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Vows to deal with terrorists with full might No one will be allowed to sabotage elections: Military top brass

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir on Wednesday said that Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity were sacrosanct and inviolable.

"Pakistan believes in peaceful co-existence with all states, however, there would never be any compromise over country's sovereignty, national honour and aspirations of Pakistani people," he said while chairing the 262nd Corps Commanders' Conference (CCC) at the General Headquarters.

According to an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, the forum paid rich tribute to the supreme sacrifices of Shuhada (martyrs), including officers and men of the Armed Forces, law enforcement agencies and the

citizens who have laid their lives for ensuring peace and stability in the country.

The forum resolved that terrorists, their facilitators and abettors, working on behalf of hostile forces to destabilise Pakistan, would be dealt with full might of the state. The conference was briefed on the callous Indian campaign of extra-territorial and extra-judicial killings, perpetuating state-sponsored terrorism and targeting Pakistani citizens. It agreed that blatant violation of international laws by India and its real face

is exposed to the world. The international community has already shown serious concerns over the criminal behaviour of India and its use of state apparatus for killing spree around the world," the forum noted.



ISLAMABAD: Advisor to PM on Aviation Air Marshal (R) Farhat Hussain Khan called on caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Nothing educates & illuminates better than cinema: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Wednesday underlined the need for promoting cinemas in the country to foster cultural values of tolerance and harmony in the society.

Addressing the screening ceremony of a Kazakh movie at the Pakistan National Council of Arts, he said, "Nothing impresses,

educates and illuminates better than cinema. Probably hundreds of high-pitch, hyperbolic and hyper ventilating speeches cannot educate you like this movie, I am sure, can educate and sensitize you better."

He expressed gratitude to the ambassador of Kazakhstan in Pakistan and Caretaker Minister for Culture and Heritage Jamal Shah for inviting him to speak on the screening of "Kazakh Khanate".

Maryam continues to fire salvos at Imran

NAROWAL (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Senior Vice President and chief organiser Maryam Nawaz on Wednesday took jibe at the embattled PTI founder who, she said, spread evil in the country.

Speaking to constituents in Narowal, she applauded the large crowd that gathered over there. She said she was eagerly waiting for her visit to Narowal.

She said many conspiracies were hatched against



him.

She claimed, "One by one all the enemies of Nawaz Sharif are getting exposed as today people see all cases against the PML-N supreme as just conspiracies to keep him out of power."

Speaking about Bushra Bibi, she said she was not elated about the arrest of the former premier's wife. She, however, recalled the time when she had spent time in prison emphasising she too was someone's wife.

"The PML-N has not seen as much relief as they (PTI) are getting from courts today," she claimed.

Tosha khana case judgement proved: no one is above law, says Jan Achakzai

Independent Report

Jan Achakzai maintained that we welcome the judgment of court and said that the judgment has proved that no one can get away with abusing the trust of people. The caretaker Minister for Information also said that PTI founder has the option of relief i.e., appeal against the judgment, but the law has taken its course.

He said that no country can progress until provision of justice is ensured.



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir chairing the 262nd Corps Commanders' Conference (CCC) at the General Headquarters.

Toshakhana reference: Imran, Bushra sentenced to 14 years

Both barred from holding public office for 10 years, fined Rs787m each; Bushra Bibi 'put under house arrest' as Bani Gala declared sub-jail

RAWALPINDI (Online): Judge Muhammad Bashir of Accountability Court (AC) Islamabad has awarded 14 years Rigorous Imprisonment (RI) each to Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi and fined Rs787 million each in Toshakhana reference.

The accused have been declared disqualified for holding any public office for 10 years. Under NAB ordinance the two accused will not be able to make any financial dealing with any bank or financial institution.

On reaching jail Bushra Bibi was arrested under court's decision.

NAB deputy prosecutor General Sardar Muzaffar Abbasi was present in the court along

with his team. The court ordered at the inception of hearing the two accused be called in the court. Jail authorities presented both the accused in court.

The court while addressing Imran Khan inquired Khan Sahb have you prepared statement under 342. Imran Khan replied yes he has prepared. But first let my lawyers and Bushra Begum come. I will file my statement. The court said you should file your statement in the court as we have to move ahead IN the proceedings.

Upon it former Prime Minister said why the court is in haste. Islamabad High Court has already rejected our plea for stay order. I have been called by assistant su-

perintendent jail for marking my attendance.

The PTI founder left for his barrack after saying this.

The court sent message for calling Imran Khan again.

Assistant Superintendent Jail told the court Imran Khan is not ready to come to court. The court after some time, decided to announce the verdict.

Meanwhile Bushra Bibi wife of PTI founder Imran Khan has presented herself for arrest in Toshakhana case. Following the announcement of awarding sentence to Bushra Bibi and Imran Khan in Tosha Khana case, wife of PTI founder decided to present herself for arrest in Adiala Jail.

She reached Adiala jail

and presented herself for arrest. Women police arrested her. Earlier in the day, Accountability Judge Mohammad Bashir sentenced the former prime minister Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi to 14 years in jail in the Toshakhana case.

