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Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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Grieved over martyrdom of security

jawans in Kech district Sacrifices of martyrs

for restoration of peace

won't go waste: CM

Elections 2024:

PTI loses its iconic 'bat' symbol again as SC annuls PHC verdict

CJP Isa-led three-member Supreme Court bench issues order on election commission's plea

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Saturday declared the Peshawar High Court (PHC) order null and void that reinstated "bat" as PTI's electoral symbol for the general elections.

The verdict was an-

nounced two hours beyond its scheduled time.

After hearing arguments from the counsels of both the PTI and the ECP the entire day today as well as yesterday, Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa remarked that he



will consult his co-judges discussion. Let's see what before coming up with his we come up with; can't say observations

"Both sides argued the case well. We will have a dded before the bench took a break."

anythign yet," the CJP

A three-member bench comprising the CJP, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar and Justice Musarrat Hilali — heard the ECP's petition challenging the PHC decision to restore the PTI's election symbol. On December 22, the

ECP had decided against letting PTI retain its electoral symbol for the general elections, saying that it had failed to hold intra-party polls as per its prevailing constitution and election

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker

Chief Minister Balochistan,

Mir Ali Mardan Khan

Domki has strongly con-

demned the terrorism act in

Kech district and expressed

grief over the martyrdom of

handout issued here on Sat-

urday, the Chief Minister

said that the sacrifices of

martyrs for restoration of

peace would not go waste

at all. He said that the secu-

rity forces have rendered

According to an official

security personnel in it.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan sent fourth consignment of humanitarian aid for the people of Gaza.



BAHAWALPURE: Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilwal Bhutto Zardari addressing during the public gathering at Hockey Stadium in City

PPP focuses on masses' issues instead of politics of hatred, division: Bilawal

the south Punjab.

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for

Education and Professional Training Madad Ali

Sindi addressing on ceremony organized by min-

ister for education and professional training in

collaboration with National Heritage and culture

division and Ministry of Information and Broad-

casting a special event to commemorate the 100th

Sindhi lauds Shaikh Ayaz's

contribution for democracy

Madad Ali Sindhi said

that Shaikh Ayaz's role in

the intellectual awakening

of the youth of country in

general and those of Sindh

in particular could not be

als like Faiz Ahmed Faiz,

Habib Jalib and Shaikh

Ayaz had done great service

his service to the people of

Sindh and Pakistan even in

the most oppressive times

tion and hardwork laid the

foundation of democracy

which "we have in the coun-

of dictators, he added.

for the country.

He said that intellectu-

Shaikh Ayaz continued

He said that his devo-

anniversary of Sheikh Ayaz.

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Caretaker Minister of Fed-

eral Education and Profes-

sional Training Madad Ali

Sindhi Saturday said that

the contribution of great

poet and writer Shaikh

Avaz in the democratic jour-

nev of Pakistan could not

special event to commemo-

rate the 100th Anniversary

by the Education Ministry

in collaboration with the

National Heritage and Cul-

ture Division and the Min-

istry of Information &

Broadcasting, was also at-

tended by federal ministers

He was addressing a

The event organized

be ignored.

of Shaikh Ayaz.

MULTAN (APP): Chair- Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. man Pakistan People Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Saturday said that Pakistan People Party flation after coming to was committed to eradicate power. Highlighting PPP's politics of hatred, division manifesto, Bilawal oband partisanship as there served that PPP would prothe country and it wanted to address the issues to facilitate the masses.

He said this while talking to media persons at residence of Ex MNA Rana Mahmood ul Hassan.

Earlier, Ex MNA Rana Mahmood ul Hassan, former PML-N ticket holders Rana Iqbal Siraj and Rana Tahir Shabbir also announced to join PPP. They reposed complete confidence in the leadership of

stated that PPP was con-Bilawal remarked that testing election to solely PPP would focus on issues serve the masses. However, like unemployment and inthe other parties are struggling to keep their leaders either away from prison or release from prison.

Responding to a query, the only "Ladla" of masses units. Salaries would be doubled, Bilawal added. Bilawal also observed that Similarly, PPP will intro-PPP had started campaign duce Benazir Kisan Card, however the other politi-Benazir Youth Card and cal parties did not ini-Benazir Labourer Card to tiate the campaign but facilitate the masses, he watching toward some other quarters.

He criticized the PML He recalled that Ex-Prime Minister Syed Yusuf N and PTI leadership and stated that these parties Raza Gilani ensured matchless development work not were adamant on politics of only in Multan but across revenge only. However, PPP was focusing on issues The PPP Chairman of the masses.

All legal formalities completed for PIA's privatization: Fawad Hassan

ISLAMABAD (APP) Caretaker Privatization Minister Fawad Hassan Fawad on Saturday said that all the legal formalities had been completed for the privatization of Pakistan İnternational Airlines

Talking to a private news channel, he outlined various stages of the process for the PIA's privatization, saying that the Privatization Commission was diligently executing the task.

Fawad said that in order to enure transparency in the PIA's privatization, the representatives of Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), besides the ministries of education, law, and finance had also been taken on board. Fawad said the caretaker government was carrying out the privatization under the constitutional amendments enacted by the previous elected government. The decision to the effect was taken by the then government to prevent further deterioration of the

economy, he added The minister rejected rumors of negotiations about buying of the PIA by a foreign government. Such baseless allegations were being levelled by certain elements for their vested inerty of the masses.
The Chief Minister said that the sacrifices of the martyrs can't be forgotten

elimination of terrorism and

protection of life and prop-

and the entire nation is standing by their brave He particularly paid homage to the security per-

sonnel embraced martyrdom while discharging professional duties in Kech The Chief Minister

also prayed for early recovery of the jawans who were sacrifices of the lives for injured in the terrorism act.

Minister Home slams killing; seeks report:

Another police constable shot dead by unknown assailants in Quetta

Independent Report OUETTA: Another police

constable was shot dead by unknown armed men in Satellite Town area of Quetta on Saturday. This was the second cold blooded murder of police cop as another was gunned down in eastern bypass area on Friday.

The reports suggested that the unknown armed assailants opened an indiscriminate fire targeting the police cop on duty in Satellite Town on Saturday

morning. A similar incident of firing was occurred on Friday morning when the assailants had targeted a constable of Balochistan Constabulary who was on security duty with the antipolio team at the Eastern

The assailants fled from the scene after committing cold blooded murder on the police person-

However, the hunt has been started for the culprits volved in the killing. Meanwhile, the Provin-

cial Minister for Home, Mir Zubair Jamali has strongly condemned the incident of firing that claimed life of a police cop. According to an official

handout issued here, the Minister Home took notice of the incident and sought report from the concerned authorities.

He also expressed sympathy and condolence with the bereaved family of the martyr police cop.

Pakistan dispatches 4th batch of relief goods for Gaza

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Sunday sent fourth consignment of humanitarian aid for the people of Gaza.

As part of the Government of Pakistan's directions, the Pakistan Air Force provided its service aircraft for the NDMA coordinated fourth aid tranche, which also had the contribution of Pakistan Army and Al-Khidmat Foundation, an NDMA

press release said. Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani, Palestinian Ambassador to Pakistan Ahmad Rabaie, representatives of the Al-Khidmat Foundation, and senior officers of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Armed Forces attended the send-off ceremony at Nur

Khan Air Base. The relief items were sent through special Pakistan Airforce IL-78 flight to Jordan, for further distribution to the affected people

Expressing deep concern over the escalating situation in Gaza, Foreign Minister Jilani reiterated Pakistan's unwavering support for the Palestinian people and urged an immediate cessation of hostilities to allow for the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance to those in need.

The Palestinian ambassador, on the occasion, expressed his deep gratitude to the people of Pakistan for the ongoing support expressing their solidarity with their Palestinian brothers and sisters.

This fourth relief consignment comprises approx 20 tons of aid, including 13 tons of essential medical supplies and seven tons of dry food items as per ground needs at Gaza. Earlier, the NDMA had

sent three relief consignments which included special winterized tents, blankets, surgical supplies, medicines, and food packs for the distressed people of Gaza, and more aid is also

IHC gives deadline of Feb 13 to govt for recovery of missing Baloch students ISLAMABAD (Online): prime minister, interior sec- those who are found in-

retary, defence and heads of

law enforcement agencies

will give affidavits and ac-

tion will be initiated as per

law as well. Attorney Gen-

eral (AG) presented list of

enforced disappearances of

Baloch students. The court

was told that cases of 12

Baloch missing students

Islamabad High Court (IHC) while giving deadline still. If missing persons are not recovered then they of February 13 to federal government in connection with recovery of Baloch missing students has issued written order.

Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani of IHC issued written order of hearing of missing Baloch students case Saturday.

In the written order final report on reaching missing persons to their homes has been summoned from

federation on next hearing. The court observed the time given by the court for recovery of Baloch missing students is extended till

February 13. We are not

seeking affidavits from

occur in future.

need to be resolved.

sured that neither any one will be kidnapped nor any

enforced disappearance will AG assured that all missing persons will be recovered at every cost. He

Federal government aswent missing. This matter is referred to AG as test case. AG should obtain information from state institutions about the father of

Sami Baloch.

volved in illegal activities.

action are positive indica-

tions for better future of

Pakistan. The grievances of

Baloch families will be re-

dressed this way whose

near and dear ones are miss-

ing since last several years.

Sami Din Baloch told that

more than one decade has

passed since his father

As per court's order

These statements and

Sami Din Baloch said the group which is realso said that action will be nowned as death squad has taken as per law against set up camp in Balochistan.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Health Minister met with Dr. Qalandar Ebad, Minister IEA of Afghanistan on the Sideline of the first Global Health Security Summit

Jan Achakzai condemns Kech terrorism; pays homage to

martyrs **Independent Report**

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has condemned the terrorism incident occurred in Kech district on Saturday.

In an official statement issued here, the Minister Information expressed grief over martyrdom of security jawans and injuries caused to some others. Jan Achakzai said that

the sacrifices of lives rendered for protection of life and property of the people would not go waste.

He said that the secu-

rity forces have rendered great sacrifices for ensuring restoration of peace in the province.

The caretaker Minister Information maintained that the whole nation is with the brave forces and the martyrs are pride of the country. He paid homage to the jawans who were martyred during duty in Kech. He expressed sympathy with the bereaved families of those martyred in the terrorism incident.

He prayed for early recovery of those injured in Chief Secretary Balochistan maintains:

All necessary measures to be taken for ensuring free and fair elections in province

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan has stated that all necessary measures would be taken for ensuring free and fair elections in the province.

In this regard, all government machinery has been mobilized all over the prov-The Chief Secretary di-

rected to the concerned authorities to ensure foolproof security in all the polling stations besides availability of the water, electricity and washrooms

The Chief Secretary was presiding over a meeting held to review the preparations for general elections in Zhob on Satur-

The Chief Secretary reviewed the arrangements made for conducting general elections in the Zhob Division. He was also briefed about the arrangements besides other related matters about elections in the Zhob Division.

Also present in the meeting were Additional

Chief Secretary Home, Zahid Saleem, Inspector General of police, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh, Secretary S&GAD, Syed Faisal Ahmed and Secretary Local Government, Noor Ahmed Pirkani, Commissioner Zhob, Tariqur Rehman and Deputy Commissioners of the districts

Addressing the meeting, Chief Secretary said that the preparations have been finalized for the general elections in light of the Election Commission of Paki-

besides other concerned

Meanwhile, the meeting was informed that the availability of all basic amenities as well as the polling staff, IT staff with equipment is being ensured at the polling stations.

The necessary security arrangements are also being made at the sensitive and most sensitive polling stations in the Division.

It was also informed that the election would be conducted for one National Assembly and three provincial assembly seats in **Zhob Division**



ZHOB: Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over a meeting regarding preparation of general elections

Pakistan.

stan, he expressed gratitude for the continuous historic

support extended by the

government and people of

visionary stance of

Pakistan's founder, Quaid-

e-Azam Muhammad Ali

Jinnah, regarding Palestine.

He also termed the relation-

ship between Pakistan and

Palestine as deep and ex-

pressed his belief that it

would continue to grow

stronger. Ambassador Khalid Mahmood reiterated

Pakistan's support for Pal-

estine, and stressed the ur-

gent need for a ceasefire,

which he said was the re-

sponsibility of the interna-

tional community.

Turk commended the

ISSI holds event marking Global Day of Action for Gaza

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Centre for Afghanistan Middle East and Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) on Saturday organized an event to express solidarity with the people of Palestine on the Global Day of Action for

Besides Nader al Turk, Deputy Head of the Palestine Mission in Pakistan, ISSI Director General Ambassador Sohail Mahmood and BoG Chairman Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Director CAMEA Ms. Amina Khan; and members of team CAMEA attended the event, a press release

Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, in his remarks, emphasised Pakistan's abiding support for the legitimate cause of the Palestinian people and a just solution through the establish-

ment of an independent, viable, sovereign and contiguous Palestinian State along the pre-June 1967 borders with Al-Quds-Al-Sharif as its capital.

He reiterated the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' stance regarding Pakistan's support for South Africa's application before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) concerning Israel's violation of its obligations under the 1951 Genocide Convention in relation to the Palestinian people in

He asserted that the relentless military operations by Israel against the Palestinians could not be deemed justifiable under the pretext of self-defence.

Expressing solidarity with the Palestinian people over the enormous human losses incurred due to Israeli onslaught, he also underscored Pakistan's stance

QUETTA: President Balochistan Medical Teachers Association Syed Zahoor

Among the rescued

persons are Larkana resi-

dent Rasool Bakhsh

Sandilo, Zeeshan Korai

Asif Brohi, Muhammad

Hashim Brohi, Jawad

Brohi, Mujahid, Abdul

Haq, Rashid Mehr, Farooq

Bhutto, Mehrab Bhatti

Abdul Waheed Abro,

Waheed Ali Kalhoro

Zaryab Kalhoro, Wajid Ali.

Kalhoro, Ehsan Ali

Kalhoro, Azhar Ali Lashari,

Nisar Ali Solangi, Kamran

Ali Dathu, Sohail Ahmed,

the abduction have been

safely returned to their rela-

hostages who survived the

kidnapping thanked the

Shikarpur police for their

Shikarpur Dr. Muhammad

Imran Khan issued instruc-

tions to give commenda-

tion, cash reward and cer-

tificates of appreciation to

the police party for good

Shikarpur Police is giving a

message to all the citizens

that they should be careful

of the kidnapping suspects

and avoid falling victim to

any such suspicious plan.

For any information or

guidance in this regard, con-

timely action.

performance.

Those who survived

The relatives of the

On behalf of SSP

Hassan are included.

presiding over General Body meeting of Bolan Medical College

Timely and successful action

Shikarpur police saved 21

residents of Larkana

from abduction

Independent Report

SHIKARPUR: Shikarpur

police received a tip-off that

a suspicious van carrying

several people was heading towards the Kacha area. On

such information, on the instructions of SSP Shikarpur

Dr. Muhammad Imran

Khan, DSP Khanpur and

SH Rustam immediately

reached the relevant place

near Chaman Bridge, the

limits of Rustam police

station. After taking pos-

session of the van, all the

persons were taken under

vestigation, it was revealed

that 21 people from

Larkana in the van were

going to interview princes

who had come from Arabia

to get jobs in Dubai accord-

ing to the plan of two

people from Larkana. The

guide given by the person

who prepared the plan got

into the van with the people

and took the van to the

Kutch, where on the way

three people on a motor-

cycle took control of the

van and kidnapped all the

people and drove them to Kutch, were leading to By

receiving such information.

the cooperation of the local

people and the timely ac-

tion of the police, all the

people were saved from

being kidnapped.

