against traffic violations in the city. According to a spokesman of the department, stringent measures will be taken against individuals driving without a license, underage drivers, one-way violators, and those not wearing helmets. The department witnessed over 16,000 motorcyclists challans for helmet violations, 264 drivers fined for underage driving, and 1,635 vehicles impounded for emitting smoke. Additionally, 57,000 fines were issued for lane violations, while 3,455 vehicles were seized for one-way traffic violations. To ensure road safety and prevent accidents, the crackdown will persist.



LAHORE: Activists of Jamiat Ahle Hadith Pakistan hold a protest against Iran attack on Pakistan, at Ravi road in Provincial Capital.

ECP for submission of postal ballot applications by Jan 22

PESHAWAR (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has set the January 22 deadline for eligible individuals to submit their postal ballots for both the national and provincial assemblies' elections. According to instructions issued by ECP, the government officials, armed forces personnel as well as their spouses and children, away from their constituencies, besides individuals in detention and those with physical disabilities were entitled for postal ballot. The ECP said that the application for a postal

ballot should be written on the prescribed form which could be obtained from the concerned returning officer or might also be downloaded from the commission's website and forwarded to the respectively Returning Officer. Upon receiving an application, the Returning Officer would send a ballot paper and an envelope having a form of certificate of posting on its face, indicating the posting date to the applicant. The applicant would cast his/her vote as would be prescribed in the form and post the ballot paper.

Another dengue case reported

LAHORE (APP): Dengue virus is still affecting the province and a new dengue virus case reported in Punjab on Friday. The latest Health Department revealed that so far 18 confirmed dengue cases recorded across 36 districts in Punjab. During the current year, 11 cases were reported in Lahore, 2 in Rawalpindi, 2 in Faisalabad, 1 in Gujrat, 1 in Sargodha and 1 in Vehari. While, two dengue patients were currently under treatment in Lahore's hospitals. The Secretary of Health Punjab, Ali Jaan Khan, issued a compelling plea to citizens, urging them to maintain clean and dry surroundings as a preventive measure against Dengue fever.



KARACHI: Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar presides over the meeting to review problems of citizens at Chief Minister House.

NCSW to prepare gender equality strategy to be presented in UN Commission: Nilofer

MUZAFFRABAD (APP): National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) here on Friday held a consultation with provincial stakeholders on the preparation of National Report on "Need Analysis for Financing and Strengthening Institutions with Gender Perspective for Empowerment of Women and Girls" that will be presented by the commission in 68th Session of UN-Commission on the Status of Women. The consultation program was arranged with the help and support of consortium partners (UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women & UNDP). Event was attended by various gender experts,

representatives from government departments, civil society organizations, NGOs, and media. Theme of the sixty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women that will take place from the 11th to 22nd of March 2024 is "achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective." The subject consultation by NCSW in partnership Consortium members UNWOMEN, UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA aimed at preparing recommendations for the report to be presented at the 68th session of UN

Commission Status of women. The speakers in consultation raised related issues with a focus on economic empowerment of women and eradication of poverty. The participants exchanged the case studies of successful strategies, policies, and programs that have effectively empowered women and advanced gender equality. Nilofer Bakhtiar in her welcome remarks said that these pre CSW consultations by NCSW and Consortium partners aim at analyzing existing collaboration among government, civil society, the private sector, and international organizations.

LHC orders strict action against cafes operating late night

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Friday ordered for imposing fine on the cafes that stay open till late night in residential areas. Justice Shahid Karim passed the orders while hearing petitions filed by Haroon Farooq and others against ineffective measures to control smog. In the course of proceedings, a member of the Judicial Water and Environment Commission pointed out that a large number of cafes were operating beyond stipulated time in Johar Town area.

At this stage, the assistant commissioner Model Town also reported delays in closure of cafes. The court took a serious note of the situation and ordered for imposing a Rs 200,000 fine for the initial offense, escalating to a Rs 500,000 fine for the second violation. The court further ruled that the cafe in question should be sealed for the third violation. The court also directed to restore MA College ground immediately, besides adjourning further hearing till January 26.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori during his visit to Jinnah Hospital Emergency Department.

"Excise at your doorstep" service launched in Lahore

LAHORE (APP): The Excise, Taxation and Narcotics Control Department has launched 'Excise at your doorstep' service in Lahore to provide facility of vehicle registration and transfer to the citizens at their homes. Chief Secretary Punjab Zahid Akhtar Zaman inaugurated the 'Dahleez App' and 'E-Registration Card' at a ceremony held at DG Excise Office here on Friday. Secretary Excise Masood Mukhtar, Commissioner Lahore Division Muhammad Ali Randhawa, DG Excise Muhammad Ali and officers of the department participated in the inaugural ceremony. Speaking at the event, the Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman said that the use of technology was inevitable to improve governance and service

delivery. He mentioned that the government departments were being digitized for timely provision of services and elimination of corruption. He said that the launch of 'Dahleez App' and 'E-Registration Card' by the Excise Department was an important step towards digitization. Lauding the performance of the Excise Department, the Chief Secretary assured that the Punjab government would continue extending support to this institution. The DG Excise Muhammad Ali said that in the first phase, "Excise at your doorstep" service has been provided in Lahore, which would be extended to the entire province. He added that the excise department officials would reach the homes of the citizens to provide them vehicle registration.



LAHORE: Models walking on ramp during Bridal Show in a local wedding hall on late Thursday night.

PPP seriously working on solving problems of the city: Mayor Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that Pakistan People's Party (PPP) is seriously working on solving the problems of the city and we would continue the mission of development under the leadership of Bilawal Bhutto. The construction of Sarfraz Rafiqi Shaheed Road and Kala Pul Road will improve the transportation situation in the area and will provide facilities to the patients coming to Jinnah Hospital and National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases, he said while speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the newly constructed Sarfraz Rafiqi Shaheed Road and Kala Pul Road near Jinnah Hospital, said a statement on Friday. Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that along with the construction of roads, drainage system and street lights had also been installed. As many as 80 poles and lights have been

installed on the three roads. We do not forget the work after laying the foundation stone and get the project in the stages of completion as development work is going on in all the seven districts of Karachi without any discrimination, he said. He said that we were working in all the districts of Karachi with the spirit of service without discrimination. The Tannery Road in Lyari will be completed soon while work on Korangi causeway bridge is going on fast, he expressed. The Mayor Karachi said that we would lay the foundation stone of a sewerage scheme in central district and PPP will take steps to improve the sewerage system in Essa Nagri, he said that in the first phase of the Pakistan Life Savers program we will train the city wardens and after that traffic police personnel and other citizens will also be trained for this.



LAHORE: Newly appointed Ambassador of Czech Republic to Pakistan Ladislav Steinhübel meeting with Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur-Rehman at Governor House.

