

# Independent

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ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs the 9th meeting of the Apex Committee of the Special Investment Facilitation Council.

## Pakistan to continue supporting global efforts for a peaceful, stable Afghanistan: PM Kakar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday reiterated that it was upto the Afghan people and their leadership to decide their future and Pakistan as a brotherly and neighbourly country would continue supporting all global efforts for a politically and economically stable Afghanistan.

He said that he did not regard Afghanistan or the Afghan people as any threat to Pakistan. Afghans had their own culture and land, tied with different countries due to various affinities and Pakistan expected that no threat or harm should emanate from their soil.

Pakistan, he said, had very explicitly conveyed its concerns to the Taliban interim government regarding terrorist elements' presence and their involvement in terrorist acts and they had realization of it.

He was responding to different questions in a private Tv (Khyber News) talk show programme 'Maraka' - Pashu acronym for dialogue.

The caretaker prime minister said that Afghans had undergone hard times in four or five decades, they had witnessed different Afghan factions fighting with each other and the invasion of foreign forces.

He said Afghanistan enjoyed a significant position in the region and as a neighbour, Pakistan wished to enhance that importance by supporting all global efforts for political and economic stability there.

To a question, he said after Swat and Zarb-e-Azb operations, the banned

TTP terrorist elements went to Afghanistan.

Prime Minister Kakar said that it was an unsuitable move by the previous set-up to hold negotiations with the TTP, adding that the Constitution of Pakistan was very clear in that regard and anyone who preferred armed insurgency, would be regarded as 'Takfiri' as Ulama had pronounced.

He reiterated that the state would not negotiate with such groups.

About Maulana Fazlur-Rehman's visit to Afghanistan, the prime minister said it was his private visit and he would not comment on it.

He further said that as a friend and brother, they could give Afghans suggestions and shared opinions, but it was up to them to take make their own decisions.

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## Apex body lauds 'Whole of Govt. Approach' to realise SIFC's envisioned dividends

PM Kakar urges incoming govt to ensure continuity of economic policies by capitalising on the positive momentum, established by SIFC, in the larger interest of the country

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Apex Committee of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) on Friday showed profound satisfaction over the overall progress of the SIFC and appreciated 'Whole of Government Approach' in realising the envisioned dividends.

The 9th meeting of the SIFC Apex Committee met under the chair of Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar which reviewed various initiatives being steered through the forum.

The meeting was attended by the Chief of Army Staff, federal cabinet, provincial chief ministers and high-level government officials.

The ministries presented progress on the projects and policy initiatives, and gave plans for subsequent endeavours to attract the investment.

The Apex Committee reviewed progress on various measures and appreciated the contribution made for improving macro and micro-economic conditions

of the country.

The body commended the steps taken to build a sustainable ecosystem for nurturing latent potential and attracting investments, with special emphasis on the cross sectoral policy interventions, human resource development, infrastructural uplift and strengthening of domestic dispute resolution mechanism.

The Committee reviewed and appreciated the progress on the level of economic engagements with

friendly countries and underscored the need to efficiently realise investment commitments into economic dividends.

The Apex body also accorded in-principle approval for Strategic Canals Vision 2030 and FBR Reforms. The Chief of the Army Staff assured firm resolve of the Pakistan Army to support the government's initiatives for the economic stability of the country and the socio-economic well-being of its people.

In the end, the prime minister appreciated the role of SIFC, ministries, departments and affiliated stakeholders in accomplishing the major economic milestones as part of the interim government and setting the pace for future endeavours.

He also urged the incoming government to ensure continuity of economic policies by capitalising on the positive momentum, established by SIFC, in the larger interest of the country.

## Youth are with PML-N despite propaganda: Nawaz Sharif

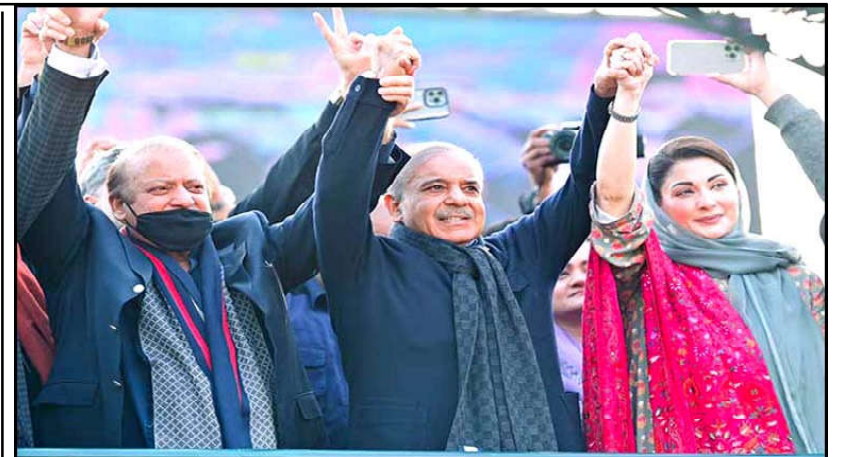
FAISALABAD (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif said on Friday the youth were with his party despite vicious propaganda, and they would play a key role in reemergence of the party as the leading political force of Pakistan.

He was addressing a public gathering at historic Iqbal Park (Dhobi Ghat ground), where he asked the participants to raise their hands who were born on or after 1980. As a large number of the participants raised their hands, he said that clearly negated the propaganda that the youth were with some other political parties, he added.

He said he was impressed by the enthusiasm of the participants in the public meeting. He said, "I have reliable friends and colleagues in Faisalabad since 1980." He particularly named Chaudhry Sher Ali, Abid Sher Ali, Talal Chaudhry, Mian Farooq and Rana Sanaullah and said

they were still steadfast and refused to succumb to any pressure to change their allegiance. He said that his tenure was marked with maximum facilitation to masses. All commodities were cheap and available to everyone during his tenure as the prime minister. He said gold was available at Rs. 50,000 per tola and parents did not face any problem in the marriage of their daughters. "At that time when we were fighting against the twin menace of terrorism and load-shedding, others were observing sit-in to achieve their ulterior motives," he recalled.

Nawaz Sharif said people remembered those days when the PML-N government was sent packing. "If our rule would have continued, we would have been able to fight out poverty and unemployment," he added. He said, "We are committed to weeding out unemployment while the previous rulers befooled masses by raising hollow slogans of providing 10 million jobs."



FAISALABAD: Quaid Pakistan Muslim League (N) Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, President Shahbaz Sharif and Vice President/Chief Organizer Maryam Nawaz waving hands towards public during a gathering (Jalsa) at Dhobi Ghat ground

## Diplomats briefed on IIOJK situation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ahead of the Kashmir Solidarity Day, Additional Foreign Secretary (Asia & Pacific) Ambassador Imran Ahmed Siddiqui Friday briefed the Islamabad-based diplomats on the developments in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). He underscored the legal, security and human rights dimensions of the situation in IIOJK.

## 24 terrorists killed in Mach operation, four soldiers martyred

RAWALPINDI (Online): On night 29/30 January 2024, terrorists attacked Mach and Kolpur Complexes in Balochistan. Law Enforcement Agencies deployed on security offered stiff resistance and forced the attackers to repulse. These terrorists were then hunted down in the ensuring sanitisation and clearance operations which have now been concluded after clearing and securing the area.

During the fire fights and sanitisation/clearance operations, in last three days, twenty four terrorists

have been sent to hell. Terrorist Shehzad Baloch, Attaullah, Salah Uddin, Mach and Kolpur Complexes in Balochistan. Law Enforcement Agencies deployed on security offered stiff resistance and forced the attackers to repulse. These terrorists were then hunted down in the ensuring sanitisation and clearance operations which have now been concluded after clearing and securing the area.