During the initial in-

police protection

for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire. Ms Amina Khan, while expressing her views, stated that Pakistan would continue to stand firmly with the people of Palestine until the legitimate rights of the people are achieved. She strongly condemned Israel's systematic and brutal occupation, tantamount to genocide, and called for the lifting of the inhumane

Nader al Turk highlighted the dire conditions faced by Palestinian civilians, especially children and women, in the Gaza

siege and urgent need for a

Strip.

He referred to the ongoing situation as genocide and also said that Palestinians were resilient and determined to uphold their rights until justice is served. Speaking about the solidarity and support from Paki-

PML-N contacts

Ch Jaffar Iqbal

from Gujrat

LAHORE (Online): The senior leadership of PML-

N has contacted the Former

State Minister Chaudhry

taken Chaudhry Jaffar Iqbal

into confidence for not is-

According to party leadership, Chaudhry Jaffar

has been told that not giv-

ing you a ticket at the mo-

ment does not mean ignor-

ing your sacrifices and

and recognizes your 22

years of party commit-

ments and struggles.

Nawaz Sharif considers

you as a member of his

is that depriving you of the

ticket was my test and

yours after not getting the

that Ch Jaffar would pass

confidence in Nawaz Sharif

the party. If Nawaz Sharif

is the Prime Minister, I will

consider myself as Prime

Minister. If Nawaz Sharif

is in the Prime Minister

house I don't need any po-

sition. Changing party and

narrative is against my po-

party ticket was decided by

He further said that

litical training.

this test as always.

and party leadership.

Nawaz Sharif message

Nawaz Sharif was sure

Ch Jaffar expressed

Ch Jaffar said that he

The party is well aware

suing ticket.

struggles.

family

ticket.

Party leadership has

Jaffar Iqbal from Gujrat.



KARACHI: Activists of Civil Society holds protest in the support of oppressed Muslims of Ghaza, outside Press club in Provincial Capital.

Disheartened Sheikh Rashid vows to stand by Imran Khan against one person and his

RAWALPINDI (INP): Veteran politician, former interior minister and Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rashid against whom the PTI unexpectedly fielded a candidate from a Rawalpindi constituency on Saturday said he was a man of principles and would remain loyal to PTI founding chairman Imran

In a video statement, Sheikh Rashid categorically said that he would prefer death to dumping Imran.

He further said that never ever in his life had he endured the hardships he was made to go through during the last seven months. "I remained in hiding so that I don't have to record my statement

Pakistan Muslim League-

Nawaz (PML-N) has com-

pleted the process of issu-

ing tickets in Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa and issued

tickets to all the candidates,

the Party's officials said

Nawaz Sharif has been is-

sued ticket from Mansehra

NA-15 and PML-N pro-

and PK-5, said the official.

He said, tickets have been

Former Prime Minister

here on Saturday.

family under section 164," he said, adding, "My resi-dence was vandalized, each and every member of my family was victimized. But I did not budge from my principled position even by an inch, and I still have the same stance." "Let me make it clear to the nation that I stand vindicated," Rasheed said, adding, "I have not surrendered.' He went on to say he was hopeful that he would win the election from NA-56, Rawalpindi

on February 8.

AML chief grumbled that the PTI gave tickets to those who came from overseas in the dead of night. "But I appeal to my electorate to support me in the election," he concluded.

to Arbab Afzal, Arbab

Ghulam Fariq from 75

Subia Shahid from 76, Zahir

Khan from 78, Jalal Khan

from 79, Hyder Shah from

80, the Party's leaders said

ticket were issued to Waqas

Buland from PK 81

Mohammad Nadeem from

PK 82 and Sher Rehman

from PK 84. According to

seats in Peshawar includ-

ing NA 28 Arbab Khizer

They disclosed that

situations on cards: Minister HYDERABAD (APP): Caretaker Sindh Informa-The minister apprised tion Minister Muhammad that the Information offi-Ahmed Shah on Saturday cials had been directed to said his ministry had always convene the meeting of the taken measures for the wel-

Financial support for

journalist facing emergency

fare and support of journal-

Talking to the media persons at Hyderabad Press Club here, he said the ministry was also taking measures to provide financial support to journalists coping with emergency situating with emergency s

accreditation committee without delay to issue accreditation cards to the journalists. Responding to a question regarding Jan Muhammad Mahar murder case, the minister said the law enforcement agencies

He assured that the family of Mahar would get justice. "All the perpetrators would be behind the bars soon." he added. Irshad Ali Chandio, Regional Director Information, was also present on the occasion. The minister earlier visited Public School Hyderabad, the city's largest semi-government school, accompanied by

Pakistani Delegation visits PV Project in Chongqing for green energy cooperation

BEIJING, Jan. 13 (APP): A delegation from the Capital Development Authority (CDA) of Pakistan visited the Wansheng 20 MW roof-top distributed photovoltaic power generation project in Chongqing, China.

The project is being constructed by PowerChina Chongqing Engineering Cooperation.
The General Manager of the Overseas Business Division of the company, Tu Yongguo, led the delegation,

touring the key facilities, including the rooftop photovoltaic array, inverter

equipment cabin. This provided them with valuable insights into the practical application, benefits, and process of sustainable power supply in the rooftop distributed

photovoltaic system, CEN

reported.

Imran Muhammad, head of the delegation, lauded the project and emphasized green energy's significance in reducing carbon emissions and addressing energy scarcity issues.

With an annual electricity generation capacity of 14 million kilowatt-hours, the project is equivalent to cooperation," saving 40 million tons of Muhammad stated

standard coal and reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 90 million tons.

Pakistan, with its abundant solar resources, has immense potential for the development of the photovoltaic industry, aligning with the country's goals of sustainable green develop-

"China and Pakistan have a close strategic partnership, and we look forward to deepening the exchange and cooperation in energy construction PowerChina Chongqing Engineering



OUETTA: DIG Quetta Abdul Hayee Amir and pother offering funeral prayer of police man who killed by unknown person in Satellite Town

Babar Azam becomes T20 Internationals accepts every decision of

Babar Azam became the third highest run-scorer in the

Babar Azam, who scored 57 runs off 35 balls with the help of 6 fours and 2 sixes in the first T20 match of the series against New Zealand, has become the third

Babar Azam has scored 3 thousand 538 runs at an

In this list, vice-captain Muhammad Rizwan is ninth. He has scored 2 thousand 822 runs at an average

in Peshawar including tick- NA 31 Subia Shahid and ets issued to PK 72 Azmat NA 32 Sher Rehman. 3rd highest run scorer in

vincial president Ameer the official, the PML-N has

Muqam has been given also issued tickets for the

ticket from NA-2, NA-11 five National Assembly

issued for 13 provincial and Hayat, NA 29 Subia

5 National Assembly seats Shahid, NA 30 Rais Khan,

PML-N finalizes

candidates for General

Election in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khan, 73 to Fazlullah, 74

AUCKLAND (Online): Former national team captain T20 International format.

highest run scorer in the T20 international format.

average of 42.12 while representing Pakistan in 105 T20 international matches. Virat Kohli is first in the list by scoring 4 thousand 8 runs at an average of 52.74 in 115 matches, while his compatriot Rohit Sharma is in 148 matches. He is second with 3,538 runs at an average

Two suspects involved Nawaz Sharif and he actact Shikarpur Police. Conin this plan have been decepts every decision of his tained and investigation has tact the following numbers. leader. I will not demand any public position on be-Water level in Mangla half of the party nor will I ask for assurance.

dam at continual decline

MIRPUR (AJK): (APP): Outflows of water reduced to only 100 cusecs from the country's 2nd largest reservoir - Mangla Dam following continual decline of water level in the reservoir because of ongoing reported heavy snowfall on upper reaches of the Himalayan state of Jammu and Kashmir by late Friday.

Mangla dam found constantly dries following continual reduction of inflows due to intermittent snowfall on the upper reaches of the Himalayan belt and consequent unprecedented decrease in flow of water in the rivers, falling in the reservoir – where the water level has reduced to greater extent so far.

The water level in Mangla dam, located in Mirpur district of AJK, was reported as 1156.80 feet on Wednesday against maximum conservation level of 1242 feet with the live storage capacity of 2.061 MAF in the reservoir, official sources told APP here late Friday.

The water level in the dam is gradually reducing further more, the sources

As a result of continual due inflow of water during ongoing season, the water level in Mangla Dam reservoir was recorded as 1156.80 feet after discharge of 85.20 feet of water from the reservoir by Friday Jan 12, 2024, the sources underlined

Mangla Dam stands largest reservoir in terms of water storage in the country, was filled to its maximum conservation capacity of 1242 feet, on August 17. this year as seasonal impounding of the reservoir. official sources told the

news agency.
At present, 2.061 million acre feet (MAF) of water is available in Mangla Dam reservoir, the media wing of WAPDA said on Friday. The inflows and outflows of Jhelum river at Mangla reservoir was equally recorded as 5400 cusees with outflows of only 100 cusecs of water from the dam on Friday.

Meanwhile, the overall position of the river inflows and outflows at Tarbela. Mangla, and Chashma. along with the reservoir levels and the barrages on Friday, remained as follows:

Rivers: Indus at Tarbela: Inflows 15000 cusecs and Outflows 15000 cusecs; Kabul at Nowshera: Inflows 7900 cusecs and Outflows 7900 cusecs; Khairabad Bridge: Inflows 14400 cusecs and Outflow 14400, Jhelum at Mangla: Inflows 5400 cusecs and Outflows 100 cusecs. Chenab at Marala: Inflows 4000 cusecs and Outflows 4000 cusecs.

Speakers term Ahmed Faraz a poet of all ages

HYDERABAD (APP): Speakers paid rich tributes to revolutionary poet Ahmed Faraz on his 92nd birth anniversary. A ceremony in this con-

nection was held here at Besant Hall cultural centre here the other day. Director Besant Hall cultural centre Sobia Ali Shaikh presided over the event while famous intellectual Rizwan Siddiqui, poetesses Dr. Ambreen Haseeb Amber and Dr. Fatima Hussan shed light on the personality, life and poetic contribution of Ahmed Faraz.

Ahmed Faraz recorded by

Ahmed Faraz had answered various questions about his life's experiences, poetry and professional

Born on January 12, 1931 in Kohat, Syed Ahmad Shah, better known by his pen name Ahmed Faraz, was a Pakistani Urdu poet, scriptwriter and became the founding Director General of Pakistan Academy of Letters. He wrote his poetry under the pseudonym Faraz.

Dr. Ambreen Haseeb Amber highlighted the influential modern Urdu popularity of his poetry On this occasion an and said that Ahmed Faraz unseen interview of was the poet of love and his poetry was based purely on

was also screened in which one, but also his love for this country and for the people of Pakistan.

Dr. Rizwan said in Karachi, different literary organization usually hold various literary events to pay tribute to poets but in Hyderabad Besant Hall cultural centre has arranged two consecutive events on Himayat Ali Shaair and Ahmed Faraz which is a good omen He described Ahmed

Faraz as a revolutionary poet who was highly acclaimed as one of the most poets of all the centuries. He said that Ahmed Faraz displayed his resistance through the criticism in his



QUETTA: Members of Artists Welfare Forum Balochistan are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, held at Quetta press club

Thinkfest invites everyone to 'Come, think and question'

enth edition of Afkar-e-Taza ThinkFest began in Lahore at Alhamrah Arts Council, inviting people from all walks of life to "Come, think and question" on all topics ranging from sociopolitical to economic and from cultural to climate change. This year's theme is 'Winter of discontent' with a focus on conflict and the climate crisis.

The inaugural sessions of the two-day event were attended by prominent speakers from around the world and Pakistan.

a panel discussion titled

"Re-imagining Pakistan:

Exploring the Need for a

New Social Contract", where former premier Shahid Khaqan Aɓbasi and former finance minister Dr. Miftah Ismail highlighted the importance of intellectual discourse in Pakistan. emphasised the need to revisit the Constitution and amend it in a constructive manner. He highlighted the existing gap between the state and its people, suggesting that a new social contract might be necessary for effective governance. Both panelists agreed that empowering local governments was crucial for combating corruption. They praised implementation of local bodies systems by General Musharraf and stressed the need for education to address corruption effec-

Another panel titled 'Development Pathways: India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, 1947-2022" where former finance minister Dr. Ishrat Hussain, renowned economist Savail Hussain, and Dr. Turab Hussain, gave an overview of economic development in Pakistan since 1947. Dr. Ishrat expressed some concerns and presented some recommendations, referring to significance of consistency, continuity, and predictability in policy-making. Moreover, he emphasised ensuring that policy content was not driven by ideology.

WWF-International President Dr. Adil Najam, during his talk, emphasised the need for climate action in Pakistan in the wake of The event started with the ongoing climatic crisis.

Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Afkar-e-Taza Thinkfest Dr Yaqoob Bangash stressed the need for organising events where the audience had a complete access to the panelists for a healthy discussion.

"Our idea is to start a discussion within our society where people can share ideas and knowledge without any hindrance. Thinkfest is a platform that has been providing that space both to the audience and the participants for the past seven years,'

(TENDER NOTICE) TSE-232401371663 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. The DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ZIARAT invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates. Tender Fee Rs.1000/- and Bid Security 2%

S.No Name of Work/s E/Cost

15,412,000/-1 REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF LEVIES INFRASTRUCTURE INDISTRICT ZIARAT

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work. Turn over of at least 15,000,000 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years. showing financial capacity of the firm. 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 under-signed from a scheduled bank, Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 29 January, 2024 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 29 January, 2024 till 10:00 AM . Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the undersigned at 11:00 AM Address: DC Office Ziarat Phone no: 0833920040

Fax no: 0833920041 Email: dcziarat@gmail.com

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PRQ No.1327/12-01-2024

Sartaj Aziz paid tribute for his meritorious diplomatic services, statesmanship

ISLAMABAD (APP): late Aziz's profound continues to be recognized The Pakistan Institute of impact on Pakistan and to in the realm of international (PIDE) paid a glowing tribute to the late Sartaj Aziz for his remarkable diplomatic services and statesmanship at a solemn memorial reference held

The event, organized to honour Aziz's significant contributions to Pakistan, brought together distinguished individuals, colleagues, friends, and family to commemorate his life and legacy, a news release said on Saturday.

In his opening remarks, PIDE Vice-Chancellor Dr Nadeem ul Haque said Sartaj Aziz was a towering figure in Pakistani politics and a dedicated public servant, who recently passed away, leaving behind a legacy of unwavering commitment to the betterment of his

The memorial event speakers to reflect on the

Development Economics celebrate his enduring contributions.

Dr Nadeem ul Haque noted that Sartaj Aziz, a distinguished Pakistani statesman, served as the foreign minister of Pakistan with notable

dedication and expertise.

Born in 1928, Aziz
played a crucial role in shaping Pakistan's foreign policy during his tenure. His extensive experience and diplomatic acumen positioned him as a key figure in international relations. Aziz, an economist by training, brought a unique blend of skills to his role, fostering diplomatic ties and representing Pakistan on the global stage.

Throughout career, he remained engaged in dialogue with various addressing nations, regional and global issues. Sartaj Aziz's contributions served as a platform for to diplomacy have left a lasting impact, which

Muhammad Sami Saeed, caretaker Federal Minister for Planning and Development; Haroon Sharif, Former Minister of State and Chairman Board of Investment; Farhatullah Babar, Former Senator; Ahmed Qadir, DG Competition Commission

of Pakistan; Shahid Kardar, Former Governor SBP Igrar Ahmed Khan Professor Ayesha Isani Shafqat Kakakhel; and members of Sartaj Aziz's family, including his brother, son, daughter, and grandson, also spoke at the event and underscored Sartaj Aziz's tireless efforts toward the economic development of Pakistan.

emphasized that Sartai Aziz was not just a statesman but a visionary leader who dedicated his life to uplifting the socio-economic landscape of our



presentd a sounenir to Dr Qalandar Ebad Minister of IEA of Afghanistan on the sideline of the first Global Health Security Summit.