KP Higher Education Dept withdraws contractual lecturers termination orders

PESHAWAR: On the instructions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Newly Merged Districts Affairs, Industries, Commerce and Technical Education Dr. Aamer Abdullah, the Higher Education Department has withdrawn the termination order of contract lecturers serving in Newly Merged Districts under a project. The Caretaker Minister had instructed the Higher Education Department that in view of lacking educational staff and dire need in the same districts, these lecturers should be reinstated on contractual basis so that the studies of the students are not affected, while the minister had assured that arrangement of fund will

be made for the expenses of these teaching staff, said a press release issued here on Friday. Similarly on the instructions of minister, the termination order of 42 contract lecturers has been withdrawn by concerned department. Meanwhile, the caretaker minister has also sought a report from the concerned authorities regarding the issue of non payment of NMDs contractual nursing staff salaries. Taking action on various media reports regarding the protest of the nursing staff and alleged non-payment of salaries for 9 months, the caretaker minister has issued orders to seek a written report based on the details from the health department.



LAHORE: Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan, H. E. Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmad Al Maliki called on Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Raza Naqvi.

DG Health says: Extension granted in contract for AIP paramedical staff

PESHAWAR: Director General of Health Services, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Dr Shaukat Ali has announced an extension in the contract for paramedical staff recruited under the AIP Scheme for an additional year. This extension aims at addressing salary-related issues promptly and ensuring uninterrupted health services in the newly merged districts. According to Dr

Shaukat Ali, the contract for paramedical staff in the merged Districts concluded on July 1, 2023, disrupting health services. Dr Shaukat Ali revealed that the contract has been extended last July until the end of the financial year, June 30. This extension will benefit over 1,250 paramedical staff in the merged Districts. Dr Shaukat Ali highlighted the financial constraints in addressing the health staff's issues in merged Districts.

IGP assures support to martyrs' families

PESHAWAR (APP): Inspector General of Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Akhtar Hayat Khan on Friday visited Bajaur to meet with the families of martyred police personnel and offered prayers for the elevated ranks of the martyrs. He assured the families of all kinds of support and boosted their morale. He mentioned that

all facilities under the martyr's package would soon be provided to everyone. "Our heroes, who sacrificed their lives for the defense of the country, will not go in vain," he said. The IGP emphasized that special care would be taken for the well-being of the children of the martyrs. During his visit to Police Lines Bajaur.

CM Sindh takes notice of water board employee's target killing

KARACHI (APP): The caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (retd) Maqbool Baqar took notice of the target killing of an employee of water board here on Friday. According to a CM House Spokesman, the CM took notice of the employee Fahim's killing during a meeting at CM House and offered fateha. Baqar directed the Additional IGP Karachi to nab culprits of the deceased. He also sought details of the killing.

ANF seizes 155 kg drugs in seven operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting seven operations across the country managed to recover 155 kg drugs and arrested eight accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Friday. He informed that 2 kg heroin was recovered from a parcel booked for the UK at a cargo office at Allama Iqbal Airport while an accused was also arrested. In the second operation, 102 kg of hashish was recovered from the Kuchlak bypass area in Quetta. In the third operation conducted at Karkhano market Peshawar, 30 kg charras was recovered. 14 kg hashish was recovered from two accused rounded up from Jail Road Haripur area while 5 kg hashish was recovered from Theera Orakzai area. In the sixth operation, 1 kg of hashish was recovered from three accused arrested from the Pirwadhai Mor area in Rawalpindi.

Police busted six members bike lifter gang in Mansehra

MANSEHRA (APP): City Police Station Mansehra Friday successfully apprehended a six-member bike-lifter gang and recovered several motorcycles. The Superintendent Police City Police station said that the arrested suspects had been identified as Sadiq son of Muhammad Ayub, resident of Hango Hal Pano Dheri, Abdullah son of Bahra Muhammad from Pakhwal Chowk, Allah Dad son of Behram from Pakhwal Chowk, Shahzad son of Muhammad Islam resident of Batakandi and Sameer son of Saeed hailing from Oghi. Responding to the surge in motorcycle thefts across various areas in the district, District Police Officer (DPO) Mansehra.

Minister sets ambitious goals for Pakistan's economic self-reliance

LAHORE (APP): Federal Caretaker Minister for Commerce, Industries and Investment Dr. Ejaz Gohar expressed confidence in the government's efforts to steer the country's economy towards self-reliance.

Addressing the 3-day 3rd Engineering and Healthcare Show organized by the Ministry of Commerce and Industries in collaboration with the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) at the Expo Centre here on Friday, Gohar outlined key strategies for sustained

economic progress. The minister emphasized the need for the upcoming elected government to uphold the current administration's pace and policies, particularly focusing on achieving a formidable 100 billion dollar export target within the next ten years. Gohar stressed that the primary focus should be on increasing exports, and to facilitate this, the government is introducing export-friendly facilities.

Identifying economic challenges as Pakistan's major issue, Gohar underscored the

importance of increasing exports tenfold and strengthening various sectors, particularly textiles, agriculture, and the power sector. He revealed that despite IMF conditions, Pakistan managed to increase exports by 50 per cent in the past five months, when July 2023 export volumes was 2 billion dollars.

Highlighting efforts to boost the exports, Gohar announced a subsidized rate of 9 cents per unit of electricity for all industries. He affirmed the government's commitment to fortifying textiles,

agriculture, and other sectors crucial for economic growth. The minister noted a monthly increase of one billion dollars in exports over the past three months, and with revised tariffs, he anticipated a doubling of the country's export figures. During his visit to various stalls at the Expo, Minister Gohar engaged with representatives from different companies who briefed him on their manufacturing processes. Gohar concluded his address by expressing optimism about Pakistan's promising economic



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar chairing a meeting on drugs pricing mechanism.



LAHORE: Federal Minister of Commerce, Industries and Investments, Dr. Gohar Ejaz addressing the Engineering & Healthcare Show 2024 at Expo Center Johar Town.

Textile exports earn \$8.283 billion for Pakistan in 1st half

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan earned \$8,283,261 million from exports of textile products during the first half of the current financial year (2023-24), the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported here Friday. The exports of the product however witnessed a decline of 4.97 percent during July-December (2023-24) when compared to the exports of \$8,716,437 million during July-December (2022-23).

The textile commodities that witnessed positive growth in trade included raw cotton, the exports of which grew by 374.66 percent, from \$11,253 million last year to \$53,412 million this year. Likewise, the exports of cotton yarn increased by 54.25 percent, from \$381,545 million last year to \$588,529 million this year and towels by 1.72 percent, from \$491,696 million to \$500,133 million. The textile commodities that witnessed negative growth include cotton cloth, the exports of which declined

by 13.10 percent, from \$1,066,360 million to \$926,677 million; cotton carded or combed by 27.33 percent, from \$0,809 million to \$0,588 million; yarn other than cotton yarn by 13.85 percent, from \$22,708 million to \$19,562 million, and knitwear by 10.65 percent, from \$2,464,971 million to \$2,202,529 million.

Likewise, the exports of bed wear declined by 3.55 percent from \$1,427,730 million to \$1,377,109 million, tents, canvas and tarpaulin by 1.45 percent, from \$61,838 million to \$60,941, ready-made garments by 8.93 percent, from \$1,832,835 million to \$1,669,253 million. The exports of art, silk and synthetic textile also decreased by 15.29 percent by declining from \$209,225 million to \$177,237 million, madeup articles by 6.81 percent, from \$378,660 million to \$352,864 million whereas the exports of all other textile materials also went down by 3.37 percent, from \$366,807 million to \$345,428 million.

