Indenendent

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Saudi Arabia is our closest ally Venom against Saudi Arabia unforgivable crime; nation to break such hand: PM

Premier warns propaganda against Saudi Arabia harms national interest, urging strong opposition to such actions; Says personal and political agendas behind PTI's statements; Kachhi Canal to open doors of prosperity to Balochistan people

Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday, recounting Saudi Arabia's unconditional financial and diplomatic support to Pakistan, warned that any venom-spitting against such a brotherly country was an unforgivable crime and called for the national unity to counter such anti-state elements.

The prime minister, addressing the inauguration of the Restoration of Kachhi Canal damaged by

TAUNSA (APP): Prime 2022 floods, said whether break any hand trying to it was the Kashmir issue, the United Nations or the UN Security Council, Saudi Arabia always acted as Pakistan's advocate and benefactor, as the Kingdom also bailed out Pakistan recently to seek IMF pro-

> "Despite this, such venom-spitting is an unforgivable crime.

> I as the prime minister of Pakistan want to announce that the nation will

undermine the Pakistan-Saudi friendship. This is not The allegation is be-

yond understanding. The largest national interest is being "slaughtered" to serve the short-term political interest," he remarked after inaugurating the project that will irrigate over 715,000 acres of land in Balochistan and revive life in the area turned barren



the button to open gates for flow of water from Indus River into Kacchi Canal.

CM Murad intensifies efforts to address polio virus resurgence

ARACHI (APP): The from the US CDC and the POB), the highest decision-making body of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), met with Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah at the Chief Minister's House to review and discuss the province's progress in eradicating po-

Led by Chair Dr Chris Elias, the POB commended the Sindh government's unwavering commitment to combating polio despite significant challenges.

The meeting included high-profile representatives from international and provincial organisations, such as Dr Hanan Balkhy (WHO Regional Director), Mr Wijesekera (UNICEF Regional Director), Mr Aziz Memon (Trustee of the Rotary King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSRelief). (From Sindh govt): Health Minister Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Mayor of Karachi Murtaza Wahab, provincial secretaries and Coordinator EOC Irshad Sodhar and other senior officials attended the

meeting.
The Chief Minister highlighted Sindh's intensified efforts to address the resurgence of wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1), with 13 cases reported this year following 34 months without any cases. "We have mobilised 4,500 additional staff, engaged parliamentarians in areas with high refusal rates, and achieved a 50pc reduction in persistent refusals," he stated. He also Foundation), and officials ers, supported by 20,000 environment of the virus.

police personnel, successfully vaccinated over 10.6 million children in recent campaigns.

government's recent immunisation drives reported Local Quality Assessment Survey (LQAS) pass rates of 89 per cent in September and 84 per cent in October. The Chief Minister emphasised the importance of combating vaccine hesitancy through targeted communication strategies and expressed gratitude to global partners, including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Rotary International, for their ongoing support POB Chair Dr Chris Elias praised Sindh's efforts, saying, "Sindh has made substantial progress, and we are confident that the teams noted that frontline work- will successfully clear the

GB CM demands

constitutional

reforms and

provincial

autonomy

Independent Report

Baltistan Chief Minis-

ter Haji Gulbar Khan

has urged for constitu-tional reforms and pro-

vincial autonomy for

Gilgit-Baltistan,

stressing that the region's people should

not be overlooked in

the National Financial

During a joint press conference with Senior MQM leader

Dr. Farooq Sattar, the Chief Minister ex-

pressed gratitude to MQM Pakistan for ad-

vocating for the rights of the Gilgit-Baltistan

people.

Dr. Farooq Sattar emphasized the need

for a draft to amend the

Gilgit-Baltistan Con-

stitution and grant the

region autonomous

province status, simi-

lar to Azad Kashmir's

representation in the

National Financial

Minister's delegation,

including provincial

ministers Hussain Shah and Rahmat

Khaliq, met with MQM

Chairman Dr. Khalid

Magbool Siddiqui and

other leaders at the

party's Bahadurabad

Chief

Commission.

The

Baltistan

Commission.

KARACHI:

Visits Peshawar: COAS resolves to hunt down enemies of peace to ensure lasting stability and security

Briefed on prevailing security situation, ongoing counter terrorism operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): present at the occasion. General Syed Asim Munir, NI(M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) on Friday visited Peshawar, as a follow up of the National Apex Committee meeting held on November 19 and prelude to Provincial Apex Committee meeting to be held soon.

The COAS was provided a comprehensive briefing on the prevailing security situation and the progress of ongoing counter-terrorism operations in the region, said an Inter Services Public Relacommanders were also threats.

Paying profound trib-ute to the Shuhada and Ghazis, the COAS emphasized the unparalleled sacrifices being rendered for the defense of the motherland.

He remarked that these sacrifices served as a cornerstone of national resilience, inspiring and unwavering dedication of the armed forces and of law enforcement agencies.