Three more cases of **Covid JN.1 variant** detected in Karachi

ISLAMABAD (INP): The authorities in Karachi have detected the JN.1 Covid-19 variant in three more air passengers coming from abroad.

The rapid antigen tests of three out of several air travelers conducted at Karachi's Jinnah International Airport have

come back positive. The three passengers found positive of JN.1 variant, currently a cause of concern in several countries, belonged to Balochistan and Khyber

from Naseerabad, the other is a 22-year-old man from North Waziristan and the

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Following

the special directions of

Islamabad Capital City

Police Officer (ÎCCPO) Dr

Akbar Nasir Khan, the

Islamabad Capital Police

psychological workshop

division

Security

Agency who came to Karachi from Jeddah. The number of JN.1

variant cases in Karachi has now risen to five after the detection of fresh patients, the tests of whom were conducted at Aga Khan

Laboratory.
Classified as a variant of interest by the World Health Organisation (WHO), JN.1 is a sub-lineage of the Omicron variant and has been identified as the most prevalent strain in the United States.

Pakhtunkhwa. Experts warn that
One of the three while the JN.1 variant is patient was a 21-year-old highly transmissible, it primarily causes mild symptoms similar to a common cold, affecting the third is 22-year-old upper respiratory tract. resident of Mohmand On Monday last, two

officials within the

security division.
The workshop

included a special psychological examination

committee, chaired by the

SSP Security division

while SP CTD, SP

psychological experts were

passengers had tested positive for Covid-19 at the Jinnah International AirportTo prevent the spread of JN.1, the health authorities have advised the public to observe social distancing, wearing masks proper sanitation and hygiene. The NIH has also issued an advisory to provinces about the mutating strain of the virus. As per the advisory, the new variant has been classified by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as a Variant of Interest (VOI) with general producted or changes predicted or known to affect virus characteristics such as transmissibility, disease

severity, immune escape, diagnostic therapeutic escape.

ICT police rebut Omer Ayub's claim of raid on his house

ISLAMABAD (INP) Pakistan Tehreek-e-Isnaf Secretary General Omer Ayub claimed on Saturday that the Islamabad police raided his house without a warrant. Taking to X (formerly Twitter), he said the act of the police was

at the behest of the 'fascist overnment' because he was standing with the founder of PTI.Meanwhile,

spokesperson denied the allegations of PTI secretary general by calling the accusations.

condemnable. He added it was done

Operations

terrorism in IIOJK

APHC deplores world's

silence on Indian state

SRINAGAR (Online): All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has deplored the silence of the international community on the worst Indian state terrorism in illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

According to media report, the APHC spokesman in a statement issued in Srinagar said the latest report of Human Rights Watch is an eyeopener for the world community which must hold India accountable for its brutal actions in the

occupied territory.
The HRW in its World
Report 2024 said that India in occupied Kashmir in 2023. It said that critics and illegal arrests of Kashmiri every right of the

rights activists, Khurram Parvez and Irfan Mehraj. The APHC spokesman in a statement

in Srinagar said the Modi regime is trampling all basic rights of the Kashmiri people on a daily basis and employing draconian laws to stifle political dissent in occupied Kashmir. He maintained that the continued denial of the Kashmiris' basic rights including right to selfdetermination by New Delhi is a violation of the UN charter international laws.

The spokesman asked that how can India claim to be a democratic continued to restrict free republic when it is denying expression, peaceful the Kashmiris their basic assembly, and other rights rights. "India must be the Kashmiris their basic in occupied Kashmir in 2023. It said that critics and human rights defenders faced arrests and raids based on spurious his henchmen must be held allegations and cited the to account for trampling

Farewell ceremony held in honor of Head Constable Wajid Mehmood

honor of Head Constable

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: A farewell ceremony was held in department. He was of the view that public servants



Wajid Mehmood at SSP Operations Office Islamabad, a public

relations officer said. He said that, SP Plan Patrolling Hakim Khan graced the occasion as chief guest, while senior police officers and officials were also present on the

occasion. The Patrolling conveyed good wishes from Islamabad Capital City Police Officer ICCPO Dr. All (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir retirement is part of the service as the one who joins the service has to retire one

can earn a good name by serving the citizens with devotion and dedication. He further said that,

the contribution of Head Constable Mehmood in Islamabad Capital Police would be remembered. At the end, he presented a police shield to Head Constable Wajid SP Plan Mehmood and also expressed best wishes for

ICCPO Dr. Akbar (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan has issued Khan to the retiring directions to the CPOs of constable and said that all divisions to organize a farewell ceremony for the officers and officials retiring from any division and to send them off with full encouragement.



ISLAMABAD: Tourists are enjoying tour at Shah Allah Ditta caves, which are an ancient archaeological site located in the Margalla Hills of the Federal Capital.

Hajj, Umrah conference in Jeddah attracts 100,000 visitors

ISLAMABAD (APP): The third edition of the Hajj and Umrah Services Conference and Exhibition attracted nearly 100,000 visitors from around 100 countries. Organized by Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Hajj and Umrah in partnership with the Pilgrim Experience Programme, one of the initiatives of Vision 2030, the event was held at the the event was held at the Jeddah Superdome, Arab News reported.

During the closing ceremony, Saudi Arabia's Deputy Minister of Hajj and Umrah Dr. Abdul Fattah bin Suleiman Mashat highlighted the launch of a platform for training and licensing workers and creating a c o m p e t i t i v e environment.

Separately, Awwad bin Sabti Al-Anzi, undersecretary of the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Call, and Guidance, met with a 15th batch of guests hosted by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Guests Program for Umrah.

WWF President for holistic approach to cope with environmental challenges ISLAMABAD (APP): The World Wildlife WWF President Dr Adil Fund (WWF) president

Najam said that after many decades, faith and its interlinkages with climate and environmental crisis had become a central discussion as "humanity seeks answers to the contemporary challenges".

Dr Adil Najam said this in a special conversation with SDPI Executive Director, organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI).

During the conversation, the resurging interest in religions and faith, and their potential were discussed.

linkages with solutions to environmental challenges Emphasizing the need for holistic approaches, Dr

Adil Najam said that modern society for the sake of economic growth and development started to view religion as a barrier in realizing human potential and liberties. He said that when population growth became a major point of discussion in the 1960s and 1970s, religion and faith were pushed back.

said as climate crisis had challenged survival of the planet, the emphasis on circular responsible consumption and production, efficiency of work, and the intricate relationship between individual behaviors and nature had taken center stage. "At the same time, all religions underscore the role of individuals and their free will and their impact on the environment, so not the every stimulus we face can be attributed to God's will," he added. He said,"While some may argue that any unprecedented climate disaster may be God's will, there can be no denial that human actions like deforestation have contributed to it, despite

> nature and biodiversity. "In times of crisis, humans tend to gravitate towards their beliefs and values for comfort," he added. Dr Adil Najam said that to resolve the current challenges the global community needed large scale behavioural change.

> religion urging us to protect

ISLAMABAD (APP): Effective Teaching and Learning, Course Design, Lesson Planning and Delivery, Assessment and The National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE) of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) organized the third cohort Evaluation, Technology in Classroom, Learning of National Faculty Development Programme Management System, Grant Writing, Publishing (NFDP) for newly inducted faculty members Research, and Personal and

HEC to organize NFDP for

newly inducted faculty

from December 26

from December 26, 2023 to January 11, 2024 at HEC Regional Centre, for new faculty members faculty members from strategies and tools to public sector higher education institutions across the Sindh attended the training. Managing Director NAHE, Ms. Noor and practical skills.

distribution ceremony, said a press release issued here Saturday. aimed at creating a long-During the training, lasting and effective sessions were held on influence.

Professional Development.

ISLAMABAD: Following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City

Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police

Security division conducted a three-day psychological workshop for officials

deputed in superior courts to improve the performance and mental capabilities

The HEC's faculty development programmes aim to equip them with the overcome challenges of learners and develop in students critical thinking

During her address, Ms. Noor Amna Malik Amna Malik, was the chief guest at the certificate emphasized development of impactful learning interventions

Nine outlaws arrested; drugs and weapons recovered

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police apprehended nine outlaws including two professional beggars from different areas of the city during the last 24 hours and recovered drugs and weapons from their possession, a public relations officer said.

He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Ďr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police has intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate the crime from

Following these directions, the Industrial Area police team arrested an accused namely Yahiya Khan and recovered one 30 bore pistol with ammunition from his possession. The Sabzi Mandi police team arrested two accused namely police officials.

Yaseen and Khalid Khan and recovered 213 gram pistol from their possession. Likewise, the Lohi Bher police team arrested two accused namely Yaseen and Khalid Khan and recovered two 30 bore pistols from their possession. The Phulgran police arrested an accused namely Waseem and recovered 690 gram heroin

from his possession. Similarly, the Nilore police team arrested an accused namely Nasir Mehmood and recovered one 30 bore pistol with ammunition from his possession. Cases have been registered against the nabbed accused and further investigation is underway.

During the ongoing crackdown against the professional beggars police team arrested professional beggars.

ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan directed the

ANF seizes over 100 kg drugs in eight operations

ISLAMABAD (APP) The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) seized over 100 kg drugs in eight operations and arrested six accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman on Saturday.

He said that 350 grams hashish was recovered from the possession of a Dubaibound passenger scheduled to leave by Flight No. PA-100 at Jinnah Airport.

operation, 320 grams heroin was recovered from a parcel being sent to the United Kingdom at General Post Office (GPO) Lahore, and 200 grams weed from a California-bound parcel at a courier office in

Rawalpindi.
About 72 kg hashish was recovered near Chenab Toll Plaza G.T Road Gujarat while an accused

was also arrested. **Another PTI** leader joins IPP ahead of general election 2024

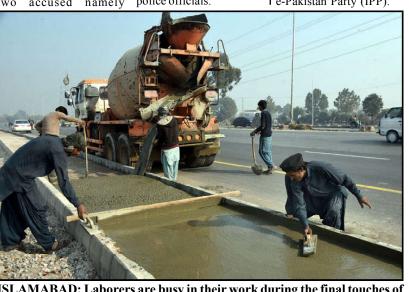
ISLAMABAD (INP) Another leader of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) from Lodhran, Maher Áshraf Sial, on Saturday announced joining the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party

According to the details, Maher Ashraf Sial withdrew his nomination papers as a PTI candidate and will be contesting the general election 2024 as an IPP candidate from PP

227, Lodhran. It is pertinent to mention here that Maher Ashraf held a meeting with IPP chief Jahangir Tareen last night.

Earlier to this, former aviation minister and PTI leader Ghulam Sarwar Khan announced joining

The former minister made the decision after meeting with senior leadership of the Istehkame-Pakistan Party (IPP).



ISLAMABAD: Laborers are busy in their work during the final touches of Margalla Underpass in Federal Capital.

for officials deputed in the members of the superior courts to improve the performance and Officers mental capabilities of personnel from the superior courts actively This initiative seeks to participated in the threeenhance the aptitude of day workshop. **SECP** notifies

conducted a three-day Headquarters, and

Islamabad Police

organized psychological

workshops for officials

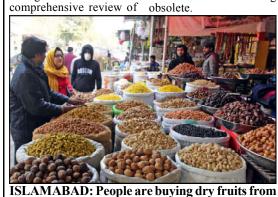
amendments to NBFC Rules 2003 ISLAMABAD (INP): the regulation, considering The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has issued

Banking Finance Companies (Establishment & Regulations) Rules, 2003, to solicit public comments. Through these amendments SECP aims to provide a more conducive regulatory framework for the non-banking finance sector. The proposed changes are based on a

the advancements in the NBFC ecosystem and the effectiveness of mandatory draft of proposed approval requirements.

amendments to the Non
The modification The modifications

Finance include removal of approval processes for the rate of profit on subordinated loans and the repayment of subordinated loans. Additionally, the provision mandating the application for a license within six months of the Rules' notification has been omitted being



vendor at Karachi Company area in Federal Capital.

Cyber crime investigation workshop held at Police Lines Headquarters

ISLAMABAD (INP): According to the details, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (IĈCPO) Ďr Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police organized a 05 days cybercrime workshop for the newly formed Cyber Crime Investigation Unit officers to fortify the capabilities

in combating cybercrime. The workshop aims to highlight the significance of upgrading the skills of investigative officers to effectively tackle the evolving challenges of cybercrime and to equip officers with the necessary skills to investigate

cybercrimes diligently The workshop, spanning five days, provided officers with

Topics

analysis, IMEI tracing, cloning, cyber hacking, ransomware, spyware, financial fraud, and other internet-related

Police 60 officers have completed the first phase of training in collaboration with Investigation Agency (FIA) in the field of digital

insights into different facets of cybercrime investigation. included mobile data

Islamabad Capital

Daily Soice of Masse Independent

Sunday January 14, 2024

Shock exit

The abrupt departure of a Supreme Court judge next in line to be chief justice — that too, in the midst of a period of unprecedented crisis — fills one with a deep sense of foreboding. On Thursday, without Pawned States. Analysing warning, Justice Ijazul Ahsan tendered his resignation to the president, stating that he no longer wished to continue as a judge of the Supreme Court. A former judge and chief justice of the Lahore High Court, Justice Ahsan was slated to take foreign assistance to Pakiover as top judge in October this year upon the retirement of the incumbent.

Instead, he chose to cut his career short just months earlier, in circumstances few seem to understand. His resignation followed the abrupt departure of another Supreme Court judge, the now-retired justice Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi; but though the latter's resignation seemed logical given the circumstances, Justice Ahsan's caught the legal community offguard, with many describing it as a most unfortunate development.

There are those who believe that the departure of these two judges has finally purged the apex court of the influence of the so-called 'like-minded group'. On the other hand, there are those who believe these two judges have been punished over their jurispru-

dential leanings. Wherever one may stand on this debate, there is no denving that the country's top forum for justice is experiencing scenario, bureaucrats, armed with an appropriate educational background, an upheaval which may have skillset, and training, are direct consequences for the responsible for delivering effective public services many crucial cases pending through well-designed instibefore it. In the interest of fairness, it must also be pointed out that it seems wrong to club Justices Ahsan and Nagvi to-

Justice Naqvi had been facing serious charges of misconduct and possible corruption at the time he chose to resign, while Justice Ahsan's hands were still clean. And, while fingers were pointed at Justice Ahsan in the past, for example in the Grand Hyatt case, most | The most challenging year people seem to agree that he was otherwise a 'solid' judge.

Justice Ahsan was obviously unhappy with the manner in 2024? Are the gloomy days which the Supreme Court had been conducting its affairs, as proved growth prospects evidenced in his opposition to the bench which heard appeals not be expected to go into a against the military trials judgment, as well as his criticism of a primary and current acthe SJC's 'hasty' proceedings count surplus. For them the fallout of back-breaking inagainst Justice Nagvi. Considering he was part of the 'group' of three' responsible for key fling of growth and ecodecisions at the Supreme Court, efforts should have been combined with supply chain made to convince him against resigning.