Rupee gains 08 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistani Rupee on Friday witnessed an appreciation of 08 paise against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs279.89 against the previous day's closing of Rs279.97.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs279.5 and Rs281.5 respectively.

The price of the Euro decreased by 20 paise to close at Rs304.47 against the last day's closing of Rs304.67, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese Yen lost 01 paise and closed at Rs1.88, whereas a decrease of 30 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs354.93 compared to the last closing of Rs355.23.

The exchange rates of the Emiratis Dirham and the Saudi Riyal decreased by 02 paise and 03 paise to close at Rs76.20 and Rs74.62 respectively.

PSX turns to bullish trend, gains 79 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around to bullish trend on Friday, gaining 79.83 points, a positive change of 0.13 percent, closing at 63,282.23 points against 63,202.40 points the previous trading day.

A total of 287,310,860 shares valuing Rs.9,320 billion were traded during the day as compared to 445,797,697 shares valuing Rs.14,236 billion the last day.

Some 339 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 160 of them recorded gains and 158 sustained losses, whereas the share prices of 21 remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were K-Electric Ltd with 49,814,334 shares at Rs.5.54 per share, PIAC(A) with 43,353,500 shares at Rs.12.04 per share and PTC Ltd with 14,161,766 shares at Rs.13.83 per share.

Mari Petroleum Company Limited,

SECP, ADB to host workshop on "Women in Finance Thought Leaders"

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Securities and Exchange of Pakistan and the Asian Development Bank are partnering to host a "Women in Finance Thought Leaders Workshop," featuring experts from the microfinance sector, ADB, Women's World Banking, IFC, and Google.

The workshop aims to foster a collaborative environment for thought leaders to discuss strategies for women's empowerment through microfinance and address challenges and opportunities in financial

inclusion, said a press release issued here on Friday.

The event will feature a series of interactive sessions and panel discussions to highlight how non-bank microfinance institutions (NBMFI) can aid women in achieving financial independence. The workshop focuses on fintech's potential to boost women's financial inclusion, tackle non-bank microfinance sector issues, and bridge the gender finance gap. The workshop is expected to attract a diverse audience.



SARGODHA: Women visiting different stalls during two-day Orange Mela organized by Lok Virsa at Sargodha Arts Council.

Weekly inflation up by 0.34 percent

ISLAMABAD (APP): The weekly inflation measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI) witnessed an increase of 0.34 per cent for the combined consumption groups during the week ended on January 18, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday.

According to the PBS data, the SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 319.00 points as compared to 317.92 points during the past week.

As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 44.64 per cent.

The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 =100 covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups.

The SPI for the lowest consumption group up to Rs. 17,732, increased

by 0.61 percent and went up to 314.12 points from last week's 312.23 points.

The SPI for consumption groups from Rs. 17,732-22,888, Rs. 22,889-29,517; Rs. 29,518-44,175 and above Rs. 44,175, increased by 0.54 percent, 0.46 percent, 0.40 and 0.23 percent respectively.

During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 22 (43.14%) items increased, 08 (15.68%) items decreased and 21 (41.18%) items remained stable.

The items, which recorded a decrease in their average prices on a week-on-week basis included potatoes (3.85%), petrol (2.99%), sugar (0.90%), tea packet (0.20%), vegetable ghee 2.5 kg (0.14%), cooking oil 5 litres (0.08%), wheat flour (0.07%) and gur (0.04%).

The items that recorded an increase in their average prices on a week-on-week basis included onions (8.69%), tomatoes (7.51%), energy sever (2.72%).

Pak-US relations set on boosting economy, trade: Masood Khan

WASHINGTON (APP): Pakistan-US relations are strengthening in both security and non-security areas, with a special focus on investment and trade cooperation that emphasize the utility of the recently launched platform of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), Ambassador Masood Khan has said.

"We must be partners ... we must continue to talk to each other and resolve issues that would hinder peace and security in the region, but, more importantly, we must develop people-to-

people contacts and increase economic cooperation", the Pakistani envoy told a large audience in the prestigious University Club in Washington D.C.

The club's International Committee had invited Ambassador Masood Khan to speak on a wide array of subjects.

The audience comprised members of the think-tank community, businessmen, entrepreneurs, opinion makers, and the media.

Highlighted the importance of Pak-US relations, the ambassador cited the presence of 80 US

companies in Pakistan, he said that the US has a standing advantage because of its companies' experience in Pakistan spanning decades and their existing investment infrastructure in the country.

In the field of education and technology, he termed the recently renewed Pakistan-U.S. Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement transformative and stressed that its potential should be fully utilized for higher education, research and development, and technological collaboration.

Gold rates up by Rs.1,300

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price per tola of 24 karat gold increased by Rs1,300 and was sold at Rs.215,000 in the local market on Friday as against its sale at Rs.213,700 on the last trading day. Likewise, the price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also went up by Rs.1,115 to Rs.184,328 from Rs183,213 and the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went up to Rs.168,976 from Rs.169,945.

The price of per tola and ten-gram silver remained unchanged at Rs.2,600 and Rs.2,229.08 respectively.

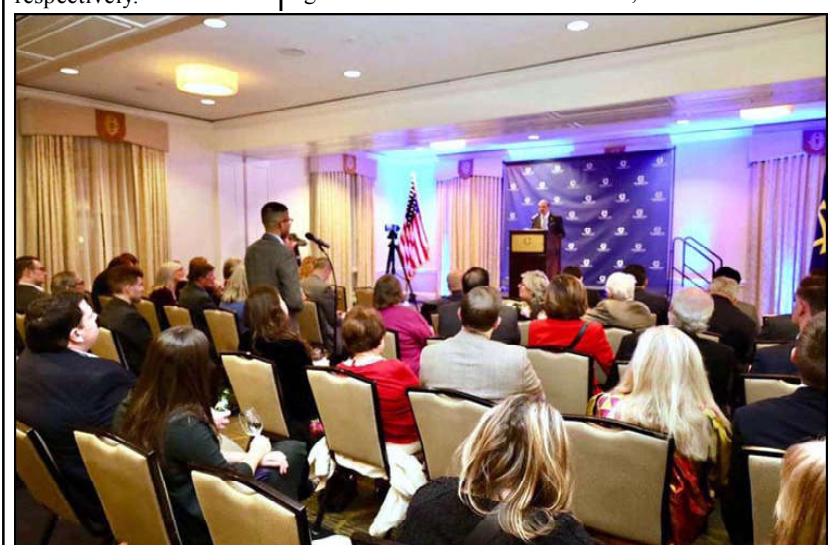
Govt attaches top priority to development of agri sector: Ch Hameed

FAISALABAD (APP): Director Agriculture (Extension) Chaudhry Abdul Hameed said that the development of the agricultural sector was top priority of the government as the sector provides raw materials for industries as well as meet the nutritional needs of the country's population.

He said here on Friday that all possible measures were being taken for the development of the agriculture sector.

He explained that in the total agricultural produce of Pakistan, 70% of cotton, 76% of wheat, 81% of rice, 49% of sugarcane and 65% of the mangoes were produced in Punjab province.