The COAS commended the high morale. operational readiness, and unyielding commitment of tions (ISPR) news. Chief
Minister KPK and field
countering all forms of

UAE CG calls on Sindh Governor

Tessori met with the Consul General of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bakheet Ateeq Al-Rumaithi on Friday

KARACHI (APP): Gover-nor of Sindh Kamran Khan commemorating the UAE's

53rd National Day. Governor Kamran Khan Tessori acknowledged the UAE's unwavering support to Pakistan during chal-



During the meeting at vitation to the Governor in Sindh's promising sectors.

lenging times and empha-Governor House, the Con-sized the opportunities sul General extended an in- available for UAE investors

Malaysian Air Force Chief calls on CAS **Zaheer Ahmed**

ISLAMABAD (APP): During his first-ever visit to Pakistan, General Tan Sri Dato' Sri Mohd Asghar Khan bin Goriman Khan, Chief of the Royal Malaysian Air Force called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force on Friday at Air Headquarters.

The meeting focused on matters of mutual interest, military cooperation, joint training and collaboration in the industrial domain, said a news release issued by Inter Services

On his arrival, a smartly turned-out contingent of Pakistan Air Force presented Guard of Honour to General Tan Sri Dato' Sri Mohd Asghar Khan bin Goriman Khan.

During the meeting, Chief of the Air Staff high-Pakistan and Malaysia.

warm wishes to Chief of the Royal Malaysian Air Force on his maiden visit to Pakistan and highlighted the importance of collaboration in training, joint exercises



the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu exchanging views with General Tan Sri Dato Sri Mohd Asghar Khan Bin Goriman Khan, Chief of the Royal Malaysian Air Force during meeting held at Air Headquarters in Islamabad.

Mayor Karachi Murtaza says: **KMC** to fully cooperate with PCB to host Champions

office, alongside Provincial

The Mayor Karachi thanked the PČB for select-

lighted the robust bilateral defence ties that exist between He conveyed his

and technology sharing.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Chief of

Trophy matches in Karachi

Karachi, Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Friday said that once the International Crciket Council (ICC) finalized the schedule for the Champions Trophy, the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) will fully cooperate with the PCB to host the tournament's

speaking to media represen-

Champions matches and it will be an matches in Karachi.

He said this while tatives at the KMC head Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, upon the Champions Trophy's ar-

KARACHI (APP): Mayor ing Karachi to host the

> honor for the city.
>
> He expressed confidence that cricket fans will witness top-quality cricket during the Champions Trophy. After the 2017 Champions Trophy, the next one is scheduled for 2025, and cricket fans are eagerly awaiting the second-largest global tournament of 50over cricket after the World Cup, he added.

He said that the teams coming from other countries to participate in the Champions Trophy will be warmly welcomed in



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Sved Murad Ali Shah presides over a meeting with delegation of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Polio Oversight Board regarding polio eradication at CM House.

Sindh government to tackle encroachments on transport lands, plans bus service growth: Sharjeel

Independent Report

KARACHI: The Sindh government has begun preparations to reclaim the ands belonging to the Transport Department. It has been decided to seek the assistance of the Chief Secretary Sindh, IG Sindh, and the Anti-Encroachment authorities to carry out the process. The 13th meeting of the Sindh Mass Transit Authority Board was held in Karachi, chaired by Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon. The meeting was attended by Mayor Sukkur, Arsalan Islam Shaikh, Secretary of Transport Asad Zamin, Managing Director of the Sindh Mass Transit Authority Kamal Dayo, DIG Traffic Ahmed Nawaz Cheema, and other board members.

and Provincial Minister for Information, Transport, and Mass Transit, Sharjeel Inam Memon, stated that in the 12th meeting of the Sindh Mass Transit Authority Board, it was decided to reclaim the lands ment. He emphasized that the removal of illegal occushould be ensured as soon as possible, with the support of the Chief Secretary Sindh, IG Sindh, and Anti-Encroachment authorities sought for this purpose. He representative from Planbeen issued for the lands on which the offices of

government institutions

Negotiations should be

Ombudsman officers should

modernize investigations to address

public complaints, says Sohail

Independent Report KARACHI: Provincial Ombudsman Sindh Mohammad

Sohail Rajput has said that Provincial Ombudsman offic-

ers should develop their investigations on modern lines

to redress public complaints against government depart-

ments. Every sector of the world is adopting innovation,

so we also have to make our investigation method more

active and faster to redress public complaints against

government departments. He expressed these views while

addressing the closing ceremony of a three-day training

workshop organized by Sindh Judicial Academy for the

tice of Sindh High Court Justice Mohammad Iqbal

Kalhoro, Registrar Provincial Ombudsman Masood

Ishrat, all Regional Directors, Assistant Registrars,

Deputy Registrars and other officers were also present

on the occasion. The Provincial Ombudsman Sindh

Mohammad Sohail Rajput urged the officers to adopt the

modern methods taught in the training workshop orga-

nized under the Sindh Judicial Academy and speed up

their investigation process to resolve public complaints

against government departments registered in the office

of the Ombudsman Sindh.