The turmoil within the court has the potential of making it a very controversial place. Many a chief justice has, in the past, played politics and/ or run the ment rates and poverty levels are rising. And, although judiciary as an autocrat: making benches of their choice and sidelining judges who dis-

If the incumbent wants to stand apart from such antecedents, the Supreme Court hovering around the poverty should have an environment line, if unable to take on where different judges with dif- pushed below it, while sigferent views feel equally welcome. A court which sidelines or silences dissent cannot be their lifestyles or by running down available savings or by expected to do justice.

Foreign aid is no panacea



Shahid Mehmood

Every year brings forth a plethora of books on various topics. As far as economics is concerned, one of the interesting releases of 2023 was Didac Queralt's foreign lending to developing nations since the 19th century, he concluded that a reliance on foreign credit had resulted in persistent economic and political in-

What made this interesting was the fact that last year, this writer undertook an inquiry into the role of stan and its various aspects. The task is now complete, with the findings to be published soon by PIDE. And like Didac, the findings call for some serious contem-

It proved to be a difficult task. Covering various

sifting through either highly scattered or non-available information. Both government officials and donors like to pretend that everything is 'out there', but that is simply not the case. Anyways, the first

important query related to how much aid has Pakistan really received till now. Specifically, of the 'committed' aid since 1950 (\$200 billion plus), how much aid did Pakistan really receive? Surprisingly, no one knows. The research, accumulating data from various sources, concluded that the received amount is anywhere between \$155 to

But even this figure does not tell the exact quantum of foreign aid that Pakistan received. Why? Because there have historically been 'off the books' inflows (especially under military rule) that have never been officially recorded. For example, a recently declassified US document revealed that President Carter authorised \$2bn for Pakistan (with an equivalent matching grant from Saudi Arabia).

Nowhere in official documents do we find men-

tion of this inflow. Similarly, during a Congressional hearing in 2007, a senior fellow from the Woodrow Wilson Institute revealed that offthe-books aid to Pakistan was equivalent to the officially provided aid (\$7bn

Therefore, there is no concise estimate of how much aid has really flown into Pakistan's coffers.

The next — and the

most important question to address — was to gauge whether foreign aid has been of economic benefit to Pakistan or not. The vast literature on this subject comes up with a mixed conclusion. We do not get any clear-cut answer, partly because they either deal with only a specific aspect. and a majority of these studies use econometric methodologies that are unclear in terms of causation and the 'net' result of inflows. The major shortcoming of these studies, arguably, is that none of these seem to be based on criterion/a for gauging the effectiveness of foreign aid.

Things turn more complicated considering that no proper technical evaluation (cost-benefit analysis) has ever been car-

ried out of majority of foreign-funded projects which have been a regular feature since the 1950s (1,268 projects being the average number in the last decade, being executed across the breadth of the country). But there exists little literature in terms of its outcomes.

especially in the long-run.

Luckily, though, history came to the rescue. To cut a long story short, aid provision by industrialised nations did not start as some unquestioned charitable provision born out of humanitarian considerations. Rather, from moulding 'developing' nations into their own growth models to forcing them into their own spheres of influence. the underlying factors varied, often inciting deep, long-drawn debates over the raison d'etre of aid pro-

vision to poor countries. These debates produced two interesting works: a report by MIT and another by economists Mark Millikan and Walt Rostow. In these, we find a clear statement of criterion (used by this study) to gauge effectiveness of foreign aid by a receiving coun-

would be useful if it does not create future liabilities, is not 'source-tied', leads to sustainable development as well as sustainable economic growth, raises the domestic marginal savings rate leading to higher capital formation (lessening dependence on external capital), higher capital forma-

This is as clear a criterion for gauging foreign aid's effectiveness as there can be, and our research finds that Pakistan does not meet even a single criterion despite substantial doses of aid inflows. Sure, marginal improvements do occur, and one may witness spikes in selected years (gross capital formation, for example). But in sum aggregate, there is nothing to cel-

tion in turn being comple-

mented by a development

programme that helps ex-

absorb additional capital.

pand economic capacity to

In all these years, Pakistan's economy instead finds itself saddled with huge external liabilities and has had to pay a steep cost (detailed in the paper). Take, for example, the net flow number (dollar inflow vs outflow): in the 21st Briefly put, foreign aid century, the number stands in excess of negative \$50bn, meaning more dollars flowing out of Pakistan than coming in (as is likely to be the case in the near future).

Perhaps astonishingly, Pakistan has been saddled with external debt which it never required in the first place, a situation for which both the donors and successive governments (especially bureaucracy) is to blame. An example would suffice. A government department happily lapped up a \$400 million loan under the fancy moniker of 'capacity build-

Let me conclude by suggesting that the research is not aimed as some 'antidonor' agenda; rather, it brings forth the critical need to query why we need all the foreign loans and what is the outcome. Unfortunately, I find that in sum aggregate, the outcomes for the country and its people are not something to gloat about.

Surprisingly, the threadbare economic manifestos of parties don't even mention foreign assistance as a policy question. This needs to change for Pakistan's sake. -- Cour-

The right way to reform

Nadeem Khurshid

Oren Harari's famous quote 'the electric light did not come from the continuous improvement of candles serves as a poignant reminder of the ineffectiveness of incremental changes in addressing deep-rooted systemic issues within Pakistan's public

service. This analogy resonates strongly with those advocating for reform in our struggling governance system, cautioning against relying solely on minor bureaucratic enhancements such as changing titles and designations, making generous adjustments to perks and privileges, and sending individuals to prestigious institutions Across the globe, bu-

reaucracies hold a key position in running a state's affairs and are considered pivotal to the success or failure of a state. In an ideal responsible for delivering tutions. They are expected to serve people with a com-

demonstrating responsiveness to citizens' needs. transparency, accountability, and an unwavering dedication to upholding liberal democratic values

Public trust is also a vital component of effective governance, and bureaucracies must be trained and encouraged to adopt a positive, citizen-centric approach to build and sustain this trust At the time of Parti-

tion, Pakistan inherited a bureaucracy rooted in an extractive, authoritative, and controlling model of governance, originally designed to support imperialistic British rule. In the aftermath of gaining independence in 1947, the newly formed state of Pakistan gradually embarked on a strategic initiative, sending its bureaucrats to esteemed world-class institutions and universities to cultivate a skilled and educated workforce ca- nance system appears to pable of actively contributing to the nation's de-

them with access to world-class education, admitment to public service, vanced research, and best writing exams, is recruited

ous disciplines to run the state's affairs. The underlying policy framework seeks to cultivate future bureaucrats who not only possess refined cultural understanding, skills, and knowledge but also embody humility, fostering a service-oriented relationship with people to enhance the delivery of public services

Notably, this approach is still dominant today, prioritizing individual development over the consideration of essential structural reforms required for an antiquated governance model. This scenario is akin to operating the latest Windows 11 on a vintage PC-XT computer or deploying elite drivers Schumacher to compete in Formula One while driving a Ford Model T.

The current goverinvest heavily in individuals without addressing the velopment. Imperative need for struc-tural and institutional reimperative need for strucsents a concerted effort to forms in the outdated govbolster the capabilities of ernance model. Consider a bureaucrats by providing governance system where a medical doctor, having successfully passed essay

practices spanning vari- into the superior civil ser- 75 per cent of entrants vice to serve in various roles, ranging from managing land records through patwaris to the space programme.

Subsequently appointed as a revenue officer in district administration, this individual is afforded the opportunity to attain a master's degree in education policy from Harvard, and upon return, eventually ends up regulating Sunday Bazars or flour mills in some remote town. Similarly, envision an officer with a PhD in land use planning from MIT overseeing the country's federal health ministry. This misalignment between qualifications and roles highlights the disconnect within the governance system, emphasizing the critical need for a more strategic and coherent approach to bureaucratic inductions, deployment and governance

By the early 2000s, it was estimated that approximately 75 per cent of bureaucratic inductees held MA/MSc, while the rest 25 per cent possessed BA degrees. However, this composition has shifted after 2011, with around

now holding four-year undergraduate degrees, mostly earned from local universities. The practice of sending bureaucrats to acquire more specialized advanced degrees, predominantly from Ivy-Oxbridge universities, has persisted, with an estimated 80 per cent of current bureaucrats possessing highly specialized education today, and some have acquired multiple diverse degrees and fellowships, perhaps spending half of their service careers in acquiring education abroad.

This enduring practice has been sustained over decades through the support of government scholarships and education aid programmes sponsored by international non-governmental organizations, among other do-These organizations achievements.

allocate funds for projects with apparent aims to improve public service in developing countries. Specific programmes and funding mechanisms evolve over time, guided policy objectives, and shifting priorities.

Perhaps we need to take a deeper look at some of the fundamental questions: Can one pinpoint bureaucrats who have ever unequivocally spoken out against this systemic malaise? How relevant and useful are these highly advanced degrees for a primitive governance system, culture, and society like ours? Why are individuals allowed to make personal choices of degrees/training programmes/fellowships that are mostly mismatched to their service cadres/appointments/ JDs? Does any department carry out cadre & career-based training need assessment (TNA)?

A true transformation requires a holistic reevaluation of the governance system, recognizing fundamental disparities and failures despite marvelous individual performances

Similar to the revolutionary shift from traditional candles to electric light, effective governance reform demands a departure from incremental changes and a profound by agreements, strategic reimagining of the entire system.

2024: Rocky road ahead



Shahid Kardar

in recent memory has closed with some indicators prognosticating a nascent economic rejuvenation of sorts. So, what lies in store in now behind us that a possible rising tide from imwill lift all boats?

The public at large cantrance on being informed that we have achieved both flation and stringent austerity under the IMF programme has been a sti-

nomic opportunities. And that these factors disruptions caused by administrative restrictions of imports have amplified the market manipulative powers of a minority class, eroding the purchasing power of large segments of the popu-

For them, unemploygrowing, these rates would have been higher but for the annual remittances of \$30 billion and the informal sector which have kept the wheels of the economy somewhat running.

However, many in the lower-middle income group multiple jobs, have been nificant proportions of the middle-income group have been coping by adjusting liquidating assets. A disturb-

ing development is the loss of morale of the limited available quantity of the skilled. They are articulating their loss of faith in the future of the country by seeking any opening for an

Meanwhile, an annual requirement of \$25bn and reserves well below recommended levels are placing our ability to service external obligations increasingly at risk. The problem has become so acute that it may be too difficult to even deal with it through a reshuffling of maturities.

The country, therefore, appears poised to be invited into the IMF's parlour for the 24th time. The second round of stabilisation and austerity will, with the depletion of these buffers, be more excruciating. A worrying outcome of the ensuing weariness could be the worsening of the already fragile social cohesion.

Our "friends" have ostensibly lost patience with us and are no longer that readily agreeable to doling out lifelines without a change of our behaviour, while multilaterals on whose benefactions we live from year to year are, although coming so lately and equally to blame, openly expressing their exasperation at our repeated abandonment of commitments on reform.

Although our creditors are seemingly pondering over whether they should lend their names to our quest for international banker generosity so that we can live to borrow another day, they do not appear to be in the mood to pull the plug on our life support system, just

A view fairly widely aired is that for pushing the economy onto a higher and sustainable growth path and attaining solvency much remains to be done to address the fundamental

structural issues. The list of these concerns is lengthy. It broadly includes political instability unprecedented

polarisation; the general state of uncertainty; policy unpredictability; a corruptible rule of law; bloated governments with their unproductive expenditures running wild; the huge footprint of the state in the economy profligacy, (through bankrolling loss-making inefficient SOEs and obsolete and excessive regulation) bludgeoning the fiscal accounts; different organs of the state crumbling with mechanisms of checks and balances in disarray (if not dysfunctional); distortionary and predatory

tax regime; lack of a sensible exchange rate policy; a system that continues to protect and support powerful "rentiers" at the expense of the economy's competitiveness unaffordable pricing of energy (because of the generous terms and conditions accorded to IPPs and continuing governance issues of DISCOs); lack of trade with our neighbours and high transaction costs of cross-border business; the restrictive regulatory environment and its cost (especially for investment whose rate now places us in the 130s among 151 countries); a country image unattractive for potential FDI; poor work culture/ethics and the weak quality of human capi

Since these problems have been accumulated over decades, the task ahead is a massive and long-drawn painful one, requiring a leadership (not visible to the naked eye today) with the vision and capability to distribute this pain equitably, based on the ability of the different economic groups to bear the burden of the required adjustment.

This would test the forbearance and determination of any leadership to stay on course, raising the obvious question whether the government likely to be assembled after the election will be able to fabricate the changes that will endure the test of time. Courtesy Dawn

Digital policy from a constitutional and



Farieha Aziz

In a recent address, caretaker Minister for IT and Telecom, Umar Saif, spoke about payment gateways for freelancers to receive payments at ease in Pakistan. He spoke of a communication world, new advancements, satellite communication and forwardlooking space policy. On Jan 7, barely a week into the new year, network disruptions were reported and access to social media websites and apps throttled to thwart a PTI election fundraiser.

It is not the first time this has happened and is unlikely to be the last. So what stars are we reaching

for exactly? The present caretaker set-up is pretending as though it has the mandate of an elected government and is introducing policies and legislation like they are here to stay. The outgoing PDM government made a mockery of parliament by bulldozing bills and laws at breakneck speed. The PTI, when in government, chose to make parliament redundant and instead legislated via ordinances. Prior to them, the PML-N introduced legislation such as the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act 2016, with complete disregard towards what a consultative democracy should be, reducing parliament to a numbers

What change or promise can the average citizen or any sector in the country expect or be hopeful for with the upcoming elections? In and of itself the elections are important

democratic standpoint, but it's about more than procedures, numbers and faces. Does the policy change? PTI led with claims

about Digital Pakistan and instead introduced draconian social media rules ones that expanded existing PTA powers to cut off network access and restrict content. Network throttling was specifically written into the language of the rules by permitting PTA to "degrade services." Today, PTI is a victim of its own poli-

To date, Pakistan does not have privacy legislation, a data protection law. The PML-N is touted as being "good for business" and yet leading the PDM government, it introduced a data protection bill which, had it been enacted, would have thwarted the digital economy. The party already has the stain of Peca on its hands. Time and again civil

society and industry have cautioned against ad hoc and regressive measures. Recently, the Telecom Operators Association wrote a letter to the PTA, underlining the adverse impact on business caused by the disruption. When the e-safety and data protection bills were introduced by the PDM government, the Venture Capital Association of Pakistan and the Asia Internet Coalition, among others, voiced their concerns about how Pakistan would be isolated as the contents of the bills would lead to global services being withdrawn from the country. Rights advocates emphasised the privacy and expression violations, just as they did when Peca was introduced. Losses in the billions have been reported as a result of network disruptions in an already struggling economy. But no heed is

switch-on/ switch-off shenanigans, knee-jerk policy and regressive lawmaking reposes little trust locally and internationally, robbing Pakistanis of opportunities the private sector has worked hard to create, with little or no state support, and in spite of the

constant hurdles The state's investment over the years in this sector instead has been in surveillance tech and filtering technology - with taxpayer money — to be able to control information and gather dirt on targets to use for political machinations. Consumer protection, online safety, connectivity in underserved areas, payment gateways, ease of doing business, start-up ecosystem, investment — much lip-service is paid to these but in reality little is done to sustainably achi-e--ve and advance aims in these areas in a mea-ningful man-

The revolutionary zeal and bravado when persecuted is often shortlived, simply posturing for attention and vying for an opportunity to crack a deal. And then ensues the same cycle of repeating with political opponents what was experienced and condemned not a moment ago. No lessons are learnt other than power grab.

But what is written into policy and law is rarely reversed, in fact made worse by each successive set-up. The consequences fall upon every citizen and sector that become collateral as a result of these "policies". Peca is proof of this.

