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Islamabad demands New Delhi's accountability on int'l level

Horrifying Indian plot of terrorism in Pakistan exposed thanks to vigilant security agencies

Foreign Office says credible evidence of links between Indian agents and assassination of 2 Pakistanis; Calls Indian campaign "sophisticated and sinister

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: The Pakistani security institutions have successfully exposed the terrorist group as well as Indian handlers and facilitators involved in the terrorism acts and target kill-

The security institu-tions exposed the plot on basis of evidences that two Indian citizens namely Ashok Kumar and Yugaish Kumar were directly involved in the killing of Muhammad Riaz and Shahid Latif.

The security institutions of Pakistan apprehended the target killers of Muhammad Riaz and Shahid Latif in the light of



undeniable evidences.

The target killers involved in the cold blooded killings were arrested when they were attempting to flee from Pakistan.

It may be recalled here that Muhammad Riaz had been killed by the target killers on September 8, 2023 and Shahid Latif gunned down on October 11, 2023

peaceful citizens and their only fault was to expose the also controlling the drive. ongoing cruelty, barbarism and heinous face of India in Kashmir.

The investigating agencies have the authentic ent countries including Paproofs that the Indian kistan, but no concrete evicitizens present in third country were involved in their evidences. the whole targeted killing campaign, who were not

Both the deceased were only giving directives along with it's funding, but were

Matter of fact also remains that India assassinated the innocent people in terrorism acts in differdences were provided about

There's also no denying the fact that India is con-

the international laws and that it (India) is fully violating the relevant articles of Universal Declaring of Human Rights (UDHR) and International Convent of Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). The Indian intelligence

stantly busy in violation of

agency (RAW) is playing the role of an international terrorism organization. Worthwhile to mention is that India had

killed the Sikh leader Hardeep Singh in Canada Čanada had reacted

strongly to the Sikh leader's killing at diplomatic level and highlighted it at the Continued from page 1

PM urges Saudi Arabia's Jomaih Group to invest in Pak alternative energy sector

of consumers.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday urged the Al-Jomaih Group of Saudi Arabia to invest in the alternative energy sector of Pakistan.

The prime minister, in a meeting with a fourmember delegation, led by the Al-Jomaih Group head Abdulaziz Sheikh Hammad, said Pakistan and Saudi Arabia had brotherly ties which were getting further stronger.

The Al-Jomaih Group had made a huge investment in the K- Electric. The prime minister said that Pakistan greatly

valued the Saudi investment and welcomed its investment in the energy sector. He also lauded K-Elec-

tric strategy to invest in the alternative energy sector as it would help reduce the power tariff for the benefit

The prime minister also expressed the hope that the K-Electric would further improve its infrastructure to ensure uninterrupted power supply to domestic and industrial

consumers.
The Al-Jomaih Group thanked the prime minister and the government team resolving longstanding issues faced by the company.

Apprising the prime minister of the company's 1500 megawatt projects, the delegation informed the prime minister that the projects would feature the usage of local resources and alternative energy.

Federal Finance Minister Dr Shamshad Akhtar, Minister Energy Muhammad Ali and relevant senior officers attended the meeting.

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting

and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi addressing seminar on "Elec-

toral Code of Conduct: Ethical Practices of Stakeholders including Media",

to strengthen the system.

the concept of "recalling

elections" was first intro-

duced in Greece and the

practice was now being fol-

lowed by other countries,

including Canada, the

United States of America

constituents should be em-

powered to recall their

elected representatives by

complaining to the Election

Commission of Pakistan

A certain percentage of

and Germany.

The minister said that

authorities to ensure proand for the purpose, the the pending schemes of

Gwadar on Thursday.

Mr. Domki reached Gwadar to review law and order situation and prepa- ing water in Gwadar. rations of the general elections in Gwadar the same morning.

Those who were

Provision of clean drinking water to be ensured in Gwadar, assures CM

Mir Ali Mardan Domki directs concerned authorities to start work on all pending projects of water sector in port city without any further delay

Deputy Commissioner

Badini and other con-

water sector in Gwadar.

Addressing the meet-

we are finding solution

availability of clean drink-

cerned high ups.

GWADAR: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan

Domki presiding over a meeting regarding provision of water to Gwadar and

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has directed to the concerned vision of clean drinking water in Gwadar district, work must be started on water sector without any further delay.

The Chief Minister was chairing a high level meeting held to review the issue of potable water and other related issues in

present in the meeting were included: caretaker Provincial Minister for Home.

Bilawal proposes

to make Zardari

president

of Pakistan

LAHORE (Online): PPP

chairman Bilawal Bhutto

Zardari has proposed to

make Asif Ali Zardari presi-

placed the proposal in this

regard before party.

Bilalwal Bhutto said

we should learn from expe-

rience of Asif Ali Zardari.

It is my desire Asif Ali

Zardari becomes president

PPP has advised that pro-

posal from Bilawal Bhutto

Zardari be placed before

central executive committee

of party. It has also been

said if result of general elec

tion comes in favor of PPP

then PPP will nominate for-

mally Asif Ali Zardari for

the slot of President of Pa-

Senior politician

Illahi Bux Soomro

'passes away'

KARACHI (INP): Šenior

politician and former Na-

tional Assembly speaker

Illahi Bux Soomro passed

According to family sources, politician Illahi

Bux Soomro breathed his

last at a private hospital in

Karachi due to cardiac ar-

rest. The senior politician

was admitted to the hospi-

Speaker of the National

Assembly of Pakistan. He

belonged to an influential

political family of Sindh.

Soomro was the 16th

tal due to health issues.

away on Thursday.

kistan

Senior leadership of

of Pakistan once again.

Bilawal Bhutto has

dent of Pakistan.

Mir Zubair Jamali, Chief has been caused in certain Secretary, Shakeel Qadir projects, which is a matter Khan, Principal Secreof great concern. tary to Chief Minister, He directed the con-Rashid Razzaq, Director

cerned to start work on the General Gwadar Develsame without any further opment Authority, Commissioner Makran, He also directed to re-Saeed Ahmed Umrani,

store services after making payment of the arrears to Gwadar, Aurangzaib QESCO and the concerned contractor Earlier, the Chief Min-

The caretaker Chief ister was presented guard Minister was briefed about of honour by smartly the ongoing schemes in turned out contingent of police. Meanwhile, the Chief ing, Chief Minister said that Minister also visited the

complaint cell established

sustainable solution to the in Deputy Commissioner public issues regarding Gwadar's office. He directed to frame comprehensive mechanism

He regretfully pointed for resolving the public out that unnecessary delay complaints.

General Elections 2024 to be held on scheduled time: Democratic process can't be affected owing to terrorists'

Caretaker Provincial Minister Information lashes out at Amnesty International report, terms it biased and partial, urges AI not to become instrument of propaganda of separatist groups

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has categorically stated that there are challenges of law and order and security threats exist in different parts of the country including Balochistan, however, these threats and subversive acts can't affect the democratic process and as such the general elections would be conducted on the given

He noted that the incidents of terrorists may oc-

cur in Balochistan, Islamabad and different other parts of the country as the security threats have been received.. still the democratic process can't affected due to these threats or terrorists' attacks.

The Information Minister was addressing a hurriedly called press conference at the Civil Secretariat on Thursday.

Jan Achakzai on the occasion particularly criticized the negative propaganda campaign run by Continued on page 2



GUJRAT: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addresses to his supporters during public gathering meeting as a part of Election Campaign in connection of the General Election 2024 coming ahead, in Gujrat.

Nawaz, Zardari's cases should be heard on daily basis; Imran demands

Monitoring Desk ISLAMABAD: Amid

back-to-back hearings of his corruption cases, the incarcerated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan on Thursday asked an accountability court judge to also continue proceedings of corruption references against his rivals. Nawaz Sharif and Asif Ali Zardari. The discussion between the former prime minister and the judge, Muhammad Bashir, was held during the hearing of the £190 million National Crime Agency (NCA) scandal case

stan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N)] — and Asif Ali Zardari [Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) co-chairman] have been given February 13 date for hearings of the Toshakhana cases. Every day, I hear about the filing of back-to-back cases against me," Khan said at the outset of today's hearing. The disqualified premier, who rose to power in 2018 and was ousted from the PM's office after losing a confidence vote from parliament in 2022, asked the judge to conduct daily hearings of his rivals' cases.

ISLAMABAD: Head of Al-Jomaih Group alongwith a delegation called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

cret of ending issue of un-

employment, overcoming

different crimes and pro-

moting economic activities

lies in generalizing technical and vocational educa-

However, it is unfortu-

Unless education made centre of policies

Dream of literate Balochistan can't be materialized: Kakar

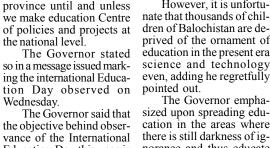
Independent Report should realize that the se QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that education is base of every kind of development, and as such we can't materialize dream of literate tion.

the national level. The Governor stated so in a message issued marking the international Education Day observed on

Wednesday. The Governor said that the objective behind observance of the International Education Day this year is to ensure sustainable peace and harmony by getting

He said that the excellent progress of the developed nations is because of the quality education.

He stressed that we



cation in the areas where there is still darkness of ignorance and thus educate those who are deprived of the education. He also underlined the

need to highlight the high character and honor of the teachers just because they are the soul of educational



KALAT: President Balochistan National Party Sardar Akhtar Jan Mengal and Prince Agha Musa Jan Ahmedzai addressing a public gathering

Caretaker CM condemns Turbat firing incident, seeks report from Home Department

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has condemned the incident of firing took place at the Regional Election Commissioner office,

Turbat on Thursday. According to an official hand out issued here, the Chief Minister sought the report of incident from the Provincial Home depart-

He said that the firing incident is a conspiracy to disrupt the election process. However, the interim provincial government is determined to ensure peaceful conduct of elections in the province, he added.

The Chief Minister assured that peaceful and conbe ensured for the general public and candidates during the general elections.

He said that the purpose of the incident of firing at office of regional Election Commissioner is to create fear and harassment.

He directed the concerned authorities to mobilize all resources for arrest of the culprits involved in the incident.

He expressed grief and sorrow over martyrdom of a police cop in the firing.

He asserted that the sacrifices of all security forces and police would not go wasted at all. He also paid homage to the brave soldiers who rendered sacrifice of their lives while performing their duties.

PML-N does not believe in politics of **allegations**AHORE (Online): PML-

Maryam Nawaz says:

N vice president Maryam Nawaz has said PML-N does not believe in the politics of allegations.

"PML-N got done development work where it was not given mandate. Nawaz Sharif will soon present manifesto before the people. Vote will decide about your and your children future. On February 8 you have to come out of homes and cast vote, she said this while addressing public meeting here

I accepted to go to jail but I stood with my father. Today I am among you. This constituency is my home. Ballot paper is not only a ballot paper but it is decision about your and your children

Nawaz Sharif had eliminated darkness and terrorism from the country till 2017, she added.

Senior Govt officer, cop shot dead

ESHAWAR (APP): Unidentified armed men on Thursday shot dead a Senior Planning Officer of the Social Welfare department here in the jurisdiction of Police Station Gul Bahar and a police constable in the jurisdiction of Police Sta-

tion Daudzai. According to police, armed motorcyclists targeted the senior planning officer when he was going to the office in his official vehicle. The attackers managed to escape from the

not vice versa: Solangi ISLAMABAD (APP): Constitution, Pakistan was Caretaker Federal Minister a federal parliamentary for Information, Broaddemocratic country and the casting and Parliamentary people's elected represen-Affairs Murtaza Solangi on tatives must do legislation

organized by the Press Information Department.

Democratic system

meant to serve people,

Thursday said that the democratic system was meant to serve the people, who should have the power to hold their elected representatives accountable. "Steps should be taken to reinvigorate the demo-

cratic system, which is only to take care of the people and not vice versa, he maintained The minister was

speaking as the chief guest at a seminar on "Electoral Code of Conduct: Ethical Practices of Stakeholders including Media", organized by the Press Infor-

(ECP) if they failed to meet their expectations, he mation Department.

He said that as per the Continued on page 2



Dr. Mahrang Baloch after reaching Quetta from Islamabad, in Quetta.

elections. However, in the

instant case not even prima facie evidence was pro-

duced to show that a sem-

blance of elections had been

bers, with stated credentials,

had complained to ECP that

elections had not been held.

These complaints were

brushed aside in the writ

petition by simply assert-

ing that they were not members of PTI and thus

not entitled to contest elec-

tions, but this bare denial

was insufficient, particu-

larly when they had cred-

ibly established their long

association with PTI.

"Fourteen PTI mem-

SC issues written judgment regarding PTI's intra party elections, symbol

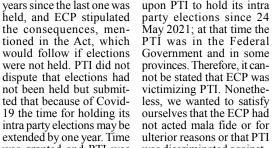
The Supreme Court on Thursday issued a detailed written judgment regarding the intra party elections of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and its election symbol 'cricket bat'.

The 38-page judgment, authored by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa, read: "The petition of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is converted into an appeal and allowed by setting aside the impugned order and judgment of the PHC (Peshawar High Court),; resultantly, the order of the ECP dated 22 December 2023 is upheld.

"The ECP had issued a notice on 24 May 2021 to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf ('PTI') to hold intra party elections, which was followed by a show cause notice stating that section 208 of Elections Act, 2017 ('the Act') mandates that intra party elections in PTI must be held and it had been five

held, and ECP stipulated the consequences, mentioned in the Act, which would follow if elections were not held. PTI did not dispute that elections had not been held but submitted that because of Covidintra party elections may be extended by one year. Time was granted and PTI was directed to hold intra party elections no later than 13 June 2022 and told that 'no further extension will be granted'.

tain an election symbol for elections.



"It transpired that ECP had passed orders against political parties which were far more severe than the

"ECP wanted to ensure



and partnership. He expressed these views while talking to journalists in Meet the Press Program of Lahore Press

the glowing example and

hallmark of deepening

China-Pakistan friendship

Club on Thursday. While addressing the media, Consul General Mr. Zhao Shiren further sais that CPEC is the joint venture of China and Pakistan which has completed 10 years and will be completed in any case. Under CPEC, 26 billion dollars have been invested so far, while construction is still going on. About electric transmission line, he said it is being upgraded. We want to bring prosperity to our old friend Pakistan. Pakistan is an agricultural country and Punjab government has formulated a ten year plan regarding agricultural development. The Consulate General stands ready to work with the Punjab to enhance agricultural cooperation. He said that China, Pakistan and Iran are three friendly countries and together they will move jointly ahead in the region. There should not be any tween brothers and friends is in China's interest. He thanked the journalist community for the ex-

cellent coverage of Pak-China friendship and CPEC. He said China will further strengthen the mutual relations with the journalists' community. The Chinese Consul General said that Pakistan and India have disputes over Kashmir, which is related to sovereignty and territorial integrity. He calls for both sides to resolve this issue in accordance with the UN Charter and the relevant UNSC resolutions.