Effective response by Law Enforcement Agencies is a testament of their unrelenting resolve in fight against terrorism.

## Pakistan, EU agree to solidify relations under strategic engagement plan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and the European Union on Friday agreed to further deepen their relations in line with the Strategic Engagement Plan (2019).



The agreement was reached in a meeting between Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani and the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell Fontelles.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 3rd Indo-Pacific Ministerial Forum in Brussels, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs posted on X. During the meeting, the two sides discussed global and regional issues, emphasizing the vitality of diplomacy in resolving disputes. They also highlighted the need to develop partnerships to tackle global challenges.

## Boosting US investments in Pakistan remains govt's top priority: Masood Khan

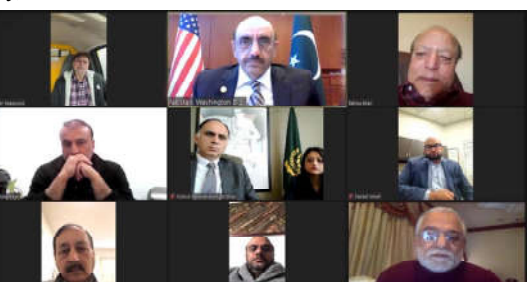
WASHINGTON (Online): Pakistan's Ambassador to the US, Masood Khan, told Pakistani-American businessmen Thursday that the present government was facilitating and offering attractive incentives to financiers to invest in all areas of the country's economy.

"Promoting Pak-US bilateral trade and enhancing US investment in Pakistan is the foremost priority," he said in the course

In addition, Pakistan's Consul General in Los Angeles, Asim Ali Khan, and Trade and Investment Counselor Quratulain Fatima were present.

In his remarks, Masood Khan said, "The newly established Special Investment Facilitation Council is taking practical steps to remove hurdles in the way of foreign investors undertaking profitable business ventures in Pakistan."

Masood Khan said. Appreciating the role of PACC in promoting trade activities and connecting business communities of the two countries, the Ambassador underscored the need for greater collaboration between various chambers and trade organizations working across the United States to boost Pak-US trade and investment ties.



of a virtual meeting with the leadership of California-based Pakistan American Chamber of Commerce (PACC), which is headed by its Chairman Waqar Ali Khan. Other members of the Chamber—Dr Sana Khan, Fawad Ismail, Zubair Rao, Masood Chaudhry, Dr Salahuddin and Mr Farrukh—also took part in the meeting.

## Justice Shahid Jamil resigns as LHC judge

LAHORE (Online): Justice Shahid Jamil Khan of Lahore High Court (LHC) has decided to resign. Justice Shahid Jamil Khan has sent his resignation to president Arif Alvi. Justice Shahid Jamil was appointed as judge in LHC in 2014. He was to retire in 2028. His number in senior list was 11.

## NADRA's Dy Assistant Director abducted in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (INP): Unknown abductees kidnapped National Database and Registration Authority's (NADRA) Deputy Assistant Director, Najeebullah in federal capital. A spokesman of Islamabad Police said on Friday that Najeebullah has gone missing since last night when he left home and did not return. According to a private news channel, a case of abduction of NADRA's officer was registered at Ramna police station.

## Furnace Ignition in SAILDAK

NOKUNDI (Online): On February 2, the reverberatory furnace of Smelter MRDL, Saindak was ignited and started.

The company's leadership team, Chinese and Pakistani HODs, and key personnel of Smelter attended the ceremony and jointly witnessed the beginning of the 23rd production cycle of Smelter.

Based on the basic reality of Saindak's industry, MCCT (MRDL's superior company) is striving to create a development path that is in line with the local of Pakistan as well as taking the lead in the non-ferrous industry in Pakistan.

"Long live China-Pakistan friendship!" Pakistani brothers at the site cheered. Mining industry revitalizes the economy and brings happiness. MRDL's blueprint for the development of surrounding areas is becoming a reality.

## Bilawal vows to block conspiracy to put Nawaz back in PM Office

From Our Correspondent

SHIKARPUR: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto averred on Friday that the public



was aware that only his party could address the prevailing challenges in the country.

Addressing a party election rally in Khanpur tehsil, Bilawal emphasised that the PPP would not let Mian Nawaz Sharif to become prime minister for the fourth time, referring to it as a "conspiracy".

The PPP chief promised to generate employment opportunities for the youth and affirmed that the PPP would collaborate with the people to find solutions to their problems.

Acknowledging the country's critical economic crisis, Bilawal highlighted that the people of Pakistan wanted a government capable of addressing the pressing issues, such as unemployment and inflation.

## Efforts afoot to ensure fair, peaceful elections on February 8: Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Interior Minister Dr Gohar Ejaz Friday reiterated his government's commitment for fulfilling duty of conducting free, fair and transparent elections, saying the caretaker setup would remain fully impartial in the entire electoral process.

"Equal opportunities are being provided to all political parties, there will be no discrimination against anyone," he said while talking to a Private news channel. "All available resources will be provided to all provincial governments for holding transparent and peaceful elections", he added. The Minister urged the public

to vote for their future and to maintain the democratic process in the country.

He emphasized, "The implementation of the Election Commission's code of conduct, and measures will be taken to ensure compliance."

He assured, "Law enforcement, including the police and other security agencies will also play a pivotal role in upholding the rule of law during the electoral process."

Political parties should also cooperate with law enforcement agencies for holding any public meeting or corner meeting for election campaign, he added.

Replying a query, he said security institutions were taking all possible steps to defeat terrorism in a "befitting manner".

## Pneumonia claims seven more lives

ISLAMABAD (APP): Seven more children fell victim to pneumonia in Punjab over the past 24 hours, bringing the total tally to this infectious disease to 303 this year, according to Punjab Health Department on Friday. A total of 764 new pneumonia cases emerged, with Lahore alone registering 178 fresh cases during the said period, a private news channel reported.

## Envoys underscore commitment to peaceful, stable Afghan

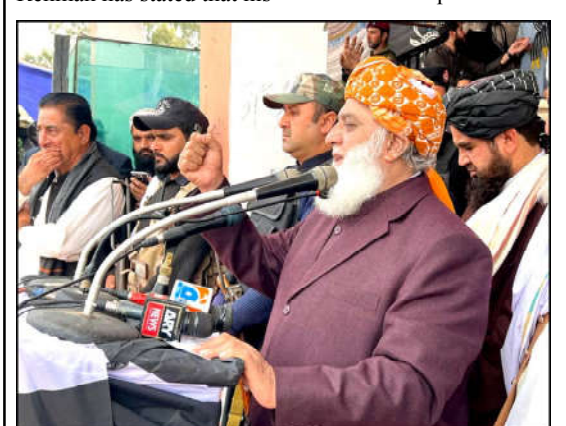
ISLAMABAD (APP): Additional Foreign Secretary (Afghanistan & West Asia) Ambassador Rahim Hayat Qureshi Friday held here a meeting with Chinese Special Envoy on Afghanistan Ambassador, Yue Xiaoyong and discussed issues related to Afghanistan.

They underscored their commitment to a peaceful and stable Afghanistan and emphasized the need for enhanced coordination for regional stability.

## JUI-F to continue struggle for protection of Islamic values in society: Fazal

PESHAWAR (INP): Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has stated that his

"If voted to power, we will make Pakistan a welfare state where rights of every citizen will be protected."



party will continue to work to make Pakistan an Islamic state after winning the Feb 8 general elections.

Addressing a party election rally in Tank on Friday, Fazl expressed his determination to continue struggle for the protection of Islamic values in society.

Fazl emphasised the right of political parties to present their ideologies to the nation, stating that each political entity possessed its own ideology.