So long as Pakistanis remain hostage to vested interests who can't see beyond their narrow aims, citizens and the IT and telecom sector will keep bearing losses. Pakistan will continue to lose out as a regional and global player because those who run the country have anything but the best interests of the country and its people at

heart. -- Courtesy Dawn

Governor Punjab says

Trade relations with Netherlands need to be further promoted

Independent Report LAHORE: Ambassador of elected as the chairman of Pakistan to the this conference is a matter House.

Netherlands Saljuq of pride for the country. Mustansar Tarar called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman here on Saturday at the Governor's House

During the meeting, Saljuq Mustansar Tarar informed Governor Punjab of as many forums as that Pakistan is fully supporting the case of South Africa against Israel in favor of the Palestinian people in the International Court of Justice.

Governor Punjab congratulated Saljuq Mustansar Tarar on being elected as the Chairman of the Conference of States of Prohibition of Chemical

He said that trade

relations with the Netherlands need to be promoted. Governor Punjab appreciated ambassador's interest in art possible to highlight the soft image of Pakistan through art and literature.

Pakistani Ambassador Saljuq Mustansar Tarar said that Governor House Lahore is a heritage building. The way it has been preserved for the public and further improvements are being the Convention on the made is admirable. He also appreciated the initiative

first ever Pakistani to be public through organized tours in the Governor

> Saljuq Mustansar Tarar also showed keen interest in the artwork of Ustad Allah Bakhsh, Abdul Rahman Chaghatai, and Ustad Muhammad Sharif and appreciated the restoration of historic piano in the Governor House. On this occasion, Saljuq Mustansar Taran presented his book "All That Art" and his father Mustansar Hussain Tarar's book "Pyar Ka Pehla Punjab" to the Governor of Punjab. Governor Punjab gifted a book on Governor's House by famous architect Yasmin Pakistani Ambassador Netherlands



HYDERABAD: Caretaker Sindh Minister for Information Ahmad Shah cutting the ribbon to inaugurate 9th Hyderabad literature Festival at Sindh

Housing minister living in container to monitor **Bund Road project**

LAHORE (APP): On the visited the project late at specific directive of night and inspected the Punjab's Caretaker Chief ongoing construction Minister Mohsin Naqvi, activities. He issued Provincial Housing necessary directions to the Minister Azfar Ali Nasir contractor for timely has adopted a temporary completion of the project. residence in a container placed at the Bund Road chaired a container meeting Controlled Access Corridor and directed to utilise all

been assigned the task to the project. He stated that undertake 24 hours on the direction of the CM, monitoring for the he would remain in the completion of Bund Road container till the Controlled Access Corridor project. Under the mission to accomplish public welfare projects before the stipulated deadline in the people, he said and Punjab, he is busy in added that he was a volunteer overseeing the project from of the CM and would tread morning till night. He will continue living in the Commissioner Lahore, Chief container till the Engineer LDA, and completion of the project. contractors were also Azfar Ali Nasir present.

The minister also ect site. necessary resources to
Azfar Ali Nasir has expedite pace of work on completion of the project. CM Mohsin Naqvi is working day and night to provide maximum relief to on his footsteps. The

Dera Police seize 11075 liters diesel, gasoline

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (INP): Dera Police seized 11075 liters of diesel and gasoline on Saturday as it intensified crackdown against illegal fuel agencies across the district.

A spokesman of district police said that in line with directions of DPO Abdul Rauf Babar Oaisrani, crackdown was launched against illegal fuel agencies across the district.

Cases were registered against 10 persons involved in the business of illegal fuel in different areas of the Dera Ismail Khan.

The police also recovered two fuel units, six plastic tanks, and 98 plastic canes and bottles during the crackdown.

DPO Abdul Rauf Babar Qaisrani said indiscriminate legal action would be continued against the business of illegal fuel.

CS, IGP conduct review of arrangements & security for general elections 2024

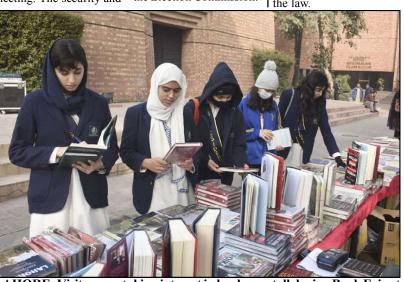
was convened under the chairmanship of Chief

During the meeting, special measures for the preparations, security issues, and overall states. The meeting was informed that funds for arrangements for the elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were Pakhtunkhwa were thoroughly reviewed. Additional Chief Secretary Home Department, Secretaries, Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, Regional and District Police complete adherence to the Officers attended the meeting. The security and

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: A meeting overall arrangements for the general elections were reviewed in detail.Upon the Chief Secretary's Secretary Nadeem Aslam direction, officials from other relevant departments Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Akhtar Hayat Khan to discuss preparations for the general elections 2024. informed that funds for different facilities at polling stations are provided by the provincial government. The Chief Secretary emphasized the need ensure to uninterrupted elections in snowbound districts and code of conduct issued by the Election Commission.

ADCR warns against illegal construction in Murree RAWALPINDI (APP):

Nobody would be allowed to indulge in illegal construction activities in Murree, said Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue (ADCR) Capt. (retd) Qasim Ijaz on Saturday.On the special directives of the Punjab Government and Deputy Commissioner, Murree Agha Zaheer Abbas Shirazi ADCR Murree on Friday night visited different areas of Murree including Jhika Gali, Masiyari, Express Highway, Shawala and Fourth View Road and reviewed in detail the operation against illegal constructions. The Murree administration launched a grand operation against constructions and strict action in accordance with



LAHORE: Visitors are taking interest in books on stall during Book Fair at Al-Hamra Arts Council in Provincial Capital.



LAHORE: Pakistan's Ambassador to Netherland Saljuk Mustansar Tarar meeting with Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman

Baqar launches NICVD's **Stroke Intervention Programme**

Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (Rtd) Pakistan. Maqbool Baqar on Saturday stressed that great efforts were needed to improve stroke care and acute stroke centers in Pakistan's second-largest

While virtually inaugurating the National Institute of Cardiovascular (NICVD) Diseases' Stroke Intervention Programme' launched in Tando Muhammad Khan, the chief minister said that the estimated population of Pakistan was 225 million with a median age of 22.5 years and to cater to such

Independent Report

LAHORE: Due to severe

cold and pollution in the

provincial capital, special

arrangements have been

ensured for treatment of

Children at Lahore General

Hospital. In this regard on

the directions of Chief

Minister Punjab Syed

ensured all necessary steps

and extend medical

facilities to the children

especially for pneumonia.

Principal Ameer Uddin Medical College, Prof.

Muhammad Al-Fareed

Zafar, while reviewing the

arrangements, expressed

his satisfaction and told

immediate attention in

While addressing the guests at the ceremony, Baqar said through a video link that there was a high proportion of young stroke with poor stroke outcomes. Acute stroke care is scarce in Pakistan due to few stroke units, and limited availability of alteplase (clot buster treatment) thrombectomy services in the country, he said.

He further emphasised that the stroke burden remained high in Pakistan with limited available facilities for a large population, the stroke care in the country. increasing incidence of He commented that after stroke and lack of the availability of alteplase infrastructure in both urban (r-tPA) in Pakistan, efforts

children in sufficient quantity which is being provided free of charge as

per the Government

policy. He said that Prof. Muhammad Shahid and

Prof. Faheem Afzal should

use social media and other

platforms to raise

Principal

public service for all

diseases. He added that for

doctors, nurses and other medical staff of the

hospital have the passion

to serve humanity. Prof.

Al-Fareed asked the

parents to keep a strict eye

on the small children and

the health of infants

awareness

Adequate arrangements

for pneumonia patients

in LGH

Mohsin Naqvi, treatment Pneumonia among children

of children at LGH will be and parents and guide them

Muhammad Shahid and highlighted that LGH will

Prof. Dr. Faheem Afzal of continue to play its role as

Pediatric Unit. They an all-round force to ensure

that the vaccine of wear warm clothes to

pneumonia is available to protect them from cold

managed under the accordingly. supervision of Prof. Dr. Princip

and rural areas require to improve facilities and centers were need of the

Lauding the NICVD's work, the CM recalled that in 2021, the hospital took up the initiative to provide comprehensive stroke services including clot buster treatment and advanced treatment of clot removal (thrombectomy).

"During the last 2 years, it has treated more than 4000 stroke patients providing acute stroke care services, maintained.

The CM disclosed that the NICVD had trained 8 cardiologists to carry out clot removal procedures and were now moving forward to start stroke services in SICVD Tando Muhammad Khan.

injured in Chiniot road mishaps

including a woman were killed and five others injured in separate road accidents in different localities of Chiniot, police and rescue sources said on Saturday.

According to details, due to poor visibility caused by fog, a passenger hiace collided with a dumper near Shamas Mills at Faisalabad Road.

As a result of collision, a 65-year-old woman was killed on the spot while five others including Waseem, Shahid, Rimsha were injured.

dumper knocked down a motorcycle near Kot Ismail resultantly bike rider Usman, hailing from 55-Southern was killed on the spot. The bodies and injured were shifted to different hospitals and police after registering.

Two killed, five

CHINIOT (INP): Two

An over speeding



Mayor Salman Abdullah Murad offer Dua during foundation stone laying ceremony for the extended restoration of Khayyam Clifton Canal.

KMC, PLSP to train people for providing emergency aid to citizens: Murtaza Wahab

Karachi Barrister Murtaza in this regard, the family Wahab has said that the members and the nearest KMC in collaboration with Pakistan Life Savers Program (PLSP) will train the citizens of Karachi to provide immediate emergency aid in case of heart attacks and injuries so that precious lives can be

It will be started by the department of City Warden and we will train thousands of citizens of The scope of this Karachi especially the program will be gradually youth so that we can proudly call Karachi the

city of life savers. statement, Murtaza Wahab said every year thousands attacks. of people in Karachi lose their lives due to heart attacks and after suffering serious injuries, precious lives are lost in these incidents, so considering the importance of this issue, KMC has decided to pay immediate attention so that by providing heart attack, stroke.

KARACHI (INP): Mayor awareness to the citizens people can give immediate medical assistance to the patient in the most crucial and critical moments.

He said that the efforts of Pakistan Life Saver Program in this regard are commendable and that is the reason why we have settled the preliminary matters with

extended to the entire city to save the lives of citizens by providing immediate According to the medical assistance after fatal accidents and heart

Mayor Karachi said that Karachi is among the seven largest cities in the world and training of citizens is organised in all international cities of this level around the world. With this training in the event of a fire, accident,

YPP's 18th batch holds second session LAHORE (INP): The

Youth Parliament Pakistan's (YPP) 18th batch in partnership with TikTok on Saturday convened its second session marking a pivotal moment in the digital engagement of Pakistan's youth. Around 300 Primary

members representing all National Assembly Constituencies of Pakistan featured the session, in addition to Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, and overseas Pakistanis, along with approximately 300 alternate members. Supported by TikTok, the YPP is the most extensive and diverse youth representation in Pakistan to date. President of PILDAT and founder of Youth Parliament Pakistan Ahmed Bilal Mehboob commenced the event with warm welcome.

Acknowledging the partnership with TikTok, Mehboob highlighted how this collaboration not only enriches the YPP experience but also serves as a vital link.

CM inspects development work on new Ravi **Bridge project**

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab
Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi inspected the new Ravi Bridge project in a severe cold weather late night.

Mohsin inspected the construction work of the new Ravi Bridge project. He shook hands with the labourers busy doing piling, drilling work and commended them on working diligently on the public welfare project in a severe cold weather even late night, said a handout issued here on

The CM directed to utilise all the necessary resources for early construction of the bridge, saying that piling work should be moved forward swiftly along with accelerating pace of work contractor to further present.

He emphasized that the project should be completed at the earliest for the facilitation of people. The bridge would

greatly ease traffic, he

The Commissioner/ DG LDA and the contractor gave a detailed briefing about progress on the bridge. The piling and boring process continues for 24 hours and two new machines have been installed for the piling work. The bridge will consists of 4 lanes and it would be 540 meters long.

Provincial ministers Amir Mir, Azfar Ali Nasir, Secretary Communication & Works, Deputy Commissioner, Chief Engineer LDA, NESPAK, Officials of C&W, Irrigation, on the new bridge. He administration and other issued directions to the departments were also



FAISALABAD: A view of the hustle and bustle of Lawyers during the elections of district bar in City.

Ahmed Shah says Govt initiated "Strengthening **Social Protection Delivery** System program in Sindh"

Independent Report HYDERABAD: The Sindh caretaker Minister for Information, Social protection and minorities Mohammad Ahmed Shah said that Government of Sindh has initiated a program "Strengthening social protection Delivery System in Sindh "in 15 districts of Sindh with collaboration of World child health.

talking to media me at the elections arrangements. Shehbaz Hall, Shehbaz The Government of Sindh

informed that initially this and the repairing of polling program started in three stations districts of sindh Tando Mohammad Khan, Tando Alahyar and Matiari and will be extended in other districts soon.

children in Sindh. This program of social protection will give 30000 cash to mother for the safe life of child because there is problem of malnutrition identified in different districts.

On replying question elections the minister said that Government of Sindh is ready for the general bank to improve the mother elections on 8th February and next cabinet meeting This he said while will be held soon to finalize Building Hyderabad today. has released for the The minister training of ROs and DROs

He further said that a strong communication awareness campaign will be launched to spread awareness regarding this He further said that this program will benefit women and children in this program to benefit more 1.3 million women and program.

CM lays foundation of Punjab Bar **Council building**

caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Saturday laid the foundation stone of the new building of Punjab the lawyers community is Bar Council.

On Mohsin Naqvi's added. arrival at the Punjab Bar Council, lawyers warmly welcomed him and presented him with flowers.

Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi laid the foundation stone of the new building of the Punjab over a grant check for Rs50 Secretary million to the bar council.

about the new building. He on this occasion.

LAHORE (APP): Punjab said that lawyers are an and close to his heart. "Solving the problems of one of our priorities," he

Former Supreme Court Bar Association President Ahsan Bhoon, Federal Minister Nazir Tarar, Punjab Bar Council President, Asif Shahzad, Advocate General Punjab, Vice Chairman Punjab Bar Council Basharatullah Bar Council and handed Khan, Secretary Law, Prosecution and other Minister officials of the Punjab Bar Mohsin Naqvi was briefed Council were also present

DC Abbottabad oversees key water supply project in Jandar Bari area

ABBOTTABAD (APP): residents and provided To monitor the progress of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Cities Improvement Project (KPCIP), Deputy C o m m i s s i o n e r Abbottabad, Khalid Iqbal on Saturday visited the Jandar Bari area, the primary source of the water supply project.

comprehensive assessment of the designated land for the water supply initiative was carried accompanied directives for the acquisition process.

The DC, along with his team, engaged in discussions with residents affected by the ongoing construction of the Sherwan Family Adventure concerns of the affected present on the occasion.

practical instructions for prompt issue resolution. Stressing

significance of development for both local inhabitants and the city of Abbottabad, he highlighted the potential for new recreational opportunities for residents and tourists During the inspection, alike. DC reassured the affected community that every effort would be made to provide necessary facilities.