The PTI founder has also been disqualified for 10 years while a fine of Rs1.573 billion has also been imposed on the couple.

During the hearing of the case the court recorded statement of Bushra Bibi under 342 in regard to questionnaire containing 25 questions.

The lawyers for Imran Khan had filed petition to court to restore the right to cross question.

We don't want to give such order which causes delay in election: SC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) during the hearing of the case related to acceptance of nomination papers has remarked we don't want to give such order which causes delay in the election.

Appeal of candidate from PP-224 regarding acceptance of his nomination papers came up for hearing before single bench of SC led by Justice Jamal Mandokhel here Wednesday.

Special secretary Election Commission (EC) appeared in the court.

The court remarked during the hearing of the case petitioner filed appeal late by 12 days. Permission for election could have been given had the appeal been filed in time. We don't want to give such decision which causes delay in the election. Justice Jamal ques-

tioned from special secretary why the EC has kept schedule for small period. EC should have known that appeals have to be filed.

Special secretary EC told the court if nomination papers are accepted at this stage then the election can delay in the constituency. The process of printing of ballot papers has been completed. In several districts the process of sending ballot papers is underway.

Special secretary told the SC 260 million ballot papers have been printed for 850 constituencies, 850 tons paper was sought for the previous election and 2170 tons paper has been sought for this election. 2400 tons paper was needed being the candidates in large number. The size of ballot papers has been reduced to meet the need of paper.



Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is addressing the election rally of Pakistan People's Party in Malakand district.

CM seeks report of different subversive acts; directs to improve security arrangements further

Independent Report

timely action taken by the law enforcement agencies in response to these incidents.

He said that all the institutions are active to foil every conspiracy of sabotaging national process of general elections in Balochistan.

He also said that all resources are being mobilized for restoration of peace.

He asserted that no conspiracy of keeping the people away from the election process would succeed at all and all available resources would be mobilized for protection of life and property of the people.

He urged the masses to take wholehearted part in the election process and thus elect their representatives through democratic procedure.

He also appreciated the

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has sought report of different incidents of terrorism at the election offices of political leaders and public places in different areas of the province.

The caretaker Chief Minister directed to the Provincial Home Department to improve security arrangements further.

While taking notice of the incidents of terrorism in different areas of the province, the caretaker Chief Minister directed to the Chief Secretary Balochistan and Home Department to prepare effective security strategy.

He also appreciated the



KHARAN: President Balochistan National Party Sardar Akhtar Jan Mengal addressing a public meeting in connection with general elections

Bilawal vows to bury old politics of revenge, divisiveness

MALAKAND (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Wednesday resolved to start a process of reconciliation in the country by burying 'old politics of revenge, divisiveness and hatred' if his party is voted to power in Feb 8 elections.

Bilawal said the former PTI chairman used to call the political opponents thieves, adding that if the people attached to the PTI founder were "angels".

Addressing an election rally in Malakand, the former foreign minister hit out at Pakistan Tehreek-e-

Mangochar area of Kalat the same afternoon.

The explosive device went off just close to the election office. However, no loss of life was reported in the explosion.

Moreover, the residence of PPP candidate Mir Zahir Buledi also came under attack of hand grenade in Buledi area of Kech the same day. While the device went off with the big bang, no loss of life was reported in the incident.

Those injured in the explosion are stated to be the workers of PPP.

Similarly, a hand grenade was also hurled at the PPP election office in



QUETTA: Balochistan Caretaker Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali addressing a consultation on gender issue organized by National Commission on the Status of Women.

NCSW holds pre-NCSW 68 consultation with provincial stakeholders: Zubair Jamali reiterates interim Govt's resolve to empower women economically

Chairperson NCSW Ms Nilofar Bakhtiar says females are deprived of fundamental rights of equal opportunities for education, health, and economic growth

Independent Report

mission in CSW68 to be held this year from March 11th to 22nd on the theme: "Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective."

He thanked the Chairperson Balochistan Commission on Status of Women and all United Nations partners including UN-Women, UNICEF, UNDP and others for extending cooperation to empower the womenfolk economically.

The Provincial Minister was speaking at the ceremony organized in collaboration with the National Commission on Status of Women (NCSW) here on Wednesday.

The Chairperson NCSW, Ms Nilofar Bakhtiar was also present on the occasion.

The consultation was held with provincial stakeholders in Quetta on the preparation of the National report on "Need Analysis for financing and strengthening institutions with a gender perspective for empowerment of Women and girls".

This report is aimed to be presented by the com-

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QUETTA: IGFC Balochistan (North), Major General Chaudhry Amir Ajmal along with officers and soldiers of FC Balochistan and Pakistan Army paid their final respects to the Martyrs of Mach and Kolpur, at Headquarters FC Balochistan (North) in Quetta.

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PPP election offices, candidates attacked with hand grenades in Quetta, Kech and Mangochar

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QUETTA: The election offices of Pakistan Peoples' party (PPP) were attacked with hand grenades by unknown assailants in Quetta, Mangochar area of Kalat and Buledi area of Kech on Wednesday.