He asserted that the JUI-F had an enduring commitment to politics of tolerance and perseverance.

## AC issues Toshakhana case's written order

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Accountability Court (AC) of Islamabad on Friday issued its written order regarding the 14 years imprisonment sentence to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) founder and his wife Bushra Bibi in the Toshakhana case.

AC Judge Muhammad Bashir, in his 44-page detailed judgment, said that the court had testified a total of 16 witnesses during the trial.

The order said that the PTI's founder and his wife received a total of 108 gifts from abroad.

It further said that the PTI founder's wife received a gift of jewellery set as a gift from the Saudi Crown Prince, which was reported but not deposited into the Toshakhana.

The judgment said that the two accused used influence on the private expert who determined the value of the gift.

They acquired the gift of jewellery set after paying only Rs 9 million while its actual value was over Rs 3.16 billion.

According to Sohaib Abbasi, who determined the value of said gift, he estimated the value of the gift lower on the instruction of the PTI's founder. The NAB (National Accountability Bureau) had served five notices to Bushra

Bibi and the founder of PTI and asked them to come with the gift of jewellery set to determine the price but both did not bring the gift.

It said that the attitude of PTI's founder during trial was very inappropriate.

The accused had been changing the defence lawyers repeatedly and they were not even willing to cross-examine the witnesses. The court shared a questionnaire with the PTI's founder but he did not answer it.

The defence lawyers were aware about the hearing date but they did not arrive court, it added.

Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent****Date confirmed**

The sense of uncertainty that had taken hold between the nights of Wednesday and Thursday stands broken. We have a green signal: elections will go ahead as scheduled on Feb 8.

The prospects of polls being held all over the country on the same day had been thrown in doubt once again after reports that the ECP had requisitioned a high-level moot yesterday over the worsening law and order situation in KP and Balochistan. The announcement had led some to speculate that an election delay in the two provinces might be on the cards.

A senior ECP official had told this publication that the Commission was deeply perturbed over the recent surge in terrorism-related violence and discussed the option of delaying polls in high-risk areas. Another said, "Anything was possible." Meanwhile, a statement issued on behalf of the army had been more reassuring, promising that the armed forces were ready to protect the "quintessential democratic exercise".

All is certainly not well in the country, not with candidates being gunned down or targeted in gun and bomb attacks on their offices, convoys and rallies.

There is a clear and present danger from the myriad terrorist and militant outfits operating in the country, who have made plain their intentions to use this sensitive transitional period as an opportunity to sow more chaos in the country.

There is considerable social unrest, not just due to the extreme political polarisation seen in this election cycle but also because of more entrenched issues, such as the discontent of the people of GB and the enforced disappearance crisis plaguing Balochistan.

It is within this challenging environment that law enforcement and security forces have to operate as they strive to protect a nationwide activity that has the participation of millions of citizens. Commendably, they are rising to the occasion and have reaffirmed their preparedness for the task at hand.

It has been stated before, but bears repeating that our security forces and law-enforcement agencies must now dedicate their energies solely to their core job of protecting the people. Taking a confrontational position against those they are responsible for protecting is not just a violation of their oath of service, it also creates unnecessary risks that may imperil the law-and-order situation. All they should focus on is the safety and security of the public. Law enforcers must remember that they are there to fix problems, not become a part of them. As they make their security plans, policymakers should account for the fact that inimical forces seeking to destabilise the country will try to take advantage of its internal divisions. To counter their designs, LEAs and security forces must affirm that they are there for everyone, regardless of their political affiliations or beliefs.

**Why suffering?****Syed Fahim**

A stillbirth. A toddler diagnosed with Down syndrome. A teenage case of leukaemia. A rare blood disorder in the 30s. Cancer with a single-digit survival rate in the 40s. Death at wholesale rate in a territory — as if collective suffering somehow makes it easier to bear the burden than individual loss. We are surrounded and baffled by suffering. And what follows then is the biggest question of them all: why me? And why this hardship?

But the question that has confounded theologians and philosophers since the inception of humanity is even more fundamental: why does suffering even exist in a world designed by a kind and benevolent God?

Christianity sees suffering as a consequence of the 'disobedience' of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Islam and Judaism proclaim suffering to be a test of faith from God. Buddhism declares dukkha, a result of material attachment, while Hinduism's karma implies one's current suffering as an aftermath of their actions in previous lives.

Some philosophers argue that suffering is a necessary part of human existence, fostering empathy, personal growth, or moral development. Others opine that suffering is a necessary consequence of free will or that it plays a role in the greater good.

In Man's Search for Meaning, psychiatrist Viktor Frankl provides a thoughtful analogy. He asks whether an ape being punctured repeatedly to develop a vaccine would ever be able to grasp the meaning of its suffering. The obvious answer is it would not; with its limited intelligence, it could not enter the world of man — which is the only world in which the meaning of its suffering would be understandable. He then follows up with a rhetorical question about humans. Can we really understand the reason and the meaning of our suffering while being part of this material world? "Is it not conceivable that there is still another dimension; a world in which the question of an ultimate meaning of human suffering would find an answer?" he asks.

Interesting, one thinks, but a grand argument does not ease the pain or dilute my misery. And then comes the backup argument — you are not alone! The list of beings afflicted by grief is led by our prophets. And then there are all and sundry, everyone with a story of their own. The variety and the ubiquity still do not relieve one's agony, but maybe they make it more digestible on the accord of it being somewhat democratic. Here is how I try to wrap my head around it.

Everyone must get through it (Quran 2:155, 2:214, 29:2). This is just by design, the way this universe is programmed. If we think someone is spared and they have it all good in every sense, it is more our ignorance than the absence of suffering. Nobody will have it more than one could bear (Quran 2:286). While everyone is unique and our sufferings appear unbearable, in the grand factory of this world, we are not much different than pieces of metal coming out of a foundry stamped with their unique tensile and yield strengths.

The Designer knows our limits, and those limits are respected when we are put under these harsh tests.

Every situation is a test. This world around us is a test. Sometimes, the test is of gratitude, and other times the test is of fortitude (Quran 27:40). We feel the burn of the hard situations, but we do not feel the blush of the good times.

If we think we do not deserve such a burdensome test, that is, perhaps, quite true. The Quran says that "if Allah were to impose blame on the people for what they have earned, He would not leave upon earth any creature" (35:45). We are most likely getting much less than we truly deserve.

Our grace in how we deal with it will get us the accolades we need for the later parts of your story (Quran 2:156-157, 2:177). The sufferings of our prophets all had a good ending. But that exactly is the caveat. They graced their sufferings with perseverance, resilience, and patience, which in turn was rewarded by the Lord. Now, does this answer all the questions for me? Maybe not. But perhaps these are not the questions we ought to answer. The question for us is to identify what our test is as we breathe the current breath. Is it the security of our four walls and the roof we shelter under, or the guaranteed next meal?

Or is our test the choking of our airways, the one that we did not foresee, and that we feel we did not deserve? The short answer is: all of the above. And our attitude in dealing with them will determine if we are truly worthy of these tests. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Grim Islamabad****Aasim Sajjad Akhtar**

Sixty years after it was created, Islamabad is still said to be 10 kilometres from Pakistan proper, an oasis of greenery, prosperity and technocracy insulated from the grime, poverty and chaos of the rest of the country. The city's administrative and propertied elite alike indulgently call it Islamabad the beautiful.

It certainly is — or perhaps it is more accurate to now say, was — a pretty city. For the past few weeks, the Margalla Hills within which the metropole nests have been barely visible, a low-hanging and thick cloud of smog generating debate amongst the chattering classes whether the capital is now beating Lahore, Karachi and Peshawar in the AQI stakes.