Director Compliance Amir Alam, Additional Assistant Commissioner Revenue Mahmood, Social Safeguard Specialist Ali Akbar, Tehsil Municipal Officer TMA Abbottabad Shakeel Hayat, Revenue staff and residents of the Park. He addressed the affected area were also

OMMERCE EWS

Dr. Umar Saif says Pakistan set to initiate laying of 200,000 km optical fiber cable

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister Information Technology

Umar Saif on Saturday said that in order to enhance connectivity Pakistan was set to initiate a project for laying 200,000 kilometers of optical fiber cable."The Information Technology Ministry has exhibited outstanding performance during the tenure of the current government over the past four months, "the minister said in a statement

Dr. Umar Saif, while giving credit to the Special Investment Facilitation Council, said the forum had played a significant role in obtaining timely approvals for the IT Ministry's policies and projects.

He said the IT freelancers would enjoy companies were set to convenient facilities under benefit from a new facility one roof. and allowing them to keep 50% Telecommunication Dr of their earnings in dollars in their accounts.

He said a global standard training programme had been initiated for 200,000 IT graduates who had recently completed their studies from various universities.

The minister said the

long-standing issue of digital payment gateways for freelancers had been successfully resolved. Starting from February 1, a pilot project would create 10,000 accounts, allowing freelancers to receive their payments directly through them. Dr Saif said some 10,000 employment centers were being sector had established where the he added

one roof.

The centers would help increase annual IT exports to \$10 billion, besides employing some 100,000 freelancers, he hoped.The minister ensured that all obstacles regarding the 5G spectrum would be addressed as per the directives of the Action Advisory Committee for it auction in July-August.

He viewed that the implementation of the Right of Way Policy had resolved disputes between various institutions.

With establishment of the Telecommunication Tribunal, a long-standing demand of the telecom sector had been fulfilled,



Ms. Samina Fazal Founder President WICCI congratulates FPCCI president Atif Ikram Shaikh on his historic success in FPCCI Elections by giving a flower bouquet at FPCCI capital office Islamabad, founder president IWCCI Samina Fazil, president IWCCI Rizwana Asif, Senior Vice President Dr. Sonia Saleem, former president Naima Ansari, former SVPs Sadaf Asim Abassi & Rizina Lahooti, Dr. Afshan Malik were also present on this occasion.

policies for promoting

entrepreneurship in youth

that will enhance their self-

employment and pave the

way for sustainable

economic growth of the

country. He stressed that

commercial banks should

also come up with low-cost

business loan schemes for

youth to facilitate them in

launching business start-

population of Pakistan is

increasing rapidly and the

government can't provide

jobs to all youngsters.

entrepreneurship in youth

is the best option to enable

them to achieve a

prosperous career, create

jobs for others, and play

an effective role in the

economic development of

the country.
The ICCI President

lauded the role of the

Entrepreneurs

Organization Islamabad for

However,

He said that the

fostering

President ICCI says Need to focus on entrepreneurship to transform economy

ISLAMABAD (INP): President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has said that Pakistan needs more entrepreneurs to create new jobs, introduce innovations and new technologies, increase productivity, enhance exports, and put the economy into fast gear to ups. transform Pakistan into a rising country. Therefore, the students should locus on entrepreneurship that offers them a prosperous

This was stated by him on Saturday while addressing the Pakistan National Finals of the Student Entrepreneur Awards (GSEA) organized by Entrepreneurs Organization Islamabad in collaboration with ICCI at

Ahsan Bakhtawari called upon the government promoting

karat gold increased by Rs.950 and was sold at Rs.217,450 on Saturday compared to its sale at Rs. 216,500 on last trading

prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up Rs.170,893

Rs.170,146 the All Sindh Association reported. The price of per tola

and ten gram Silver remained stagnant at Rs.2,650 and 2,271.94 respectively. The price of gold in

the international market increased by \$12 to \$2,068 \$.2,056, the Association reported.

3 officers of **SNG** promoted

ISLAMABAD (Online): 3 officers of Sui Northern Gas (SNG) have been

elevated on their posts.
618th meeting of Board of Directors (BOD) of SNG was held Saturday which reviewed the cases of promotion of executive staff of the company.

BOD approved promotion of three officers. Those who were promoted include Saqib Arbab,. Faisal Iqbal and Kamran Akram.

According to sources senior general manager North Saqib Arbab has been promoted as deputy managing director operations. He played vital directo role in curbing stealing of gas in KP. Line losses declined remarkably during his tenure. His services were highly appreciated during the meeting of BOD.

Sources said chief financial officer Faisal Iqbal has been promoted as deputy managing director services while general manager RA Kamran Akram has been promoted as head of internal audit.

Notification in regard to promotions of officers

increase by Rs.950 per tola

Gold rates

fixed the minimum export price (MEP) of onion at \$1,200 per tonne (FOB). All Pakistan Fruit and Vegetable Exporters, Importers and Merchants ISLAMABAD (APP) The per tola price of 24 Association (PFVA) Patron-in-Chief Abdul Waheed Ahmed said that

the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan has issued a notification on Jan The price of 10 grams 12 quoting the commerce ministry, which also states of 24 karat gold also that the export of onions increased by Rs. 814 to Rs.186.428 advance payment terms. Rs.185,614 whereas the The national average

Jewellers to the PBS data.

When India imposed helpless in exercising their

a ban on onion exports on duties of price.

KARACHI (INP): Amid Dec 8, 2023, the national thriving exports and rising average price of the vegetable in Pakistan was Rs130-220 per kg during the week ending Dec 7 2023. Mr Waheed said exporters had been getting huge orders after the Indian ban, which caused a steep rise in local prices.

SIALKOT: Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi

Pakistan-origin UK national

Mahnaz becomes member

of WB IFC Sanctions Board

Hughes Hall College at the

University of Cambridge,

according to details posted

by the WB on its official

IFC board member has

over 23 years of experience

advising governments,

international organizations

on complex cross-border

counsel on behalf of

The newly appointed

website on Saturday.

corporations,

disputes.

Mahnaz is also a investors, organizations

Fellow and Trustee of and states in several

Govt raises onion MEP

to \$1,200 per tonne

inaugurating Business Facilitation Center at Anwar Club.

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The World Bank (WB) has

appointed Mahnaz Malik,

a Pakistan-origin British

national, as a Sanctions

Board Member of the

International Finance Corporation (IFC).

Arbitrator at Twenty

Essex, specializing in

representing governments

and corporations in

investment and commercial

domestic prices, the Ministry of Commerce has

She is a Barrister and

He said exporters in a meeting with the commerce ministry on Friday proposed an upward revision in MEP from the existing \$750 per tonne (FOB) with 100pc advance payments to avoid any losses to the growers, will be allowed only under otherwise they would not grow onion next year besides bringing down local price of onion has risen to prices. He expressed Rs180-260 per kg during the week ending on Jan 11 committees were not from Rs160-250 in the controlling the rate and preceding week, according why the government

Chinese yuan weakens in December 2023

investment and commercial

disputes, including the

Court of Sport Arbitration (CAS), UNCITRAL, ICC,

ICSID, LCIA and PCA-

administered arbitrations.

include mining, energy,

banking, and infrastructure

adept at dispute resolution

relating to natural

resources, sporting events,

joint venture partners,

projects.

shareholders.

Sector specialisms

She is particularly

construction,

BEIJING (Xinhua/APP):In December 2023, Chinese yuan weakened against a basket of currencies, according to the China Foreign Exchange Trade System (CFETS).

At the end of December, the CFETS yuan exchange rate composite index, which measures the yuan's strength relative to a basket of currencies, went down 0.89 percent from the end of November to 97.42, according to the system.

The index compares

the vuan with the value of 24 currencies, including the U.S. dollar, euro and the

Japanese yen.

By the end of December, the index measuring the yuan against the Bank for International Settlements currency departments appea-red | basket fell 0.5 percent from the end of November to 102.42.

President FPCCI says Financial, digital literacy very important to empower women

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD. delegation of the Islamabad Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IWCCI) led by Ms. Samina Fazil Founder President of IWCCI visited the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry FPCCI to meet President FPCCI Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh and all UBG penal for felicitation on their historic victory in the recent elections of FPCCI.

While speaking on the occasion, President FPCCI Mr. Atif İkram Sheikh said that women empowerment is at the top of the our agenda without which the dream of national development cannot be achieved. He said that IWCCI is one of the most effective women's chambers in the country which is playing a laudable role in empowering women through entrepreneurship and that the FPCCI will extend all possible help towards this noble cause. Mr Atif Ikram Sheikh said

have one of the lowest rates of female entrepreneurship in the world, with only one per cent of women owning a business. Mr. Karim Aziz Malik Chairman FPCCI Capital Office & Malik

that financial and digital

literacy is very important

to empower women as we

Page

Sohail Hussain Chairman Coordination FPCCI said that women empowerment is a challenge in Pakistan but it's necessary to improve the economic landscape in the country. They urged the government to simplify policies and provide an enabling environment for small Medium businesses run by

Founder President IWCCI Samina Fazil, President Rizwana Asif, Senior Vice President Dr. Sonia Saleem, Former President Naima Ansari, Former SVPs Sadaf Asim Abbasi & Rozina Lahooti, Dr. Afshan Malik expressed that current women's economic.



MULTAN: Farmers are busy packing carrots after collecting from the field to deliver the market.

Drastic measures in power sector vital to control circular debt: SVC FRIA

AHORE (INP): Senior Vice Chairman of the Ferozepur Road Industrial Association (FRIA) and PIAF senior leader Shahbaz Aslam has stressed the need for overhauling the power sector through some losses of distribution companies which have

been increasing. In a statement issued on Saturday, he said that power sector circular debt has climbed to Rs2,611 billion, while the losses by the distribution companies have enhanced by 26.22 percent to Rs77 billion.

Shahbaz Aslam said that total cost of inefficiencies in the power sector is estimated at a whopping Rs9.6 trillion during the last one and a half decades.

He further stated that the circular debt stock has

crossed Rs4 trillion after Rs400 billion were added to it during the last fiscal year. He said that in present scenario the energy efficiency and conservation are key measures used by countries across the globe drastic measures as the to mitigate associated abnormal hike in base risks. However, in the case electricity tariff and the of Pakistan, both energy anti-theft drive have failed efficiency and conservation to control the power were generally treated as sector circular debt or the alien concepts.

The SVC FRIA noted that there was an urgent need for upgradation of energy efficiency and conservation standards and strict enforcement, besides replacement of inefficient appliances and consumer awareness for responsible use of energy were other key areas which should be identified for action as a national priority.

He estimated that a dollar outflow of around \$ 1.25 billion could be potentially saved annually through implementation of efficiency and conservation measures.



LAHORE: People are buying quilts from a flea item shop at Hospital Road in Provincial Capital.

Morgan Stanley to pay \$249 mn to settle US trading fraud charges

NEW YORK (AFP/APP):Morgan Stanley will pay \$249 million to settle civil and criminal charges connected to stock trades where it disclosed key information that it promised to confidential, keep US authorities announced Friday

The conduct concerns large equity trades in which Morgan Stanley trading staff between 2018 and 2021 leaked information to hedge funds, resulting in some \$72.5 million in improper profits, according to a US Department of Justice press release that announced a deferred prosecution agreement with the New York giant. Morgan Stanley also

reached a civil settlement with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Both agencies also charged Pawan Passi, the former head of its equity syndicate desk, with fraud. Passi faces a \$250,000 civil

penalty and reached a parallel prosecution agreement the with Department.

Morgan Stanley had marketed its processes as "less prone to leaks and therefore less risky" than those at other banks that offered similar services. according to a DOJ statement. "Contrary to these promises" of privacy, two Morgan Stanley trading staff members 'shared highly specific information ... with certain hedge funds.'

In one of the cases cited by the DOJ, the would-be seller of shares of Star Bulk Carriers canceled a plan for a sale in May 2021 after growing suspicious of leaks when the stock fell 6.8 percent, though peer companies did not experience losses.

The head of the desk lied, falsely assuring the seller that no Morgan Stanley employees.

to make more conducive entrepreneurs **RDA lodges FIRs** against four illegal housing schemes

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA), on the directives of the Director General (DG). Muhammad Saif Anwar Jappa, has lodged FIRs against four illegal housing schemes, said RDA spokesman on Saturday.

He informed that the Metropolitan Planning and Engineering (MP&TE) Directorate of RDA had lodged FIRs against the owners of four illegal housing schemes namely Malik Tariq, Qazi Naveed, Sharif Khan, Sajid Chaudhry, Sajid Munir, Sardar Maqsood Khan, Sardar Awais, Chaudhry Seemab and Yaoob in Mandra police station, Tehsil Gujar Khan.

He said that FIRs were lodged against illegal



He said that the MP&TE Directorate RDA was taking legal action against all the illegal advertisements marketing of illegal housing schemes

The spokesman said that without NoC and approval from RDA, launching a housing scheme, apartment project, commercial building, etc. within the controlled area



He informed that before lodging FIRs, the Authority had also issued notices to the illegal housing schemes.



ISLAMABAD: Farmers are busy in harvesting the animal feed at crop in Chak Shahzad area of the Federal Capital.

Hostel & Restaurant Association and Anjuman Tajiran Balochistan. **PAJCCI Coordinator** calls on Iranian **Consul General**

PESHAWAR (APP): Coordinator Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI), Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi here on Saturday called on Iranian Consul General in Peshawar, Ali Banafshekhah to express his grief and condolence over deadly Kerman bombings claiming precious

lives of scores of people. During the visit, Ziaul-Haq Sarhadi, who is also President of Abaseen Columnist Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, was accompanied by Imtiaz Ahmad Ali, Director

PAJCCI. Zia expressed his grief condemnation over terrorism incidents in Peshawar.

Kerman, a city of Islamic Republic of Iran, which claimed lives of more than 84 people and wounded

QUETTA: Central General Secretary Wali Afghan, Haji Aslam Tareen, Khan

Kakar, Haji Abdul Baqi, Rasheed Agha and Haji Essa Khan Tareen addressing

a meeting against gas bills and taxes jointly organized by All Balochistan

He said the people of Pakistan are sharing the grief and shock received by their Iranian brethren over this tragic incident and are standing with them shoulder to shoulder at this difficult time.He also expressed sympathy with bereaved families and prayed to Allah Almighty to grant courage to them to bear this irreparable loss.

Later, the PAJCCI Coordinator also wrote his condolence remarks regarding the Kerman bombings in memorial book at the Iranian Consulate in

Various uplift projects worth millions of rupees underway

developmental projects worth billions of rupees were in the completion stages across the district of Jhang. According to details, XEN Highways during a briefing on Saturday that all schemes of the road sector are in the final stage in the city. As per the XEN Highway detail briefing, the construction of roads around the general bus stand has been completed

JHANG (INP): In a UBL Chowk to Nawaz completed and a sewerage was constructed. Moreover work on asphalt was continued from UBI Chowk to Jail Road. Work on the second phase of Sabzimandi Road was continued. Moreover from Adhiwal Chowk to Adda Tonga and Milad Chowk carpet road was being constructed. Contractors had been directed to and tough tiles were complete all schemes within installed. While road from the given time, he added.

Establishment of Business **Facilitation** Centre to improve economic activities: **Commissioner**

MULTAN Commissioner Multan Division Aamir Khattak said that establishment of Business Facilitation Centre at Tehsil Office would surely help business promote activities by addressing concerns of business community.

During his visit at the Centre, the Commissioner remarked that economic stability was of vital importance for progress and prosperity of the He added that

Business Facilitation

Center will help remove

undue regulations and provide much needed relief to the business men. About 106 services under federal and provincial departments will

be provided to citizens. On this occasion, Director Development Robeena Kausar gave detailed briefing to the Commissioner Aamir Khattak. She remarked that the upgradation of Business Facilitation Centre was heading forward with fast pace.During his visit at the Centre, the Commissioner remarked that economic stability was of vital importance for progress and prosperity of the

Europe split over US, **UK strikes on Houthis** in Yemen

Monitoring Desk ROME: Italy, Spain and France stood out by not taking part in U.S. and British strikes against the Houthi group in Yemen and not signing a statement put out by 10 countries justi-

fying the attacks. The divergence highlights divisions in the West over how to deal with the Iranian-backed Houthis, who have been targeting civilian ships in the Red Sea for weeks in what they say is a protest against Israel's military campaign in the Gaza Strip.U.S. and British warplanes, ships and submarines launched dozens of air strikes across Yemen overnight in retalia-

ment in Washington, U.S.