He said that ML-1 is a big project, and it was proposed by Pakistan, which we are ready to build and the people of Pakistan will be hopefully get good news soon. In this regard, the Chinese railway engineering delegation has also visited Pakistan last month.

About the ML1 project, he said it will be completed in two phases, first from Peshawar to Lahore and then from Lahore to Karachi.

Various suggestions were given to the Chinese Consul General by the Lahore Press Club, on which he said that he would take every possible measures in this regard.



WASHINGTON: Ambassador Masood Khan in a virtual meeting with President Pakistan Chamber of Commerce USA, Amir Piprani, Pak Consul General in Houston. Aftab Ahmed Chaudhry and Trade & Investment Attaché Ms. Shaista Bunyad also

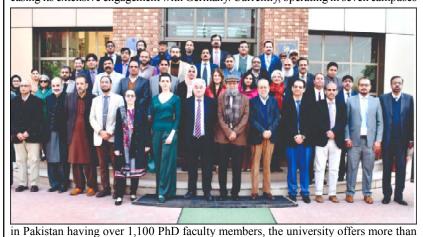
Commissioner and IG Islamabad. CPEC emerges as a symbol | Alfred Grannas added distinction to a special meeting with German alumni at CUI

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Interior Minister Dr. Gohar Ejaz in a meeting with Secretary Interior, Chief

ISLAMABAD: H.E. Mr. Alfred Grannas, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Islamabad added distinction to a special meeting with German alumni here at COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI). The event was also graced with the presence of Ms. Yasmin Paracha, Interim Director of the DAAD Information Centre, Islamabad.

Prof. Dr. Sajid Qamar, Rector CUI, extended a warm welcome to the distinguished guests and highlighted the significant contributions of German alumni of the university, illustrating the lasting bonds between the two nations. The university forged academic, cultural, research and scientific connections with Germany in 2005 under the leadership of the founding Rector, Dr. S. M. Junaid Zaidi, H.I., S.I., who was also present during the event. "The university features one of the longest and most extensive partnerships with Germany", Dr. Qamar revealed.

The Head of the International Office of CUI, Dr. Hammad Omer, T.I., presented a detailed briefing to the envoy on CUI's achievements and 25-year milestones, showcasing its extensive engagement with Germany. Currently, operating in seven campuses



100 degree programs, with a student population exceeding 34,500, including 360 international students. Over 93,000 students, including 846 PhDs, have graduated from the university. CUI is ranked by THE World University Rankings 2024 holding a position in the band of 601-800 globally, securing the 6th position in Pakistan. Prof. Dr. Jamshed Iqbal, T.I., Head of CUI's Centre for Advanced Drug Research, serving as a focal person for CUI German Alumni, detailing the university's collaborations with Germany, presented current and past collaborations. He acknowledged Ms. Yasmin for providing tenacious support of the DAAD.

During the gathering, the Ambassador witnessed a transformative impact of quality education on the lives of German alumni. The university sought valuable guidance and support from the Embassy in various areas, including establishing further connections with top German universities, hosting cultural activities, offering German classes, facilitating research collaborations particularly facilitating the German alumni to secure funding from DAAD and participating in faculty exchange programs.

Pakistani, Iranian envoys discussties

ISLAMABAD (APP) Pakistan's Ambassador to Belarus Sajjad Haider Khan held a meeting with Ambas sador of Iran to Belarus Alireza Sanei in Minsk, Belarus on Thursday and discussed matters of mutual

RUSTAM, Awami National Party leader and city mayor Mardan Hemayatullah Mayar, along with ANP NA-21 candidate Ahmed Ali Khan and PK-55 candi-

By Atiq Ur Rahman

Khaksar

making excuses of cold and security threats. Maulana Sahib, I want to remind you that the ANP and Pakistan security forces have faced the terrorists bravely but did not demand to post-pone the elections in 2008.



PPP's Tufail Khan

joins ANP

date Sohail Bacha, held a ous scholars and issued crowded press conference at Rustam Press Club and wel-Rustam's general secretary Tufail Khan, along with his

He said that Maulana

tickets to the capitalists and landlords, disappointing his own party workers. The city mayor also criticized PTI and said that ANP had left a huge amount in the provincial treasury, but PTI's incompetent rulers emptied the treasury and made the country and province indebted by billions of rupees

TENDER NOTICE

from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. TSE-232401373822 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 Not required. S.No Class of Object **Bid Security**

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** 3 Assignments of

AB No.286/25-1-2024

years since the last one was upon PTI to hold its intra holding of a political party's

"The ECP vide its order dated 13 September 2023 held that 'a lenient view has been taken with direction to the PTI to hold its intra party elections strictly in accordance with the prevailing party constitution, within twenty days positively' failing which it would be ineligible to ob-

was discriminated against.

thirteen other registered order passed against PTI.

that PTI holds intra party elections. The mere production of a certificate stating that such elections were held would not suffice to establish that intra party elections had been held when a challenge was thrown to such an assertion. Nor, in our opinion, should ECP concern itself with



ISLAMABAD: Principal Information Officer Dr. Tariq Mehmood Khan addresses participants of seminar titled 'Electoral Code of Conduct: Ethical Practices of Stakeholders including Media organized by the Press Information Department.

Democratic system....

Continued from page 1

Solangi said that the caretaker government was taking all possible steps to facilitate the ECP to hold free, fair and transparent elections on February 8 so that the people could elect candidates and parties of their choice in a peaceful

He said that the Election Commission had issued a code of conduct, and the now died down, he added.

Pakistan and said that the

people of Pakistan includ-

ing Balochistan would

never accept the disgusting

of Islamabad totally re-

jected the protest sit-in

staged by Baloch Yakjehti

Committee under leader-

ship of Mah Rang Baloch.

lashed out at the Amnesty

hand, it has shut it's eyes

Occupied Kashmir.

Jan Achakzai also

He said that the people

campaign.

Democratic process can't be...

Continued from page 1 activities also sets a danger-

Mah Rang Baloch against ous example, the Minister

media houses management the caretaker government and media persons should had persistently highbe fully mindful of it. lighted its stance, and as its He said that some elespokesperson he had time

ments were involved in baseless propaganda and spreading rumours regarding the February elections.

It was being claimed that the elections would be postponed due to severe cold or security grounds, but that propaganda had

Information regretfully

pointed out, and adding de-

manded of the AI to main-

tain its impartiality and

avoid to become instrument

seems concerned to ap-

pease the separatist groups

instead of making impartial

He said that the AI

He said that the terror-

of propaganda by the sepa-

ratist groups.

reporting.

He said under the Constitution, the country would be run as a federal parliamentary democratic system. He said through an

amendment, the system of caretaker governments was introduced in the country to ensure neutrality at the time of elections.

The minister said that

and again clarified that elec-

tions would be held as per

schedule on February 8.

Talking about the me dia, Solangi said that there were far less complaints against the mainstream media as compared to the digital media.

On the digital frontier, he added, artificial intelligence, voice cloning, deep fake propaganda and robocalls could be utilised to spread fake news and lies. He said that some elements wanted to create instability and chaos in Pakistan through baseless propaganda on the social me-

present during the meeting.

International's report about ist organizations are responsible for cruelties the BYC protest. He noted against the innocent people with concern that on one hand, AI expresses such

through terrorism attacks. He said that mischiegrave concern over the state of Mah Rang-led long vous propaganda was made against Pakistan by them, march, while on the other

which is condemnable.

Referring the message from the gross human rights of Chief of Army Staff violation being done by the Indian armed forces in the General Syed Asim Munir for youth, the Minister Information maintained that He said that this hypothey (youth) should have critic and prejudiced attitude of AI also negates the confidence on their homeassociation considered land, nation, culture, civilization and above all on about the human rights viothemselves. They (young-The demand of withsters) are the custodians of bright traditions of the na-

drawing legal action against those involved in the illegal tion and country, he added. **Business linkages hackathon** organizes in six districts



Independent Report

QUETTA: EU funded Growth for Rural Advancement and Sustainable Progress (GRASP) is implemented by ITC and its core partner Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF), along with its partner organization Taraqee Foundation, to support poverty reduction and sustainable, inclusive growth in rural Sindh and Balochistan."

Business linkages hackathon was organized in six districts of Balochistan, Quetta, Pishin, Kharan, Nushki, Musa Khel and Zhob to promote better coordination between entrepreneurs.

The Hackathon organized for Farmers, FAO, BRSP, Banks, Livestock Department, Agriculture Department, Agriculture Council Balochistan, Commission Agents, Input Suppliers, Aggregators, Zamindar action committee and PPAF. The focus was on increasing connectivity and facilitation between these stakeholders.

The event successfully brought together all stakeholders to achieve better and more efficient results from the Hackathon. The public and social circles of the concerned six districts have termed the event organized by Taragee Foundation as a good initiative and expressed hope that it will start a new journey towards development and prosperity in the area.

Continued from page 1

world level.

India had made plot to assassin all the Sikh leaders who used to raise voice against the Indian cruel acts.

After killing of Sikh leader in Canada, it was also conspired to kill another Sikh leader settled in USA, however, it was exposed because of the timely intervention of the US secret

The accused of the conspiracy is facing the judicial proceedings in US these

India has made a group of the paid target killers through RAW all over the world.

Undoubtedly it is maor achievement of Pakistani security institutions to apprehend the group and

made the evidences public. What's needed is that the world community should take notice of the open terrorism and violation of international laws by India

Pakistani security and law enforcement agencies are determined to respond to the Indian terrorism and make their citizens safer. APP adds: Foreign Sec-

retary Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi on Thursday said Pakistani authorities apprehended a group of India backed assassins involved in the killing of two Pakistani nationals in Sialkot and Rawalakot.

At a press briefing here, he said the Indian agents masterminded deaths of two Pakistanis Shahid Latif and Muhammad Riaz in

The foreign secretary said India was running a sophisticated and sinister campaign of extra-territorial

and extra-judicial killings inside Pakistan.

"Indian agents used technology and safe havens on foreign soil to commit assassinations in Pakistan. They recruited, financed and supported criminals, terrorists and unsuspecting civilians to play defined roles in these assassinations," he revealed.

He stated that these were killing-for-hire cases and involved a sophisticated international set-up spread over multiple jurisdictions"

He said the assassins were recruited using social media platform Telegram.

Teams of financiers and assassins were employed in the operation, Qazi said, adding that deliberate exit plans were also developed to obscure all potential tracks

Giving details about the assassinations, he said: "On October 11, 2023, Shahid Latif was assassinated outside a mosque in Sialkot. A detailed investigation revealed that an Indian agent, Yogesh Kumar, based in a third country orchestrated the assassination."

Qazi said Kumar recruited Muhammad Umair, a labourer in the third country, to act as a contact with local criminals in Pakistan to trace and assassinate Shahid Latif. "They recruited local criminals who were able to locate Shahid Latif, however, they were unable to carry out the ex-

ecution. "After some of the failed attempts, Umair himself was personally sent to Pakistan to carry out the assassination," the foreign secretary said, adding that Umair organised a team of five target killers and succeeded in assassinating Shahid Latif "Based on the confes-

sional statements and technical evidence, law enforcement authorities quickly apprehended the target killers, including Muhammad Umair, who were trying to flee the country on Oct 12,

He added that all those involved in the killings were apprehended and a case was being tried in the court of "We have evidence of transactions made in the process linking the entire chain to Indian agent Yogesh Kumar," Qazi said.

Talking about the second assassination, the foreign secretary said another Indian agent was involved in the killing of a Pakistani man, identified as Muhammad Riaz, who was assassinated during Fajr prayers inside a mosque in Rawalakot on September 8,

"Law enforcement agencies tracked the killer, Muhammad Abdullah Ali, and arrested him on September 15, 2023, while boarding a flight at Jinnah International Airport in Karachi," Qazi stated, adding that interrogation revealed Ali was recruited and guided by Indian agents Ashok Kumar Anand and Yogesh Kumar.

He said Indian agents used the social media platform Telegram to recruit Ali, claiming that Ali received payments and was provided with weapons and ammunition. Qazi added that the case was being tried in the court of

The foreign secretary informed that the investi-

Horrifying Indian plot of terrorism in Pakistan... gators identified Ali's fa cilitators on the basis of confessional statements and technical evidence. "We have documentary, financial and forensic evidence of the involvement of the two Indian agents who masterminded these

these agents. Qazi further said that Islamabad had also reached out to the governments of relevant third countries. "There are a few other cases of similar gravity at various stages of investigation," he added.

assassinations," he said,

the passport details of

He stated that these cases revealed a "growing sophistication and brazenness of Indian-sponsored terrorist acts in Pakistan" highlighting that such incidents were also reported in Canada and the US. "The Indian network of extra-judicial and extra-territorial killings has become a global phenomenon," the foreign secretary noted.

Qazi said it was critical to bring the killers, their facilitators and financiers to justice. "India must be held accountable internationally for its blatant violation of international law. India's assassination of Pakistani nationals on Pakistani soil is a violation of its sovereignty and a breach of the UN charter," he added.

Qazi said Pakistan remained committed to protecting its people and securing its sovereignty, adding that the protection of Pakistan and any foreign national on Pakistani soil was priority for the gov-

adding that the Pakistan government was releasing comed People's Party tehsil family and friends, to ANP membership and put a cap

Fazlur Rehman is trying to postpone the elections by

The Balochistan Institute Child Health Services Quetta invites bids

1 OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE (Total Item(s) Count: 1)

Similar Nature and Complexity Worth PKR. 1,500,000 Million each in Previous 3 Years. Accumualted Turn over of at least PKR.3,000,000 Million in 3 Subsequent Previous Years. Presence in Active Tax Payer List BRA Registration Certificate. The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Must be Authorized Agent / distributor from the principle/ Manufacturer of existing Oxygen Plant and having ability to provide original spare parts and technical support. Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee, Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the undersigned from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gob.pk Issuance of tender Documents: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gob.pk Last Date of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 07 February, 2024 till 09:00 AM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 10:00 AM on EPPS System Address: Quary road Quetta Phone no: <u>3337666375</u> Fax no: <u>0812823712</u> Email: habibullahbabar00@gmail.com



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of elected members of Gilgit-Baltistan Council called on President Dr. Arif

Dr Nadeem bans sugary products in health ministry

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan on Thursday announced to ban serving of sugary products in his ministry, asking other ministries to follow this after the advisory to be

issued soon. He was addressing a seminar jointly organized by the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations, PANAH and other civil society organizations to address the issues of excessive use of sugary drinks and their fatal impact on human health.