According to the reports, five persons were injured when some unknown assailants hurled a hand grenade at the election office of PPP located on Sariab road.

Those injured in the explosion are stated to be the workers of PPP.

Similarly, a hand grenade was also hurled at the PPP election office in

CM Naqvi inaugurates first govt cancer care hospital

Independent Report
LAHORE: The first cancer hospital at the government level has been made operational on the special direction of Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi.

The CM inaugurated the Mayo Cancer Care Hospital at Manawan, here on Wednesday.

Mohsin Naqvi while announcing to provide free treatment facility to the patients in the cancer hospital revealed that every patient will be provided free treatment and no patient suffering from any stage will be denied treatment in the first government cancer hospital. For the time being, the cancer hospital comprises 100-beds and will be increased up to 1000-beds in the coming few years. The CM visited the cancer hospital and reviewed facilities being

provided to the patients. He obtained a token from the machine and ordered to simplify the automated system, adding that besides English writing, Urdu writing should also be displayed on the token machine for the facilitation of the patients. The CM reviewed the treatment mechanism of the cancer patients and monitored the whole chemotherapy mechanism. He visited the room for collecting blood samples and also planted a sapling in the lawn of the hospital.

Mohsin Naqvi issued directions to write in the Urdu language on the sign boards for the facilitation of patients. He revealed that chemotherapy and surgery will be carried out in the cancer hospital. All the administrative and financial affairs of the cancer hospital have been handed over entirely to the

King Edward Medical College University. A state of the art hospital has been built for the treatment of cancer patients at the government level, he added.

The CM apprised that the cancer treatment is highly expensive which a common man cannot afford, adding that free treatment will be provided to the patients in this hospital. It is a dire need of the people of Punjab to have a high-quality cancer hospital at the government level. It is the foremost responsibility of the government to provide a state of the art hospital for cancer patients at the government level, he added.

CM Naqvi while addressing the inaugural ceremony of the Mayo Cancer Care Hospital apprised that the first complete cancer care hospital of Punjab has been established.



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi cutting the ribbon to inaugurate Mayo Cancer Care Hospital Manawan.

CM KP directs to compliance with Urban Mobility Plan

Independent Report
ABBOTABAD: Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Justice @ Syed Arshad Hussain Shah chaired a meeting in Islamabad to deliberate on the Urban Mobility Plan concerning divisional headquarter Abbottabad.

In the meeting, senior officials from the National Highways Authority (NHA), Planning Commission, as well as pertinent federal and provincial officials were also present.

The meeting focused on the approved strategies for constructing an interchange along the Hazara Motorway to facilitate Abbottabad City. NHA has outlined plans to establish an interchange linking Abbottabad and Sherwan Road, while the PC-1 for the proposed project has also been approved by the C&W Department.

In addition to the interchange, the project encompasses the construction of a flyover and tunnel.

Two outlaws arrested by Shikarpur Police

Our Correspondent
SHIKARPUR: Shikarpur Police succeeded in arresting two snatchers/outlaws in injured condition after an police encounter took place near Shar Laaro in the jurisdiction of Lakhi Ghulam Shah Police Station on Wednesday.

According to initial reports, The Lakhi Police with the help of villagers caught the two robbers after an encounter took place between the outlaws and the police and arrested the two robbers identified as Abdul Qadeer Shar and Syed Mushraf Ali Shah in injured condition and also recovered two pistols from their possession.

KP CIP official pays surprise visit to inspect ongoing dev. projects

PESHAWAR (APP): Project Director of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Cities Improvement Project (KP CIP), Syed Zafar Ali Shah, on Wednesday paid a surprise visit to a sewerage treatment plant executed in Mardan and inspected ongoing developmental progress there.

He chaired a meeting attended by Director Technical, Mian Muhammad Shakeel, Chief Engineer of Cities Implementation Unit

(CIU) Mardan, Engineer Muhammad Khalil Akbar, PMCS Resident Engineer, Arshid Qayum Babar, General Manager of Mtracon, Imran Haider, and Deputy Manager of the Project, Qasim Mumtaz Awan.

During the meeting, the General Manager of WSSCM and Chief Engineer of CIU Mardan, Engineer Muhammad Khalil Akbar, briefed the Project Director about the ongoing development works.

Suspect killed in police encounter

PESHAWAR (APP): The suspect, identified as Mujahid, son of Sabz Ali, who had escaped after shooting and killing Constable Amir Gulam by taking out a gun from the clerk's room under the pretext of using the washroom, was killed in a police encounter at Safan check post, Badaber.

SSP Syed Ashfaq Anwar and Superintendent of Police Operations.

Punjab Governor says: Prophet Muhammad (SAWW) life and teachings are source of guidance for all mankind

Independent Report
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman today attended the "Serat-ul-Nabi (SAW)" prize distribution ceremony at Al Hamra Hall Mall Road Lahore as a special guest.