Monitoring Desk

MEXICO CITY: Mexico's

package of constitutional

reforms early next month,

including measures to over-

haul the judiciary, elections

and pensions, four months

before voters head to the

polls. President Andres

Manuel Lopez Obrador's

term ends in September. By

law, Mexican presidents

Monitoring Desk

NEW YORK: More trav-

ellers are checking the model

of an aircraft before book-

ing flights after a midair

cabin blowout forced a new

Alaska Airlines-operated

Boeing jet to make an emer-

gency landing and grounded more than 170 planes, sev-

eral travel operators said.

off the left side of the 737

MAX 9 jetliner operated

by Alaska Airlines as it

climbed following takeoff

last Friday, forcing pilots to

turn back and land safely

with all 171 passengers and

grounded 171 737 MAX 9

Monitoring Desk

KYIV: British Prime Min-

ister Rishi Sunak visited

wartime Kyiv to sign a new

security agreement and an-

nounce an increase in mili-

tary funding for Ukraine to

buy drones, including sur-

veillance, long-range strike

Ukraine's closest allies

during the Russian inva-

sion, will increase its

support in the next finan-

cial year to 2.5 billion

pounds (\$3.19 billion),

an increase of 200 million

pounds on the previous

Britain, one of

and sea drones.

Regulators have since

planes for safety checks while Alaska and United the bone".

Britain's Sunak, in

Ukraine, announces

increase in military aid

six crew on board.

A piece of fuselage tore

can only serve one six-year to centralise.

Mexican president to

put lofty reforms on

agenda ahead of election

president will propose a not have the two-thirds su-

Boeing's blowout forces

travellers to check plane

model before trips

attacks on one of the busiest commercial shipping routes in the world.

The Netherlands, Australia, Canada and Bahrain provided logistical and intelligence support for the operation, U.S. officials said.

In addition, Germany, Denmark, New Zealand and South Korea signed a joint statement with these six nations defending the overnight attacks and warning of further action to protect the free flow of Red Sea trade if the Houthis did not

A source in Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's office said Italy had declined to sign the statement tance.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken meets with Chinese Communist Party

International Liaison Department Minister Liu Jianchao at the State Depart-

Obrador and his allies do

per majority in Congress

needed to change the con-

stitution, but analysts

speculate the reforms could

still shape the political de-

bate ahead of the June vote.

Since winning a landslide

election in 2018 on an anti-

establishment message,

Lopez Obrador has moved

Airlines, which together

have 70 per cent of the 737

MAX 9 fleet, have can-

celled hundreds of flights

been praised for swiftly land-

ing the plane, with only mi-

nor injuries to those on board.

But photos on social media

showing oxygen masks de-

ployed and a portion of the

aircraft's side wall missing,

as well as provisional checks

turning up loose bolts in

some grounded planes,

stirred concerns it would dent passenger confidence in

Boeing planes. Boeing CEO

Dave Calhoun on Tuesday

acknowledged mistakes and

told staff he and many cus-

tomers had been "shaken to

The Alaska crew have

tion for the repeated Houthi and as a result was not asked to participate in the attacks. However, a government source said Italy had been asked to take part but declined for two reasonsfirstly because any Italian involvement would have needed parliamentary approval, which would have taken time, and secondly because Rome preferred to pursue a "calming" policy in the Red Sea.

Hours later, a govern ment statement added that "Italy supports the operations of allied countries. who have the right to defend their vessels, in the interest of global trade flows and humanitarian assis-

Massive protest

in Sanaa after

US, UK strikes

on Yemen rebels

Monitoring Desk

SANAA: Hundreds of

thousands of people, some

carrying Kalashnikov rifles,

massed for a major demon-

stration in Yemen's rebel-

held capital Sanaa on Friday after US and UK at-

Yemen and Palestinian flags

chanted "Death to America,

death to Israel" as they

massed in the giant Sanaa

square in the historic city's

Huthi rebels, who seized

Sanaa in 2014 and have been

at war with a Saudi-led coa-

lition, came under heavy

bombardment overnight

with a series of military tar-

strations have been a regu-

lar occurrence since the Is-

rael-Hamas war flared in

October, but Friday's pro-

test was particularly pas-

lies decide to declare open

war on us, we're ready for

it and we won't have any

choice but to bring victory

or fall as martyrs.

'If America and its al-

Large-scale demon-

The Iran-backed

Crowds under a sea of



trial to hear a request for emergency measures by South Africa, who asked the court to order Israel to stop its military actions in Gaza and to desist from what South Africa says are genocidal acts committed against Palestinians during the war with Hamas in Gaza, in The Hague, Netherlands.

UN decries systematic blocking of aid to north Gaza hospitals

Monitoring Desk

GENEVA: Israel is consistently blocking humanitarian convoys into northern Gaza, making it increasingly difficult to bring desperatelyneeded fuel and other aid to hospitals there, the United

After planning aid missions to the north, UN agencies said their convoys were subjected to slow and unpredictable inspections and then a near-systematic checkpoints.

refusal from the Israeli side "Operations in the

north (are) increasingly more complicated," Andrea De Domenico, head of the UN aid agency OCHA's office in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Speaking from Jerusalem to a virtual press briefing, he described how detailed coordination was required with a network of

EU weighs proposal to send naval mission to Red Sea

Monitoring Desk BRUSSELS: The European

Union will discuss next week a plan to set up a naval mission to help protect Red Sea shipping, diplomats said.

The proposal _ in the pipeline in Brussels for several weeks _ was mooted before US and British forces struck Yemen early on Friday

Any EU effort would seek to complement a USled coalition, which includes numerous countries from the bloc, which is already operating in the vital shipping route.

The details of the size and scope of any EU mission remain to be hammered out and European diplo-

mats said a first discussion would take place in Brus sels on Tuesday. Spain said on Friday

that it would not take part in any EU naval mission in

Its defence minister, Margarita Robles, said that Spain's position on this subject has always been clear". The EU last year initially mulled a plan to expand its Atalanta mission focused on protecting shipping off Somalia, but that move was blocked by Spain. Madrid gave no official reason, but Spanish media reported that domestic politics was behind the refusal, with a hard-left partner in Spain's govern-

ing coalition.

day of war

pounded Gaza on Saturday as the Palestinian territory suffered under a dire humanitarian situation and grappled with a telecommunications blackout on the 99th day of the war.

Saturday.

ex-Prime Minster Jacinda Ardern weds

WELLINGTON: New Minister Jacinda Ardern married her longtime partner Clarke Gayford in a private ceremony on Saturday, finally tying the knot after cancelling ceremonies during strict COVID-19 controls she imposed on the

Ardern, 43, and Gayford, 47, got engaged in May 2019 and were meant to be married in early 2022. but the ceremony was cancelled due to her "go hard go early" approach to the pandemic, which allowed New Zealand to keep

Israel pounds Gaza on 99th

Monitoring Desk GAZA STRIP: Israel

Fears of the conflict widening have grown af-ter US and British forces struck pro-Hamas Huthi rebels in Yemen following attacks on Red Sea shipping, with a fresh US air strike confirmed

New Zealand

longtime partner Monitoring Desk

Zealand's former Prime



SANAA: Houthi supporters rally against air strikes launched by the US and

Somali president's son reportedly testifies in Turkey as he is accused of killing motorcyclist

Monitoring Desk ISTANBUL: The son of Somalia's president testified at an Istanbul court about the death of a motorcycle courier in the city, Turkish media re-

"Our opponents around the world believe An arrest warrant had been issued for that we have neither the Mohammed Hassan patience nor resources for Sheikh Mohamud after a diplomatic car he was So waver now, and driving allegedly hit we embolden not just Yunus Emre Gocer, 38, on Putin, but his allies in a highway in Istanbul on North Korea, Iran and else-Nov. 30. Gocer died in a where," Sunak told a press hospital six days later, by which time Mohamud had His trip comes at an important juncture for

left Turkey. Turkish Justice Minister Yilmaz Tunc said last month that he infighting in the United had discussed the case with his Somalian coun-Union has held up two terpart to arrange Mohamud's return.

Ecuador's Noboa seeks tax hike to fund security, as families of hostages protest Noboa's plans to tackle a **Monitoring Desk**

QUITO: The administration of Ecuadorean President Daniel Noboa has asked lawmakers to weigh an increase in value added tax (VAT) to finance efforts to combat crime gangs, as the armed forces increased operations in violent areas. A dramatic spike in violence this week - including the onair storming of a TV station, the hostage-taking of 178 prison staff by inmates dire security situation, the government has said. Noboa, who took office in November, has declared a state of emergency and named 22 gangs as "terrorist" organisations.

A total of eight prison staff have been released since late on Thursday, prisons agency SNAI said in a statement on Friday.

Three were being held in Azuay prison in Cuenca, and the kidnapping of police officers - appears to be a response by gangs to where 21 hostages have also been attended to by the Red Cross.

North Korea to welcome Russian tourists in February, the country's first since the pandemic

Monitoring Desk

SEOUL: Russian tourists reportedly going on a ski trip to North Korea will be the first international travelers to visit the country since border closings in January 2020 amid the global pandemic lockdown.

The tour, published by the Russian state-run Tass news agency and advertised by a Russian tour agency this week, underscores deepening cooperation between Moscow and Pyongyang. It follows the meeting last September between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Russian President Vladimir Putin at a cosmodrome in Russia's

The trip scheduled for February was a surprise to Asia observers, who had expected the first post-pandemic tourists to North Korea to come from China. the North's biggest diplomatic ally and economic

The webpage of the tour agency, Vostok Intur, says the four-day trip is to start on Feb. 9.

pipeline.

According to a Tass report Wednesday, an unspecified number of tourists from Russia's far east-ern region of Primorye will first fly to the North Korean capital, Pyongyang, where they will visit monuments such as the "Tower of Juche Idea.

North Korea halts radio broadcasts, curbs exchanges with South

Monitoring Desk SEOUL: North Korea stopped operating a radio station used to send coded messages to its agents in South Korea, the Yonhap news agency said on Saturday, the latest sign the isolated country is shaking up the way it handles relations with Seoul. North Korea has been stepping up pressure on Seoul in recent weeks, declaring it the "principal enemy", saying the North will never reunite with the South and vowing to enhance its ability to deliver a nuclear strike on the US and America's allies in the Pacific.

Poland to change process for judges' nominations

Monitoring Desk WARSAW: Polish Justice

Minister Adam Bodnar outlined a bill that aims to correct the way judges are appointed as a first step in rolling back the previnationalist government's judicial reforms with a view to un-

freezing EU funds. The former Law and ment had for years been

Justice (PiS) party governstuck in a row with Brussels over its court reforms and the rule of law, resulting in billions of European Union's funds for Poland being frozen.

Beijing wants closer ties with Europe, says Xi

ing to strengthen relations with Europe, President Xi Jinping said, at a meeting with Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo in

De Croo arrived in China on Thursday, attending the inauguration of the new Belgian embassy in Beijing and meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the same day.

China is willing to work with the European Union to promote steady progress in China-EU relations in the new year," Xi told De Croo when the two men met on Friday at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, according to a readout by state broadcaster

"In the face of the cha-

bridges between China and Europe," Xi said, adding that the two sides should "jointly promote world peace, stability and pros-

Beijing and the EU are major trade partners but the bloc has recently signalled a desire to reduce reliance on China in technology and

other areas.
The EU has launched an enquiry into China's subsidies for homegrown EV makers after accusations that their cheap products undercut European competitors - claims denied by Beijing.

And deteriorating ties between China and the West in recent years have given rise to concerns in Brussels over the potential vulnerabilities posed by AI, misinformation, and data security.

S. Arabia in 'tight spot' as West takes on Houthis

Monitoring Desk RIYADH: The US and British strikes in Yemen have set off alarm bells in Saudi Arabia, which craves de-escalation in its war-torn neighbour so it can focus on domestic reforms, analysts said.

Explosions lit up the night sky early on Friday as the United States and Britain pounded scores of targets with more than 100 precision-guided munitions. The strikes came in re-

sponse to weeks of attacks on Red Sea shipping by the Houthis, who control northern Yemen and say they are firing on Israel-linked ships in solidarity with Palestin-

ins in Gaza.

Saudi Arabia has led
an anti-Houthi coalition
since 2015 — launching
thousands of air strikes of its own against the Houthis over the years — but is now angling for a ceasefire and military exit from the Arabian Peninsula's poor-

US and British strikes was still coming into focus before dawn on Friday, the Saudi foreign ministry published a statement expressing "great concern" and calling for "self-restraint and avoiding escalation".

Anna Jacobs, senior Gulf analyst for the International Crisis Group think tank, said Saudi Arabia found itself "in a tight

"They are balancing record-low public opinion about the US and Israel with their security concerns about the Red Sea and their desire to deter further Houthi attacks," she said. Hamas's unprec-

edented raid in Israel on Oct 7 and Israel's withering military response have scuppered Saudi Arabia's hopes for sustained peace in the region, which officials see as crucial for Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's sweeping Vision 2030 agenda for economic Even as the scale of the and social reform.

Opposing visions clash in Taiwan's election as China looms large

NEW TAIPEI: Hundreds of thousands of people attended final pre-election rallies in Taiwan ahead of critical presidential and parliamentary polls that China has warned could take the island closer to war.

Taiwan, neighbouring island China claims as its own, is separated by a narrow 180kilometre strait from China and is a major producer of vital semiconductors.

Vice President Lai Ching-te, the front-runner candidate of the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), paints the election as a choice between 'democracy and autocracy' - criticising his main opponent Hou Yu-ih of the Kuomintang (KMT) for

being too "pro-China" After I get elected as the president, I will continue to take the path of democracy and peace. I will stand with the international camp of freedom and democracy. What's more, I will forever stand with Taiwan's people," he said.

and-blue-clad supporters to kick out the DPP, which has been in power for eight years. "This is a choice between war and peace... If Lai Ching-te is elected, the Taiwan Strait is very likely to fall into unrest," said

"Don't say that we are pro-China," said supporter Minai at Hou's final rally. "We just want the peaceful co-existence of both sides... I don't want there to be a war."

China, which has never renounced the use of force to bring Taiwan under its control, has framed the elections as a choice between "peace and war", calling the DPP dangerous separatists and urging Taiwanese to make the "right choice". In the run-up to Saturday's election, China repeatedly denounced Mr Lai and rebuffed repeated calls from him for talks. China's defence ministry, responding to a question earlier on Friday on Taiwan's air force upgrading F-16 fighter jets and buying more from the United States.

El Nino can make 2024 hotter than recordshattering 2023

Monitoring Desk GENEVA: The year of

2024 could be hotter under El Nino's influence than the record-shattering 2023, the United Nations warned, as it urged drastic emissions cuts to combat climate The UN's World Me-

teorological Organisation said new monthly temperature records were set every month between June and December, and the pattern is likely to continue due to the warming El Nino weather phenomenon.

The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) predicted there is a one in three chance that 2024 will be warmer than 2023 — and a 99 per cent certainty that 2024 will rank among the five warmest years ever.