He said,"We committed to strengthen all initiatives to address health haz-

would provide items at the original cost. He also di-

rected to set up 5- day of

cheap bazaars in the federal

capital while the plans were

underway to improve

health facilities in the hos-

pitals as soon as possible.

to complete construction

and renovation of all police

stations soon so that citizens could be provided

was made against the rules

in the caretaker govern-

ment. 4 superintendents

were promoted assistant

secretary and then deputy

secretary in 4 days. Ac-

cording to sources, promo-

tion on the post of staff

officer to speaker was also

given. Assistant controller

and private secretary were

also promoted. Urdu, En-

glish reporters, Assistant

Security officers and tele-

phone operators have also

The minister directed

He gave the directions

during a meeting with Interior Secretary Aftab Akbar

Durrani, Chief Commissioner Islamabad, Anwar

Haq and Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad

Islamabad police and dis-

trict administration should

Election Commission of

Pakistan (ECP) has sought

an explanation from Punjab

Assembly on the matter of

new recruitments and pro-

motions in the Punjab As-

sembly Secretariat during

EC has taken notice of more

than 300 recruitments and pro-

motions. According to sources,

35 new recruitments have

been decided in the Punjab

Assembly Secretariat.

According to details,

the caretaker government.

The minster said that

play a role for better and peaceful quality of life for and justice.

EC takes notice of

hundreds of recruitments

and promotions in PA

ISLAMABAD (Online): Deputy Superintendents

Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan.

ards associated with sweetened beverages.'

The minister said that our commitment to addressing Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) was deeply embedded in our National Health Vision, which led to the develop-ment of the NCDs Action Framework. Aligned with global targets, this framework outlines our strategic actions to tackle current challenges. He said recognizing

the impact of sweetened beverages on public health, the ministry was working diligently to regulate trans fatty acids to no more than two percent of the total fats

in all foods. Dr. Nadeem Jan added that through collaboration with the Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority, we aim to enforce front-of-pack nutrition labeling and warning signs on foods high in sugar, salt, and unhealthy fats. He said that the ministry's partnership with the Federal Board of Revenue involves increasing excise taxes on ultra-pro-

sugary drinks. He added this fiscal measure was a vital step to discourage the consumption of unhealthy products and promote better dietary

cessed foods, particularly

"We are committed to ensuring a healthy diet in public procurements and official meetings, setting an example for the entire na-

Pakistan National Heart Association (PANAH), President, Major General (Retd) Masud ur Rehman Kiani said that focus should be on preventive health which was the most effective way to combat NCDs.

He said that unhealthy diet was among the major risk factors to many NCDs like heart diseases, diabetes, stroke, liver and kidney dis-



ISLAMABAD: Federal Secretary Information & Broadcasting Ms. Shahera Shahid addresses participants of seminar titled 'Electoral Code of Conduct: Ethical Practices of Stakeholders including Media,' organized by the Press Information Department.

4 including Ex-MPA injured in

ISLAMABAD (APP): Former Member of the Provincial Assembly (MPA) Shafiq Sher Afridi and four others were injured when their car met with an accident in Landi

According to a private news channel, the accident took place on the Pak-Afghan highway when they were returning from an election campaign

As soon as the inci dent was reported, Rescue 1122 teams reached the site and shifted the injured to the hospital.

According to hospital

car accident

Kotal on Thursday.

in their car.

sources, the injured have been discharged from the hospital after receiving

Seminars to stimulate vibrant discussions on election guidelines: Secretary Info ISLAMABAD (APP): partment (PID), she said

Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Shahera Shahid on Thursday said that the election seminar series intends to stimulate a lively debate on election rules and the restrictions imposed to enhance transparency in the

electoral process. Speaking at the seminar on Pakistan's general elections, themed "Electoral Code of Conduct : Ethical Practices of Stakeholders including Media," organised by Press Information De- input.

that the election seminar series aims to convey the code of conduct, rules, and restrictions, sparking lively discussions about their underlying reasons.

She said PID has already conducted two seminars on various election-related topics, sparking significant discussions in media. She highlighted the upcoming seminars in Karachi and Lahore, designed to engage local journalists in conversations and gather their

Kamil Agha chairs meeting of senate functional body on government assurances

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: A meeting of Senate Functional Committee on Government Assurances was held here at Parliament House on Thursday with Senator Kamil Ali Agha in Chair.

The Senate Committee deliberated on the assurance provided by the then Minister Incharge of the Capital Administration and Development division regarding the regularization of services for teachers working in the education department of Islamabad Capital Territory on daily wages.

Senator Kamil Ali Agha stated that the matter has been pending since 2016 and termed the delay as a bureaucratic hurdle.

ment on the delay and called it a failure of the government. However, the ministry contended that the report was placed before the cabinet with the prior approval of the Prime Minister but to no avail. The Committee deferred the matter for further report and deliberation, anticipating the new Government.

Additionally, the committee discussed the assurance given by the then Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training and Minister Incharge for Capital Administration and Development Division concerning the construction of new educational institutions in Islamabad. Deputy Chairman Senate, Mirza Muhammad Afridi, remarked that educa-

The Committee extion is a fundamental right. pressed utter disappoint-



ISLAMABAD: Machinery being used for extension work of Park Road during development work in the Federal Capital.

ICCPO holds online khuli katcheri

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital City Police Officer

(IĈCPO) Ďr. Akbar Nasir Khan on Thursday hold an online khuli katcheri to give the residents direct access to the police high ups to solve their issues on priority basis. A police spokesman said that the ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan responded to the public queries via phone calls from 03:30 pm to 05:30 pm. ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan listened to the problems of the callers and directed the concerned officers for their immediate so-

The ICCPO said that the security plan regarding the upcoming election was finalized. Administrative and security measures are also being implemented regarding Election 2024.

Legal actions against illegal foreigners will continue during the election. Moreover, action will be taken against those who vote on fake ID cards. 10,000 officers and officials of the Islamabad Capital Police and other law enforcement agencies will perform security duties ring the poll.

ICCPO said that no

laxity will be tolerated on the display of arms, protest, aerial firing, or disturbance of public order before, during and after the elections. He further said that to maintain peace and tranquility during the election in the federal capital was the top priority of the Islamabad Capital Police. Citizens are requested to report any unusual activity on "Pucar-15" or at "ICT-15" app, he added.

Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr. **Election seminars help** enhance PID's election awareness efforts: PIO

Principal Information Officer (PIO), Dr. Tariq Mehmood said on Thursday that arranging a series of seminars on elections aimed to ignite a media discussion regarding the implementation of election rules and increasing public awareness about the significance of the election pro-

dress, at the seminar titled Electoral Code of Conduct: "Ethical Practices of Stakeholders including Media,' he said PID's success relied on its dedication to kickstarting a discussion on implementing the rules of ways to improve the

He said PID's success was achieved when election seminars prompt a debate on election rule implementation and raise public

The PIO mentioned that the Press Information Department (PID) had arranged a series of seminars covering vari-In his welcome ad- ous topics, with a focus on the upcoming general

> PID is set to organise two additional seminars in Karachi and Lahore, aiming to deliberate on the rules governing elections and the significance of the electoral



ISLAMABAD: A man is distributing free among the devotees at Shrine of Hazrat Bari Imam in the

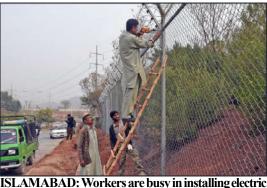
No compromise on quality hajj arrangements: Aneeq

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister of Religious Affairs Aneeq Ahmed Thursday said that his government had taken multiple initiatives to ensure easy and quality hajj arrangements and no compromise would be made on it to provide maximum facilitation

to the intending pilgrims.
Talking to PTV news channel, he said accommodation, meals and transportation for pilgrims would be improved with a more comfortable and convenient experience, adding, all arrangements have been finalized under the government Hajj scheme in Šaudi Arabia

was to improve arrangements in light of feedback received from the stakeholders, adding that, the government had also introduced a comprehensive and affordable hajj package to hujjaj this year. To a query, he said the present government has also announced a significant reduction of Rs 0.1 million in government Hajj expenses and would not compromise the quality of facilities to hujjaj. 'Without any cost, government is providing OR code. a suitcase of 30 Kg to all hujjaj

which will help in locating their luggage", adding, government will also provide Pakistan Flagged Abaya to all for the forthcoming Hajj. He said that the main the female hujjaj which will objective of the Ministry make them prominent.



fence around diplomatic enclave in Federal Capital.

SC nullifies LHC decision, allows Sana to contest election

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) declaring null and void Lahore High Court (LHC) decision against independent candidate Sana Ullah Masti Khel from NA 91 Bhakkat has restored Election Tribunal (ET) decision and has allowed him to contest elec-

The court has maintained that how LHC has restored the application which was dismissed under legal process and how it has given the decision on the same day

A 3-member bench of SC presided over by the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa took up for hearing appeal plea filed by independent candidate Šana Ullah Mastikhel from Bhakkar against rejection of his nomination pa-

CJP Qazi Faez Isa inquired during the hearing of the case why the nomination papers have been re-

The counsel for petitioner said ET accepted nomination papers but high court rejected them. High court neither issued notice nor it heard the stance. One sided decision took place. Justice Muhammad

Ali Mazhar inquired Sana Ullah Mastikhel is proclaimed offender. Why does he not appear.

The counsel for peti-tioner said Sana Ullah Mastikhel has surrendered and he is on bail. Sana Ullah Mastikhel is charged with violating section 144. The CJP inquired

from counsel of rival candidate is it correct that high court gave decision without issuing notice.

PML-N to issues manifesto on Jan 27: Irfan Siddique

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Senator Irfan ul Haque Siddiqui on Thursday said that his party will issue the manifesto on January 27, to bring the country back on

Talking to a private news channel, he said that economic, legal and judicial reforms would put the country on path of speedy progress. He said that in 2013, economic challenges had been a difficult task but Nawaz Sharif made sincere efforts and implemented the reforms to achieve the highest economic growth

rate for this country.
If PML-N returns to ower, the focus would be given to steer the country out of the present chal-

enges, he assured. In reply to a question about the coalition government, he said that the PML-N is hopeful to establish next government with simple majority.

CDA to install pedestrian bridges at 3

different places
ISLAMABAD (APP): The Capital Development Authority (CDA) is taking several steps to provide best possible facilities to the itizens including the installation of pedestrian bridges at three different places.

The civic body is going to install the bridges to facilitate pedestrians cross the Srinagar Highway, which are in the final stages so that road accidents can be reduced.

According to a press release, due to the installation of one of these three pedestrian bridges, on 28 January 2024 at 10pm Sector G-7/4 Opposite Chairman Office CDA, Metro Bus Station, Srinagar Highway will be completely closed for all types of traf-

Moreover, the authority has also appealed to the Islamabad Traffic Police to arrange timely alternative routes to facilitate the public so that the citizens do not face any kind of difficulties.

Likewise, the CDA administration has also appealed to the public to fully cooperate with the Islamabad Traffic Police to avoid any kind of untoward

NHMP close routes due to

heavy fog ISLAMABAD (APP): The Motorway M-1, Swat Expressway, Hazara Expressway and Motorway M14 have been closed for all traffic due to heavy fog.

The Motorway M-1 m Peshawar to Islamabad), Swat Expressway (from Col Sher Khan to Ismaila), Hazara Expressway (from Burhan to Jhari Kis) and Motorway M14 (from Hakla to Tarap) have been closed for all traffic due to heavy fog, said National Highways and Motorway Police

(NHMP) Špokesperson. The spokesperson said citizens were requested to avoid unnecessary traveling during foggy hours.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Inspector General National Highways and Motorways Police (NHMP) Salman Motorway Police.

E-Khuli Kachehris best

way to be in touch with

public: IG NHMP

Chaudhry said that the 'E-Khuli Kachehris' were the best way to remain in direct contact with the general public and resolving their problems. He said as per the directive of the Government of Pakistan and the Ministry of Communications, the NHMP is holding "É-Khuli Kachehri", on regular grounds, he said while participating in the "E-Khuli Kachehri" here Thursday. He also talked on FM-95 Radio and NHMP official Facebook and answered to frequently asked questions from across the country and from abroad as well. The IG said that the E-Khuli Kachehris were the best way to remain in direct contact with the general public and with the employees as well for the solution of their problems.

diate directions to resolve the problems of the general public and employees of National Highways and

ISLAMABAD: Book writer Mahnaz Benjamin presenting her book to famous

Urdu poet Iftikhar Hussain Arif during her book lunching ceremony title

To ensure equal enforcement of traffic laws and transparency in the ticketing system, an SMS service was being introduced. Ensuring commuters' journeys smooth and safer is our top priority, he said. National highways and Motorways were the lifelines of Pakistan, playing a crucial role in the country's progress. The Inspector General also acknowledged that roads infrastructure issues were long-standing problems. Efforts are being made through collaboration with relevant authorities to ensure a definite resolution, he said Salman Chaudhry emphasized the importance of human lives and mentioned that every possible measure was being taken to secure precious human lives.

"Khamshi Hum Kalam Hoti Hey" at Academy of latter in the Federal Capital. NDMA's Gender & Child Cell ioins Steering **Committee of IAWG**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)'s Gender and Child Cell has joined Steering Committee of Inter Agency Working (IAWG)

The NDMA in a post on its official handle on X shared the update on Thurs day that the Authority' Cell had joined the interna tional platform on January 24. The IAWG is a global coalition of organizations that work together to promote Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in

Humanitarian Settings. "This is a great oppor tunity for NDMA's Ĝender & Child Cell to collabo rate with other members of IAWG share best practices & contribute to global efforts to improve health issues. We look forward to working with our partners & stakeholders to achieve our common goals.



Daily Soice of Masse. Independent

Friday January 26, 2024

Army duties

The state cannot hold elections without the Pakistan Army. On Tuesday, the caretaker government formally approved the deployment of military and civil armed forces personnel at polling stations and sensitive constituencies "in order to maintain peace and security" during the upcoming general elec-

It is understood that these personnel will not only be deputed to guard polling stations on election day but also serve as a rapid reaction force in case any law-and-order situation arises.

The government is said to have approved the arrangement after receiving a summary recommending the same from the hitherto minister-less interior ministry, which cited a severe shortfall of available personnel. The ECP had previously demanded the services of 275,000 troops from the interior ministry for election-related duties after learning that it was facing a shortage of more than 277,000 security officials, of which about 169,000 were needed in Punjab alone.

It is understandable why the ECP wants boots on the ground for the elections. Apart from various administrative and other reasons, there has been a surge in militant attacks targeting security forces in recent months, and the commission would not want anything untoward happening close to or on election day.

There has also been a recent spate of attacks targeting political leaders, mostly in KP while there are multiple alerts regarding some politicians facing active threats. It is imperative for the state, in these conditions, to provide a secure environment for politicians and voters in the lead-up to and on worldwide to adapt to the election day.

However, the troops being explores the role of e-governance in building residence. deployed should be clearly instructed that their role is limited to providing security and ensuring peace. They must not, for whatever reason, enter polling stations or interfere in the voting and post-voting procedures. The controversies that arose after the 2018 polls must be avoided at all costs.

Finally, though Dr Gohar Ejaz was given the additional charge of caretaker interior minister last evening, it is worth asking what took the government so long to nominate him given that Dr Ejaz's predecessor, Sarfaraz Bugti, had resigned in December.