Speaking on this occasion, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that love and reverence for Prophet Muhammad (Peace be Upon Him) is a part of every Muslim's faith. Governor Punjab said that Prophet Muhammad's life and teachings are the source of guidance for all

mankind. He emphasized that we should take guidance from Serat Tayyaba (Peace be Upon Him) in order to build a society based on love, tolerance, and brotherhood. Governor Punjab appreciated the author of the book, Rai Manzoor Nasir, and said that he did a commendable work by writing a very simple and easy to understand book on the Prophet's (PBUH) life and teachings. Governor Punjab also appreciated the efforts of Rai Manzoor Nasir for organizing the first unique competition.



LAHORE: Governor of Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman, giving check to winner Muhammad Ismail during International Competition Serat-ul-Nabi (Peace Be Upon Him) at Al-Hamra Hall, in Provincial Capital.

Bangash inaugurates Reconstruction and upgradation of LMH

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Finance, Ahmad Rasool Bangash on Wednesday formally inaugurated the reconstruction and upgradation of Liaquat Memorial Hospital Kohat to be completed with an estimated cost of Rs. 2 billion.

Medical Superintendent LMH, Dr. Hashim Jamsheed Syed, Principal Kohat Medical University Professor Dr. Musarat Jabeen and Dr.

Fauzia Gul also addressed the inauguration ceremony and thanked the finance minister for taking a keen interest in the affairs of the hospital.

The minister also inaugurated the Town Municipal Administration (TMA) Shabistan Plaza with a cost of Rs. 432 million. On the occasion, Tehsil Mayor Kohat, Qari Sher Zaman and Town Municipal Officer, Muhammad Shoaib briefed the provincial minister regarding municipal services.

Punjab Police will never forget eternal sacrifice of constable Arshad: IGP

Independent Report
LAHORE: IGP Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar visited Qila Gujjar Singh Police Lines, attended the funeral prayers of Shaheed Constable Muhammad Arshad of Lahore Police.

Regional Directorate Commander Anti-Narcotics Force Brigadier Sikandar Hayat, CCPO Lahore Bilal Siddique Kamryana and other senior officers also offered the prayer.

Lahore 31th January 2024.

Inspector General Police Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar attended the funeral prayer of martyred Constable Muhammad Arshad of Lahore Police at Police Lines Qila Gujjar Singh. Regional Directorate Commander Anti-Narcotics Force Brigadier Sikandar Hayat, CCPO Lahore Bilal Siddique Kamryana, DIG Organized Crime Unit Captain Retired

Liaqat Ali Malik, DIG Admin Lahore Mumtaz Mehdi, DIG Investigation Imran Kishwar, SSP Discipline Lahore Sohaib Ashraf, Lahore Police SSPs, SPs and ANF officers were also present in the funeral prayer. Muhammad Arshad, a constable posted at Achhra Police Station, was martyred by the firing of a drug dealer. IG Punjab saluted the body of Constable Muhammad Arshad, laid floral wreath. Prayers were prayed for the high ranks of constable Muhammad Arshad's soul, Active squad of police also saluted the martyr.

IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar while paying tribute to Constable Muhammad Arshad's eternal sacrifice said that Constable Muhammad Arshad made the department proud by sacrificing his life in the line of duty.

Commissioner reviews law, order situation

FAISALABAD (APP): Commissioner Silwat Saeed has said that law and order should be the first priority of the administration.

She was presiding over a video-link meeting in connection with general election, here on Wednesday.

The meeting was attended by Regional Police officer (RPO) Dr Muhammad Abid, Deputy Commissioner Faisalabad Abdullah Nayyar Sheikh, and Capital Police Officer (CPO) Capt (retd) Muhammad Ali Zia.

The deputy commissioners of Jhang, Chinot and Toba Tek Singh participated in the meeting through video-link.

The election commissioner and officers of law-enforcement agencies were also present.

International News

Biden says he's decided response to Jordan strike

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden said on Tuesday he had decided on a response to a drone strike that killed three American troops in Jordan but said he did not want a wider war in the Middle East.

Facing growing pressure in an election year, Biden said he held Iran responsible for supplying the weapons to the people who carried out the deadly attack on a military base.

The White House warned that "multiple actions" were likely in retaliation for the first fatal attack on US forces in the region since the Gaza crisis broke out in October, but gave no further details. Biden, 81, who was hitting the campaign trail in Florida, has previously

blamed Iran-backed militias for the attack which has further raised fears of a regional conflict.

"Yes," Biden told reporters at the White House when asked if he had decided on his response, but he did not give details on what actions he would take.

"I don't think we need a wider war in the Middle East. That's not what I'm looking for," he added when asked about fears that taking on Iran could inflame a broader conflagration.

Iran has denied any links to the drone strike, and said it was not seeking an expansion of conflict, either.

Republicans have urged the Democrat to punish Iran for the drone strike on a US military facility near the Jordanian-Syrian

border, with some urging direct strikes on Iran itself.

But Biden's administration believes hitting Iranian territory could cause the region to erupt, with strikes on Iranian-backed militias and possibly on Iranian Revolutionary Guard facilities in other countries more likely, US media reported.

"It's very possible that what you'll see is a tiered approach here, not just a single action but potentially multiple actions," National Security Council spokesman John Kirby told reporters aboard Air Force One.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that the response "could be multi-leveled, come in stages, and be sustained over time."