The UN's WMO weather and climate agency said July and August last year were the two hottest months ever recorded, as it officially confirmed 2023 had been the warmest year on

record "by a huge margin".
The WMO said the 2023 annual average global temperature was 1.45 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels (1850-1900). The 2015 Paris climate accords aimed to limit

low two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels
— and 1.5C if possible.

The WMO's new secretary-general Celeste Saulo warned that El Nino, thick present in 12022 which emerged mid-2023.

global warming to well be-

is likely to turn up the heat even further in 2024. The naturally occurring climate pattern, typically associated with increased heat worldwide, usually increases global temperatures in the year

after it develops.
"The shift from cooling La Nina to warming El Nino by the middle of 2023 is clearly reflected in the rise in temperature," she said. "Given that El Nino

usually has the biggest impact on global temperatures after it peaks, 2024 could be even hotter.'



Kyiv in the nearly two-

year-old war as political

States and European

major packages of assis-

A man carries away an injured girl following an Israeli strike on the Bureij refugee camp, in Gaza Strip.

AJK PM seeks int'l community's role to help resolve Kashmir issue without further delay

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, while voicing his serious concern over the worsening political and human rights situation in the Indian-illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) state, urged upon the international community to play its due role to help resolve the lingering dispute without further loss of time.

'The much-delayed global Kashmir conflict has been the main cause and consequence of rights violations in the region," the AJK Prime Minister said while talking to the AJK Muslim Conference chief former Prime Minister of erent military occupation AJ&K Sardar Atique nor do they accept the bi-

Ahmed Khan, who called on him at Jammu Kashmir House in the federal metropolis late Friday.

Speaking on the occasion, the PM said that the situation in IIOJK has further deteriorated since the Modi government stripped the region of its special stagovernment's unilateral move, he said, was in viola-tion of the UNSC resolu-

He said that the Indian Supreme Court's verdict on 370 has further compounded the issue of Kash-

The PM said that the Kashmiri people have neither accepted India's bellig-

ased verdict of the Indian Supreme Court. He said that the government of Azad Kashmir would utilize all available resources to promote the Kashmiris' just cause at the international level, besides sensitizing the world about the early resolution of the Kashmir issue in line with the UNSC resolutions.

Referring to the recently held conference in Kotli, the PM said that the massive gathering held in support of Kashmiris' right to self-determination was organized against the backdrop of the All Parties Kashmir Conference, which was attended by the representatives of all the political parties of Azad Kashmir and the All Parties

Akhtar Iqbal Dar has

stated that his party has

not issued any tickets to

election candidates from

the Pakistan Tehreek-e-

Insaf (PTI), adding that

they submitted fake tick-

ference at the Lahore

Press Club, Dar said that

rumours were circulating

from 12 o'clock that PTI-

Nazriati had issued tick-

there were reports that as

ets to PTI candidates.

Nazriati.

PTI-N tickets.

During a press con-

Hurrivat Conference (APHC). Anwaar said that be-

sides highlighting the Kashmir cause, the government had stepped up its efforts to establish good gover-nance and rule of law in the state. He said that the welfare of people was among the government's top pri-

Former Prime Minister Sardar Atique Ahmed Khan assured the PM of his party's full support to strengthen Kashmir's ongoing freedom struggle. He also appreciated the

good governance initiatives taken by the Prime Minis-



LAHORE: Activists of Civil Society holds protest in the support of oppressed Muslims of Ghaza, outside Press club in Provincial Capital.

Counsel for PTI levels grave allegation against CJP,

The CJP however re-Zafar counsel for PTI re-

Supreme Court (SC) presided over by CJP Qazi Faea Isa took up Election Commission (EC) appeal plea against Peshawar High Court (PHC) decision.

During the hearing of the case the CJP said to counsel Ali Zafar why he or Hamid Khan was not nominated in intra party election case. All new people have come in PTI. Where old people have gone. When new people came all of a sudden then can it be so party has been

about it how the new faces came. You can say any thing. I have been appearing before you since three He alleged CJP that his

son came to him to give interview for the post of law clerk and he asked questions about PTI from him. I know why it is being done with me. The CJP while ex-

pressing annoyance said to Ali Zafar should we issue notice to him.

Ali Zafar said I regret in his place.

The CJP remarked live broadcast is going on. Son of Niaz Ullah Niazi has never come to him for interview. We ask questions to understand. We don't hear case if such attitude has to be kept.

However interval was announced after the coun-

Ali Zafar regrets ISLAMABAD (Online): sel Niaz Ullah Niazi said to CJP he should not talk Niaz Ullah Niazi counsel for PTI has leveled grave allegation against Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa during live broad-

futed the allegation and Ali gretted over it. A 3-member bench of

grabbed politically. In the mean time Counsel Ali Zafar regretted.

SFA, BFA to work together for better health of their respective public: DG SFA

Independent Report KARACHI: Director General Sindh Food Authority Agha Fakhar Hussain has said that in each technical field training is a must for capacity building of the staff and hopefully the technical staff of Baluchistan Food Authority will definitely utilize their training for bet-

part of Plan B, the PTI ter performance of BFA. has instructed its candi-This he said as a chief dates to submit tickets guest while giving away with the symbol of the certificates at concluding "batsman" which is the ceremony of three day electoral symbol of its training workshop at Food splinter group, the PTI-Sciences and Technology Department Karachi Uni-Dar clarified that

these were fake tickets It is to mention here and questioned where that Sindh Food Authority PTI candidates got the

has hosted Phase -1 Training Program for Provincial Food Authorities Sindh and Baluchistan specifically for Laboratory Technical Officials in oil and fats, milk and dairy ,spices, water physicochemical and microbiological test parameters (on Advance and classical traditional procedures). He said that both authorities would jointly work together for the betterment of

their public health within their jurisdictions. DG SFA Agha Fakhar Hussain as-

sured that such training programs would continue in future as well to enhance the potential of the technical staff of SFA and BFA.

Parvez Elahi out of election race, wife gets go-ahead for polls

LAHORE (INP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) has rejected Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) President Parvez Elahi's plea against the rejection of his nomination papers, however, his wife Qaisara was granted permission to contest the February 8 general elections from two con-

A three-member bench headed by Justice Ali Bagar Najafi issued the verdict on pleas filed by the embattled party's president and his wife challenging the appellate tribunal's and returning officer's (RO) decisions.

The high court upheld the verdicts given by the RO and appellate tribunal regarding the rejection of Elahi's nomination papers from NA-64 and PP-32.

Additionally, the LHC full bench also rejected Moonis Elahi's appeal against the rejection of his nominations from NA-64, NA-69, PP-32, and PP-34.

However, Qaisara's nomination papers from NA-64 and PP-32 have been accepted for contesting the forthcoming general

ECP warns candidates seeking symbol of other party of consequences

ISLAMABAD (APP): member of more than one party simultaneously. The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Saturday warned candidates, who were members of one political party and were seeking allocation of symbol of other political party, Election Act, 2017, the of consequences. "In exer-ECP stated that "candicise of powers, conferred upon the Commission under section 4 of the Election Act, 2017, the Commission hereby direct that no symbol of any political party be allocated to any such candidate who is member of one political party and seek allocation of symbol of other political party." The bench headed by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja and including members Nisar Ahmed Durrani, Shah Muhammad in their nomination papers' Jatoi, Babar Hassan Bharwana, and Justice affidavits". Referring to the

of the direction of Apex The ECP observed that in accordance with the Election Act 2017, a candidate providing a party affiliation certificate could not be a

(Retd) Ikram Ullah Khan also directed the ROs to

reject all such applications

proceeding strictly in accor-

dance with law and in term

Emphasizing adherence to legal procedures, the Commission referred to the Supreme Court's decision in the Habib Akram case. Referring to section 66 of the

dates who submit incomplete nomination papers, especially those omitting the required affidavit, will face rejection" The ECP also noted that it had received a multitude of applications from candidates, raising concerns about manipulation of the system, deception, and potential violations of electoral laws, and warned the candidates of "consequences for false statements

Supreme Court's direction, Commission said,"Misrepresentation is clearly defined in the Constitution and law. Misrepresentation in nomination papers equals misrepresentation before the Supreme Court, with candidates facing the same consequences as making false statements before the highest judicial authority.



QUETTA: Balochistan Awami Party leaders, Malik Khuda Bakhsh along with others addresses to media persons during press conference held at Quetta press club

Paramedical schools of Balochistan to be recognized with AHC Pakistan

Independent Report QUETTA: The paramedi-

cal schools operating in Balochistan would be recognized with the Allied Health Council Pakistan.

The decision to this effect was made in the meeting of the Secretary Allied Health Council Ibrar Rafiq with the Secretary Health, Abdullah Khan here on Sat-

Also present in the me were the Additional Secretary Health, Abdul Hameed Zehri, Chief Planning Officer, Abdul Rasool Žehri, Divisional Director Quetta, Dr. Lubna, Assistant Sec-

retary Balochistan Medical Faculty Board, Asad Ali and other concerned offi-

It was also decided to upgrade the Medical Faculty Examination Board to Allied Examination Board besides giving status of college to the Multipurpose School

Addressing the meeting, Secretary said that the courses would be increased for upgrading the Multipurpose School as College.

He stressed the need to promote the allied health professional services in the province.

Four terrorists killed in separate KP operations

.AWĀLPINDI (INP): Four terrorists were killed by security forces in two operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as the country continues its fight against terrorism.

In a statement, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said that an intelligence-based operation (IBO) was conducted in Mir Ali, North Waziristan district.

During the operation, after an intense exchange of fire, high-value terrorist commander Tabassum alias "Qadarman" along with another militant Sajid alias "Sarkandi", was sent to hell by the security

Meanwhile, two wanted militants were gunned down in another joint operation conducted by the security forces and police in Dera Ismail Khan district's Kulachi area.

"Weapons, ammunition, and explosives were also recovered from the killed terrorists, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against security forces as well as extortion and target killings of innocent ci-

Trauma Center Quetta: Managing Director year in the Trauma Center. **Independent Report** QUETTA: A total of

29,177 patients treated in

provided medical treatment during year 2023 in the Trauma Center adjacent to the Sandeman Provincial Headquarter Hospital Quetta

Out of these total patients, 2,760 patients were admitted in the Trauma Center and surgeries of 5.088 patients were performed there. Similarly, 25,511 X-

Rays, 1,482 ultrasound, 60,828 laboratory tests and 18,594 CT scans were also conducted during the last the Trauma Center.

In addition to this, 29,177 patients have been blood transfusion was also done in 2,434 patients in the Trauma Center.

These details were shared in an official statement issued here on Satur-

According to the MD Trauma Center, we are extending best medical treatment facilities to the patients at the Center free of cost. He said that we would not leave any stone unturned in provision of quality medical services to the patients approaching

Five brothers from Gujrat contest polls against each other in elections 2024

brothers from the same district, Gujrat, will contest polls against each other in the general elections 2024.
The eldest brother,

Chaudhry Abid Raza, will contest for the National Assembly seat, while the other four brothers will fight for the provincial assembly

Chaudhry Shabbir

GUJRAT (INP): Five Raza, Chaudhry Naeem, and Chaudhry Shahid will contest the polls against each other for the Punjab Assembly constituency PP-28. Meanwhile,

Chaudhry Muhammad Ali will be the contesting candidate of the PMLN for PP-33. Chaudhry Shabbir Raza is the ticket holder for PMLN, while Chaudhry Naeem Raza is from PMLQ.



ZHOB: Commissioner Zhob Division Tariq-ur-Rehman presenting a memorial shield to Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan No tickets Asghar Achakzai says Implementation on issued to PTI candidates: party's manifesto to be **PTI-N** chief ensured if voted to power LAHORE (INP) – PTI-Chairman

Independent Report QUETTA: The Provincial President of Awami National Party (ANP) Asghar Khan Achakzai has stated that implementation on the party's manifesto would be ensured regarding provision of basic human needs if the people voted the party to power in next elections. He also vowed to complete all

incomplete after coming in ity to complete the projects if people reposed conference on the party in

Chaman. The ANP leader and candidate for PB-51, Chaman was addressing different party events and programmes in Chaman on

The events he participated and addressed were

Khushhal in Murda Karez Chaman, ulasi campaign at residence of late Noor Muhammad Kakar, inauguration of election office at the bypass, joining cer-emony at Tozi Karez, address to the party workers at residence of Haji Talib in Killi Taki, workers convention at residence of Abdul Ali Khan in Sanzala Karez.

The people belonging

Asghar Khan Achakzai transparent elections in the

They said that the

the projects which remain

to a religious party includ-ing Haji Abdullah, Abdul Ghaffar and Muhammad Aslam announced to join

and other speakers said that it is responsibility of the caretaker government and Election Commission to conduct free, fair and

party is contesting elections believing in the power

included ulasi jirga at residence of Abdul Nafey of masses



LAHORE: Former Finance Minister of Pakistan Miftah Ismail addressing during the Think Tank Seminar "Do We Need a New Social Contract" at Al-Hamra Arts Council in Provincial Capital

QWP opposes elections postponement

PESHAWAR (APP): Op- the political parties should posing the calls for delaying the polls, Qaumi Watan economy and improve the Party (QWP) Chairman Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao on Saturday said that the general election must be held on its scheduled date to enable the people to elect their representatives

Speaking at a gathering of party workers in Sherpao village in Charsadda district, he opposed postponing the elections on the pretext of deteriorating law and order and harsh weather, adding that this would further complicate the situation.

He maintained that elections were the only way to bring political and economic stability to the Aftab Sherpao said the

political parties should join hands to help steer the country out of the prevailing crises.

He said after the polls.

work together to revive the worsening law and order. Aftab Sherpao urged the people to use their right to vote in order to send their representatives to the assemblies so that they could work for the uplift of their areas. "We will spare no effort to serve the people, he vowed. He said his party had always served

Pakhtunkhwa province. Aftab Sherpao said the voters must not fall for catchy slogans and empty pledges as opportunists were once again out to de-

the people as it believed in

working for the develop-

ment of the Khyber

ceive them. He advised the voters to check the track record of the candidates before voting for them. He said that nobody cared to raise voice for the rights of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa facing financial crunch.

FBR to suspend SIMs of non-filers across Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): Following the latest condition of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Federal Bureau of Revenue (FBR) is set to launch a nationwide crackdown against non-filers.

The FBR officials have issued final notices to hundreds of thousands of nonfilers and warned them of severe consequences including disconnecting electric, gas, and mobile sim suspension from January 15, 2024. Sources revealed that a total of 145 district tax officers have been granted 'special powers' across the country to bring

tax net this financial year. Sources claimed that the FBR will initiate stringent action against those who fail to comply with tax obligations.

part of a broader strategy

to boost tax compliance in

in 1.5 million people in the

The IMF's move to issue notices to hundreds of thousands of non-filers is

against Nawaz Sharif's nomination papers LAHORE (INP): The Nawaz Sharif on the Lahore High Court on Saturday dismissed a petition

LHC dismisses petition

against rejection of appeal against approval of Nawaz Sharif's nomination papers from NA-130. A three-member bench of the high court headed by Justice Ali Baqar Najafi

The petition was filed by Pakistan Awami Mahaz chief Advocate Ishtiaq Chaudhry. He had challenged acceptance of the nomination papers of

grounds of his lifetime disqualification from the Supreme Court in the Panama The Supreme Court has

already given its verdict

over the eligibility, court observed. According to petition heard the petition against Appellate Tribunal's deci-

the tribunal dismissed the appeal against Nawaz Sharif's nomination papers in contravention to the facts of the case. "Nawaz Sharif has been disqualified for life and could not contest the election," petitioner argued.

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