Director General Sindh Judicial Academy and Jus-

officers of the Provincial Ombudsman Sindh.

Speaking at the meeting, Sindh Senior Minister evant institutions to ensure compliance with these

In the minutes of the 12th meeting of the Sindh Mass Transit Authority Board, the appointment of the Secretary of the Board for the Sindh Mass Tranof the Transport Depart- sit Authority was ap-

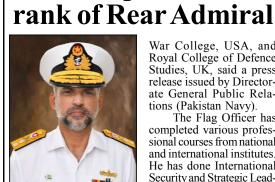
proved The board meeting pations on these lands also approved the extension of contracts for two Project Management Unit contract employees of the Abdul Sattar Edhi Orange stated that notices have ning and Development recommended the permanent appointment of Pervaiz Jamali, the Deputy Direchave been constructed. tor of the Project Manage-

ment Unit. Bajwa denies Saudi role in Imran's ouster

Monitoring Desk Refuting AHORE: Bushra Bibi's statement about Saudi government's role in the ouster of former premier Imran Khan, exarmy chief Oamar Javed Bajwa said Pakistan and Saudi Arabia held friendly

ties during the PTI regime. Talking to a private tv channel, the former army chief termed Bushra Bibi's statement a pack of lies. He asked how a friendly country could interfere in Pakistan's internal affairs.

He pointed out that the OIC summit was held in Islamabad on March 21, 2022, questioning whether there had been any tension in the ties between both countries, would Saudi Arabia have allowed the summit to take place in Pakistan. Detailing Imran's visit to KSA, Bajwa said Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad Bin Salman himself came to receive the former in Jeddah "Shah Mehmood Oureshi and I were present at the dinner during the visit," said Bajwa. The ex-army chief said he had no inkling as to what is wrong with Bushra Bibi. He expressed concern over her statement, saying Imran can endorse it to make it a narrative.



KARACHI (APP): Commodore Ateeq ur Rehman Abid has been promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral with immediate effect.

Rear Admiral Ateeq ur Rehman Abid got commission in Operations Branch of Pakistân Navy in 1995. The Flag Officer is a graduate of Pakistan Naval

War College, USA, and Royal College of Defence Studies, UK, said a press release issued by Directorate General Public Rela-

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Ini-

tiatives Ahsan Iqbal chairing a review meeting to assess the progress of

Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) projects for 2024-25

Commodore Ateeq ur

Rehman promoted to

tions (Pakistan Navy). The Flag Officer has completed various professional courses from national and international institutes. He has done International Security and Strategic Leadership Studies Course from Naval Staff Course from USA, Pakistan Navy

Course from PN War College Lahore and National Security and War Course from National De-University, Islamabad

The Admiral has an illustrious career covering vast experience of various Command and Staff appointments.





Naeem-ur-Rehman along with others addresses to media persons during press conference, at Idarae-Noor-ul-Haq in Karachi.

Daily doice of Masse Independent

Kurram atrocity

With the situation in KP's Kurram tribal district already volatile for the past several months, the murderous violence witnessed on Thursday has not come as a surprise

At least 38 people were killed when a convoy of vehicles was attacked in an act of terrorism in Lower Kurram, in what is one of the biggest single mass-casualty attacks this year. The convoys consisted mostly of members of the Shia community. In this part of KP, militancy, tribal disputes and sectarianism, which has claimed both Shia and Sunni lives, have created a powder keg.

Sadly, the state has ignored the situation for years, or made only half-hearted efforts to address it. This year, a land dispute between two tribes metastasised into something uglier, with over 80 people killed since July, many of them while travelling by road. The people of Kurram took to the streets two weeks ago, demanding peace and safety on the roads. As yesterday's atrocity showed, the state was unable to provide these.

Unfortunately, the centre and KP government are both so embroiled in politicking that the security situation of Kurram and other parts of the province fails to attract their attention. Statements are issued, promises are made, but the people of KP are left to fend for themselves as bloodthirsty terrorists ravage the province. Security institutions have also failed to flush out militants threatening

Kurram is particularly sensitive, due mainly to its sectarian dynamics and proximity to Afghanistan, in addition to the presence of militant groups and heavy arms. Yet the state has been unable to deweaponise the area, or judiciously resolve the tribal disputes that can spiral into communal blood-

It would be a monumental mistake for the state to continue ignoring the violence in Kurram. Instability can easily spread to the adjoining districts if not contained, and vested interests can exploit sectarian differences in the region to create communal discord across Pakistan. The first duty of the state is to track down and punish the elements responsible for the latest attack. It cannot be business as usual after this brutal episode, and all state institutions must come up with solid plans to protect Kurram's people, and other vulnerable populations in KP.