The government has been quite aware of the deteriorating security situation and has brought it up on various occasions and in different contexts; why, then, had it left the ministry responsible for law and order without a head for more than a month?

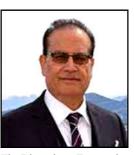
This was a rather reckless approach, given the serious challenges that have emerged, with the elections drawing

Dr Ejaz's new role will require much attention and energy from him as he tries to address various emergent security-related challenges; will he be able Panel on Climate Change to do so, considering he is also world temperatures could holding several other important portfolios? It is a big ask: the failing to realise the tarresponsibility for the safety of millions now lies with him.

Bloomberg's misery Index and PML(N)

By Qamar Bashir

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



The Bloomberg Economics report, lauding the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N)'s economic management, especially under Ishaq Dar's tenure, comes at a critical time as Pakistan faces severe economic challenges. With the country in the throes of a financial crisis, marked by soaring inflation of 20-25% and an unemployment rate above %, the populace is burdened and seeking immediate relief. This backdrop has triggered a wave of extravagant election promises from various political parties, including free electricity, doubled salaries, free housing, transport, petrol, and gas. However, these promises often lack a concrete and rational economic roadmap, raising questions about their feasibility in the current economic climate. This situation positions the PML-N's acknowledgment by Bloomberg as a notable endorsement of their past economic governance, potentially influencing public perception and electoral

lored for Pakistan, which combines unemployment and inflation rates, to evaluate economic performance. This index showed the PML-N with a score of 14.5%, indicating less economic hardship under their rule compared to Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) at 16.1% and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) at 17.2%. The scores represent averages during the periods each party has

been in power since 1990,

with a lower score suggest-

ing better economic man-

ment. The "misery index" is an economic indicator created by economist Arthur Okun. One of the main advantages of the misery index is its simplicity, which makes it easy to calculate and understand. However. this simplicity also means it might not capture the full complexity of an economy's health. While the misery index provides a quick snapshot of economic conditions, it's not a comprehensive measure. Its findings can vary significantly if other factors are included, offering a more nuanced view of economic well-being. For detailed economic analysis, it's often necessary to look beyond the misery index to a broader set of economic in-

The report had em- shortcomings, this report toral battleground, with ployed a 'misery index' tai- has indeed impacted the economic policy becoming election campaigning for every stakeholder including PML(N), PTI and PPP, and has generated media and

public discourses. The Bloomberg Economics report comes as a significant boost for PML-N, enhancing its image as a competent economic manager. It reinforces PML-N's appeal to voters seeking a party with a proven track record in economic governance. This development, coupled with the return of Nawaz Sharif and the diminishing influence of PTI, places PML-N in a favorable position, potentially influencing voter preference in the face of the nation's

economic challenges For the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), this report could be a hurdle. Its comparative analysis places these parties in a less favorable light in terms of economic management. This could lead to increased scrutiny of their past performance and promises for future economic policy.

It has influenced the public opinion and voter behavior. In a scenario where economic management is a top voter concern, a report suggesting one party has a better track record could sway undecided voters. This might

a central theme of the cam-

Since its publication, the report has become a hot topic in media discussions and public debate, potentially shaping the narrative around the elections. Almost every big and small TV channel ran stories on this, soliciting comments from the economic and financial experts. anchorperson of prime time talk shows mentioned it as

a positive omen for PML(N). How each party responds to this report, and how they leverage or defend against it, could be crucial in the days leading up to the election potentially shaping the narrative

around the elections.

In light of Pakistan's dire economic situation, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) should capitalize this report by finetuning its election campaign with a focus on realistic and responsible promises. The party needs to emphasize its proven economic management skills while transparently communicating the severity of current economic challenges, including the country's high debt, inflation, and sluggish growth.

The campaign should pivot towards proposing long-term, sustainable eco-

tural reforms, particularly in the energy sector and state-owned enterprises. Engaging economic experts and emphasizing the development of robust social safety nets to protect vulnerable populations will be crucial

Additionally, a focus on improving international relations and trade to attract foreign investment and bolster foreign exchange reserves is vital. By adopting this multifaceted approach, PML-N can position itself as a party capable of guiding Pakistan through these challenging times while retaining public trust and support. Rival political parties in Pakistan, in response to the Bloomberg report favoring PML-N, can craft a cohesive counter-strategy by critically analyzing and questioning the report's methodology and relevance to cur-

rent economic challenges. They should highlight the pressing issues of high debt, inflation, and unemployment, and present comprehensive, forwardlooking economic recovery plans that prioritize transparency and accountability. Emphasizing on addressing immediate public concerns, such as rising living costs and job scarcity, through grassroots campaigning and effective use of media and public debates, can resonate more with voters.

Additionally, focusing nomic capacity.

Notwithstanding its lead to a shift in the elec-nomic strategies and struc- on diverse governance aspects like social development and foreign policy, and leveraging social media for wider outreach, especially among the youth, can strengthen their position. Forming coalitions and alliances can also offer a united and formidable alternative to PML-N, emphasizing current solutions over past achievements

Amidst the political maneuvering following the Bloomberg Economics report, Pakistan's stark economic realities remain unchanged and pressing. Political parties, while vying for public favor, must ground their promises in these realities: the daunting \$126 billion national debt with a \$25 billion repayment due in 2023-24, meager reserves of about \$8.8 billion, and significant circular debts in electricity and gas sectors. Additionally, they must consider the soaring inflation rate at 25%, the substantial depreciation of the Pakistani rupee, critically low foreign exchange reserves bolstered by external deposits, a tepid GDP growth rate of 1.7%, barely surpassing the population growth rate, and a worrying 8% unemployment rate. In this challenging economic landscape, electoral promises need to be carefully calibrated and responsibly aligned with the nation's fiscal and eco-

E-Governance: Building Resilient Societies in an Uncertain World



decisions in these trying

By Qaiser Nawab

In the face of unprecedented global challenges such as economic downturns, financial crises, pandemics, and climate change, the need for innovation and adaptability in the public sector has become increasingly evident. However, within these challenges lies an opportunity for nations to harness the power of digitalization, furning adversity into innovation. The COVID-19 pandemic acted as a catalyst for the acceleration of digitizanew normal. This article ient societies, with a focus on innovation and its potential impact on efficiency, transparency, and accessibility

The industrial sector, particularly in developed economies like the UK, demonstrated remarkable adaptability by shifting to remote work and embracing digital transformation. Similarly, nations such as Brazil and Canada witnessed a surge in businesses transitioning to eCommerce. However, developing nations face the challenge of creating awareness among policymakers about the importance of digitalization. Conducive policies,

skill development, and improved connectivity are crucial components for these nations to harness the opportunities presented by digital transfor-

Climate change, a pressing global challenge, further underscores the importance of E-Governance in building resilient societies. As nations grapple with the farreaching impacts of a changing climate, innova-tential impact on effitive digital solutions can ciency, transparency, and tify, develop, and impleing effective environmen- Nations, World Bank, Eu- needs of a digitally-driven structure. tal policies. E-Governance ropean Commission, society. can facilitate real-time data collection, analysis, and dissemination, enabling governments to make informed decisions for climate mitigation and adaptation. Collaborative efforts between nations. guided by E-Governance principles, can enhance the coordination of climate-related initiatives, ensuring a more efficient and unified response to environmental threats. By leveraging digital technologies, governments can not only strengthen their resilience to climate change but also foster a sustainable and eco-friendly trajectory for future development. The integration of climate-focused E-Governance strategies aligns with the broader vision of creating a world

The rise of digital technologies, including cryptocurrencies, brings both benefits and challenges. Addressing vulnerabilities, bridging the digi-

that not only adapts to un-

certainties but actively

works towards a more

sustainable and environ-

mentally conscious future.

clusive development require global collaboration and strategic policy initiatives. Developing a comprehensive approach to tackle knowledge gaps, infrastructure disparities, and potential job displacement is crucial for the sustainable integration of digi-

tal technologies. E-governance emerges as a linchpin in the digital transformation of the public sector. Its po-McKinsey, and Deloitte all attest to the transformative power of e-governance, citing reductions in corruption, increased citizen satisfaction, reduced processing times, and cost

savings.
COMSATS, with its network of 25 Centers of Excellence across three continents, stands as a beacon of support for member states in their digitalization endeavors. These centers offer scientific solutions, policy inputs, training programs, and research to aid industries and governments in navigating the complexities of the digital era. Particularly in middle and lower-middle-income economies, COMSATS members have shown remarkable progress in digitalization, surpassing expectations for their respective stages of development. With internet penetration rates exceeding 80%, these nations are setting an example for oth-

Innovation stands as

ers to follow.

dynamic force that propels governance into the digital age. Governments, as stewards of societal progress, bear the responsibility of fostering an environment conducive to experimentation and the adoption of emerging technologies. To achieve this, a collaborative ecosystem must be cultivated, where policymakers actively engage with the private sector and research institutions. Such partnerships are essential to iden-

As the digital landscape undergoes continuous transformation, innovation becomes not just a strategic choice but a necessity. Policymakers need to navigate the rapidly changing technological terrain, ensuring that governance models are not only adaptive but anticipatory of emerging challenges and opportunities. Embracing a culture of perpetual innovation allows governments to proactively tackle issues such as cybersecurity threats, data privacy concerns, and the ethical implications of emerging technologies. Moreover, it positions nations at the forefront of technological advancements, fostering a competitive edge in the global arena. In essence. the commitment to continuous innovation in egovernance is a commitment to building responsive, forward-thinking, and resilient societies that can effectively navigate the uncertainties of the digital era.

the cornerstone for the success of e-governance toward a digitally trans-

support for innovation, tal divide, and ensuring in- initiatives, constituting a formed future is laden across diverse socioecowith multifaceted challenges that necessitate strategic foresight and collaborative efforts. One of the foremost challenges lies in the realm of cybersecurity threats, where the rapid evolution of digital technologies exposes governments and organizations to increasingly sophisticated cyber risks. Addressing these threats demands proactive measures, including robust cybersecurity frameworks and continuous play a pivotal role in de- accessibility cannot be ment innovative solutions monitoring to safeguard veloping and implement- overstated. The United that address the evolving critical information infra-

cerns emerge as another tential of e-governancepivotal challenge, as the collection and utilization of vast amounts of personal information raise ethical questions and demand stringent regulabalance between leveraging data for societal benefits and safeguarding individual privacy becomes imperative. Moreover, the ethical implications of emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence and biotechnology, necessitate careful consideration and ethical guidelines to prevent unin-

tended consequences. In addition to technological hurdles, there is a pressing need for international cooperation to establish global standards for digital governance. The absence of harmonized regulations may hinder the seamless flow of information and create disparities in digital development. Policymakers face the intricate task of fostering innovation while upholding responsible governance,

nomic strata. Moreover, addressing social challenges, including digital literacy disparities and the potential exacerbation of existing inequalities, becomes crucial to fostering an inclusive digital society. Policymakers must navigate these intricate challenges with agility and inclusivity, recognizing that the journey toward a digitally transformed future demands a holistic and collaborative approach.

In conclusion, the imperative for building resilient societies in an uncertain world is underscored by the transformative podriven digitalization. As nations grapple with unprecedented challenges. including economic downturns, pandemics, and climate change, the COVIDtions. Striking a delicate 19 pandemic has acted as a catalyst, accelerating the adoption of digital technologies. While developed economies showcase adaptability, developing nations face the dual challenge of raising awareness among policymakers and implementing supportive policies. E-Governance emerges as a linchpin, endorsed by global entities for its transformative impacts on efficiency, transparency, and accessibility. Policymakers must balance innovation with responsible governance, emphasizing international and – *Qaiser* cooperation inclusivity. -

Nawab, serving as the President of the Belt and Road Initiative for Sustainable Development (BRISD), is an expert in International Relations and Impact Technologies. You can contact him at qaisernawab098@gmail.com

Building trust



Jamil Ahmad

There is no doubt that climate change is one of humanity's most complex challenges and needs to be urgently tackled. But is the world faltering in forging a cohesive response? The year 2023 was the hottest recorded, with the annual average global temperature climbing 1.45 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Intergovern-mental reports indicate that tip over the 1.5°C threshold by 2030. Prospects of gets of the Paris Agreement are getting starker. Such a scenario could have

irreversible catastrophic consequences. Climate change is already exacerbating existing crises and triggering

new ones. The nexus between climate change and socioeconomic issues is increasing poverty, inequality, and hunger in the Global South. The inextricable link between climate and heath is responsible for the rise of infectious diseases and aggravation of chronic health conditions. Floods and droughts displace people, deprive them of a means of living and subject them to mental stress. According to the World Bank, by 2050, climate change would have internally displaced 216 million people, mostly in Africa and Asia.

A fresh account of how climate change-related risks continue to rise each year is furnished by the World Economic Forum's risk report for 2024, released this month under the WEF theme 'Building Trust'. This

four global risks in terms of severity are related to climate change. These are extreme weather events, critical changes to Earth's systems, biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse, and natural resource shortage, in that order, as well as pollution, which ranks 10 on the list of 34 global risks. The report warns that connections between climate change risks and other risks "may collectively evolve into a 'polycrisis' centred around natural resource shortages by

The report found that the impact of climate change could result in the loss of \$12.5 trillion to the world economy and lead to an additional 14.5m deaths by 2050, mostly due to extreme weather events, including heatwaves, droughts, wildfires, and

tropical storms. Floods, "the highest acute risk of climate-induced mortality", are es-

year, like the last, the first timated to claim 8.5m exposing the population these will be too little too lives by 2050. Droughts, the second leading cause of climate-related mortality, are estimated to cause another 3.2m deaths. In terms of economic losses, heatwaves top the list with an estimated loss of \$7tr to the world economy by 2050. Being the most vulnerable and least prepared, South Asia and Africa will bear the brunt of these human and economic losses. In countries most vulnerable to climate change, floods, intense heatwaves, prolonged dry spells, and droughts are adversely impacting lives in terms of health and livelihood. Air pollution and heavy smog are making people sick and badly disrupting economic ac-

> other parts of South Asia. While urgent climate action is needed, efforts of the international community to control global warming are dampened by geopolitical tensions, conflicts, inflation, and economic fragility, further

> tivity in Pakistan and

to the severity of extreme weather events.

Noting the lack of "deep and concerted progress on climate targets", the WEF re--p-ort says, "growing demands on public- and private- Environment Programme sector resources from other crises will reduce the speed and scale of mitigation efforts over the next two years alongside insufficient progress towards the ad--aptation support required for those com--munities and countries increasingly affected by the impacts of climate change"

The inadequacy of climate finance, a major contentious point in climate negotiations, is deepening the mistrust between the developed and developing nations. Slow progress in mobilising adaptation funds is preventing concerted global climate ac-

Even if the already committed amounts for adaptation are realised,

late to bridge the gap between available and required resources, which stands between \$194bn and \$366bn per year and is widening.