President of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) Judge Joan Donoghue speaks during a hearing in a case whereby Ukraine accused Russia of violating an anti-terrorism treaty by funding pro-Russian forces, including militias who shot down the Malaysia Airlines flight MH17, and discrimination, in The Hague, Netherlands

Israel returns 100 bodies to Gaza authorities

Monitoring Desk
DOHA: Several unidentified Palestinians were laid to rest at a mass burial in Gaza on Tuesday after Israeli authorities handed over bodies they had been holding in Israel.

Many onlookers covered their noses with masks as about 100 bodies were placed in graves in the southern city of Rafah before bulldozers piled sand on them. Palestinian officials said the bodies included victims of the war and corpses that had been dug up as Israeli forces

pushed through Gaza. Israel did not comment on the handover or on the assertion that some corpses had been dug up.

"They were buried anonymously following Islamic Sharia. We don't know where they were injured or even their names," said Abu Taha, a doctor, at the scene. The bodies were photographed before burial and the victims' injuries documented, he said. "God willing, after the war ends, DNA and other tests will happen but at the time being."

US says fentanyl talks with China 'meaningful'

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: Talks between the US and Chinese officials on stemming the flow of chemicals used for the production of deadly fentanyl have been "substantive" but "much more" needs to be done, the head of the White House delegation to Beijing said on Wednesday.

Washington hopes for deeper law enforcement cooperation, including on tackling illicit finance, and wants Beijing to put further controls on the chemicals that can be used to make fentanyl, said Deputy Assistant to the President.

World Court to rule on Russian violation of international treaties in Ukraine

Monitoring Desk
THE HAGUE: The United Nations' top court will rule on Wednesday on whether Russia violated an anti-terrorism treaty by funding pro-Russian separatists in Ukraine, including those who shot down Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 in 2014.

Kyiv says Russia also violated a human rights treaty by discriminating against ethnic Tatars and Ukrainians in Crimea, the peninsula that Russia declared annexed from Ukraine in 2014.

Ukraine had asked the

International Court of Justice to find Russia guilty of breaching obligations under the two UN treaties, which both countries have signed, and to order it to pay reparations.

In a hearing at the court in The Hague last June, Russia dismissed Ukraine's allegations as fiction and "blatant lies".

Lawyers for Moscow denied systematic human rights abuses in Ukrainian territory that it occupies and rejected the accusation that it violated the UN treaty against the financing of terrorism.

150 people are killed in Gaza in 24 hours, Health Ministry says

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: Gaza's Health Ministry says 150 people have been killed in the territory in the last 24 hours and another 313 were wounded as Israeli forces continue to battle militants, even in the northern part of the territory.

The north, where entire neighborhoods have been flattened, was the initial target of Israel's ground offensive in late October.

Israel's military said Wednesday that its forces killed more than 15 Hamas militants in northern Gaza over the past day and targeted militant infrastructure in a school.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

has rejected two key demands made by Hamas in indirect cease-fire talks, saying that Israel will not withdraw from the Gaza Strip or release thousands of jailed militants.

The latest deaths bring the Palestinian death toll from Israel's offensive to 26,900, according to the Hamas-controlled Health Ministry. It does not distinguish between civilian and combatant deaths but says most of those killed were women and children.

Hamas' Oct. 7 attack in southern Israel that sparked the war killed 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and about 250 people were taken hostage, according to Israeli authorities.

Taiwan holds military drills to defend against the threat of a Chinese invasion

Monitoring Desk
KAOHSIUNG: Almost every day, Chinese warships sail in waters around the Taiwan and warplanes fly toward the island before turning back. What if they suddenly attacked?

Taiwan's military conducted a two-day exercise at sea, on land and in the air this week to practice defending against such a surprise attack. As journalists looked on from fast escort boats, a mine layer released at least a half dozen dummy mines from a chute in its stern.

Maj. Gen. Sun Li-fang, the chief defense ministry spokesperson, told reporters at Zuoying Naval Base in southern Taiwan that China's recent actions threaten to spark a conflict that could have devastating effects on the entire region, where billions of dollars in trade pass the 160 kilometer- (100 mile)-wide waterway separating Taiwan from China.

"Any unilateral irrational action could very easily escalate tensions and sabotage stability in the Taiwan Strait region," Sun said. "So the Chinese Communists should immediately cease these sorts of undermining actions."

China claims the self-governing island of 23 million people as its own territory and says it must come under Beijing's control. The long-running dispute is a flashpoint in U.S.-China relations. As relations between the rivals have deteriorated in recent years, fears have grown that America could get pulled into a war if hostilities break out. Later in the day, journalists witnessed a simulated attack by China at a military base in the eastern county of Taitung.

Troops in red helmets representing the People's Liberation Army parachuted in, while Taiwanese army drones buzzed overhead.

US blocks \$3-b drone sale to India until 'meaningful investigation' of plot to kill Sikh leader

NEW DELHI (INP): The US government has held back delivery of 31 MQ-9A Sea Guardian and Sky Guardian drones to India until New Delhi carries out a "meaningful investigation" into the conspiracy to assassinate Sikh leader, Gurpatwant Singh Pannun.

Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, who hold dual US and Canadian citizenship, is a New York-based activist of Khalistan movement - the struggle for independent homeland for Sikhs by separating Punjab from India.

The Wire reported that the proposed \$3 billion purchase includes 15 Sea Guardian drones for the Indian Navy, while the Indian Air Force and Army are supposed to get eight Sky Guardian drones each. The report said that Washington has also held back smaller Indian acquisitions, including a proposal to buy six Boeing P-8I long-range maritime patrol aircraft. These are to

supplement 12 P-8I Poseidon aircraft that the Indian Navy already operates.

Ironically, the Indian Ministry of Defence's internal approval for the now-stalled drone procurement came in June 2023, a week before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to Washington. This was also the time when the conspiracy to kill Pannun - set in motion by an Indian security official named CC1, according to a federal indictment made public last November - shifted to high gear.

Today, "the purchase is stuck in the US Congress because of anger over the brazen attempt to assassinate Pannun. US representatives have frozen the legislative movement needed for proceeding with the sale," the Wire quoted a highly-placed source in Washington as having said.

Japan earthquake survivors battle unsanitary conditions with no running water

Monitoring Desk
SUZU: A month on from a huge earthquake that struck Japan's west coast, survivors are battling freezing and unsanitary conditions while tens of thousands of homes remain without running water.

Some areas in the isolated Noto peninsula may not have water restored for another two months, the government of Ishikawa prefecture said, adding to risks for those living in cramped evacuation centres where authorities say respiratory infections and gastroenteritis have been detected.

"There's no water, so we can't wash our clothes or bathe," said Yoshio Binsaki, a 68-year-old resident of the battered coastal town of Suzu, as he prepared to haul a 20 litre (5.3 U.S. gallon) water tank to his car to take home. More than 230 people died in the magnitude 7.6 quake, Japan's deadliest in eight years, which also left 44,000 homes fully or partially destroyed while 40,000 have no running water.

President Dr. Alvi says Youth may play active role for overall progress & development

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday said youth could play a pivotal role in transforming the destiny of the country through optimum utilization of intellect, morality and education.

He said the country required strong leadership and appropriate use of intellect and expressed the optimism that youth was fully capable of playing an active role in the overall progress and development.

Addressing the convocation of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), the president said education and health had a vital role in the robust development of Pakistan and added that Pakistan ought to follow the Chinese model to materialize the goals of rapid development.

Calling the passed-out AIOU graduates as elite of the country, he said they had the distinction to secure a graduate degree in a country where 44% or more than 26 million children were still out of school. He pointed out that all the regional countries had 98% ratio of school-going children.

"In order to accommodate all out-of-school children, the government will have to build 50,000 additional schools which is not an easy task, keeping in view the resource availability," he added.

He pointed out that around 300,000 mosques in the country could be utilized to educate the out-of-school children.

President Alvi regretted there had been no sense of sympathy with humanity through the developed world posed itself as champion of democracy.

He said the world was now just going after the vested interests, as zero sympathy was being shown by the West amid the atrocities with innocent people of Gaza.

He said Pakistan intended to get the Kashmir issue resolved at United Nations platform but despite the lapse of over 70 years, the issue still remained unresolved.

He called for an end to

Chinese envoy lauds PAF's steadfast determination for balance of power in region

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, Jiang Zaidong, called on Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu here on Wednesday.

The Chinese ambassador lauded the steadfast determination of PAF leadership to ensure balance of power in the region.

During the meeting, matters pertaining to evolving geo-strategic environment and regional developments were discussed, a Pakistani Air Force (PAF) news release said.

broad contours of the PAF's modernization drive in order to transform Pakistan Air Force into a Next Generation Air Force through induction of niche technologies with a special focus on indigenization and revamping of training.

Highlighting the significance of the longstanding strategic partnership between the two countries, he emphasized that the PAF leadership wished to further deepen the existing aviation cooperation and exchanges with China in the fields of human resource and technology so as to jointly address shared security challenges.

He further said, "Pakistan values its strong diplomatic, economic, defence relationship and timeless friendship with China which are based on convergence on all important issues relating to regional peace."



The dignitaries underscored the necessity of revitalizing the framework for operational training across all domains, emphasizing the paramount importance of preparedness and seamless coordination in the face of evolving security challenges. The Air Chief shared

Shehbaz says: PML-N high on popularity graph

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif has claimed that his party's popularity graph among people is still high, despite its active participation in the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) government in the past.

Talking to digital media representatives here on Wednesday, he emphasized the importance of February-8 elections and highlighted its vitality for the country's economic and social fabric. Amid numerous challenges confronting Pakistan, Shehbaz believed that general election was finally going to be held on the scheduled date, wherein the fate of Pakistan would be determined by its people through their constitutional right to vote.

He called upon all stakeholders to learn from country's political history and set aside their personal interests and make collective efforts for achieving the unmet developmental goals of Pakistan by exploring its great potential in various fields. Shehbaz Sharif cited that hardworking nations find a niche at international level, asserting that keeping in view Pakistan's current internal and external challenges, "we all have to get united to face these challenges firmly."