A multiparty conference to discuss law and order in KP has been scheduled for next month. Considering the latest outrage, this conclave should be held earlier. Moreover, along with state functionaries, the ulema and tribal elders must also work to defuse the situation and ensure a retaliatory spiral of violence does not ensue.

The state has dithered over Kurram's security long enough. It is time to provide justice to the victims of violence, while terrorists and their facilitators must be tracked down and made to answer before the law.

Killing fields

While the PTI-run government in KP continues to depict itself as the last remaining bastion of democracy in the country, pitched against the govand other federating units, many parts of the province have once again become killing

fields. Target killers roam free in Bannu, Waziristan and other Pakhtun regions. Attacks against political workers, security personnel and ordinary civilians have become an almost daily affair. Religiously inspired militants sometimes acknowledge responsibility, but there is an eyecatching number of perpetrators in the now familiar category of 'unknowns

Bloodletting in Kurram district reached unprecedented proportions a couple of weeks disputes

instrumentalised by militant elements to stoke sectarian tensions at will. And yesterday, a bus of civilians was fired upon near Parachinar resulting in over 30 deaths.

In such cases, neither the chief minister of KP nor the prime and interior minister at the centre provide the general public with any meaningful information let alone chart out a strategy to deal with what, by any account, is a situation spiralling completely out of control.

All we get are tired condemnations of 'terrorism', with none of our civilian political leaders militants, and a host of ever saying openly that the resurgence of militancy might have had to do with the state's pre-

willing to antagonise any of Pakistan's big external patrons, namely the US, Gulf kingdoms and China, all of whom are cause and conse- tesy Dawn

Aasim Sajjad Akhtar part of the geopolitical quence of the delibergames that underlie both ate reduction of this current and previous complex current and previous complex political waves of violence in economy to 'national

Pakhtun regions. There are also important organic factors in the re-emergence of ernments at the centre the Pakistani Taliban and other militant groups. They are entrenched economic players in border trade, or what is routinely called smuggling. They extort money from transporters and shop owners in many of the Pakhtun tribal districts. I noted above that they take advantage of property disputes, particularly over agricultural land. Finally, these players have also developed big stakes in the extraction of a host of natural resources, including pine nuts, timber, mineral de-

posits, etc. Geopolitical wranglings amongst all the big players in this sordid story also revolve around the desire to eiago as local property ther exclusively control economic flows, or to at the very least ensure that competitors do not establish monopolies in trade, mining, construction and other sectors.

In Pakistan we are used to hearing that the only thing that matters is national security, but anyone with even cursory knowledge of the current violence in KP understands that this is just a handy catchphrase for a power game that is largely about social control and economic resources.

The contraband trade across the Pak-Afghan and Pak-Iran borders implicates states, other economic players. Simply decrying 'smuggling' and putting up a fence here and vious backing of the there protects the big Taliban in Kabul. there profiteers while deprofiteers while de-Neither is anyone stroying the livelihoods of the large number of small operators reliant on this trade. Political violence is then both neighbours. -- Cour-

security The PML-N and PPP have shown that they will do everything to appease those higher above them in the political food chain, both at home and abroad, so they are not about to bell the cat. But if the antiestablishment posture of the PTI — and the otherwise firebrand KP chief minister — is more than just a façade, we should expect more critical ref-lection on the epidemic of violence in Pakhtun tribal and other distr-i-cts. Indeed, the chief minister him-self hails from D.I. Khan, which is at the crossroads of so many recent attacks. The underlying

problem is the militarised and imperialised structure of power in this country. The power of the religious right and militant groups especially — is a direct offshoot of this structure. The somewhat absurd spectacle of one federating unit's official state apparatus engaging in mass protests against the centre should not distract us from the fact that the prevailing structure of power is floundering badly.

An anti-establishment politics is not about displacing those currently at the helm so that the next player can lurch towards yet another crisis of what is fundamentally an antipeople and anti-nature

Such a politics must be based on a programme for lasting peace, centred on economic redistribution, dismantling the establishment-centric political order, and a nonaligned foreign policy that privileges mutual cooperation with our

Iqbal's philosophy

Saad Malook

Iqbal's philosophy could be an elixir for creating and sustaining global peace. The ongoing genocide of Palestinians by Israel and its allies is a heinous crime against humanity that has been stoking the boiling cauldron of conflicts in the Middle East, which would embroil the entire world and cause World War III. If WWIII occurs, it would be a nuclear war.

In Why Social Justice Matters (2005), poli--tical philosopher Brian Barry predic-ted that life on earth would be almost wip-ed out by 2100 either by nuclear holocaust or ecological decay. Is this just a prediction or a stark reality humanity faces? Cert--ainly, under the dark clouds of violence, war, or terrorism across the world, a clear threat of nuclear holocaust hangs over us.