It was imperative to increase agricultural production to meet the nutritional needs of the growing population. The use of balanced fertilizers was vital for higher per acre yield in the agriculture sector, he said.



WASHINGTON: Ambassador Masood Khan addressing a jam-packed hall, comprising members of the think-tank community, businessmen, entrepreneurs, opinion makers and the media. Ambassador Masood Khan highlighted the importance of Pak-US relations.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity reported at the Port where six ships namely, Meratus Jayakarta, Lucky Star, Victoria Kosan, Benue, Ullswater and Jal Kalpavriksh carrying Containers, Palm oil, Chemicals, LNG, LPG and Coal, berthed at Container Terminal, Liquid Terminal, Engro Terminal, Gas Terminal, Sui Southern Gas Terminal and Bulk Cargo Terminal respectively on Thursday.

President SCCI, RTO Peshawar discuss reforms in tax sector

PESHAWAR (APP): President Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Fuad Ishaq and Chief Commissioner RTO Peshawar Zafar Iqbal held an open forum at the Chamber level aiming to resolve the problems of the business community at their doorstep.

According to the

details, an important meeting between SCCI President Fuad Ishaq and Chief Commissioner RTO Peshawar Zafar Iqbal held at the Regional Tax Office, said a press release issued here on Friday.

The meeting was attended by SCCI Senior Vice President Sanaulah Khan, Vice President Ijaz Khan Afridi, Commissioner Inland Revenue RTO.

ICCI, UNICEF sign MoU for economic empowerment of marginalized people

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) have signed an Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate on many initiatives to promote the economic empowerment of marginalized people.

The initiative also aimed at to make progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Pakistan, said a press release received here on Friday.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President ICCI, and Abdullah A. Fadi, UNICEF Representative Pakistan signed the MoU during a ceremony held at ICCI.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President ICCI lauded the efforts of

UNICEF Pakistan to address issues in health, education, child protection, skills development, climate change, nutrition, water, sanitation, hygiene and social protection and other fields. He assured that ICCI would support UNICEF in its initiatives to advance children's rights and economic empowerment of neglected segments of society. He said that ICCI would mobilize its members to support UNICEF and facilitate partnerships between ICCI members and UNICEF in areas of interest for the well-being and welfare of poor people.

Abdullah A. Fadi, UNICEF Representative in Pakistan thanked ICCI for signing the MoU and added that UNICEF Pakistan would like to strengthen its cooperation with ICCI.



ISLAMABAD: People are busy buying warm clothes in Friday weekly bazaar at sector H-9 in the Federal Capital.

Olive oil production on rise in Hazara Division

ABBOTTABAD (APP): During the last two decades or so the cultivating trend of olive plantation in some areas of Punjab, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has remained successful as it has led to rapid growth in the edible oil production.

Hazara division is one of the best and suitable regions for olive plantation where hundreds of farmers have been attracted and started grafting olive on local breed named "Kaho" and within two to three years, they have also started to yield which has grown many folds with the passage of time. From district Haripur to

Battagram more than 1000 hectares of area is dedicated to olive plants which continue to grow annually.

Sabir Sultan, a skillful farmer and olive cultivation specialist shared a remarkable journey of transforming the agricultural landscape in the area during the last 13 years. His expertise in olive grafting has not only led to the flourishing of olive trees but it has also resulted in substantial increase in edible oil production.

Talking to APP, Sabir Sultan said that his deep-rooted passion for olives took shape during his extensive traveling to

approximately 25 countries. Drawing inspiration from international experiences, he dedicated himself to revolutionize olive cultivation practices in his home region.

Sultan said that the collaborative efforts of 52,000 successfully facilitated olive grafting on local breed Kaho trees across various regions, with an additional 50,000 individual grafts. He said that the yield from 200 kilograms of olives amounts to an impressive 15 kilograms of high-quality edible oil, underscoring the economic viability of olive

cultivation. Acknowledging the support from Turkey, Sabir Sultan has highlighted the installation of four cutting-edge olive oil extraction machines in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where one has been allocated for the Hazara Division which is now operational at Abbottabad Potato Research Center, showcasing the integration of modern technology into traditional farming practices. Additionally, a state-of-the-art machine from Italy has been installed at the Tea Research Center in Shinkiar, further streamlining the olive oil

extraction process. During the last few years, the region has witnessed an olive boom, with hundreds of thousands of Kaho trees contributing to the region's economic and agricultural prosperity. Sabir Sultan emphasized the growing interest among locals in olive cultivation and grafting, citing it as not only a source of edible oil but also an avenue for additional income through tea and pickles. The olive cultivation success story in Abbottabad serves as an inspiration for farmers and agricultural enthusiasts, showcasing the possibilities.



ISLAMABAD: Labourers busy in arranging bags of orange after unloading from delivery truck at Fruit & Vegetable Market, Pirwadhai.

'We are attacking Iran' – Netanyahu

TEL AVIV (Online): Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that Israel is already carrying out direct attacks on Iran and is making every possible effort to prevent Tehran from attaining nuclear weapons. Answering a reporter's question in Tel Aviv on Thursday about why Israel is conducting attacks on Iran's proxies rather than attacking the country directly, Netanyahu replied: "Who says we are not attacking Iran, we are attacking."

Israel claims Iran was involved in plotting the October 7 attacks, when around 1,200 people were killed and scores taken hostage in the surprise Hamas raid near Gaza. Israel retaliated by launching an intense military bombardment of the Palestinian enclave, so far leaving about 24,000

dead, according to local health officials. The operation is aimed at wiping out the militant group, West Jerusalem says. Israel has previously openly accused Iran of aiding Hamas "with money, training and weapons and technological know-how" and intelligence. "Iran is standing behind it. We are in conflict with Iran. Imagine not what Iran can do to us, to destroy us," Netanyahu said, claiming he will only agree to a deal that grants West Jerusalem security control over all of Gaza. Iran has denied any role in the Hamas assault on Israel, with Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani saying such accusations were "based on political reasons." Netanyahu added that "Iran is the head of the oc-

topus and you see its tentacles all around from the Houthis to Hezbollah to Hamas." Iran has widely been seen by Israel and the US and as the major destabilizing power in the Middle East, allegedly supplying weapons, military expertise, and training to Hamas in Gaza, Hezbollah in Lebanon, and the Houthi rebels in Yemen. The US has previously alleged that Iran is "deeply involved" in Houthi attacks on commercial ships in the Red Sea, claiming that it has provided the rebels with drones, missiles, and intelligence. Tehran has denied the allegation, insisting that "resistance groups" are acting independently and "not taking orders from Tehran to confront the war crimes and genocide committed by Israel."



Firefighters extinguish oil tanks at a storage facility that local authorities say caught fire after the military brought down a Ukrainian drone, in the town of Klinty in the Bryansk Region, Russia.

Thirteen children drown after boat capsizes in India

Monitoring Desk
AHMEDABAD: At least 15 people including 13 children drowned when a boat capsized on Thursday in western India, officials said. The incident happened in Gujarat state as students were travelling to a picnic organised by their school. Dozens of people joined a frantic search for survivors around the lake near the city of Vadodra where the boat capsized.