Once known for its trees and quiet, Islamabad is increasingly the site of incessant road and real estate-related construction. The city has expanded at exponential rates, the Capital Development Authority (CDA) making billions from land auctions whilst dispossessing historical villages. Gated housing schemes are all you see for miles in suburban geographies, and purchasing a motor vehicle is the only way to get from one end of the metropolis to the other.

Since the turn of the millennium, Islamabad's population has tripled from approximately 800,000 to 2.5 million. The majority of those who have migrated into the capital are young and working class. There are low-caste workers from villages in central Punjab and the Seraiki Wasaib, Pakhtuns who have fled their homes due to the 'war on terror', and any number of Baloch, Sindhi, Gilgit-Baltistani and other young people who have

come to study or find jobs.

There is no public transport for them, while health and education are hostage to the dictates of profit. Potable water is drying up. Those who aspire to white-collar lives survive in rented accommodation, while the wretched of the earth can only find shelter in katchi abadis. This working-class majority is not responsible for destroying the ecosystem — that credit goes to property developers, big contractors and the civil-military oligarchy — but it bears the primary costs of environmental despoliation.

Long before this winter's smog made clear that Islamabad is headed on a similar trajectory to the rest of metropolitan Pakistan, Islamabad's working people routinely dealt with violent dispossession from homes and livelihoods. The irony is that katchi abadi dwellers, young students and youth as well as daily wage workers and street vendors face the big stick of the CDA and Islamabad administration in the name of 'legality'.

Forget the land grabbing and other violations of the law by real estate moguls, propertied classes and khaki-bureaucratic overlords running the city. There is no democratic institution that exists in the capital, with the sole local government poll in 2016 making almost no dent on the city's bureaucratic temples. There are three National Assembly seats in the capital and most bourgeois parties put up high-profile candidates with little connection to the city's working masses — and that is if one doesn't even account for the farcical nature of the coming (s)election.

Islamabad has certainly grown a reputation for hosting protestors

from across Pakistan, but the recent treatment of Baloch women who led a long march into the city clarifies how genuinely democratic voices are treated in what is supposed to be the symbol of the federation.

For all of its narcissism and lack of concern for working people, Islamabad's — and Rawalpindi's — parasitic ruling class and those who live on its coattails won't be able to fully insulate itself from the downward spiral over which it is presiding. The disaffection felt by Baloch, Gilgit-Baltistani, Pakhtun, Sindhi, and so many young politically conscious people both in their home regions and as migrants in the capital is intensifying. The dastardly killing of a political youth leader in Bajaur shows how little changes in the periphery. In the capital itself, katchi abadi dwellers and rehri-wallahs are still being ghettoised.

Islamabad's environs are wasting away at the altar of profit and power with no care for the needs of future generations. The tyranny of a socioeconomic order in rural peripheries that forces working people to migrate and massive demographic pressures mean that young people looking for livelihood and dignity will continue to stream into the capital. An ossified administrative centre proudly founded by Gens Yahya Khan and Ayub Khan will continue to benefit from the labour of this mass while grimly refusing to shed its dictatorial essence. Progressive political mobilisation will be the countervailing force and our only hope that Islamabad — and the rest of metropolitan Pakistan — does not become a total graveyard for the working people that make it tick. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Commerce News**

ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Federal Minister for Privatisation, Fawad Hasan Fawad administers the signing of Financial Services Agreement for Roosevelt Hotel transaction.

**Alvi urges equal opportunities for businesswomen to improve economy**

ISLAMABAD (INP): Dr. Arif Alvi, President of Pakistan urged that businesswomen should be provided equal opportunities to grow in the business field that would pave the way for better development of the economy and bring prosperity to the country.

He said that enhanced participation of women in business and other fields is so important to reduce poverty and ensure sustainable development of the country. He stressed that the government should create better opportunities for the economic empowerment of women and focus

on providing them with a safe and conducive workplace environment. He said this while addressing the award ceremony for businesswomen and young entrepreneurs organized by the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.

President Dr. Arif Alvi lauded the efforts of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce for organizing an award ceremony to recognize the role of businesswomen and young entrepreneurs and said that other chambers of commerce should also work for the economic empowerment of

women and youngsters. He urged the Chambers of Commerce to support businesswomen in getting cheap loans from banks. He said that 20 to 40 percent of employees in SBP and private commercial banks are women, so chambers of commerce should also encourage their member companies to provide jobs to more women and special persons in their business institutions.

He said that over 20 million children are out of school in Pakistan, and more than 50,000 schools are needed for their enrollment. However, as an alter-

native, mosques can be used to educate out-of-school children. Similarly, mosques can also be used as primary health centers. Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Baktawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industries said that to ensure the development and prosperity of the country, it is important to empower women in every sphere of life.

ICCI is working hard to empower women and youth. He said that women are 50% of our population, but their participation in business is meager.

**Pak envoy says: Kazakhstan invited to benefit from SIFC framework**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's ambassador to Kazakhstan Nauman Bashir Bhatti on Friday said Kazakhstan had been invited to benefit from the favorable investment opportunities being offered by Pakistan under the framework of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

"I must highlight that Pakistan has established a SIFC and has opened priority sectors for investments. We have invited Kazakhstan to benefit from the favorable investment opportunities offered under the SIFC framework," he said in response to a question in an interview with 'Kazinform', an international news agency.

Highlighting Pakistan's strategic location, the envoy mentioned that his country also provided the shortest route for Kazakhstan's access to the Arabian Sea. "Pakistan remains keen to strengthen its connectivity with Kazakhstan in multiple ways and through multiple channels. The two sides are already working towards this end."

**Cargo goods between Pak & Afghan PAJCCI for issuing special passes to truck drivers**

PESHAWAR (APP): Coordinator Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI), Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi has suggested issuing special passes to truck drivers transporting cargo goods between Pakistan and Afghanistan. In a press statement issued here on Friday, Zia Sarhadi said the sugges-

**Shipping activity at Port Qasim**

KARACHI (APP): Four ships namely, Navios Constellation, Eva Tokyo, Ullswater and Bi Jia Shan, carrying Containers, Chemicals, LPG and Coal, berthed at Container Terminal, Engro Terminal, Sui Southern Terminal and Bulk Terminal respectively on Thursday.

A total of nine ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships, Golden Curl and Eva Tokyo are left the port on today morning and another containers ship, Navios Constellation is expected to sail on same day.

A cargo volume of 115,911 tonnes, comprising 70,354 tonnes imports cargo and 45,557 tonnes export cargo carried in 3,427 Containers (1,399 TEUs are Import).

**New tech, ranking system should be introduced in cold storage sector: Zaki****Independent Report**

LAHORE: Regional Chairman and Vice President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Zaki Aijaz said new technology and ranking system should be introduced in the cold storage sector. Racks and pallet systems should be used instead of manual procedures for loading and unloading. He expressed these views while addressing the annual general meeting of the All Pakistan Cold Storage Association (APCSA) at FPCCI Regional Office Lahore.

Zaki Aijaz further said that approved gases should be used instead of using hazardous health gases. cold storage should be divided into small rooms where different products can be preserved at different temperatures. Solar systems should be used. These measures can also make the cold storage sector energy efficient.

He further said that the FPCCI will play its full role in solving the cold storage association's problems.

Chairman of All Pakistan Cold Storage Association, Mian Rehman Aziz Chan, said that tariffs on electricity and inflation have significantly increased. The interest is also high, and there has been no reduction.

Due to electricity, inflation, and interest rates, cold storage costs have increased by more than 30%.



LAHORE: Regional Chairman and Vice President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Zaki Aijaz in a group photo with participants during general meeting of All Pakistan Cold Storage Association (APCSA) at FPCCI Regional Office Lahore.