Some argue that Iqbal is a radical philosopher who supports warfare. This argument is wrong because Iqbal's philosophy liberates humanity from exploitation, humiliation, colonialism, and imperialism through positive human action. Iqbal's ideal individual is creative, dynamic, empirically informed, and a creator of a just and peaceful world. In a new year mes-

sage, 'Brotherhood of Man', broadcast from All India Radio, Lahore, on Jan 1, 1938, Iqbal not only described the sociopolitical conditions of the world at the time but also presented a manifesto for global peace. With this manifesto, Iqbal can be placed among the first-rank peace theorists of the 20th century, including Albert Schweitzer, Albert Einstein, Bertrand Mahatma Russell. Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Eqbal Ahmad, and

Nelson Mandela. In 'Brotherhood of Man', Igbal's argum-e---nt

technology, which created a new world. On the other hand, the world is so miserable that "It is as if the day of doom had come upon the earth, in which each looks after the safety of his own skin." After over eight decades, there has been no moral

Historically, just before the start of WWII, Iqbal asked a crucial question: is this goi-ng to be the end of all progress and evolution of human civilisation? Indubitably, WWII de--v--astated humanity by mil---lions thro-ugh conventional and nuclear arsenals.

progress.

Iqbal fosters the creation and sustainability of positive peace. Negative peace refers to the absence of war, while positive peace refers to the presence of life-promot-Only positive peace is sustainable. Iqbal writes: 'Remember, man can be maintained on this earth only by honouring mankind, and this world will remain a battleground of ferocious beasts of prey unless and until the educational forces of the whole world are directed to inculcating in man respect for mankind.'

According to Iqbal, 'honouring mankind' is necessary for creating peace. He also believes that global peace is impossible un--less educational institutions impart the ethics of 'honouring/ respect for humankind', which I prefer to term 'reverence for hum-anity'. Thus, all states must educate their people about the ethics of reverpeaceful global coexist-

Highlighting the central ideals of Islam equality, freedom, and solidarity — Igbal accentuates the significance of brotherhood. He articuhand, human be--ings dependable, and that -- Courtesy Dawn

diverse fields including

industry and agriculture.

During the meeting, the two sides also agreed

to work together to further

have made remarkable unity is the brotherhood progress in science and of man, which is above race, nationality, colour or language.'

Indeed, the idea of the brotherhood of human beings provides a foundation for human unity, which eventually causes peaceful coexistence in the world. Igbal envisages that false ideologies are enemies of global peace. He argues that until and unless the

ckles of so-cal-led democracy, accu-r-sed nationalism, and degraded im--perialism are des-troyed, there is no possibility of the good life in which the ideals of liberty, equality, and fraternity are realised.

Ígbal correctly argues that an ideology cannot promote peace if it causes humiliation, exploitation, or exclusion. Only that ideology can succeed that expresses ing values and activities. reverence for humanity, transcending religion, culture, colour, or language because the whole world is the 'family' of God: all human beings are God's creatures.

To create eternal beace on earth, global leaders must stop the crimes against humanity, particularly in Palestine and held Kashmir, before WWIII breaks out and makes Brian Barry's prediction about the extinction of life come true.

Political leaders must have the moral and intellectual vision to promote the values of unity rather than division, cooperation rather than conflict, dialogue rather than war, and above all, humanistic education rather than the indoctrience for humanity for nation of racism, colour, caste, or creed.

At the end of 'Brotherhood of Man', Iqbal offers a prayer: "God Almighty may grant humanity to those who are in places of power and government and teach them states that on the one lates: "Only one unity is to cherish [hu]mankind.

Commerce News

Ahsan vows to increase ports' efficiency, boost trade

Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Igbal on Friday reaffirmed the government's strong commitment strengthening seaports' efficiency, boosting trade Maritime Affairs regarding and ensuring sustainable a committee constituted by economic development in the country.

resolve while chairing a enhancing the efficiency of ports Karachi by improving hinterland

connectivity. Among others, the meeting was attended by Partnership Authority, besides senior thirds managed at Karachi's Ministries of Maritime remainder at Port Qasim." Affairs, Communications, Railways. Division and Commerce was underutilized, with movements to reduce

During the meeting, Waqas Anwar presented a detailed briefing on improving port efficiency, providing a progress update

from the Ministry of loading and unloading the Prime Minister's Office He expressed this issues at Karachi Port.

> global average of 44 with approximately two-

He pointed out that operations Division, a news release nearly all cargo transported

via road, leading to congestion Member Infrastructure environmental challenges. "Existing rail facilities are insufficient for efficient goods transfer due to their limited capacity for

operations.

Karachi Port faces significant road congestion to address cross-cutting due to ban on trucks movement from 6 a.m. to He highlighted that 11 p.m., affecting traffic consultative meeting on Pakistan's merchandise flow into and out of port trade as a percentage of areas. Port Qasim, on the GDP stood at 26 percent, other hand, benefits from significantly lower than the better road connectivity (N-5 and M-9 via Eastern percent. "From 2015 to 2020, Pakistan's ports access congestion by 2030 Secretary Planning Awais Manzur Sumra, Member TEUs (twenty-foot improved. To address (twenty-foot improved. To address Infrastructure Waqas equivalent units) of these challenges, the Anwar, CEO of the Public container traffic annually, Member Infrastructure proposed short and longterm measures. The shortrepresentatives from the three terminals and the term measures include implementing 24/7 port Aviation rail access to Karachi Port scheduling freight truck

Shipping activity at **Port Qasim**

congestion.