"The total death toll is 15," hospital superintendent Ranjan Ayer told reporters. Other officials at the hospital, who did not give their names, said that the victims included children aged as young as 10 along with two of their teachers. The cause of the accident was not immediately clear but a Vadodra district official said that 27 people were believed to be aboard.

EU says it is concerned by Kyrgyz crackdown on independent media

BISHKEK (Internews): The European Union expressed concern on Friday about the detention of a number of journalists in Kyrgyzstan and searches at the offices of media outlets which have been critical of the government. Kyrgyz authorities detained 11 journalists this week, accusing them of inciting unrest, and raided the offices of 24 kg and Temirov Live media outlets. The United States Department of State said on Thursday it was "deeply concerned" by the move.

Immunity must hold good even if president 'crosses line', says Trump

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Donald Trump on Thursday said his claim of "total" presidential immunity against criminal prosecution should extend even if his actions "cross the line."

Armenia's PM says his country needs a new constitution

TBILISI (Internews): Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said on Friday that his country needed a new constitution to entrench its "democratic aspirations". Russia's Interfax news agency reported. It quoted Pashinyan as telling a meeting at the country's justice ministry: "We must have a Constitution that will make the Republic of Armenia more competitive and more viable in the new geopolitical and regional conditions".

Chinese warplanes around Taiwan in show of force

Monitoring Desk
TAIPEI: More than 20 Chinese warplanes were detected around Taiwan, with 11 crossing a sensitive median line separating the self-ruled island from China, Taipei's defence ministry said on Thursday, the first significant show of force since the weekend's presidential election. The ministry, which releases data daily on the Chinese military presence around Taiwan, said that 24 warplanes and 5 ships had been detected in the 24 hours leading up to 6am (2200 GMT). "11 of the detected aircraft had crossed the median line of the Taiwan Strait or entered Taiwan's southwest and north (air defence identification zone)."

US Congress passes bill to avert government shutdown, sends it to Biden

WASHINGTON (Internews): The U.S. House of Representatives on Thursday approved a stopgap bill to fund the federal government through early March and avert a partial government shutdown, sending it to President Joe Biden for final approval. The measure passed 314-108, with 106 Republicans and two Democrats in opposition. Earlier on Thursday, the Senate had easily passed the bill, with a 77-18 vote ahead of the week-end deadline. We have good news for America. There will not be a shutdown on Friday," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, a Democrat, said on the Senate floor just before the vote in that chamber. That sentiment was not shared by some far-right House Republicans. "It's a loss for the American people to join hands with Democrats, form a governing coalition to do what Schumer and the Senate want to do," House Freedom Caucus Chairman Bob Good told reporters after the vote. Both chambers ac-

Japan counts down to precision 'moon sniper' landing mission

TOKYO (Internews): Japan aims to become the fifth country to put a spacecraft on the moon when it attempts a precision landing on Friday, in what would be a boost for a space programme that has suffered a wave of setbacks and been eclipsed by rival China. Dubbed the "moon sniper", the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) probe is attempting to land within 100 metres (328 feet) of its target, a technology JAXA says is unprecedented and essential in the search for moon water and human habitability. Japan is increasingly looking to play a bigger role in space, partnering with close ally Washington to respond to China's military and technological might, including in space. Japan boasts a number of private-sector space startups and aims to send an astronaut to the moon as part of NASA's Artemis programme. But JAXA has faced

Modi to open flashpoint temple symbolising his changing India

NEW DELHI (INP): India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Monday inaugurate a temple that embodies the triumph of his muscular Hindu nationalist politics, in an unofficial start to his re-election campaign this year. The 160-foot tall house of worship for the deity Ram was built on grounds where a mosque stood for centuries before it was torn down by Hindu zealots incited by members of Modi's party. That demolition in 1992 triggered the worst religious riots since independence—killing 2,000 people, most of them Muslims—and shook the

foundations of India's officially secular political order. But for Modi's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the opening of the Ram Mandir temple in the northern town of Ayodhya is a landmark moment in a decades-long campaign to align the country's governance with its majority faith. "I am fortunate that I will also be a witness to this auspicious occasion," Modi said last week, announcing he was embarking on an 11-day ritual fast ahead of the opening. "The lord has made me an instrument to represent all the people of India."

Scottish football team Celtic in solidarity with Palestine

LONDON (Online): The growing public backing for Palestine in Britain contrasts sharply with a British political class that continues to give succor to Israel. One such example is the increasingly voluble support for Palestine on the terraces of the Celtic football club. These displays of solidarity have been frowned on by the club's directors and the Union of European Football Associations, UEFA, has even imposed fines. Nevertheless, a group of Celtic fans known as the Green Brigade continue to display their solidarity with Palestine at Celtic matches.

US lawmakers avert damaging government shutdown

WASHINGTON (INP): The US Congress green-lit temporary funding Thursday to avert a partial government shutdown that threatened the functions of multiple key federal agencies and could have seen thousands of employees sent home without pay. With large sections of the government due to close at the end of Friday, the House of Representatives voted to keep the lights for at least another six weeks, approving a measure that had advanced earlier from the Senate. The last-ditch "continuing resolution" was pitched by leaders in the upper chamber as public workers were preparing to be sent home unpaid, upending government functions from military operations to food aid to federal policymaking. Complicating the negotiations, forecasts for a brutal winter storm curtailed the lawmakers' work, with Congress announcing that it would be closed for business all day Friday.

Cuban soup kitchen sees soaring demand as economic crisis deepens

HAVANA (Internews): Cuban Elda William, a 60-year-old former psychologist, had been making ends meet selling cellphone plans until a sewage pipe at her home office burst, putting off prospective clients. No one has come to fix it and her income dried up, leaving her with little choice but to turn to Quisicuba, a community-led soup kitchen for the hungry in central Havana. "Thanks to this place my family has well-prepared food," William said in an interview, adding that the free meal offered by the project reminded her of the 1980s, when the communist-run government itself provided

Singapore minister charged in rare corruption case

SINGAPORE: Singapore's transport minister has resigned his post after being charged with 27 offences in a corruption probe that has also ensnared a billionaire hotel tycoon. S. Iswaran was arrested in July of 2023 and released on bail in connection with a rare top-level graft investigation in the city-state. Iswaran, 61, said he would plead not guilty to the charges filed by the powerful Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau when he appeared in court on Thursday. Ecuador prosecutor probing TV studio attack killed: AG

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QUITO (AFP/APP): A prosecutor investigating the dramatic live-broadcast armed assault last week on an Ecuadoran television station was shot dead Wednesday, the country's attorney general said. "In the face of the murder of our colleague Cesar Suarez... I am going to be emphatic: organized crime groups, criminals, terrorists will not stop our commitment to Ecuadoran society," said Attorney General Diana Salazar in a statement on X.

Tackle what strengthens the far right, German finance minister says

DAVOS (Internews): The rise in popularity of the far-right in Germany is best fought by confronting the problems that boost their support, German finance minister Christian Lindner said in an interview on Thursday. "The best way to make right-wing populists who have become big small again is to make the problems that strengthened the party small," Lindner said, listing foreign policy

failings, overly detailed bureaucracy, and unaffordable energy prices. "Many people who are reachable for parties of the democratic centre are concerned about uncontrolled migration to Germany," Lindner said, adding: "We need a new 'Realpolitik' that preserves the cosmopolitan character of our country but prevents illegal migration into our welfare state."