**PSX stays bullish, gains 609 more points**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with a bullish trend on Friday, gaining 609.18 points, a positive change of 0.98 per cent, closing at 63,002.92 points against 62,393.74 points the previous trading day.

A total of 263,547,879 shares valuing Rs 10,730 billion were traded during the day as compared to 270,537,523 shares valuing Rs. 11,625 billion the last day. Some 336 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 217 of them recorded gains and 92 sustained losses, whereas the share prices of 27 remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were K-Electric Limited with 26,580,417 shares at Rs. 4.68 per share.



RAWALPINDI: A woman purchases handmade baskets from a roadside vendor at Rahmanabad.

**Financial advisory services agreement signed Roosevelt Hotel's development**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Privatization Commission on Friday signed a financial advisory services agreement with a consortium led by Jones Lang La Salle Americas Inc (JLL) for joint venture development of Roosevelt Hotel, New York, United States, a property owned by the Pakistan International Airlines Investment Limited (PIAIL).

Caretaker Federal Minister for Privatization Fawad Hasan Fawad witnessed the signing of the agreement, a news release said. Speaking on the occasion, the minister expressed the Pakistan

Government's commitment for developing the historic and landmark site in the heart of financial capital of the world as an iconic structure with the most modern development features and standards.

He expressed his full confidence in the ability and expertise of the Financial Advisory Consortium to find the best possible partners and realize its maximum potential value.

In a subsequent meeting, a detailed road map and time bound milestones were also agreed leading to identification and selection of the potential joint venture partners for the project.

## KP Governor direct varsities to share compliance over 2% admission quota for minorities

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali on Friday issued directives to all the public sector varsities for sharing compliance over two per cent quota for minorities in the province. He issued these directives during a meeting held at the Governor House with a delegation of Civil Society Organization (CSO) representatives led by Qamar Naseem, Programme Manager of Blue Veins organization. Muhammad Rizwan, Provincial Coordinator of the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) was also present on the occasion along with CSO representatives including Zartasha, Faizan, Aliza Mehfooz and Uruba.

The CSO representatives called on Governor to express their gratitude for the support extended by Haji Ghulam Ali in the enforcement of Section 144 for the imposition of a ban on the sale of e-cigarettes on youngsters below the age of 21 and within the vicinity of educational institutions. During the meeting, Qamar Naseem diverted the attention of Governor KP over the non-implementation of 2 per cent admission quota by public sector universities for the minority community. He informed the Governor that during a survey conducted by Blue Veins in the province, it was found that the majority of universities are not utilizing a two per cent quota for minorities as decided by the government.



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi offering Dua after inaugurating Multan University of Science and Technology.

## Naqvi inaugurates Multan university of Science & Tech

LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab, Mohsin Naqvi, formally inaugurated the Multan University of Science and Technology and inspected various sections of the university. He said, "I am very happy to see the teaching of modern sciences and research facilities at Multan University of Science and Technology". He appreciated the role of the university in promoting technology-based higher education. The university needs to increase the number of nurse admissions as nurses are in high demand in Pakistan, Mohsin Naqvi said, adding that the government was ready to cooperate with the university in this regard. On this occasion, Provincial Education Minister Mansoor Qadir, the Inspector General of Police, the Secretary of Health, the Secretary of Construction and Communications, the Additional Chief Secretary of South Punjab and concerned officials were also present. Meanwhile, a delegation of College of Physicians and Surgeons Pakistan (CPSP) met with Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi in Lahore on Friday. CPSP President Prof Khalid Masood Gondal, Prof Mahmood Ayaz, Prof Amir Zaman Khan, Prof Abrar Ashraf, Prof Muhammad Tayyab and Prof Mustafa Arain were included in the delegation. The delegation of CPSP paid tribute to the services of Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi for the extraordinary reforms in the health sector of Punjab in a very short time. No elected government can compete with the

## Punjab Governor says: Overseas Pakistanis playing important role in country's economy

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman was the chief guest at the book launching ceremony of "Zaban Yaar Man Turkey" by overseas Pakistani Dr. Tasawar Aslam Bhutta at Governor House Lahore. Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that overseas Pakistanis are the pride and ambassadors of Pakistan. He said that overseas Pakistanis are playing an important role in the country's economy by sending remittances. Governor Punjab said that the book "Zaban-e-Yar Man Turkey" written by a distinguished Australian Pakistani consultant, Dr. Aslam Bhutta has narrated historical camaraderie between Pakistan and Turkey. He said that through this travelogue, the author has described the moments of stepping on the land of Turkey where every corner, every town, and every city tells the stories of long-standing friendship between Turkey and Pakistan. He said that the book "Zaban e Yar Man Turkiye" reflects the deep brotherly relations, immense love, respect, and mutual cooperation between two nations.



PESHAWAR: Minister Information and Tourism Barrister Feroze Jamal Kaka Khel visiting picture exhibition in connection with Kashmir Solidarity Day at Nishtar Hall.



LAHORE: Caretaker Provincial Education Minister, Mansoor Qadir giving a shield to a participant after the D.M.S scores organized by Management Professional Development Department, at a local hotel, in the Provincial Capital.

## Minister takes notice of outdated custom of 'Ghag'

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Newly Merged District Affairs, Industries, Commerce Technical Education Dr. Aamir Abdullah Friday took notice of the complaints about the outdated custom of 'Ghag' in some tribal areas and directed the concerned authorities to take concrete steps for eradicating the heinous crime. In a dispatch issued by the office of the caretaker minister to the respective Divisional Commissioners, Regional Police Officers (RPOs), Deputy Commissioners (DCs) and District Police Officers of the merged districts and former Frontier Regions (FRs) here, it has been stated that under 'Ghag Act' it has been declared a non-bailable and cognizable offense which under Section 4 of the Act.

## Election 2024: Great enthusiasm witnesses among voters in merged tribal districts

KHYBER (APP): With only six days left in general election 2024, electioneering reached to its peak in all seven merged tribal districts (erstwhile Fata) where candidates started approaching large tribes seeking their support besides busy in election rallies and door to door meetings to attract voters. From South Waziristan to Bajaur and Khyber to North Waziristan tribal districts, the candidates of different political parties and their supporters were gearing up to elect their representatives for national and KP assemblies for next five years on February 8, 2024. Tribal people started gearing up for another historic moment to poll their votes for the first time in their history for both National Assembly and KP legislature seats taking place simultaneously at South Waziristan, North Waziristan, Kurram, Khyber, Orakzai, Mohmand and Bajaur tribal districts on February 8, 2024. "I am eagerly awaiting for the February 8 election to cast my first vote," said Asghar Afridi, a voter of tehsil Bara Khyber tribal district. Besides his area's people, he said they would go in groups to polling stations along with families and friends to fulfill the national obligations. Like Asghar, great enthusiasm is being witnessed among voters in these tribal districts. The earlier election milestone had been achieved in 2019, when 16 seats of the tribal districts in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly were contested for the first time following their merger with the province. The inaugural elections for the provincial assembly seats from the merged districts took place on July 18, 2019 - a year after the general polls of July 25, 2018. Bajaur had two NA seats in the 2018 general elections that had now been reduced to one following the delimitation of constituencies last year. Independent candidates dominated the provincial polls by securing six

seats, followed by the PTI with five in 2019 elections. The candidates of the JUI-F bagged three seats while the ANP and Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) both won one each respectively. Three independent candidates joined the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) and formed a new parliamentary party in the province. Of the four reserved seats for women from the merged districts, the PTI secured two while the JUI-F and BAP both acquired one each while the lone reserved seat for minorities was also bagged by the PTI. Dr. A.H. Hilali, ex chairman political science department, university of Peshawar said that Febru-