The United Nations

estimates that developing countries' financial needs for adaptation will soar from \$215 billion to \$387bn by 2030, and rise significantly by 2050. A global response to climate change will only be effective when adaptation in the Global South is prioritised besides mitigation measures in the industrialised countries. COP28 reiterated the call for doubling adaptation finance by 2025 and scaling it up even further.

For building trust, reducing risks, and controlling a further rise in global warming, it is vital to mobilise and deliver funds for adaptation to developing countries. The lives and hopes of billions of people depend on -- Courtesy Dawn

CM Baqar says:

Diligent officers work selflessly to serve people by formulating innovative public policies

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (retd) Maqbool Baqar on Thursday said that a diligent public servant works day and night selflessly to serve the people by taking pains in formulating innovative public policies and interventions, and making sure that the policies and interventions were implemented effectively so that the public at large felt

He said, "If the public does not own the public servants, it should be taken as a sign of dissatisfaction. Against all the odds and

Ceremony of BS-19 officers who completed their 16-week-long Senior Management Course (34th SMC) at the National Institute of Management (NIM), Karachi. Those who attended the program include the Director General, NIM Dr. Lubna Ayub, Chief Instructor, Senior Management Course (SMC) Khaliiq Shaikh and

conviction and personal commitment." repertoire tools and skills, and helped them gain and helped them gain He said this while critical new insights on speaking at the Graduation numerable issues and challenges through various training activities including lecture and discussions distinguished speakers/ scholars/economists.

He said that since the performance in the NIM course carried significant weight for officers' career advancement, therefore he hoped that the course participants must have invested their time, energy, The chief minister and passionate efforts to said this course, though being a mandatory requirement for promotion gain knowledge, skills and necessary tools, for their personal and professional



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Raza Naqvi and Corps Commander Lahore Syed Amir Raza witnessing the signing ceremony of handing Administration of Data Darbar Hospital to Anti-Narcotics Force.

The Governor said

that recommendations were

not against any department

but they were meant to

formulate a result-oriented

planning to avoid financial

irregularities in the future.

the relevant departments

about irregularities in their

Later, a delegation of

traders community met

with the Governor and

loss of Time Center's

shopkeepers. He assured

his cooperation to the

provincial government and

concerned authorities

would be contacted for

providing them financial

achieving a response rate of 92.5 percent despite

harsh weather and security

challenges, especially in

the Newly Merged Districts.According to the

survey report, the child population of age between 5 and 17

5 and 17 years is approximately 8.28m in

the province, adding that

11.1 percent of them are

working children; of which

80 percent are in child

labour while 73.8 percent

of them are working in

Referring to the population from 14 - 17

years, it said that 21.6

percent were working

children and 15.5 percent

were in child labour or

respectively. The report

revealed that the major four

industries for child labour

included agriculture.

hazardous

hazardous conditions.

KP Labour Deptt

launches first ever Child

Labour Survey of KP

DGAudit KP calls on Governor, present audit report 2022-23

Director General (DG) Pakhtunkhwa, Shehzad Naeem here on Thursday called on KP Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali and presented audit report of provincial expenditures He also directed to inform and revenue in the year

Director Audit, Sajid financial affairs and added Khan and Audit Officer, that provincial government Aadil Shah were also and present on the occasion.

Speaking on the to ensure good governance occasion, the KP Governor and transparency. termed the report a step towards transparency and said that the audit guarantees clarity and judicious use of funds government departments.

He highlighted the traders and said that the significance of proper implementation of recommendations mentioned in the audit report and it would further help to cover losses improve transparency and incurred by the fire.

Independent Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber

Labour Department on

Thursday has launched its

first ever Child Labour Survey 2022-23 conducted

across all districts of the

province including the

newly merged districts in a

ceremony held here at a

Survey 2022-23 is the

second provincial survey in

Pakistan, after Punjab, it

was said during the event

attended by the officials of

various government

departments,

representatives of UN

agencies, civil society

organizations, donor

data from 49,734

households including 5,976

urban and 43,758 rural,

This survey collected

agencies and academia.

KP Child Labour

Pakhtunkhwa

SWD, ANF agreement extended 2 more years

KARACHI (APP): The Chief Minister Sindh has extended the agreement between the Anti Narcotics Force and the Sindh Social Welfare Department (SWD) for a further 2 years til December 2025.

The Social Welfare Department is playing an active role in combating the menace of drug addiction in the province. The Social Welfare

and public sector departments were working Department, Government of Sindh had handed over buildings two establishing the Drug Rehabilitation Centre (namely Benazir Shaheed ANF MATRC Sindh) in Dilboth Goth Malir, and informed him about the Manghopir for one year to Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF), Ministry of Interior and Narcotics. Government of Pakistan, the tenure of the agreement ended on 18th December

> In this regard, an agreement signing ceremony between the Social Welfare Department, Government of Sindh and the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) was held in the presence of the Minister of Social Welfare Department.

PPP given permission to hold public meeting in Liaqat Bagh

ISLAMABAD (Online) PPP has been accorded permission to hold public meeting in Liaqat Bagh Rawalpindi on January 28.

According to sources PPP Rawalpindi delegation met deputy commissioner Rawalpindi and submitted application in connection with permission for public meeting.

It has been said in the application that at 1300 hrs on January 28 a large public meeing of PPP will be held in Liaqat Bagh and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will address the public meeting.



HYDERABAD: Officials of Inland Revenue burn a large quantity of Cigarettes during the destruction ceremony of non custom paid items, in the city.



KARACHI: Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar addresses a press conference at CM House.

Baligh commends role of Pak Navy in making defence of water boundaries impregnable

Independent Report AHORE: Commander Punjab, Central Commandant Naval War College, Rear Admiral Azhar Mahmood, called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House Lahore. During the meeting, Commander Central Punjab briefed Governor Punjab on the professional affairs of Pakistan Navy and informed about the performance and activities of the War College of the War College.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that the role of Pakistan Navy in making the defence of the

PESHAWAR: Director General Audit Shehzad

Naeem presenting Audit Report 2022-23 to

Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali.

PEN calls on minister

for IC&TE, discusses

issues of private schools

Fazal Hakeem, Rashid

Elementary and Secondary

Education Department,

Samar Gul, Managing

Director Private Schools

Regulatory Authority

Tanzila Sabahat and other

officials of the education

department were also

of the delegation apprised

the caretaker minister

about certain issues being

institutions pertaining to

education boards and

departments of private

caretaker minister directed

the concerned officials for

taking all possible steps for

PDM government passed a

law to abolish the tax on

drugs, and he raised his voice

against it on the Senate floor

for six years. He has fought

and will fight for the rights of the people. He said that

Allah gave him the oppor-

tunity to help the people in

the parliament, and he met

for the release of Dr. Aafia

Siddiqui in America, and

Jamaat-e-Islami will bring

her to Pakistan. He said

that those who have been

ruling for 50 years are ask-

ing for votes from the

people who have ruined the

nation, and the country is

facing inflation and the he-

reditary politicians are suck-

ing the blood of the people,

and eleven types of taxes are

taken on the electricity bills

in the name of humanity.

On this occasion, the

faced

schools.

the organisation from the resolution of their

LAHORE: Commander Central Punjab,

Commandant Naval War College, Rear Admiral

Azhar Mahmood (HIM), called on Governor Punjab

Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House

Making country an Islamic

welfare state is vision of

Jamaat-e-Islami: Mushtaq

Mardan:

The representatives

present on the occasion.

Special Secretary

Maqbool and Noorshad.

Independent Report

PESHAWAR: A delegation

of private educational

institutions organisation

Network' on Thursday

Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker

Minister for Newly

Merged Districts Affairs,

Industries, Commerce and

Technical Education, Dr

Aamer Abdullah here at his

office and discussed issues

related to private

comprised of Vice

organisation and members

of the Private Schools

Regulatory Authority

Fazlullah Daudzai and

Syed Anas Takreem

Kakakhel, office bearers of

Independent Report

Jamaat-e-Islami Senator Mushtaq Ahmed Khan

says that making the coun-

try an Islamic welfare state

is the vision of Jamaat-e-

Islami, where there is wor-

ship of Allah and slavery

of the Prophet, and where

every child, oppressed, youth, orphan, and widow

gets free education, justice, treatment, employment,

and justice, and the system

of oppression and drugs is

views while addressing a

convention at Rustam

Eidgah, where Jamaat-e-

Islami candidates for NA-

21 and PK-55 and district

and tehsil leaders also

spoke. He said that the

He expressed these

RUSTÂM,

abolished.

The delegation was

of the

Nowshera district Qazi problems.

educational institutions.

Private

called on

Presidents

Education

Khyber

boundaries impregnable is commendable. He said that the professionalism of Pakistan Navy is a source of pride for the entire nation. Governor Punjab said that the martyrs and soldiers of Pakistan Navy who protect Pakistan's maritime boundaries are the pride of the country and the nation. The two sides also discussed Cadet College Khanpur in detail. Governor Punjab said that due to the change of government in 2018, despite the completion of this project, Cadet College Khanpur could not be started. He expressed hope that the future Punjab government would start classes in Cadet College Khanpur as soon as

provision of quality education to the children. On this occasion, Commander Central Punjab, Rear Admiral Azhar Mehmood invited Governor Punjab to visit Pakistan Navy War

College.
Later, Governor
Duniab Muhammad Balighur Rahman attended the closing ceremony of Pakistan Learning Festival 2024 at Children's Library Complex as Chief Guest. Governor Punjab, Muhammad Balighur

Rehman, while addressing the ceremony, said that it is very important to teach students high moral values and build their character. He said that after 2018.

1569 power pilferers caught red-handed

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): As many as 1569 power pilferers hailing from five divisions of MEPCO were caught red-handed during the past five months in an operation. According to an

official statement, the crackdown was launched in territories of five divisions of MEPCO including Muzaffargarh, Khan Garh, Kot Addu, Layyah and Alipur under the supervision of Chief Engineer Planning and Engineering MEPCO Circle that in the year 2023, the and

Mûzaffarnagar. campaign launched on September 7, 2023, was scheduled to culminate on 23 January 2024. A total fine worth Rs 80309036 was imposed on the people.

Darbar Hospital entrusted to Anti-Narcotics Force

Administration of Data

Independent Report AHORE:

management of Data Darbar Hospital to the Anti-Narcotics Force.

The signing ceremony took place at the Chief Minister's Office with the presence of Chief Minister . Punjab Mohsin Naqvi, Corps Commander Lahore Lt Gen Syed Aamer Raza and DG Anti-Narcotics Force Maj Gen Aneeq Ahmad Malik. Secretary Health Punjab Ali Jan and Regional Director ANF Brig Sikandar Hayat Ch signed the MoU. Following the agreement, documents and others.

A According to the of terms of the agreement, the Understanding (MoU) was signed to transfer the oversee the rehabilitation and upgrading of Data hospital's focus will be on the treatment and rehabilitation of individuals struggling with drug

> Mohsin Naqvi announced the dedicated allocation of Data Darbar Hospital for the rehabilitation of drug addicts. The event was attended by Ministers Dr Jamal Nasir, Azfar Ali Nasir, chief secretary, IG Punjab, secretary Auqaf



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori talking to media persons during his visit to Haideri

Federal Ombudsman visits KP Ombudsman **Secretariat**

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Federal Ombudsman Ijaz Ahmad Qureshi paid a visit to Provincial Ombudsman Secretariat and held meeting with Provincial Ombudsman Syed Jamal ud Din Shah here at his

staff the other day, said a press release issued here on Thursday. The provincial Ombudsman welcomed the Federal Ombudsman and briefed him regarding the role and activities of Provincial Ombudsman. He also apprised him in connection with the complaints and redressal method of the

complaints at the provincial Ombudsman Superintendent Engineer Office has received record number of complaints their grievances with in specific period

prescribed in Ombudsman act.

He also congratulated the Federal Ombudsman for their election as President of Asian Ombudsman Organisation and hoped that he would continue to focus on the promotion and well being of the Ombudsman office at international level.

Speaking on the asion, Federal occasion, Ombudsman Ijaz Ahmad Qureshi appreciated the role of Provincial Ombudsman Secretariat for providing speedy relief to the common man. He eulogized the role and steps taken by Syed Jamal ud Din Shah as Provincial Ombudsman for the opening of regional offices at DI Khan, Malakand and which were more than the enable the people of that previous years and areas to lodge their majority of complainants complaints near their received relief by resolving region by avoiding their visit to the Provincial as Secretariat.



and Representative of UNICEF Pakistan Abdullah Fadil in a group photo with other participants during launching ceremony of KP Child Labour Survey.

Police conduct raid on Javed residence, arrest his son in law, servants

Police have conducted raid on the residence of Javed Hashmi and arrested his son in law and domestic servants.Javed Hashmi has said in this regard police conducted raids at his residence during PTI workers convention in Makhdoom Rashid and arrested PTI candidate and his domestic servants. Police broke the

doors and rushed into his home besides subjecting the women to violence.

PTI leader Mehrbano Qureshi and Zain Qureshi were to participate in PTI workers convention.

Teenager shot, injured over land dispute

MUZAFFAŔGARH (APP): A child was shot at and injured in a heated verbal clash that erupted over a land dispute between the two families, according to the rescuer.

The victim was identified as Muhammad Rashid, 17, s/o Muhammad Latif, a resident of Moza Kotla, who was reported to have received gunshot wounds on the forehead.

Japanese CG calls on Mayor Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Consul General of Japan in Karachi Hattori Masaru along with the Deputy Consul General Nakagawa Yashushi called on Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab in KMC head office on Thursday. Mayor

Barrister Murtaza Wahab welcomed the Consul General of Japan who discussed with him matters of mutual interest.

support to Pakistan in the industrial sector, including development projects, is valuable.

Mayor Karachi said that we want to take advantage of Japan's technical expertise in improving modernizing infrastructure in Karachi. He said that Japanese companies would be fully supported for investment in Karachi since attractive opportunities are The Mayor Karachi available for foreign said that cooperation investment in the city and between Pakistan and the government is taking all Japan is continuing in possible steps to promote various fields and Japan's investment.

ANF recovers 138 kg drugs in eight operations

Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting eight operations across the country managed to recover 138 kg drugs and arrested nine accused including two women, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Thursday.

He informed that 2 kg of Ice drug was recovered from a parcel at a Cargo Office in Lahore.

In another operation, 1 kg of Ice was recovered

RAWALPINDI (APP): Bahrain from DHL Sadar, Peshawar.

In the third operation, 50 kg hashish and 40 kg opium were recovered from the possession of two accused arrested near M-1 Motorway Islamabad. 15 kg hashish and 12

kg opium were recovered from an accused netted near Motorway Bridge Peshawar. In the fifth operation,

6 kg of weed was recovered from the possession of 2 suspects nabbed near Mfrom a parcel being sent to 9. Jamshoro Toll Plaza.