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Nigerian born political scientist Joseph Ndjoli Efe, his wife, Cameroonian born medical doctor Sven Relindise and their sons Ese and Limi, attend a German naturalisation ceremony at Neukoelln town hall in Berlin.



U.S. ambassador to Japan Rahm Emmanuel speaks at a U.S. naval ship repair facility in Yokosuka, Japan.

North Korea tests 'underwater nuclear weapon system'

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korea said on Friday that it had tested an "underwater nuclear weapon system" in response to joint naval exercises by Washington, Seoul, and Tokyo that involved a US nuclear-powered aircraft carrier. The drills were "seriously threatening the security" of the North, so in response, Pyongyang "conducted an important test of its underwater nuclear weapon system 'Haeil-5-23' under development in the East Sea of Korea," according to a statement from the defence ministry carried by state news agency KCNA. Early last year, Pyongyang said it had carried out multiple tests of a purported underwater nuclear attack drone — a different version of the Haeil, which means tsunami in Korean — claiming it could unleash a "radioactive tsunami". Analysts have questioned whether Pyongyang has such a weapon.

Armenia's PM says his country needs a new constitution

TBILISI (Internews): Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said on Friday that his country needed a new constitution to entrench its "democratic aspirations". Russia's Interfax news agency reported. It quoted Pashinyan as telling a meeting at the country's justice ministry: "We must have a Constitution that will make the Republic of Armenia more competitive and more viable in the new geopolitical and regional conditions".

Huthi missiles hit another US ship in Gulf of Aden

SANA'A: Yemen's Huthi rebels claimed another attack on a US ship early Friday, after the United States launched fresh strikes on rebel targets over their aggression towards vessels in and around the Red Sea. While the Iran-backed rebels maintained they had struck the commercial vessel in the Gulf of Aden, the US military later said the group's missiles had missed their mark. The Huthis said in a statement posted to social media that their "naval forces... carried out a targeting operation against an American ship"—identified as the Chem Ranger—"with several appropriate naval missiles, resulting in direct hits".

It did not give a time nor other details for the latest attack in international shipping lanes. The US military's Central Command, which is responsible for the Middle East, said the Huthis "launched two anti-ship ballistic missiles at M/V Chem Ranger, a Marshall Island-flagged, US-Owned, Greek-operated tanker" on Thursday night. "The crew observed the missiles impact the water near the ship. There were no reported injuries or damage to the ship," the command said on social media platform X. Continued Huthi aggression against vessels in and around the Red Sea has led to strikes in Yemen by US and British forces.

NATO to hold biggest drills since Cold War with 90,000 troops

BRUSSELS (Internews): NATO is launching its largest exercise since the Cold War, rehearsing how U.S. troops could reinforce European allies in countries bordering Russia and on the alliance's eastern flank if a conflict were to flare up with a "near-peer" adversary. "Steadfast Defender 2024 will demonstrate NATO's ability to rapidly deploy forces from North America and other parts of the alliance to reinforce the defence of Europe," NATO said. The reinforcement will occur during a "simulated emerging conflict scenario with a near-peer adversary", Cavoli told reporters in Brussels after a two-day meeting of national chiefs of defence. The last exercises of a similar size were Reforger during the Cold War in 1988 with 125,000 participants and Trident Juncture in 2018 with 50,000 participants, according to NATO.

up in decades, detailing how it would respond to a Russian attack. NATO did not mention Russia by name in its announcement. But its top strategic document identifies Russia as the most significant and direct threat to NATO members' security. "Steadfast Defender 2024 will demonstrate NATO's ability to rapidly deploy forces from North America and other parts of the alliance to reinforce the defence of Europe," NATO said. The reinforcement will occur during a "simulated emerging conflict scenario with a near-peer adversary", Cavoli told reporters in Brussels after a two-day meeting of national chiefs of defence. The last exercises of a similar size were Reforger during the Cold War in 1988 with 125,000 participants and Trident Juncture in 2018 with 50,000 participants, according to NATO.

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erated their votes because of a forecast for a snowstorm on Friday that could have snarled lawmakers' departure for the weekend. The Democratic-majority Senate and Republican-controlled House are far behind in carrying out their basic duty of funding the government for the fiscal year that began on Oct. 1, with lawmakers scrambling to keep the lights on to give them more time to pass a full-year bill. Schumer and his House Republican counterpart, Mike Johnson, early this month agreed to a \$1.59 trillion discretionary spending level for the year that ends on Sept. 30. But in a sign of how bitterly the Congress is divided, the two parties now disagree on that number, with Democrats saying the actual amount agreed to is \$1.66 trillion. The intense jockeying between House Republicans seeking deep spending cuts and Democrats comes amid a \$34.4 trillion national debt that is rapidly escalating and has prompted worries in part because of the heavy interest payments now being borne by the Treasury Department.

Japan counts down to precision 'moon sniper' landing mission

TOKYO (Internews): Japan aims to become the fifth country to put a spacecraft on the moon when it attempts a precision landing on Friday, in what would be a boost for a space programme that has suffered a wave of setbacks and been eclipsed by rival China. Dubbed the "moon sniper", the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) probe is attempting to land within 100 metres (328 feet) of its target, a technology JAXA says is unprecedented and essential in the search for moon water and human habitability. Japan is increasingly looking to play a bigger role in space, partnering with close ally Washington to respond to China's military and technological might, including in space. Japan boasts a number of private-sector space startups and aims to send an astronaut to the moon as part of NASA's Artemis programme. But JAXA has faced

multiple setbacks, including a launch failure in March of the new flagship rocket H3 that was meant to match cost-competitiveness against commercial rocket providers like SpaceX. JAXA's Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) probe will start a 20-minute touchdown phase on its one-way mission from midnight on Saturday (1500 GMT Friday), trying to land on a target site roughly the size of two athletic tracks on the slope of a crater just south of the lunar equator. "No other nation has achieved this. Proving Japan has this technology would bring us a huge advantage in upcoming international missions like Artemis," said Shinichi Sakai, JAXA's SLIM project manager. India's Chandrayaan-3 in August made a historic touchdown on the moon's south pole, a major technological feat given the rough terrain, highlighting India's rise as a major player in space.



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki being briefed about Balochistan Education Endowment Fund

SAPM Sohrab meets with Qatar's Minister of State for Interior Affairs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (SAPM) Jawad Sohrab Malik met on Friday with Qatar's Minister of State for Interior Affairs, Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Faisal Al Thani and both Leaders reviewed cooperation in the security fields.

A significant meeting was held between Jawad

release. During the meeting, the SAPM congratulated the Minister of State Interior, Qatar on the successful hosting of the FIFA World Cup 2022. He emphasized the exemplary nature of the World Cup 2022 and its high standards, setting a benchmark for other countries to follow.