ary 8, 2024 would be historic movement for tribal people of merged tribal districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would exercise their right of franchise for the second time to elect their representatives for next five years. He said merged tribal districts have a different political culture than settled districts where large tribes play a key role in deciding the fate of candidates. Dr Hilali said that literacy rate in merged tribal districts were significantly improved and expected high turnout in this election compared to last election. In the 2019 polls, Anwar Zeb Khan of PTI had won PK-100 Bajaur-I and Ajmal Khan of the same party was elected from PK-101 Bajaur-II. Similarly, JI's Sirajuddin Khan from PK-102 Bajaur-III, ANP's Nisar Ahmed from PK-103 Mohmand-I, independent candidate Abbas Rehman from PK-104 Mohmand-II, and independent candidate Shafiq Afridi from PK-105 Khyber-I were also elected. Others who emerged victorious included independent candidate Bilawal Afridi from PK-106 Khyber-II, independent candidate Mohammad Shafiq from PK-107 Khyber-III, JUI-F's Muhammad Riaz from PK-108 Kurram-I, and PTI's Syed Iqbal Mian from PK-109 Kurram-I.

## International News

## Trudeau condemns attack on Canada mosque, says Islamophobia 'has no place' in country

QUEBEC: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Thursday condemned an attack on a mosque in the city of Mississauga in Ontario province, which is being probed as a hate crime and which rights advocates described as being part of a rise in Islamophobia. Police said someone threw two rocks through the window of a Mississauga mosque on Sunday, on the eve of the anniversary of a mosque attack in Quebec City that killed six people in 2017. CBC News said no one was injured in the incident. "Islamophobia has no place in any of our communities," Trudeau said on X, formerly called Twitter. "The attack against a Mississauga mosque earlier this week on the National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque Attack and Action Against Islamophobia is cowardly, disturbing, and unacceptable. I condemn it in the strongest terms possible," he said. The National Council of Canadian Muslims said the attack was "part of an alarming rise in Islamophobic hate across the country." In November, authorities in Toronto said the number of antisemitic and anti-Muslim hate crimes in Canada's largest city had spiked significantly since the start of Israel's military offensive in Gaza. Rights advocates have noted a rise in anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in many parts of the world since October 7 when Palestinian group Hamas attacked Israel and killed 1,200, according to Israeli tallies. Since then, Israel has militarily assaulted the Gaza Strip, killing 27,000, according to Gaza's health ministry, and flattening most of the densely populated enclave where nearly all of the 2.3 million population is displaced.

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Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi visits the military equipment of IRGC Navy in Bandar Abbas, Iran.

## North Korea fires multiple cruise missiles into West Sea

SEOUL: North Korea fired multiple cruise missiles into the West Sea on Friday, Seoul's military said, continuing a fresh streak of weapons testing as Kim Jong Un's regime ramps up "war preparations". Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the military had "detected at around 11am (0200 GMT) the firing of multiple unidentified cruise missiles" into the sea off the country's west coast. The South Korean military has "stepped up surveillance in close coordination with the United States", the JCS said in the statement. The military is "closely monitoring for signs of additional activity" by the North Korean army, it said, adding they were "closely analysing" the launch. The Friday launch comes three days after the nuclear-armed North conducted what it said was a test-fire of a strategic cruise missile. On Sunday, Kim also oversaw the launch of two Pulhwasal-3-31s, a new type of strategic cruise missile, purportedly from a North Korean submarine. Pyongyang has also claimed this month to have tested an "underwater nuclear weapon system" and a solid-fuelled hypersonic ballistic missile. Unlike their ballistic counterparts, the testing of cruise missiles is not banned under current UN sanctions on Pyongyang. Cruise missiles tend to be jet-propelled and fly at a lower altitude than more sophisticated ballistic missiles, making them harder to detect and intercept.

## China tells Ukraine to remove its firms from 'sponsors of war' list

KYIV: China demanded on Thursday that Ukraine immediately remove more than a dozen Chinese companies from a list of firms designated as "international sponsors of war", saying it wanted Kyiv to "eliminate negative impacts". The remarks came after Reuters reported that China's ambassador in Kyiv had told senior Ukrainian government officials last month that the inclusion of the companies on the list could hurt bilateral ties. "China firmly opposes the inclusion of Chinese enterprises in the relevant list and demands that Ukraine immediately correct its mistakes and eliminate negative impacts," a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson told Reuters after the report was published. It did not specify what those impacts may be.

## More than 100 Myanmar migrants flee Malaysian detention centre, one dead

KUALA LUMPUR: An undocumented migrant from Myanmar has died in a road accident while fleeing an immigration detention centre with over a hundred others in Malaysia late Thursday, officials said. The incident was the second reported breakout from a Malaysian detention centre in as many years. In April 2022, 582 ethnic Rohingya refugees from Myanmar escaped.

## Thunberg goes on trial in London for oil protest

LONDON: Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg went on trial on Thursday for a public order offence related to a protest outside an oil and gas conference held in London last year. Thunberg, who became a prominent campaigner worldwide after staging week-long protests in front of the Swedish parliament in 2018, was arrested on Oct 17. She and others had been protesting outside a hotel where the Energy Intelligence Forum was hosting oil and gas industry leaders. The 21-year-old appeared at Westminster Magistrates' Court on Thursday alongside four other defendants, aged between 19 and 59, who have pleaded not guilty to a single offence under the Public Order Act. The five are accused of failing to comply with a condition imposed by senior police officers to move their protest to designated area near the conference.

## Indian Muslim leaders urge government to end mosque-temple disputes

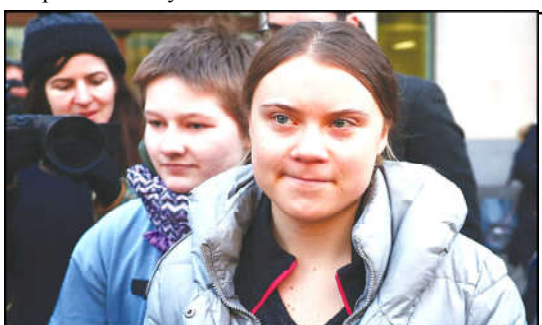
NEW DELHI: Top Muslim leaders in India called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government on Friday to end disputes over mosques and Hindu temples, saying the minority Muslim population was feeling under threat and their places of worship should be protected. "Many people in the country are claiming that some of the historic mosques were constructed after the destruction of temples, but these are false accusations," said Maulana Khalid Saifullah Rahmani, president of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board. "We urge the government to put an end to such disputes and save the secular fabric of the nation," he told reporters, flanked by other leaders and clerics.

## UN's Palestinian agency nominated for Nobel Prize

OSLO: A Norwegian politician said on Thursday that he has nominated the UN Palestinian refugee agency UNRWA, embroiled in a controversy over the alleged involvement of employees in the Oct 7 raid on Israel, for the Nobel Peace Prize. Labour MP Asmund Akrustad told the Dagbladet newspaper he had nominated the UN Relief and Works Agency "for its long-term work to provide vital support to Palestine and the region in general".