He claimed that during the PML-N government in 1990s, Pakistan had been outperforming India in various fields, and called for assessing all those factors which landed the country in the current situation.

"We have to learn from the past; nothing will be done by crying over the split milk."



QUETTA: Additional Chief Secretary Home Muzaffar Saleem meeting with caretaker Home Minister Captain (retd) Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali.

Zubair Jamali says War against terrorism to remain continue till restoration of peace

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali has condemned the hand grenade attack at Sariab road Quetta.

In an official condemnation statement issued here on Wednesday, the caretaker Minister Home said that the miscreants can't weaken the morale of general public by carrying out such terrorism incidents.

He pledged that our war against terrorism would remain continued till complete restoration of peace in the province.

The Minister Home said that no one would be allowed to spoil the law and order situation in the province. Mir Zubair Jamali prayed for early recovery of those injured in the Sariab road blast.

Sardar Tariq Ahmad Jafri, Provincial Leader of PPP, Engineer Hadi Askari, Information Secretary of Tehreek Nafaz Jafaria Balochistan, Ghulam Mustafa, President of Tehreek Nafaz Fiqia Jafaria Balochistan and other were also present on this occasion.

Tehreek Nifaz Fiqia Jafaria Balochistan Information Secretary Sardar Tariq Ahmad Jafari said that the chairman of the PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari met with the central leaders of the movement and appealed to support the candidates of the party.

On which Tehreek Nafaz Fiqia Jafaria announced its support for the candidates of Pakistan People's Party.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing the convocation of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) at Jinnah Convention Centre.

Aneeq Ahmed says: Holy Prophet (SAWW) Seerah must for Quran's comprehension

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed on Wednesday stressed for following the Seerah of Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAWW) in true sense in order to have a full comprehension of the Holy Quran.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of the Seerat Chair at Federal Urdu University, he said that truth was the basic trait of Seerat. Follow the truth, speak the truth and its implementation in every sphere of life were the lessons derived from the Holy Prophet's Seerah, he added.

The minister said the establishment of the Seerat Chair at the Urdu University was a commendable initiative for guiding the new generation.

The greatness of Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) would continue to be articulated until the Day of Judgment, and familiarity with his life was essential for leadership, he added.

Those doing the job of preaching Islam should align their conversations and discussion with the Holy Quran and Seerat Tayyiba, as both had been leading the human mindset and would continue to do till the end of time, he added.

"Today, we must reflect on whether we are disloyal to our Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him). Our religion is complete, containing solutions to all issues. Knowledge and action are both necessary," he said, adding that students must be made aware of challenges such as secularism, artificial intelligence, and contemporary issues. Minister Aneeq said it was imperative to include a Seerat book in the curriculum from primary's to master's level.

Vice-Chancellor Dr. Rubina Mushtaq, Dr. Mustafaeze Ahmad Alvi, Dr. Ahtesham-ul-Haq, and Dr. Hafiz Abdul Rashid also spoke at the event.

Dr. Mustafaeze Ahmad Alvi, Head of Department of Islamic Thought and Culture at NUML, highlighted that the descent of the Holy Quran and the prophethood of Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) transformed the course of the world.

He mentioned that the purpose of establishing the Seerat Chair was to help students to follow the Seerat Tayyiba in their practical lives. "Accepting religion and adopting Seerat are one and the same," he added.

Dr. Rubina Mushtaq, Vice-Chancellor of Federal Urdu University, remarked that the Western culture was having negative impacts on young generation. She said teaching the Holy Quran and Sunnah was essential for all departments of Urdu University. Shields were presented to the dignitaries at the conclusion of the event.



QUETTA: Inspector General of Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh enquiring about health of policemen injured in Mach attack.

PTA intensifies crackdown on illegal issuance of SIMs Zmarak Achakzai demands ECP to take notice of firing on ANP's workers

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) in close collaboration with the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) cyber crime circle, conducted raid against the BISP outlet at Sharqur involved in activation of SIMs illegally.

During the raid, 28 active SIMs were discovered. The FIA team confiscated active SIMs along with 01 HBL Kconnect device as evidence, said a news release.

In the joint operation, a person was apprehended by the FIA team. FIA is currently investigating the matter.

PTA had filed a complaint regarding illegal issuance of SIMs by the sale channel. The raids are part of PTA's ongoing efforts to prevent the circumvention of the Multi-Finger Biometric Verification System (MBVS). This unwavering commitment underscores the authority's dedication to eradicate illegal issuance of SIMs, the news release added.

QUETTA (APP)-Awami National Party (ANP) leader and former Provincial Minister and candidate from PB-50 Constituency Engineer Zmarak Khan Achakzai on Wednesday said that a worker of ANP was martyred and another was injured due to firing by opponents in Mezai stop.

He demanded the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to take notice of the firing on our workers and the accused involved in the incident should be immediately arrested and brought to justice saying that ANP adhered to the philosophy of non-violence but could not allow anyone to attack workers.

He expressed these views along with ANP leader Dawood Khan Achakzai while talking to journalists on the occasion of visiting the worker who was injured in civil hospital after the shooting incident in Mezai Stop.