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was report at the port where five ships, Jaru Bhum, X-Press Salween, Navios Tempo, Kualalumpur Express and Al-Deebal carrying Container and LNG, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal and Engro Elengy Terminal respectively on

Meanwhile six more ships, Aqua-1, Corona, OM Singapore, Angelina, Hafnia Phoenix and Iolaos scheduled to load/offload Fuel oil, Palm oil, Yellow Beans, Gasoline and Coal are also arrived at outer anchorage during last 24

hours, out of them five ships, X-Press Salween, Jaru Bhum, Navios Tempo, Hermes are left the port on today morning, while five more ships, Milaha Ras.



Jam reviews quarterly trade figures, future trade strategy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan on Friday reviewed quarterly trade figures and stressed to execution of the Export-Led Growth Strategy.

Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan (JK) chaired a highlevel meeting to review Pakistan's quarterly trade figures, where he was briefed on the latest trends in international trade and strategies being devised to bolster exports, said a

press release issued here. During the meeting, Commerce provided a comprehensive overview of trade performance with key trading partners, highlighting emerging export destinations and newly introduced export items. The briefing also covered practical suggestions to enhance market access and

address technical trade

barriers, ensuring Pakistani

products reach a broader

global audience.

global fluctuations geopolitical uncertainties, was also discussed Strategies to mitigate these challenges and sustain export growth presented were consideration.

Lauding the efforts of Commerce officers, Jam Kamal emphasized the central role of the Ministry of Commerce in advancing Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's vision of an export-led growth strategy.

Increase in

FAISALABAD (APP) Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) President Rehan Naseem Bharara said on Friday fish production must be enhanced to meet domestic food needs by encouraging establishment of new fish farms in

In a message issued here on Friday, he said that fish is a rich source of protein but it has to be imported from other riverine areas to meet domestic requirements.

enhance the trade relations between Pakistan and the United Kingdom (UK), said a news release. The PBBC delegation includes the Council's CEO Rashid Iqbal, Head of Trade and Investment UK

ISLAMABAD (APP): Advisor for Trade and Chairman of Pakistan-Government Relations Saima Amjad, Director of Britain Business Council (PBBC) John Tucknott Trade and Investment CMG MBE on Friday met Wagar Ullah and Chief Coordinator for UK and with Minister for Industries and Production Pakistan Umaimah Riaz. Rana Tanveer Hussain and Rana

PBBC chairman, Rana

discuss to increase coop.

in industrial, agri sectors

discussed ways and means emphasized that both to increase cooperation in countries should increase trade volume and highlighted the potential for British companies to invest in the electric vehicle manufacturing sector.

John Tucknott agreed enhance bilateral relations in the agricultural and industrial sectors.

The meeting was also attended by Secretary of the Ministry of Industries Saif Anjum and Director Adeel Khan, Senior General Mukhtar Ahmed



RAWALPINDI: President Chamber of Commerce, Usman Shaukat addressing a press conference at the Chamber Building.

Weekly inflation up by 0.67 percent ISLAMABAD (APP): The increase of 4.92 per cent.

weekly inflation, measured Indicator (SPI), went up by combined consumption groups during the week ended on November 21, the According to the PBS data, the SPI for the week under review in the abovementioned group was recorded at 324.11 points as compared to 321.94 points

during the past week. As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the group in the week under review witnessed an respectively.

The weekly SPI with by the Sensitive Price the base year 2015-16 =100 covers 17 urban 0.67 percent for the centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure

groups.

SPI for the lowest Pakistan Bureau of Statistics consumption group of up (PBS) reported on Friday. to Rs 17,732 witnessed increase of 0.91 per cent and went up to 318.40 points from last week's 315.52 points. The SPI

consumption groups of Rs 17,732 to 22,888; Rs 22,889-29,517; Rs 29,518-44,175 and above Rs 44,175, increased by 0.85 combined consumption group in the week under percent, 0.72 percent, 0.70 percent and 0.61 percent

Punjab Governor says: Business community is the backbone of the country's economy

Lahore (Online): Governor indicators of the country Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan attended the ceremony organized by the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry at the Governor House Lahore as continuity of policies is the chief guest . The ceremony was attended by the newly elected presidents and group leaders of all the chambers of commerce and industry, small chambers, women's chambers and joint

Addressing ceremony, Governor Haider Khan said that the business community is the backbone of the country's economy. He said industrial growth fosters social and economic development in the country. Governor Punjab said that the economic

that country's interest rate has come down to 15 percent and inflation has also come down to single digits. He said that very important for the development of the country's economy. Governor Punjab said that it is a sorry state of affairs that despite being an agricultural country, we are importing food items. Governor Punjab said that the at present about 25 million (2.5 crore) sacks Punjab Sardar Saleem are lying outside in warehouses which are likely to spoil. Governor Punjab said that our industries are currently

suffering due to IPPs. He said that due to the efforts of FPCCI and Gohar Ijaz, situation of five IPPs has improved

Thursday.