## EU approves \$54 billion package for Ukraine after appeasing Hungary

BRUSSELS: European Union (EU) leaders unanimously agreed on Thursday to extend 50 billion euros (\$54bn) in aid to Ukraine, overcoming weeks of resistance by Hungary. Leaders from Western countries have reacted over the aid announcement for the Ukraine. European Council President Charles Michel said, "We have a deal. All 27 leaders agreed on an additional 50bn support package for Ukraine within the EU budget. This looks in steadfast, long-term, predictable funding for Ukraine. The EU is taking leadership and responsibility in support for Ukraine; we know what it is at stake." Reacting on the EU aid announcement, the Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said, "Grateful to Charles Michel and EU leaders for establishing the 50bn Ukraine Facility for 2024-2027. It is very important that the decision was made by all 27 leaders, which once again proves strong EU unity." "Continued EU financial support for Ukraine will strengthen long-term economic and financial stability, which is no less important than military assistance and sanctions pressure on Russia." Meanwhile, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban said that "We negotiated an offer, and negotiated a control mechanism that guarantees the reasonable use of funds and we also received guarantees that Hungary's money (that the commission has not yet released) cannot go to Ukraine. After a lengthy negotiation we accepted this offer." In addition, EU Commission Chief Ursula von der Leyen said, "Agreement! The European Council delivered on our priorities."



Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg leaves Westminster Magistrates Court in London after the hearing.

## Hamas says it's studying Gaza cease-fire proposal, but appears to rule out key provisions

BEIRUT: Hamas officials said Friday that the group is studying a proposed cease-fire deal that would include prolonged pauses in fighting in Gaza and swaps of Israeli hostages for Palestinian prisoners, but at the same time appeared to rule out some of its key components. Osama Hamdan, a senior Hamas official in Beirut, said the group remains committed to its initial demands for a permanent cease-fire. Hamdan also said the group seeks the release of thousands of Palestinian prisoners being held for acts related to the conflict with Israel, including those serving life sentences. He mentioned two by name, including Marwan Barghouti, a popular Palestinian uprising leader seen as a unifying figure. Hamdan's comments on the prisoners were the most detailed demands yet to be raised by the group in public.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of International Chess Federation calls on President Dr. Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## Alvi for promoting chess at grassroots levels and organizing tournaments

ISLAMABAD (Online): President Dr. Arif Alvi has called for promoting chess in the country, especially at the grassroots levels, through collaborations with international chess organizations, the private sector, and organizing chess championships in the country.

The President expressed these views while talking to a delegation of the International Chess Federation (FIDE), who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. The delegation included President FIDE and former Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, Mr. Arkady Dvorkovich, President of

the Asian Chess Federation and son of the late President of UAE, Sheikh Sultan bin Khalifa Al-Nahayan, Managing Director FIDE, Ms. Dana Reizniece-Ozola, British Chess Grandmaster, Dr. Nigel Short, Secretary General of Asian Chess Federation, Mr. Hisham Al Taher, Chief Patron of Chess Federation of Pakistan, Mr. Jauhar Saleem, and members of FIDE, Asian Chess Federation, Chess Federation of Pakistan, FIDE Chess in Education Commission, Islamabad Scrabble Association, and Pakistan Scrabble Association.

Talking to the delegation, the President highlighted the need to promote healthy activities, including chess in the country. He stated that chess had mental and educational benefits, and it needed to be included in the education system. He further said that the game of chess could help relieve stress, besides enhancing intellect as well as boosting mental faculties.

The President highlighted the need to encourage chess by organizing chess competitions and tournaments in the country. He also stressed the need for developing collaborations among the public and

private sectors to patronize and promote chess in Pakistan.

The delegation briefed the President about the role of the International Chess Federation in promoting chess in the world. The delegation highlighted that there was great potential to expand chess-related activities in Pakistan. It was appreciated that a large number of people in Pakistan were fond of the game. The delegation suggested that chess should be promoted at the primary level in schools, adding that chess players could also participate online in World chess tournaments.

## Mind games important for fostering physical, mental growth in youth: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Friday emphasizing the importance of sports, particularly mind games, in fostering both physical and mental development of youth, said that the chess game helps to instill discipline in individuals' thought processes. Addressing the launch of the Prime Minister's National Mind Sports Initiative, the prime minister highlighted the positive impact of such mind games on mental well-being and said the youth engaged in such healthy ac-

tivities would become successful professionals in the future. He said these games promote cognitive activity and critical thinking among the players.

The prime minister said he was happy that he made a commitment to this special cause, and he will also continue to support and promote this cause in the future. He said every school in the country should have access to this game. Acknowledging the contribution of the federal minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination Fawad

Hassan Fawad PM Kakar said that due to his personal efforts, the launch of this initiative became possible.

Fawad Hassan Fawad, on the occasion, informed that, under the initiative, the facility of mind games would be provided at 10,000 public schools across the country. "We are going to take it across all the public schools in Pakistan, and we are also engaging the corporate sector and inviting the private schools to have this in every single school in the country," he added. The minister said that in the first month, some 100 schools in Islamabad would be given the facility.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar addresses the inaugural ceremony of National Mind Sports Initiative.

## Hurriyat leader lauds Pakistan's unconditional support to Kashmir cause

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senior Hurriyat Leader Raja Najabat Hussain Friday appreciated Pakistani nation and friends of Kashmir across the globe for unconditional support for Kashmiris fighting for their right to self-determination.

Pakistan is determined to continue its moral, political and diplomatic support to the Kashmir issue, adding, media is also playing a vital role in highlighting Kashmir issue and Indian atrocities, he said while talking to Radio Pakistan's current Affairs program.

He said Kashmiris on both sides of LoC and across the globe will observe 5th Feb as Kashmir Solidarity Day, adding, the purpose of observing this day is to ex-

press solidarity with the Kashmiris that are suffering from Indian atrocities.

"We are firmly stands with our Kashmiri brethren facing Indian aggression", he added.

We, as Kashmiris, will be holding meetings, conducting seminars and conferences not only on 5th of February but also do the same on 9th of February on the occasion of the death anniversary of Afzal Guru, he mentioned. We are working closely with all Pakistani and Kashmiri organizations in the European Union and the United Kingdom, he added. The Pro-India Kashmiris are also condemning the Indian brutal activities in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, he mentioned.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Head of Mission France, Guillaume Dabouis inaugurates 'Burgeoning Icons Exhibition' at Gallery 6.

## Wanted member of drug peddler gang arrested; huge cache drugs recovered

**Independent Report**  
ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police Shams Colony police team arrested a peddler and recovered a huge cache of drugs from his possession, a public relations officer said.

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

Following these directives, the Shams Colony police team arrested an accused namely

Muhammad Asif and recovered 1821 grams of heroin from his possession. Case has been registered against the accused and further investigation is underway.

Islamabad Capital City Police officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan directed all senior officials for effective crackdown against the accused involved in drug peddling activities.

He emphasized that Islamabad Capital Police will not leave any stone unturned to curb the menace of drugs. "No one would be allowed to play with the precious lives of our young generation" he added.

## CW observation team for election briefed about security arrangements

**Independent Report**  
ISLAMABAD: According to the details, the Commonwealth observation team for election 2024 visited Safe City Islamabad and met with Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, a public relations officer said.

He said that, a meeting was organized at Command and Center for Election 2024, which was attended by the Commonwealth observation team and senior officers of Islamabad Capital Police.

During the meeting, the Commonwealth observation team was given a detailed briefing on the measures regarding election security in the federal capital, Islamabad.

Chairperson Commonwealth observation team appreciated the efforts of ICCPO and praised the Islamabad Capital Police.



ISLAMABAD: Commonwealth Observation Team for Election 2024 meeting with ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan.

## Two missing boys reunited with their families

ISLAMABAD (INP): Islamabad Capital Police Industrial Area and Shams Colony police station teams reunited two missing boys with their parents, a public relation officer said.

According to the details, the Industrial-Area police station team received an application from a citizen in which he stated that his son, namely Muhammad Ali had been missing and could not be traced despite hectic efforts by family members.

Similarly, the Shams Colony police station team received an application from a citizen in which he stated that his son, namely Nawaz Sharif had been missing and could not be traced despite hectic efforts by family members.