The SAPM highlighted the crucial role of the Pakistani diaspora in Qatar's infrastructure de-



Sohrab Malik and Abdulaziz bin Faisal Al Thani, marking a momentous occasion for bilateral collaboration and economic development, said a press

velopment and expressed the intention to continue providing highly skilled and professional manpower to support Qatar's economic modernization.

ECP issues code of conduct for security personnel deployed for election duty

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday directed the security officials to facilitate voters, follow election laws, prioritize safety, cooperate with officials, observers, and media, respect voter rights and to avoid unnecessary interference. The ECP has issued a code of conduct for security personnel affiliated with Law Enforcement Agencies, excluding the Armed Forces and Civil Armed Forces (who have a separate code of conduct). This code applies to those deployed for election duty during the General Elections 2024.

As per the code, security personnel should execute their responsibilities within the legal framework and within the prescribed mandate of law enforcement agencies. Their role is to support the Election Commission of Pakistan in ensuring free, fair, transparent,

and peaceful General Elections-2024.

This involves deploying security personnel at all polling stations, maintaining a secure environment for law and order, safeguarding printing presses during ballot paper production, and ensuring security during the transportation of ballot papers from printing presses to the offices of Returning Officers. Provide security for the transportation of polling bags from Returning Officers' offices to polling stations and for election material from polling stations to RO offices after polling and counting. This includes ensuring security during tabulation, provisional result announcements, and result consolidation by Returning Officers. Security officials should adhere to Article 220 of the Constitution of Pakistan and Section 5, along with Section 193 of the Election Act, 2017.



QUETTA: Former Federal Minister, Agha Hassan Baloch addresses during condolence reference on the occasion of death anniversary of Malik Abdul Ali Kakar, Founder of Balochistan National Party (BNP) held at Quetta Press Club.

Provision of best health facilities at hospitals govt's top priority: Ijaz

JHAL MAGSI (INP): Deputy Commissioner Jhal Magsi, Ijaz Sarwar has said that provision of best health facilities and free medicines to people at primary health centers and official hospitals was top priority of the Balochistan government.

These views were expressed by him on Friday while chairing a monthly review meeting of PPHI. District Health Coordinator Dr. Rukhsana Magsi, District Support Manager PPHI Tanveer Ahmed Buledi, District Monitoring Officer PPHI Dr. Azhar Hussain Magsi and other health department officers in charge of Basic Health Centers (BHUs) attended the meeting. During the meeting, District Support Manager PPHI Tanveer Ahmad Buledi gave a detailed briefing to the participants regarding the provision of medical aid in primary health centers BHUs across the district.

Addressing the participants of the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Jhal

Magsi Ijaz Sarwar said that the doctors and paramedical staff related to the health department should ensure their attendance along with other sanitation staff, all doctors and other staff should consider the health sector as a sacred duty and be busy fulfilling their duties. He urged all the doctors and other staff that the priority of the Balochistan Government was to provide free medicines and medical facilities to people in primary health centers and government hospitals.

For which all the resources are being utilized by the government of Balochistan on an emergency basis so that the poor people can benefit fully from these measures of the government, he said.

Ijaz Sarwar said that for this reason, it was important that doctors and other health-related staff avoid any kind of negligence in the performance of their official duties and devote all energy to providing facilities to people.

Briefed about performance of BEEF: Future of country including Balochistan linked with talented youth: CM Domki

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that the future of Balochistan and Pakistan is linked with the talented youth.

He said a large number of talented students are benefiting from the fruits of Balochistan Education Endowment Fund.

He stated so during visit to the secretariat of Balochistan Educational Endowment Fund here on Friday.

Also present on the occasion were the caretaker Minister for Education, Dr. Qadir Bakhsh Baloch, Minister for Finance, Amjad Rasheed, prominent social personality and former Federal Minister

Mrs. Roshan Khursheed Bharucha besides Secretary Finance, Babar Khan and other high ups.

He distributed Cheques of scholarships among students studying in different educational institutions.

The Chief Executive Officer of the BEEF, Muhammad Zikria Noorzai about the provision of academic scholarships to the students under BEEF.

The Chief Minister said that a large number of students used to be deprived of education due to poverty and financial issues, however, the BEEF has been established for the talented students.

He said that the basic objective behind establishing BEEF is to provide academic scholarships to the

brilliant students so that they are not deprived of education because of the financial hardships.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister was informed that 73,060 scholarships of around Rs. 4.1 billion have been provided by the BEEF. It was also informed that academic scholarships are being provided by BEEF to more than 12,000 students every year.

A new scheme of Rs. 4 billion has been allocated for the residential and cadet colleges, it was also informed.

The Secretary Finance said that the performance of BEEF is appreciable and the space would be allocated for permanent secretariat of BEEF in the proposed Balochistan Finance Complex.

Govt challenges IHC cypher trial verdict in Supreme Court

ISLAMABAD (INP): The federal government has challenged the Islamabad High Court's (IHC) 21 November, 2023 decision to annul the jail trial of PTI founder Imran Khan in cypher case.

On 21 November last year, the IHC had declared the proceedings of Imran Khan's trial conducted in jail in the cypher case as null and void. However, the appointment of the judge to the special court formed under the Official Secrets Act was held to be valid.

An IHC division bench, comprising Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb and Justice Saman Rafat Imtiaz, had pronounced the verdict on Imran's intra-court appeal against a single-member bench's decision to approve his jail trial in the cypher case and the appointment of the judge to the special court formed under the Official Secrets Act, 1923. Approving the maintainability of the appeal, the court declared that the notification issued by the law ministry on August 29—which read that the Law and Justice Division had "no objection" to PTI chairman's trial in the cypher case.

Interior secretary, chairman NAB put on notice

ISLAMABAD (Online): The petitions filed by Ali Amin Gandapur and others came up for hearing in Islamabad High Court (IHC) Friday.

The court issued the notice to interior secretary and chairman NAB after hearing the arguments besides issuing directives for providing details of the cases registered against the petitioners.

The case came up for hearing in single bench of IHC led by Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kiyani Friday.

Raja Zahoor ul Hassan counsel for the petitioners appeared in the court and told the court the miscellaneous petition has been filed in this court. Record of FIRs and unknown cases registered against the petitioners across the country has been called.

Hearing of the case was adjourned till January 31, 2024.

Steps being taken to ensure gas supply to consumers of Quetta: Lehri

QUETTA (APP): In-charge of SSG Quetta Zone's Haji Naseer Lehri on Thursday said that all necessary measures were being taken to ensure gas supply to all consumers of Quetta city in winter season.

In Quetta, it is colder than other cities due to which, we are more aware of our citizens that the supply of gas to them continues without interrup-

tion, he said.

He expressed these views while talking to National Party (NP)'s candidate of PB-44 Haji Attah Muhammad Bangulzai called on him at his office. Haji Naseer Lehri told Haji Attah Muhammad that gas pressure has been restored in Saryab and other areas on the request of him who had demanded regarding gas issues in his constituency.



KARACHI: Caretaker Federal Minister of Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed addressing during a seminar on "Bridging Beliefs: Interfaith Harmony in Pakistan" at Dawood University of Engineering and Technology.

RDMC hosts local vendor EXPO in Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): Reko Diq Mining Company (RDMC), a subsidiary of Barrick Gold Corporation, hosted an EXPO for local vendors in Quetta.