A total of thirteen ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 Kualalumpur and Izumo

SBP injects Rs2.37 trillion in the market KARACHI (APP): The tenor cumulatively

State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) injected Rs2,369.5 billion in the market through reverse repo purchase and Shariah Compliant Mudarabah based Open Market Operation (OMO) on Friday. According to OMO results issued here, the SBP conducted Open Market Operation, Reverse Repo Purchase (Injection) on November 22, 2024 for 7-day and 28-day tenors and accepted total 25 bids cumulatively amounting to

Rs2,220.5 billion. The central bank

offering an amount of Rs2,239.7 billion at the rate of return ranging between 15.04 to 15.08 percent while 3 bids were received for the 28-day tenor offering total amount of Rs120.5 billion at the rate of return ranging between 15.06 to 15.07 %. The central bank accepted the entire amount offered through all the 3 bids for 28-day tenor -Rs.120.5 billion- at the 15.06% rate of return while an amount of 2.100 billion offered through 18 bids for 7-day tenor was accepted by the received 18 bids for 7-day central bank at 15.04% rate.

fish production imperative to meet food needs: FCCI

PPP alliance with PML-N is of compulsion, not of love: Governor

LAHORE (Online): Gover- fence University Islamabad ister himself. He said that nor Punjab Sardar Salim Friday. Haider Khan has said PPP alliance with PML-N is of compulsion rather than of

"If PPP becomes minus then the premiership can sustain no more. Governor is a constitutional post and in principle chief minister has to come to governor but despite it I myself went to meet Chief Minister (CM). We want things are done on merit and PPP be consulted being ally. 6 months have passed but CM neither telephoned nor she made any consultation, he said this while ad-National Security Work- that he broke that barrier

global conference of experts

titled 'Empowering Com-

munities: The Case for Lo-

cally Led Adaptation in

Climate Resilience', hosted

in Azerbaijan's Baku city,

emphasized the urgent need

for collective action against

climate change to mitigate the impacts of disasters. Chairman Pakistan

Red Crescent Society (PRCS), Sardar Shahid

Ahmed Laghari, addressed

a distinguished forum at a

special event hosted in the

Pakistan Pavilion during the

29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) in Baku,

Azerbaijan, says a message

reaching and released to the

participation of prominent

figures, including Romina

Khurshid Alam, Coordina-

tor to the Prime Minister

on Climate Change and En-

vironmental Coordination,

Senator Samina Mumtaz

Zehri, representatives from

the German Red Cross, the

International Federation of

Red Cross and Red Cres- and proactive measures.

The event saw the

media here on Friday.

eral time but zero response came every time. Deadlock took place. I don't deem it proper to go to her now, he

He said that PPP didn't forge alliance with PML-N out of love, but out of compulsion. Punjab informed his leadership President of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari and Bilawal situation in Punjab. He said that as per tradition Chief Minister should have visshop under National De- and went to the Chief Min- taken place so far.

tional societies, and other

key humanitarian stake-

panel discussion featured

distinguished speakers, in-

cluding Member Managing

Board Jamaican Red Cross

Audrey Mullings, Ms.

Ninni Ikkala Nyman, and

Manzoor Ali from IFRC,

Head of Delegation Ger-

man Red Cross in Pakistan

Asif Aman, and PRCS

Deputy Director Climate

Change Sajjad Ali, who fo-

cused on the significance of

locally driven adaptation

Chairman of PRCS Sardar Shahid Ahmed

Laghari was the keynote

speaker of this exclusive

session. In his remarks.

Chairman Sardar Shahid

Ahmed Laghari under-

scored PRCS's extensive

humanitarian work in Paki-

stan, especially during the

garding the organization's

ongoing recovery programs

He gave the details re-

2022 monsoon floods.

strategies.

A thought-provoking

Global moot urges

for collective action to

mitigate climate change

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): A cent Societies (IFRC), na-

he assured Chief Minister I tried to make contact that being coalition partners with CM by telephone sev- they should work together as a team. He said that Peoples' Party only wants the supremacy of merit.

Punjab Governor said that Bilawal Bhutto Zardari played a key role in getting the 26th Constitutional Amendment Punjab Governor said that Governor said that he has the experience of alliance with the PML-N in the past was a bitter experience. He Ali Zardari and Bilawal further stated that we ex-Bhutto Zardari about the pected that the PML-N would have learnt lessons from the past. He said that despite written agreements dressing participants of ited the Governor, adding and consultative meetings, no implementation has

Two killed. four others injured as roof collapsed

RENALA KHURD (APP): A mother and daughter on Friday died, and three brothers and father received injuries as the roof of their old house collapsed in Village 19/1 RA. According to rescue sources, the roof suddenly caved in, due to which a woman, namely Abida Bibi, and his daughter Iffat were killed on the spot. While three brothers, including 6-year-old Anas, Ibrahim, 5-year-old Ali.