Revolutionary initiatives in IT sector start bearing fruits: Saif

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister Information Telecommunications, Dr. Umar Saif has said that the presence of the Special Învestment Facilitation Council (SIFC) is leading to increase in foreign direct

Software office, Dr. Saif said, "We during the caretaker have achieved 13 out of 15 period." important targets for the promotion of the IT & Telecom sector in a short period of 5 months in the Zohaib Khan Chairman caretaker set-up. The forum of SIFC will prove General Secretary P@SHA

Association (P@SHA) measures we have taken

Ms. Aysha Morani Additional Secretary Muhammad MOITT,

Houses also reap the benefits of the exports of IT and ITenabled services, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has increased the permissible retention limit from 35% to 50% of their export proceeds in the Exporters' Specialized Foreign Currency Accounts (ESFCAs). "We worked with the SIFC and the State Bank to make a significant policy intervention. allowing IT companies to keep 50% of their export revenue in dollars.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif in a group photo after Town Hall meeting.

Pakistan an attractive investment destination for US investors: Masood

WASHINGTON (APP): Pakistan is the most attractive and profitable investment destination for JS investors, and urged them to take advantage

of the country's improved business climate, Ambassador Masood Khans said Wednesday.

"The Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) would provide every possible facilitation and onewindow solution to investors in reaping benefits of a huge market of Pakistan and the region," he said during a virtual meeting with the President of the Pakistan Chamber of Commerce USA, Amir Piprani, and his team, according to a press release of the Pakistani embassy

Pakistan's Consul General in Houston, Aftab Ahmed Chaudhry and Trade & Investment Attache, Shaista Bunyad, were also present. "IT, energy, agriculture and minerals remain our priority areas. However, we would facilitate every single investment in all

economy," the Pakistani envoy said. SIFC, he said, has been established to ensure that foreign investors, especially Pak-American business community, wanting to invest in their motherland are properly facilitated in their business

briefed Piprani Ambassador Masood Khan about the activities of PCC-USA.

ISLAMABAD: Kazakhstan Ambassador to

Pakistan H.E. Yerzhan Kistafin called on the

Federal Minister for Commerce, Industries,

Investments and Interior, Dr. Gohar Éjaz to discuss

regional connectivity and bilateral trade at the

Positive changes coming to

Pakistan Railways, assures

CEO on Facebook live

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan reopening the Sibbi

section. Additionally, he

outlined initiatives to

upgrade station washrooms

and install new charging

ports onboard trains.

Notably, improvements to

train coaches, starting with

the Karachi Express, are

also on the agenda,

extending to the Sukkur

Express and Pakistan

Highlighting a commitment

to sustainability, Baloch

announced plans to

transition all railway

stations to solar energy,

with regulations in the final

stages of preparation. He

underscored ongoing

efforts to streamline

promotion processes and

introduced the "Rabita"

mobile application for

passenger feedback

Express.

Business

Commerce Ministry.

Railways' Chief Executive

Officer, Amir Ali Baloch,

expressed optimism about

significant enhancements in

queries on Facebook live on

highlighted ongoing efforts

to address workers salaries,

with plans to secure

approval for a minimum

wage increase. Despite

rising diesel costs, he noted

that fare adjustments had

not been made last year,

with the burden absorbed

However, he pledged to

consider fare reductions if

diesel prices decrease.

Baloch emphasized plans

to restore closed train

services gradually, with

recent efforts focused on

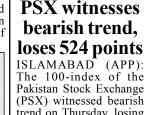
the Railways.

Responding to public

Baloch

train facilities.

Γhursday,



The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Thursday, losing 524.43 points, a negative change of 0.81 percent, closing at 64,298.01 points against 64,822.43 points the previous trading day.

Caretaker Sindh Minister

for Mines and Minerals

Development, Mir Khuda Bax Marri on Thursday

said that many of the

leading sources of minerals

commodities used world

over in mobile devices and

cars manufacturing were

expressed these views

while addressing a press

conference in the Karachi

He said that these

Press Club (KPC) here.

minister

found in Pakistan.

The

A total or 460,691,033 shares valuing Rs 25.248 billion were traded during the day as compared to 479,982,148 shares valuing Rs. 22.501 billion the last day.

Some 353 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 102 of them recorded gains and 233 sustained losses, whereas the share prices of 18 remained unchanged.

found in Pakistan: Minister manufacturing of the top three global industries. We should also utilize these sources like zinc, lead, sources for development cobalt, graphite, iron, steel, and prosperity of the cooper, glass/sand, calcium instead of carbonate, talc, silica, nickel country exporting these minerals in raw form, he said.

The caretaker minister called for a need to establish to establish industries in the country to utilize these available mineral sources to produce more iron, cement and other commodities

Minerals used in smart

phones, cars manufacturing

which are high in demand. He highlighted that sources of minerals were gift from Allah to Pakistan and same were being used the world over in

the leading mineral resources like lake salt, bentonite, China clay, lime stone, marble, granite and these minerals.

others were found in Sindh The minerals or minerals and others are also found in Pakistan, he added.

He pointed out that these minerals were used in various industries for the production of decorative stones, construction stones, cement, ceramics products, mud of oil drilling, oil filtering, cosmetics, fungicides, textiles and others industries but there was a

Governor SBP inaugurates Japanese traditional pottery, ceramics exhibition Yakashime

Independent Report KARACHI: Governor State Bank of Pakistan, Jameel Ahmed, inaugurated a special exhibition "YAKISHIME, Earth Metamorphosis- Japanese Traditional Pottery and Ceramics" at the SBP

museum on Thursday. Consul General of Japan, Hattori Masaru, diplomats from different countries and renowned political and cultural personalities attended the launching ceremony of the exhibition organized by Japan Foundation in collaboration with the State Bank of Pakistan

people-to-people contacts were instrumental in fostering understanding and good-will between the nations.

He said that the cultural agreement, signed in 1957 between Pakistan and Japan, has been the bedrock of bilateral relations as it laid the foundation for deepening and broadening the bilateral relations.

'Programs we have undertaken jointly include performances, exhibitions, student exchange. scholarships and joint research initiatives between the two nations, he said adding that such activities played an important role in fostering



FAISALABAD: A worker busy in his work at a local Polyester factory in the city.

Shipping activity at **Port Qasim**

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity reported at the Port where four ARACHI ships namely, Maersk Cabo Verde, Clemens Schulte, Charade and Lusail carrying Containers, Steel Coil and LNG,berthed at Container Terminal Multi-Purpose Terminal and Elengy Terminal, respectively on January

Meanwhile five more ships, MSC ADU-V, Encore, Theodora, Sea Elegant and Nord Anthem also arrived at outeranchorage of the Port Qasim to load/unload Container, Rice, Chemicals and Coal during the last 24

A total of nine ships

were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them four ships, Clemens Schulte, Maersk Cabo Verde, IVS Windsor and Marangas Asclepius are left the port on today morning and three more ships, Limra, Charde and Sea Runner are expected to sail on same day.Cargo throughput of 172,616 tonnes. comprising 145,841 tonnes imports cargo and 26,775 tonnes export cargo carried in 2,298 Containers (979 TEUs are Import and 1,319 TEUs are export)was

last 24 hours.

Roadshow in Bangkok for Pak 300MW floating solar plants on Jan 29

ISLAMABAD (APP): can submit international Pakistan will hold a competitive bidding with roadshow in Bangkok on January 29 to attract investment for the 300megawatt floating solar plants project to be executed at the Tarbela-Barotha Complex sites. Under the project,

Pakistan aims to develop two 150-MW AC floating solar plants, the Pakistan Embassy in Thailand said on its X account, inviting potential bidders to participate in the The interested parties manageable.

two envelopes for technical and financial proposals. The embassy said the project sites were within

Tarbela-Barotha Complex, owned by the Water and Development Authority (WAPDA), a highly secure area controlled access.

The environmental and social impacts of the floating solar plants have already been studied and declared by experts as

LESCO detects 389 power pilferers

Lahore Electric Supply Company (Lesco) has detected a total of 389 connections from where the customers were pilfering electricity in all its circles of five districts (Lahore, Sheikhupura, Nankana Sahib, Kasur and Okara) on the 138th day of grand anti-power theft campaign. The Lesco spokesman told media here Thursday that the handled at the port during has company also

submitted

LAHORE (APP): The applications against 389 electricity thieves, out of which 168 FIRs have been registered in respective police stations, while 10 accused have been arrested.

> Grand anti-power theft operations against electricity thieves are being conducted directives of the Federal Power Division and Lesco Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Engineer Shahid Haider is supervising these FIR operations.



KARACHI: Governor SBP Jameel Ahmed along with Japanese CG Hattori Masaru and other diplomats visiting Traditional Pottery and Ceramic Exhibition 'Yakishime, Earth Metamorphosis' at SBP Museum.

Pakistan's public-sector insurance companies' engine of economic growth: Gohar

Caretaker Minister for Pakistan, he said. Over the Commerce, Industry, Investment and Interior Dr Gohar Ejaz on Thursday said that Pakistan's publiccompanies are engine of economic growth.

He expressed these views in a meeting chaired by Caretaker Finance Minister Dr. Shamshad

During the meeting, discussion was made on reforms in the insurance industry, a news release said issued here. He said that State Life Insurance National Company, Insurance Company and Pakistan Reinsurance businesses Company have managed around Rs. 2 trillion of funds. These companies themselves as pillars of financial stability and innovation, he said.

ISLAMABAD (APP): state-owned enterprises in years, he said that the companies consistently demonstrated their ability to navigate insurance economic cycles, maintain financial stability, and adapt to evolving market conditions. He added that these companies were at

> insurance coverage to underserved segments of the population, particularly in rural areas. He further stated that the companies have played a pivotal role in supporting Pakistan's economic growth by providing risk mitigation solutions to and

the forefront of expanding

infrastructure projects. "These companies have established outperformed sector and ovation, he said. performance is benchmark for others.'

Norway wants to further enhance business relations with Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): Ambassador of Norway to Pakistan Per Albert Ilsaas on Thursday said that his country country wanted to further enhance business relations with Pakistan.

Talking to a delegation delegation of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), he said that both the countries had the potential to increase bilateral trade and do more business together.

A delegation of ICCI led by President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari visited the residence of Per Albert Ilsaas and discussed matters to further enhance cooperation between the two countries in business and investment fields, said a press release. Ambassador

Norway said that that Pakistan and Norway were supporting the business communities of both countries to engage in trade

and economic relations was a key priority of his

said that a He Norwegian enterprise had already signed an agreement to invest in solar and hydropower generation in Pakistan.

He said that Norway wanted to further strengthen cooperation with Pakistan in many areas including investment shipping, climate change, renewable energy, and higher education.

He assured that his embassy would cooperate with the business community in taking bilateral business relations to higher levels.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that enjoying cordial relations that should be transformed

Trade and Investment officers visit **PSGMEA**

SIALKOT (APP): Trade and investment officers appointed by the Ministry of Commerce to abroad visited the Pakistan Sports Goods Manufactuers and Exporters Association (PSGMEA) here on Thursday

PSGMEA Chairman Arshad Latif Butt, Senior Vice Chairman Zarar Ahmed Dohdy, Vice Chairman Umer-Uz-Zaman and Secretary General Mohsin Masood welcomed guests.According Secretary General PSGMEÁ

Masood, Arshad Latif Butt the and Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) jointly organized an outstanding Dr Gohar Ejaz said: interaction with the newlyinducted counsellors at outperformed their different stations abroad counterparts in the private Addressing to the Addressing to the participants, Arshad Latif Butt said development of cottage industries in Sialkot had assumed a model status for the developing world.

He said thousands of small and medium enterprises engaged in their global commitments

WCCIS to hold "We-Exhibit

In a statement on Thursday, Ghafoor Malik said the first We-Exhibit 2023 was organized by the Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry Sialkot (WCCIS) while the second We-Exhibit 2024 would be organized on March 2-3 in which women entrepreneurs from Pakistan will showcase local and foreign products

2024" in March

SIALKOT (APP): Sialkot Chmaber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) President Abdul Ghafoor Malik has said that "We Exhibit 2024" will be held on the 2nd and 3rd of March, 2024, at Living Dreams Maruqee, Sialkot Cantt.

for sale and exhibition. The president SCCI said "We-

into thriving trade and PTCL Group renews partnership with SNGPL for cellular services

Independent Report LAHORE: Pakistan's largest telecommunications and integrated ICT services provider, PTCL Group

Group Business Solutions Officer (GCBSO), PTCL & Ufone 4G, Zarrar Hasham Khan,

connectivity and a host of bundled services

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Zarrar

ufone COptcl SOLUTION

(PTCL & Ufone 4G), and largest integrated gas company of Pakistan, SNGPL have renewed their partnership for the the presence of senior takes pride in playing a continued provision of the officials from both state-of-the-art cellular organizations. Under this

and MD/ CEO, SNGPL, Amer Tufail signed the agreement at SNGPL headquarters in Lahore, in PTCL Group Business will provide wireless Pakistan

Hasham Khan, Group Chief Business Solutions Officer PTCL & Ufone 4G, stated, "PTCL Group significant role in driving technological advancement services to SNGPL under agreement, PTCL Group and transformation in

Food group imports decrease 19.48% in 06 months of FY 2023-24

QUETTA: A vendor selling country-hens as

demand increased during winter season for

preparing 'yakhni' in Provincial Capital.

Food group imports into the country during the first half of the current financial year decreased by 19.48 per cent as compared to the imports of the corresponding period of last vear.

During the period from July to December 2023, different food commodities costing \$3.957 billion were imported as compared to the imports of \$4.914 billion in the same period of last year, according to the data of the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.

During the period under review, the imports of the commodities that

went down included milk cream, milk for infants at 25.93 per cent was recorded at \$60.298 million as compared the imports of \$81.404 million, wheat unmilled by 34.84 per cent and reached \$39.126 million as compared the imports of \$609.434 million of the same period of last

Meanwhile, imports of soybeans were reduced by 41.20 per cent which came down from \$155.20 million to \$91.147 million in the last three quarters of the current financial year as compared to the imports of the same period of last year.

NATO's largest military exercise since Cold War kicks off

WASHINGTON: The US and at least 1,100 combat Russia's invasion of Navy dock landing ship Gunston Hall left port on Wednesday to mark the first movement for the largest NATO exercise since the Cold War, officials

Some 90,000 troops from the United States and fellow NATO allied nations are due to join the Steadfast Defender 2024 drills that will run through

More than 50 ships from aircraft carriers to destroyers will take part, as well as more than 80 fighter

The drills will rehearse fence plans the alliance has drawn 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. The exercise comes at

vehicles including 133 tanks Ukraine started the deadliand 533 infantry fighting est war on European soil in more than 70 years. "#NATÓ

NATO's execution of its regional plans, the first de-90,000 personnel taking part in drills across the North Atlantic and Eu-Eichenlaub, a NATO spokesperson, said on

Twitter. "The departure of the @USNavy's Gunston Hall from Norfolk marked the #SteadfastDefender24."



meeting of the 8th Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea in

Aid groups call for stopping arms supply to Israel

Monitoring Desk ONDON: Sixteen international humanitarian and rights organisations on Wednesday called for a halt to weapons transfers to Israel and Palestinian

end the Gaza conflict. In a joint statement they urged United Nations member states to stop sending weapons, parts and ammunition to "stop the crisis in Gaza and ian catastrophe and loss sieged territory.

armed groups in a bid to

'Israel's bombardment and siege are depriving the civilian population of the basics to survive and rendering Gaza uninhabitable," the statement added.

of civilian life.