Chairperson BISP mentioned that, within a short span, BISP, in col-

## BISP holds prominent position as global leader in Social Protection Programs: Saqib

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib Friday emphasized that BISP holds a prominent position as a global leader in Social Protection Programs.

Addressing a presser, the chairman stated that BISP is serving 9.3 million families in a dignified manner through the compassionate provision of financial support. Dr. Saqib said that the transparency and efficiency of BISP have gathered recognition from its International Developmental Partners, owing to the program's credible database and robust payment mechanism.

Chairperson BISP mentioned that, within a short span, BISP, in col-

laboration with partner organizations and stakeholders, initiated numerous new projects.

Addressing concerns raised during the distribution of quarterly funds under the sponsorship program, where women complained of not receiving the full amount, BISP introduced a new banking system for payments.

Initially handled by only two banks, the country has now been divided into 15 clusters, with more than eight banks assigned to reduce complaints of deductions. Dr. Saqib revealed that BISP has augmented the quarterly installment of Benazir Kafalat by Rs. 1750 due to rising inflation, resulting in eligible women now receiving Rs. 10,500 per quarter instead of Rs. 8,750.

## IHC stops police from harassing PTI supporters

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has stopped police from harassing PTI supporters.

Petition filed by PTI leader and candidate Ali Bukhari advocate and Shaheen Shoaib regarding non provision of level playing field came up for hearing before single bench of IHC led by Chief Justice (CJ) Aamer Farooq Friday.

The CJ IHC summoned SSP operation and Election Commission (EC) authorities on Tuesday.

CJ IHC Aamer Farooq remarked we call higher au-

thorities and direct them.

The petitioners are senior leaders and senior lawyers of bar.

Shoaib Shaheen and Ali Bukhari had filed petition against hindrances in election campaign.

During the hearing Shoaib Shaheen and Ali Bukhari told the court Police are not refraining from harassing. When our people hold corner meeting then police reach behind them. We have told them we are not Qabza group.

The CJ IHC inquired tell us to whom I should call. To whom I should issue order.

## 39th MCMC officers visit IPO- Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of the National Institute of Management (NIM) consisting of 15 officers of the Mid-Career Management Course (MCMC) visited the Intellectual Property Organization (IPO) headquarters in Islamabad.

The Chair of IPO-Pakistan, Ambassador @ Farukh Amil, provided a detailed briefing to the delegation about the working of the organization, including intellectual property rights, administrative structure, legal framework, progress, major issues, and challenges, said a press release issued here on Friday.

The delegation also received information about innovation, business, IP rights, trademarks, copyrights, patent inventions, PCT, technological innovation, and Geographical Indications.

## PTI intra party election postponed

ISLAMABAD (online): PTI intra party elections have been postponed.

Talking to media men here Friday PTI leader Barrister Gohar said intra party elections have been postponed under the directives of PTI founder.

He held candidates and voters are engaged in election campaign at present and intra party elections can divert their attention from general election. Therefore, election are being postponed.

It is pertinent to mention here intra party election of PTI were to be held on February 05.

## 11 outlaws arrested; drugs and weapons recovered

**Independent Report**  
ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police apprehended 11 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 (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police has intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate the crime from city.

Following these directions, the Secretariat police team arrested an accused namely Kashif Iqbal and recovered 1018 gram heroin from his possession.

The Industrial-Area police team arrested two accused namely Shafique and Waqas and recovered one 30 bore pistol and 325 gram heroin from their possession.

The students from the Scholars School Bhara



ISLAMABAD: Secretary Information Ms. Shahera Shahid inaugurates the Digital Photography and Painting Exhibition in connection of Kashmir Solidarity Day observes on 5th February organized by Department of Electronic Media and Publications at Information Services Academy.

## IWMB celebrates World Wetlands Day at Kinara Park with students

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) on Friday celebrated the international wetlands day at Kinara Park near Rawal Lake with students of schools and universities to create awareness among the young generation on the importance and protection of wetlands for healthy ecosystems.

The theme for this year was "Wetlands and human wellbeing". Its goal is to highlight how all aspects of human well-being "physical, mental, and environmental" are tied to the health of the world's wetlands. The wetlands day emerged on the global calendar after the Ramsar Convention, named after the Iranian city of Ramsar, was ratified which was an international treaty for the conservation of wetlands on February 2, 1971. Since then, the day is observed.

The IWMB regularly celebrates the Day and this time it was held in a unique fashion with students' being sensitized through a special awareness session on the topic and its role in nature conservation followed up a group activity to hold cleanup exercise around the Park and ended up with a quiz and books distribution among the students.

The students from the Scholars School Bhara

## Rain-wind, thunderstorm likely in most parts of country

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecast rain-wind/thunderstorm with snowfall over mountains for most parts of the country during the next 24 hours.

Isolated heavy falls/snowfall is likely in Balochistan during the period.

Heavy rainfall may cause flash flooding in local nullahs of Barkhan, Kohlu, Sibbi, Naseerabad, Dalbandin and Khuzdar on 2nd and 3rd of February.

According to the synoptic situation, a westerly wave is affecting Balochistan and Sindh and is likely to approach upper parts from tonight.

During the last 24 hours, cloudy weather prevailed over southern and central parts of the country while rain-thunderstorm with snow over mountains occurred in Balochistan and lower Sindh.

The rainfall recorded was Balochistan: Turbat, Khuzdar 07mm, Kalat 05, Panjgur, Lasbela 01, Sindh: Larkana 02, Hyderabad, Karachi 01mm. The snowfall recorded was 0.4 inches in Astore.

The lowest minimum temperatures recorded were Kalam -14C, Leh -12, Malam Jabba, Astore -07, Gupis -05, Skardu and Rawalakot -04C.

## Information Secretary for sensitizing youth about Kashmir issue

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Shaheera Shahid on Friday underlined the need for educating the current and coming generations about historical facts regarding Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IloJK).

"It is our national obligation to sensitize our young generation about Kashmir as well as the current situation there," the secretary said while addressing the inaugural ceremony of the Digital Photography and Painting Exhibition here at Information Service Academy.

The Directorate of Electronic Media and Pub-

lic organized the exhibition in connection with the Kashmir Solidarity Day.

The secretary said India abrogated the Articles 370 and 35A of Indian constitution for turning Muslim majority in IloJK into minority. India would not be able to achieve its nefarious designs in IloJK, she added.

She said the United Nations Security Council should hear the Kashmir case on merit. The peace in South Asia region was directly linked to the resolution of Kashmir issue, she added.

Pakistan stood with Kashmiri brothers extending diplomatic, legal and moral support to them, she remarked.

## Pakistan Subnational Food System Dashboard to help policy makers

ISLAMABAD (APP): The experts at a seminar on Friday termed the recently established Pakistan Subnational Food System Dashboard as a problem-solving advanced solution for the policymakers and academia working in the field of agriculture and food security. The seminar titled, "Using Digital Platforms for Sustaining Food Systems", was organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) in collaboration with the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), said a press release issued here. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Ghulam Sadiq Afridi, Member of Social Sciences, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), said though the country had the world's one of the most diverse and beautiful agricultural landscape, it is ranked eighth globally in farm production. The establishment of Pakistan's Subnational Food Systems Dashboard by the Ministry of National Food Security and Research in partnership with the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) and housed in the Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC), is the critical step towards the provision of easy access to the available data.

"We are going to initiate specific interventions for food system transformation and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

ISLAMABAD (APP): DG, FDI Tanveer Ahmed Principal Prof. Rozina Faheem awarding Gold medal to a student in 3rd Convocation of FFG Home Economics College F11/1.



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