RDMC operates in Pakistan under a Joint Venture agreement with the provincial government and the federal government.

This EXPO, the first of its kind in the sector, invited the participation of suitably qualified vendors from across Pakistan, with a special focus on those within the project area in the district of Chagai and the rest of Balochistan province to participate in the Vendor EXPO which was spearheaded by the RDMC Supply Chain team. The EXPO was intended to provide companies from Chagai and Balochistan with an opportunity to present their businesses and to meet with other large-scale Pakistan companies.

The forum also created an opportunity for companies from the Balochistan province as well as larger national companies in Pakistan to register their interest in participating in the Reko Diq project construction.

RDMC is focused on developing and building relationships with local companies where their capability and market competitiveness allows.

More than 150 companies were represented at this event which facilitated networking between the company management and local vendors. The EXPO took place in two groups in Quetta and participants were briefed on the project, the ethos of the company and the areas where RDMC would be engaging local businesses as contractors. The presentation was followed by a question-answer session. RDMC Supply Chain team leadership initiated this exercise in 2023 with an advertisement inviting interested vendors to submit their details. RDMC, in line with the philosophy of its parent organization Barrick, believes that supply chain is a core enabler for local development and the achievement of Barrick's sustainability strategy.

Aneeq underscores need of spreading message of harmony

KARACHI (APP): The Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed Friday underscored the need of spreading the message of harmony and peaceful coexistence among the masses particularly the youth.

He was addressing to a seminar on "Bridging beliefs: Interfaith Harmony in Pakistan" organized by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony in collaboration with Dawood University of Engineering and Technology (DUET) Karachi. The minister said that young generation was our future and message bearer of Islam's message of Husn-e-Akhlag (moral excellence) and hoped that they would spread it further across the globe for realizing the dream of establishment of an inclusive and holistic society. He said all the religions have identical divine message inculcated within

their ideology because they are interrelated in the string of Creator's guidance from Adam AS to Muhammad SAW who announced completion of the 'Deen'.

Islam attaches a dignified status to human being declaring him 'Naib of the Allah' on the earth while the Quran narrates that every human is member of the Allah's family. Aneeq Ahmed said and questioned, "How one can claim having love for Allah when his heart has occupied with feelings of prejudice, enmity and hatred to other humans even if they belong to a different religion." Ensuring justice to every citizen is mandatory in governance system of Islam that also requires complete freedom to non-Muslim citizens within an Islamic state, he maintained adding that injustice to a non-Muslim in an Islamic state was considered more oppressive act as compared to a wrongdoing with a Muslim citizen

whereas the government was also responsible of ensuring safety and security of place of worship of all the religions.

In Pakistan, equal treatment is being made with every citizen and non-Muslim communities were living safely in a better environment while the government was providing security to non-Muslims, the federal minister said and emphasized that all citizens—irrespective of their beliefs—have to play their due role independently for development of the country.

Speaking at the seminar, Bishop Fredrick John, Bishop of Karachi and Balochistan emphasized on living our lives while following the religious ideologies in letter and spirit. "We are meant to develop and encourage others and accept and respect each other in their own capacities as God has created the human without any difference.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting of the Caretaker Federal Cabinet.

Karachi becomes second most polluted city worldwide

KARACHI (INP): The Air Quality Index (AQI) of Karachi, the largest metropolitan city of Pakistan, becomes the second most polluted city in the world.

According to the Air Quality Index, the air pollution in Karachi is recorded at 251 particulate meters which is very unhealthy for the Karachiites.

The current air quality status serves as a critical indicator, prompting health-conscious decisions. The advice to avoid outdoor exercises which underscores the potential risks posed by air quality conditions.

Furthermore, IQAir encourages citizens to use masks outdoors as a tangible defense against airborne contaminants.

Miners trapped in coalmine in Quetta

ISLAMABAD (APP): Three coal miners were reported trapped and unconscious on Friday due to purported gas emissions in a coal mine in the Dukki area of Quetta.

According to a private news channel, a coordinated rescue operation led by the Chief Mines Inspector was underway to rescue the trapped coalminers. Rescue and District Administration officials have also reached the spot to facilitate the rescue operation.

Mainly cold, dry weather forecast for Balochistan

QUETTA (APP) The Met Office has forecast mainly cold and dry weather with partly cloudy condition in most parts of the province during next 24 hours.

While patchy fog may remain during morning time in coastal area and Nasirabad division. However, light rain, drizzle may expect in Bakhan and its surroundings.

According to the Met Office, the minimum temperature in Quetta was recorded at -0.1 degree centigrade and -4.0 degree centigrade in Kalat on Friday.

Dr Amir Jogezi says Modern facilities to be provided for development of Loralai University

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Health, Dr. Amir Muhammad Khan Jogezi has stated that the modern facilities would be provided for development of Loralai University further.

He said that the modern resources are provided for the students to acquire higher education.

He said that the laptops help the students better their studies.

The caretaker Minister for Health was speaking to the Vice Chancellor

of Loralai University, Dr. Ehsan Khan and other officials during visit to the University on Friday.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that the government of Balochistan has spent huge amount for construction and development of Loralai University.

Later, he distributed laptops among the male and female students of the Loralai University.

Meanwhile, the Minister formally inaugurated the walk track in the University.

Prince lauds armed forces on successful "Margbar saramchar" in Iran

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce, Prince Ahmed Ali Ahmedzai has appreciated the successful operation "Margbar saramchar" carried out by the armed forces against the hideous of terrorists inside Iran.

In an official statement issued here on Friday, the caretaker Minister said that the successful operation of Pakistani forces speaks high about their professional expertise and capability.

He said that Pak army has unique place in the world because of its professional capabilities and expertise.

Prince Ahmed Ali said that Pakistan desires peace and enjoys pleasant relations with its neighbouring countries, but it's desire of peace may not be considered as its weakness.

He also said that the success of operation of Pakistani forces is a clear message for the opponent forces.

He said that the whole nation is standing by its brave and talented armed forces.



QUETTA: Banners and flags of different political parties has been placed on Saryab road in connection of upcoming General Election 2024.

China donates sportswear to Gwadar players

GWADAR (INP): Chinese Government has donated Sportswear to local youngsters of Gwadar.

Around 200 shirts and trousers were distributed with the help of China Overseas Ports Holdings Company (COPHC), operator of Gwadar Port.

The young boys playing on beach and playgrounds expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the Chinese government for the generous assistance.

By now, there are 22 football teams registered under District Football Association (DFA). Whereas 18 clubs are enlisted to District Cricket Association Gwadar.

The need for providing kits to the young players was felt when they were

observed playing in random cloths. Facilitating the local sportsman with basic sportswear is first of its kind friendly gesture in Gwadar.

"This gesture has opened up a new era of cementing people of bond between China and Pakistan and promoting local players in Gwadar," local football player Zahid Baloch told Gwadar Pro.

COPHC official said that such act of benevolence will steer to engender people to people connectivity and boosting up social contact with local people of Gwadar. "In my opinion, it will also lay down robust foundation of resilient relationship between Gwadar sports community and China.