The civilian population in Gaza faces a humanitarian crisis of unprecedented severity and scale." The Israeli aggression has led to dire shortages of food, water, fuel avert further humanitar- and medicines in the be-

Britons should be prepared to fight a land war, says army chief

Monitoring Desk ONDON: British citizens should be prepared to fight in a potential land war, the highest ranking army officer General Patrick Sanders said on Wednesday.

The chief of the general staff said any conflict would need to be a "wholeof-nation undertaking" and that citizens should be trained and equipped to be in a state of readiness. The general's remarks come after the UK defence ministry said last year that it would cut overall numbers in the UK's professional

preparatory steps to enable placing our societies on a war footing when needed are now not merely desirable but essential," Sanders said in a speech at an armoured vehicles conference in southwest London.

'Within the next three years, it must be credible to talk of a British Army of 120,000, folding in our reserve and strategic reserve. Sanders, who steps down later this year, said the UK could not rely on its navy and air power, arguing that 'we must be able to credibly fight and win wars on land". UK allies were already doing so, he said.

Gaza officials say Israeli fire strikes a crowd waiting for aid, killing at least 20

Monitoring Desk NEW YORK: Gaza's Health Ministry said Israeli fire struck a crowd of people waiting for humanitarian aid at a roundabout in Gaza City on Thursday, killing at least 20 and wounding 150. The Israeli military says it was looking into the reports.

Meanwhile, the death toll from a strike the day before on a crowded shell ter in Gaza rose to 12, with over 75 wounded, according to Thomas White.

Japan man gets death sentence for killing 36 in anime studio arson - NHK

Monitoring Desk TOKYO: A Japanese mar was convicted and sentenced to death on Thursday for the arson and killing of 36 people at famed anime studio Kyoto Animation in 2019, public broadcaster NHK said. The deadly attack on the Kyoto-based studio, better known as KyoAni, had sent shockwaves not only through Japan where violent crime is rare, but also overseas given the studio's far-reaching fan base and the audacity of the crime.

more trade with Iran **Monitoring Desk** with Iran is also on our agenda. Efforts to establish trade centres in border (ar-

Erdogan, eyeing

ANKARA: Turkey is considering opening new border crossings with eastern neighbour Íran, President Tayvip Erdogan said late on Wednesday after talks with his Iranian counterpart, as they seek to revive sagging economic relations.

Erdogan, speaking at a Turkish-Iranian business council meeting alongside Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi, blamed international sanctions on Tehran and the COVID pandemic for a decline in trade volumes.

Trade between Turkey and Iran peaked in 2012 at nearly \$22 billion but has since fallen. It stood at \$7.4 billion in 2023, according to Turkish Trade Minister Omer Bolat, down from around \$10 billion a vear earlier. "The issue of opening new border gates banking system,

eas) to increase the economic development of our border provinces continue, he said. Turkey, a NATO ally, and Iran currently have four border crossings between them. One of those gates,

between the Gurbulak-Bazergan regions, has been under construction since 2021. "While we have left behind the pandemic, the restrictive effect of sanctions lingers," Erdogan said, adding that Turkey would not cut its economic ties with Iran because of the international measures.

"In the current state, sanctions are causing problems in our business ties with Iran, especially issues caused by the

Attacks in Nigeria's Plateau state leave at least 30 dead

Monitoring Desk MAIDUGURI: At least 30 people have been killed and several others injured in Nigeria's central Plateau state in a series of attacks around Mangu town, despite a curfew imposed by the state government, a community spokesperson

Farmer-herder attacks and communal conflicts are rife in central Nigeria, an ethnically and religiously diverse hinterland known as the 'Middle Belt' where a circle of violence has claimed hundreds of lives in recent years.

The latest violence on

Wednesday came after a Christmas Day attack in the area which left at least 140 people dead. A duskto-dawn curfew was imposed on Jan. 23.

A Plateau police spokesperson did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the attacks which took place over two days.

The attackers targeted several villages including Kwahaslalek, Kinat and Mairana, located on the borders of nities.

Mangu and Barkin Ladi local government areas, said Joseph Gwankat, head of the community group Mwaghavul Development Association

"The victims had sought refuge in the house of a community leader after earlier unrest in Mangu town. The attackers surrounded the house and killed those inside," Gwankat told Reuters by

In a subsequent statement, the MDA blamed the attack on herders, and questioned why troops deployed by the federal government to the area since the Christmas attacks didn't intervene to stop the violence.

Survivors reported that the gunmen indiscriminately shot at people, including women and children, and set fire to houses and property.

The latest attacks

come amid a surge in violence in the Plateau, which has seen repeated clashes between nomadic herders and local farming commu-

Trudeau says Trump 'represents uncertainty'

Monitoring Desk TORONTO: Canada's government is preparing for the possibility that Donald Trump could reach the White House again and the "uncertainty" that would bring, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Tuesday.

Speaking at a Cabinet retreat, Trudeau said that Trump "represents uncertainty. We don't know exactly what he is going to do." He said that his government was able to manage Trump previously by showing that Canada and the U.S. can create economic growth on both sides of the border.

Republican primary on Tuesday, which would be his second straight victory in his quest for the 2024 GOP nomination after a commanding triumph in

tion at its retreat in Montreal. 'We made it through

the challenges represented by the Trump administration seven years ago, for four years, where we put forward the fact that Canada and the U.S. do best when we do it together," Trudeau said.

Canada's ambassador the U.S., Kirsten Hillman, and a panel of experts were briefing the Cabinet to prepare a strategy. Trudeau said that his industry and trade ministers will lead the "Team Canada approach" with the business community.

Trump as president Trump is eyeing a called Trudeau "weak" win in New Hampshire's and "dishonest" and attacked Canada's vital trade. He threatened tariffs on cars and imposed them on steel. The unprecedented tone against one of Washington's closest allies left a bitter taste, and most Canadians were relieved that Trump was

Trudeau's Cabinet has been discussing the Nov. 5 presidential elec- defeated in 2020.

Egypt set to unveil overhaul of

downtown Cairo **Monitoring Desk**

CAIRO: Egypt's sovereign wealth fund is finalising a master plan to revamp Cairo's historic centre now that government ministries have largely moved to a new capital to the east, and hopes to break ground on the project within months, its chief executive said. The area, modelled on

Paris in the 1860s, is filled with elegant but crumbling buildings constructed over the subsequent seven de-cades. Many were nationalised in the 1950s and 1960s and left in disrepair. The Sovereign Fund has already taken control of three prime properties in central Cairo and received ownership of 11 former ministry buildings in a decree published this week in the official gazette. It is also overseeing the real estate portfo-

before World War Two. The blueprint includes the government quarter on the southern edge of downtown and involves traffic

lio of Misr Insurance Hold-

ing, which includes nearly a

hundred buildings, most built

plans, area surveys and plans to repurpose various buildings, the fund's CEO, Ayman Soliman, told Reuters. The fund will bring in private companies to own and finance much of the properties. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and two international advisers are helping to draw it up. "It's coming over the course of the coming weeks," Soliman

Much of the government has transferred in recent months to ministries and offices in a lavish new capital being built 45 km 28 miles) east of Cairo. The fund expects to

take over many former government buildings to either sell, manage on behalf of the government or turn over to private developers in exchange for a minority ownership stake in the projects.

'Some of the buildings are already evacuated, but there is a mobilisation plan for relocating into concentrated locations for whoever is staying and not moving to the new capital."

the ongoing agression in the southern Gaza Strip Nearly all US **US Navy intercepts** Senate Democrats missiles in Red Sea while back two-state escorting Maersk ships **Monitoring Desk**

RAFAH: Palestinians inspect the site of an Israeli strike on a mosque, amid

said explosions nearby forced two ships operated by its US subsidiary and carrying US military supplies to turn around when they were transiting the Bab al-Mandab Strait off Yemen, accompanied by the

"While en route, both ships reported seeing explosions close by and the US Navy accompaniment also intercepted multiple projectiles," Maersk said in a statement, adding it was suspending Red Sea transits by vessels of the US sub-Å spokesperson for Yemen's Houthi military forces said they fired ballistic missiles at several US

warships that were protecting two US commercial ves-Both commercial vessels are operated by Maersk Line, Limited (MLL), its US subsidiary that carries

Defense, Department of State, USAID, and other US government agencies. Both are enrolled in the

Maritime Security Program (MSP) and Voluntary Intermodal Sealift Agree ment (VISA) with the US government, which is why they were escorted through the strait by US Navy vessels, Maersk said. MSP and VISA are

programmes run by the US Defense Department to an amendment supporting transport forces, supplies and equipment during times

Houthi forces targeted a num-

of war or national emergency. The vessels and crew were unharmed and were being escorted back to the Gulf of Aden by the US Navy, Maersk said. Bab al-Mandab is the outlet of the Red Sea, between Yemen on the Arabian Peninsula, and Djibouti and Eritrea on the African coast. The Houthi military spokesperson, Yahya Sarea said in a statement that

ber of US warships with balcargo for the Department of listic missiles.

Muslim shopfronts torn down in Mumbai after Ram temple opening sparks communal clashes

Monitoring Desk

MUMBAI: Authorities in India's financial capital Mumbai have torn down several Muslim-owned makeshift shopfronts after communal clashes sparked by a divisive Hindu temple opened this week by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Minor clashes broke out on Sunday in parts of Mumbai, including one incident where Hindus chanting religious slogans passed through a Muslim neighbourhood on the megacity's outskirts.

No serious injuries were reported in the melee but by Tuesday, authorities had called in excavators to knock down more than a dozen shopfronts belonging to Muslims in that locality, according to local media reports. The following evening another 40 shopfronts were down on Mohammed Ali Road, a major downtown thoroughfare and centre of local Muslim commerce that had also traffic.

seen weekend clashes "We were undertaking deep clearing of the road in which some temporary hawkers and so forth were removed," a local municipal officer, who declined to be named, told AFP on Thursday. Numerous traders of all faiths often build makeshift shopfronts out of can-

the city's scorching sun and pounding monsoon rains. "I cannot fathom why this was done," Abdul Haseeb Khan, owner of a restaurant hit in the clear-

vas and wood to shield their

businesses and patrons from

ance drive, told AFP. "If they didn't want these structures here, they should have informed us and we would have removed it. This is no way to take action." Municipal officials told local media that the campaign was "routine" and planned before Sunday's clashes, and that it was aimed at clearing illegal encroachments and easing pedestrian

solution for Israel and Palestinians **Monitoring Desk** WASHINGTON: An overwhelming majority of President Joe Biden's fellow

Democrats in the Senate on Wednesday backed a statement reiterating US support of a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian

Forty-nine of the 51 members of the Senate Democratic caucus backed a negotiated solution to the

Senator Brian Schatz introduced the measure as an amendment to an upcoming bill that would provide national security aid to Jkraine, Israel and Taiwan.

Russian Black Sea oil refinery fire extinguished

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: A fire at a Rosneft-owned export-oriented oil refinery in the southern Russian town of Tuapse overnight has been extinguished, local officials

said early on Thursday. The refinery is one of many energy infrastructure facilities hit by fire or drone attacks across Russia in the past week. "The vacuum unit was

on fire. According to preliminary information, there were neither casualties nor injured," Sergei Boiko, the head of Tuapse district, said on the Telegram messaging

The plant's annual capacity is 12 million metric tons (240,000 barrels per

It supplies fuel mainly to Turkey, China, Malaysia and Singapore. The plant produces naphtha, fuel oil, vacuum gasoil and high-sulphur diesel.



tures on the facade of an eatery near Minara mosque in Mumbai.

army from 82,000 to 73,000 by 2025. "Taking

raeli and Palestinian states living side by side, ensuring Israel's survival as a secure, democratic, Jewish state and fulfilling the Palestinians' "legitimate aspirations" for a state of their

'What will determine the future of Israel and Palestine is whether or not there's hope. And the twostate solution has to be that

one-year compulsory military service in Taiwan, after the previous fourmonth conscription period was extended starting 2024, in Taichung, Taiwan. Philippine says armed forces to ensure unimpeded and peaceful exploration in South China Sea

Monitoring Desk MANILA: The Philippines armed forces will guarantee the "unimpeded and peaceful" exploration and exploitation of natural resources within the country's exclusive economic zone (EEZ) as it shifts its focus to external defence, Manila's

a defence concept which projects our power into areas where we must, by constitutional fiat and duty, protect and preserve our resources," Defense Secre-

defense secretary said. 'We are evolving into

tary Gilberto Teodoro told the Manila Overseas Press Club on Tuesday night. Teodoro also said the

The first batch of new recruits listens to instructions as they set to begin

Philippines will "increase the tempo" of activities with allies and major partners in the West Philippines Sea and other parts of the country and "exercise these partner-ships to the full". Manila calls the portion of the South China Sea that is within its EEZ as the West Philippine Sea, where it has had a series of confrontations with China with both trading accusations of provoking conflict.

Sri Lanka votes on new law to regulate online content

Monitoring Desk COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's

lawmakers are set to vote on a social media regulation bill on Wednesday which opposition politicians and activists allege will muzzle free speech. The Online Safety Bill proposes jail terms for content that a fivemember commission considers illegal and make social media platforms such as Google, Facebook and X, formerly known as Twitter, liable for those posted on

their platforms. President Wickremesinghe's government says the bill is aimed at battling cyber crimes including child abuse, data theft and online fraud

Voting was expected later on Wednesday, a day after the bill was introduced in the parliament for the lawmakers to debate on. The main party backing Wickremesinghe has a majority in the parliament. 'Sri Lanka had 8,000

cyber crime complaints last year. We all agree that we need laws to address these issues. This is why we are bringing this law," Public Security Minister Tiran Alles said on Tuesday while introducing the bill. "It is not to suppress the media or the opposition... Any complaint will be taken up by the commission, who will be appointed by the president and they will decide how to act."

Brazil probes ex-spy chief in illegal espionage raids **Monitoring Desk**

BRASILIA: Brazil's federal police on Thursday searched addresses linked to far-right former President

Bolsonaro's chief, as part of an investigation into alleged illegal spying by the Abin intelligence agency, two sources said.

The probe into suspected illegal surveillance of Bolsonaro's foes in the courts, politics and media adds to the former president's legal woes. He has already been ruled politically ineligible until 2030 and faces multiple criminal investigations that could still land him in jail.