Engineer Zmarak Khan Achakzai said that political opponents fired on our party workers in Mezai Stop, as a result of which one worker of ANP Zahoor Ahmed martyred and another Moin Khan were seriously injured.

He said that since the election campaign has started, there have been four attacks on our workers and camps. He also demanded the Election Commission, federal and provincial government to take notice of attack on ANP workers in order to control such incident in future for interest of peace. In response to a question, Engineer Zmarak Khan Achakzai said that the recent firing incident was an attempt to suppress the ANP saying that however, we wanted to inform the opponents that we would not be intimidated by such high tactics.



QUETTA: Peoples Party (PPP) Leader, Ali Madad Jattak addresses to media persons during press conference, in Quetta.

Death of candidates Elections postponed in 3 constituencies of KPK

PESHAWAR - Notification of postponement of elections in 3 constituencies of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has been issued due to the death of candidates.

Due to the postponement of the elections, a notification was issued.

According to the details, due to the murder of independent candidate Rehman Zaib Khan in NA-8 and PK-22 Bajaur and death of ANP's Asmatullah Khattak in PK-91 Kohat, the notification was issued to postpone the elections.

It has been reported that the Returning Officer has issued a formal announcement of the cancellation of the election because under Clause 73 of the Election Act, the election is postponed due to the death of the candidate after the issue of election marks.

It is learned that 13 candidates including Asmatullah Khattak were participating from PK-91 Kohat and former senator Abbas Afridi is also a candidate from PK-91, died due to falls, he was an ANP aspirant from PK-91 Kohat. On the other hand, Rehman Zaib Khan, an activist of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf and contesting as an independent candidate from NA-8 and PK-22 Bajaur killed, police sources say that Rehman Zaib Khan was shot by unknown persons near Siddiqabad, as a result of the firing, Rehman Zaib Khan was seriously injured, Rehman Zaib Khan was shifted to the hospital in critical condition.



WASHINGTON: Raja Nasir Ali Khan Maqpoon, Minister for Planning & Development Gilgit-Baltistan called on Ambassador to the United States Masood Khan in Washington DC.

Pak pavilion at New York's tourism show captivated visitors: Masood

WASHINGTON (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the U.S., Masood Khan, Tuesday congratulated the visiting Gilgit-Baltistan's Planning Minister, Raja Nasir Ali Khan, over the success of Pakistan pavilion at the weekend's 'Travel & Adventure Show' in New York, saying it would take the county's rich tourism potential to the next level. During a meeting with the minister at Pakistan Embassy, Ambassador Masood Khan said the pavilion, which he inaugurated on Saturday, captivated the global community and evinced keen interest in Pakistan's rich cultural and tourism potential, according to an embassy press release.

"It augers well not only for the tourism industry but also for the image building of the country," he said.

"Tourism industry of Pakistan can play a significant role in cultivating better people-to-people ties and linkages between Pakistan and the United States," the Pakistani envoy added.

Raja Nasir Khan thanked the Ambassador for the support provided by the Consulate General in New York and Pakistan Embassy, Washington, in successfully showcasing the tourism potential of the country.

The GB planning minister said that US tourists were the second highest in numbers visiting Gilgit-Baltistan annually for eco- and adventure-tourism, among others. He also said that various steps were being taken to improve infrastructure and facilitate foreign visitors.

In this context, the minister said that GB Government was focusing on establishing IT parks, incubation centers, vocational institutes and winter sports for the youth. Equal attention was being paid to girls' education, providing them with sports facilities.



QUETTA: Conservator of Forest Monitoring Upscaling of Green Pakistan Program Umar Farooq Kakar presenting a shield to Director General Public Relations Balochistan Muhammad Noor Khetran.

NAB Balochistan lucky to have hard working staff, says Director General

COMMENDATION CERTIFICATES DISTRIBUTED AMONG EMPLOYEES

QUETTA: The Director General National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Balochistan, Zafar Iqbal Khan has stated that the NAB is very lucky to have very hardworking and dedicated staff.

The DG NAB was addressing the ceremony arranged for distribution of merit certificates in recognition of outstanding performance of the Bureau's employees here on Wednesday.

The commendation certificates were distributed among the employees for outstanding performance during the year 2023.

The DG NAB (Balochistan) Zafar Iqbal Khan, Deputy Prosecutor General Accountability Jaffer Raza Khan, Director NAB Dr. Muhammad Rashad, Officers of NAB and other employees participated in the ceremony.

The Director NAB Dr. Muhammad Rashad, in his inaugural speech, welcomed the audience and shared the run of events of the ceremony. Thereafter, Director General NAB, in his address, appreciated the efforts of NAB officials. He said that development of any department is directly linked to the performance and hardworking of its employees.

NAB (Balochistan) is very lucky that it has very hard working staff. He said that merit is the scale to measure capability of any individual.



QUETTA: Director General NAB Zafar Iqbal Khan and Director NAB Dr. Muhammad Arshad addressing an appreciation certificate distribution ceremony among employees on their best performance in 2023.