Russian who insulted Putin jailed

Monitoring Desk

MOSCOW: Prominent Russian nationalist Igor Girkin, who accuses President Vladimir Putin and the army top brass of not pursuing the Ukraine war effectively enough, was convicted by a Moscow court on Thursday of inciting extremism and jailed for four

Girkin, who denied the charge, had publicly entertained ideas about running against Putin in a March presidential election, saying he could do a better job than Russia's vet-

Pakistan raises Ram temple issue



ISLAMABAD: President, Dr. Arif Alvi in a group photo along with a delegation of educationists from Antalya Schools Franchise System, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Digitizing electoral process suggested to eliminate controversies

ISLAMABAD (APP): The speakers at a seminar on "Electoral Code of Conduct: Ethical Practices of Stakeholders including Media "Thursday stressed the need the importance of enforcing election laws and digitizing the electoral process to eliminate controversies in elections.

They also stressed the importance of implementing the Code of Conduct formulated by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in collaboration with stakeholders

nar organized by the Press Information Department (PID) with the aim to stimulate discussions on elections and contribute to the economic advancement of the country.

ECP Spokesperson Sved Nadeem Haider, in his remarks, said that the Commission, in collaboration with the stakeholders, developed a Code of Conduct for the media, political par-

ties, and candidates.

Highlighting its key points, he mentioned that the Code "prohibits speaking against national institutions, dissemination of hate material, discussing private individuals' lives, sets an upper limit of election exand Rs 4 million for provincial assembly seats, restricts wall chalking, and imposes limitations on the size of banners and pamphlets"

He said that the ECP It was the third semi- had established multiple monitoring teams, deploying two teams in each district and constituency to oversee the Code's compli-

> will be issued, and fines imposed on those violating the Code," he added.
>
> Dr Asmat Ullah of the

> Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) said that the voters' turnout was the lowest in Paki-

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for

Interior Dr Gohar Ejaz in a meeting with Caretaker

Federal Minister for Information and

Feudalism has made

inroads in country's

politics: Fazal

MULTAN (APP): Jamiat- den segments of the soci-

ety and never raised "hol-

tained that his party was

trying its best for keeping

peace in the country and

added that the economy

could not be stable without

Pakistan's economic growth

rate had gone too much

down in the last three-and

a -half years. The political

forces did not have any

battling for power only in

the country, he added

Maulana Fazl main-

He regretted that

low slogans'

tranquility.

He claimed that the manifesto and they were

Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi.

e-Ulama Islam-Fazl (JUI-

F) chief Maulana Fazl-ur-

Rehman said on Thursday

that feudalism had made

inroads in the country's

politics and barons were

voted out of fear and fright.

emony here, he stated that

his party had always

voiced for the commoners

as getting them rights was

the real politics, besides

safeguarding their lives and

JUI-F had always stood for

the rights of the downtrod-

Addressing a cer-

stan from among 169 countries. He demanded strict punishment for violators of the Code of Conduct

Dr Shahid Hussain of the Allama Igbal Open University (AIOU) mentioned that successive governments had not brought sigpenditure at Rs 10 million for the National Assembly people's lives. Soaring fuel prices, utility bills, and unemployment had made their lives difficult, leading to frustration among them, he added.

Dr Rooh ul Amin Khan of the International Islamic University (IIU) Islamabad highlighted that rigging allegations stemmed from insufficient infrastructure. He recommended collaboration between the Elec-"Show cause notices tion Commission and academia to address the issue and combat misinformation often propagated through social media.

Journalist Iftikhar Sherazi suggested simplifying the implementation of the Code of Conduct.

PM condoles over demise or ex-NA Speaker Bux Elahi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday expressed his deep grief over the death of renowned politician and former National Assembly aker Elahi Bux Soomro

"Elahi Bux Soomro was a seasoned politician. His services for Pakistan's politics and parliament will always be remembered.

1947 to-date have been stolen: Shahid Khaqan ISLAMABAD (Online): He remarked this sys-

President for special focus

on development of GB's

natural, human resources

All the election held from

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on

Thursday citing an im-

mense potential in tourism

sector of Gilgit-Baltistan,

called for a special focus on

the development of human

as well as natural resources

He, in a meeting with elected members of Gilgit-

Baltistan Council, reiter-

ated the resolve for GB's

durable socioeconomic de-

Former Prime Minister

(PM) Shahid Khaqan

Abbasi while declaring the

three major political parties

of the country as failed par-

ties has said these parties

have no solution to the

problems facing the people.

process and country will

suffer if it is made contro-

versial. Decision for mak-

ing new party will be made

after election, he said this

while talking to media men outside NAB office

corruptions institutions are

being used for manipulation

in election and politics. Elec-

tion is sacred process. It will

cause harm to country if it

Sharif was his Quaid. How-

ever there are differences in

the party. I left party due

He underlined Nawaz

is made controversial.

He held NAB and anti

Rawalpindi Thursday.

"Election is sacred

of the region.

will it run now. He stated a notice has been issued to my spokesperson instead of me. This is tactics of harassing during the process of election.

tem is not destined to run.

It did not run in 2018 nor

Discussing the current

situation and the problems faced by GB, he said the GB

people were educated and

highly skilled, and the lit-

eracy ratio in the region was

also pleasing. President Alvi

also stressed the need to

uplift the GB's agriculture

delegation to convey the issues faced by the GB

people to the relevant fo-

He also assured the

and farming sectors.

Love letters kept on coming to me from anti corruption during PTI government. When I said I am MNA then anti corruption apologized. It was sent to me by writing on plain paper that I committed corruption in building road. I have been accused that I have awarded contracts of building two roads to my favorite contractors. When I have reached here then it has been said the roads have not been built. I ask caretaker Prime Minister (PM) to make election non-controversial. It is gratifying that I am not part of election which creates chaos in the country.



QUETTA: Director General Punjab Forensic Science Agency Muhammad Amjad being briefed about Balochistan Forensic Science Laboratory at Home Department

Domki, Jamali grieved over death of Sardar Fateh Umrani

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan. Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of head of Umrani tribe and former Provincial Minister and Advisor Sardar Fateh Ali Umrani.

In a condolence statement issued here on Thursday, the Chief Minister prayed that may Allah Almighty rest the departed soul into Its eternal peace and give enough strength and patience to the bereaved family to bear the tragic loss of his death.

Meanwhile, the care-taker Provincial Minister for Home Mir Zubair Jamali has also expressed grief over death of Sardar Fateh Ali Umrani.

Six killed several injured in road mishap

ISLAMABAD (APP): At least six people were killed and twenty others injured in a bus and van collision near Qazi Ahmed Road, Jona Mori, in Nawabshah on Thursday morning.

According to a police spokesman, the ill-fated incident occurred when a university bus turned turtle.

Committee meeting ters and high-level government officials. The concerned ministries presented progress on

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) resumed the 2nd session of its 8th Executive Committee Meeting on 25 January 2024. The meeting was convened to deliberate on agendas of remaining ministries.

The meeting was chaired by Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives and attended by concerned Federal and Provincial Minisinitiatives under SIFC's ambit and gave detailed plans to steer future endeavours. The Committee reviewed the ongoing efforts to strengthen the domestic dispute resolution mecha-

sectoral projects and policy

JUI leaders say Those plundering public exchequer wouldn't escape from their wrath

united and would remain united in future too. They also said that JUI is just like our combined and we consider service in it as success in the

The JUI leaders Maulana Salahuddin Ayubi, Maulana Mufti Muhammad Qasim. Ghousullah Achakzai. Maulana Sharifuddun, Maulana Sirajuddin, and others were addressing different gatherings of inauguration of election offices of JUI at various places in Chaman on Thursday.

included the joining ceremonies and opening of the elec-tion offices besides election campaigns.

at OIC meeting; urges UN to protect Islamic sites in India NATIONS over the past 31 years, cul-torial claims against Pakiminating in the recent con-

(APP): Reiterating its condemnation of the recent consecration of 'Ram Temple' on the demolished Babri Mosque's site, Pakistan has urged the top official for the U.N. Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) to play his part for the protection of Islamic sites in India, Ambassador Munir Akram told an OIC Ambassadorial meeting Wednesday. At the meeting held at UN headquarters in New York, the Pakistani envoy shared with OIC colleagues a letter he addressed to the

UNAOC High Representative, Miguel Angel Moratinos, in which he said that the event in Ayodhya marked a "disturbing rise in Hindu majoritarianism in India", according to a Pakistan Mission press release. "The developments

secration ceremony, are indicative of a disturbing rise in Hindu majoritarianism in India," Ambassador Akram said in his letter to the UNAOC head.

"This trend poses a significant threat to the social, economic, and political well-being of Indian Muslims, as well as to the harmony and peace in the The letter he shared

with OIC Ambassadors also said: "Regrettably, this is not an isolated incident, as other mosques, including the Gyanvapi Mosque in Varanasi and the Shahi Eidgah Mosque in Mathura, face similar threats of desecration and destruction. The statements of some Chief Ministers of Indian states have

"I am writing to seek your urgent intervention for the protection of religious sites in India. Under your esteemed leadership, the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations must play a crucial role in safeguarding Islamic heritage sites and securing the rights of religious and cultural minorities in India.

'The Secretary-General has entrusted you to implement the action plan for the protection of religious sites. We urge you to expedite efforts to implement the action plan and ensure the safeguarding of religious sites in India"

The OIC Ambassadors acknowledged the importance of the issue, with some envoys mentioning the attacks on mosques in some European countries.



GWADAR: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki inspecting complaint cell set up at DC Office

Jamlai takes notice of IED blast in Dera Bugti

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister fo Home, Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali has taken notice of the remote con trol IED blast took place in Dera Bugti.

In an official statement issued here on Thursday, the Provincial Minister expressed sorrow over the injuries caused to two persons in the explosion. The Minister directed

to the concerned authorities to take strict action against those involved in the inci-

He vowed that the en-emies of the people would be eliminated together with the provincial govern-

Meanwhile, the Minister for Home also condemned the incident of firing at the office of regional election commissione

He expressed grief over the death of a police cop in the incident.

ECP clarifies about fake Whatsapp messages, calls

ISLAMABAD (Online): Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has clarified that fake Whatsapp calls and messages are being issued in the name of Election Commissioner. People should not be deceived by such mes-

It has been requested to people in a statement issued by spokesperson of ECP that to be aware of the fake Whatsapp calls and messages in the names of Election Commissioner.

In case of receiving such call, confirm by con tacting the staff officer of Chief Election Commis sioner on landline.

If any telephone call and messages are received from members of EC or any senior officer then it should also be fully veri-

The officers of EC and staff have also been directed to contact staff officer of Chief Election Commis sioner on landline in case o such Whatsapp calls and verify them.

Spokesperson EC fur-ther said that all the staff performing duties in EC including DRO's and RO's should not act on any calls or messages unless it is fully verified.

CT CM takes notice of public complaints about clean drinking water in Gwadar He summoned the

Independent Report GWADAR: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has taken notice of the hardships being faced by general public about clean drinking water in Gwadar, Pasni, Ormara and

The notice was taken by the caretaker Chief Minister during his visit to Gwadar on Thursday.

Mr. Domki reached the port city of Gwadar on Thursday morning to review the preparations of general elections and law Inspector General of Police

order preparations and law and order situation in Earlier, he was accorded warm welcome

upon his arrival in Gwadar

meeting to take review of

the issue of clean drinking

Chief Minister presided

over meeting on law and

During the visit, the

water in Gwadar.

on Thursday morning. Also accompanied with him were the caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Mir Zubair Jamali, and order situation besides Abdul Khaliq Sheikh and

other related issues there. Caretaker Info Minster meets with Caretaker Interior Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister or information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affaris, Murtaza Solangi, met with the Caretaker Federal Interior Minister Dr. Gohar Ejaz on Thursday. The Federal Minister of Information congratulated Dr. Gohar Ejaz on taking charge of the Ministry of Interior.

In the meeting, the two leaders reviewed preparations for the February 8 general elections and discussed measures to ing the elections

strengthen security arrangements. The government is taking all possible steps to conduct the elections in a peaceful and transparent manner, the information minister said. Gohar Ejaz said that there is full cooperation between the federal and provincial governments to strengthen the security arrangements. He said that all political parties support the government in maintaining law and order in the elections and the Law and order will be maintained dur-



Caretaker Provincial Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Amanullah Kanrani in a group photo with Kanwal Dilshad, Provincial Ombudsman Balochistan Nazar Baloch and renowned intellectual Rafiullah Kakar during international seminar organized by Best Diplomats in Kuala Lumpur

GDA starts renovation, cleaning of parks

GWADAR (APP): The was transforming the Environment Directorate of Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) has started work on cleaning of parks, renovating and preserving the pro-vincial horticulture.

On the direction of Director General GDA Dawood Khan Khilji, the planting of trees has also been launched in the parks located in the port city of Gwadar, an official of GDA said here on Thursday.

Under the supervision of GDA Director Environment Fazal Shahswar. Deputy Director Abdul Rahim Baloch, Assistant Director Hamal Dashti, the renovation works would be completed with the support of civil society members and other institutions, he informed. The purpose of beautifying the parks prove the beautiful image.

Gwadar into a top travel destination and tourist spot which would help attract domestic and international tourists towards this part of the region. The official said that public parks would also be constructed on mod-ern lines in a bid to provide a rec-reational opportunity to the resi-dents of these areas. The GDA would be responsible to maintain greenbelts, public parks, and playgrounds throughout the city, he said.

The GDA has taken various initiatives including the conservation of historical buildings, promotion of tourism, improvement of green belts between monuments, and roads, he said adding that plantation of trees would further im-

of the upcoming general elections. Govt paying special attention on health of new generation: DC

LAHORE: Supporters of Pakistan Muslim League

(N) holds party flags during inauguration of elec-

tion campaign camp office of senior vice president

of the PML-N Maryam Nawaz, at Singhpura, ahead

LASBELLA (APP)-Deputy Commissioner Lasbela Noor Muhammad Mandukhel on Thursday said that the current government was paying special attention to the healthy development of the new generation, especially chil-

On behalf of the Ministry of Planning and Development, the project is being successfully implemented in collaboration with the Department of Health, Education and District Administration, he

He expressed these views while addressing the de-worming campaign ceremony at the public level under the Balochistan deworming national program.

gram would be formally launched in Lasbela district from January 29 to Janu-The DC said that this

Addressing the cer

The Deputy Commissioner said that more than 0. 2 million children of Lasbela would be given ary 29 to January 31

three-day campaign pro-

food would be beneficial in the mental and physical development of children and this project would play a key role in the safe and bright future of children. emony, program director Qadeer Baig said that the national program of deworming in Pakistan has been started in 47 districts, in Balochistan, District Lasbela and District Hub have been included in the project as

He said that the first phase of the campaign to protect school children from stomach worms for a safe and healthy future would continue from Janu-

nism, a pivotal policy initiative to enhance investors' confidence

SIFC resumes 2nd

session of 8th Executive

Independent Report CHAMAN: The leaders of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) have stated that the people who have plundered the public exchequer and limited their resources to mere a specific area couldn't escape from the public wrath. They said that JUI is

world and hereafter.

The gatherings were