Two friends shot dead in Swabi

PESHAWAR (APP): Two close friends were killed and another injured when their alleged rivals fired at them inside a general store in Swabi district on Friday morning. Police said two friends named Jawad and Fawad and owner of the shop, Umair were fired at by the assailants inside the shop, which police said was a likely result of an old rivalry between the deceased and attackers.



LAHORE: British High Commissioner Jane Marriott meeting with Provincial Minister for Minority Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora.

CM reviews 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' programme

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Ghar is a dream for every chief Minister Maryam citizen, and we are deter-Nawaz Sharif has expressed her unwavering commitment to fulfilling the promise of providing affordable housing to the underprivileged and urged the relevant authorities to expedite completion of the Apni Chhat Apna Ghar Programme'

Speaking at a special review meeting here on Friday, she said the programme was not just a slogan but a tangible effort to improve the lives of the common man. "Apni Chhat Apna mined to make it a reality," she affirmed. The CM was updated

on the progress of the scheme, with 927 applicants having received their first installment of loans She informed that more than 800 houses under the initiative are nearing completion. "Ensure that the second installment payments are made promptly to help these families move forward." she directed.

Maryam struction.

journey from idea to im-

Nawaz was further briefed that over 50,000 applicants' data had been transferred to Akhuwat Foundation for verification. Of these, 38,000 applicants have been verified, with more than 20,900 submitting the necessary documentation.

As of now, 8,424 applications have been fully processed. She highlighted the success of the digital portal, which has seen over 600,000 registered users and more than 325,000 applications for house con

Minister promises transparency in hospitals revamping project

LAHORE (APP): Punjab instructed to expedite work Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique reaffirmed the government's commit- ment hospitals. "Revampment to transparency in the ing projects are being ongoing hospitals revamping project, stressing that there would be no compromise on quality and timelines. He made these remarks while presiding over a meeting at the Spe-cialized Healthcare and Medical Education Department, here on Friday.

The minister stressed the importance of completing the revamping projects in various government teaching hospitals of Lahore on time. He stated

to ensure the convenience of patients visiting governprioritised, and their continuous monitoring is being conducted to maintain high standards," he said. During the meeting, Khawaja Salman Rafique reviewed the latest progress on the projects underway in nine teaching hospitals, including Services Hospital, Nawaz Sharif Hospital Yaki Gate, Mian Munshi Hospital, Lady Aitchison Hospital, Mayo Hospital, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, Kot Khawaja Saeed Hospital, Jinnah Hosthat contractors had been pital, and General Hospital.



BAHAWALPUR: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visits the residence of Federal Minister for Housing & Works, Riaz Hussain Pirzada to offer condolences on the sad demise of his brother Sajjad

NIC Hyderabad's Global Entrepreneurship Week 2024 concluded

In collaboration with

HYDERABAD (APP): The National Incubation Center Hyderabad

wrapped up its most dynamic Global Entrepreneurship Week yet, turning four days into a celebration of innovation, community, and entrepreneurial spirit. The event kicked off with inspiring opening remarks from NIC Hyderabad's new Project Director, Sana Shah here Friday. From November 18 -

21, the center buzzed with activity as startup founders, industry experts, and students came together to learn, connect, and grow. NICH startups like

Pak Bio Energy, Chaloo,

Aashi Herbs, OrderMs and

Sab Bachao sharing their

Laraib Fatima from Brand Craft Studio, Kanwal Aftab from Cloves and Cardamom, Nadia Patel from Femprow and Amneh

the audience.

Shaikh from Polly & Other Stories who captivated the audience with their stories of breaking barriers and building successful businesses. Their candid conversations about challenges and triumphs resonated deeply with aspiring entre-

pact, inspiring the next genthe State Bank of Pakistan, eration of entrepreneurs in NIC Hyderabad celebrated Women Entrepreneurship The "Queens of Day. Chief Manager Adeel Commerce" panel, moderated by Shahzana Memon, brought together powerhouse female founders

Iqbal shared SBP's future roadmap for supporting women entrepreneurs. Beenish and Shahida from the Women Chambers provided valuable community insights, while the powerful journeys of Aashi Herbs and Agri Revolution, two trailblazing NIC startups, showcased success stories. The week continued with a lineup of impactful

workshops. Muneeb ur Rehman led the "Entrepreneurs' Mental Health Summit", emphasizing techniques for managing stress with the US Consulate potential collaborations.

ance. Adnan Ashraf's "AI Tools for Entrepreneurs" session offered a hands-on introduction to AI-powered solutions for streamlining operations and boosting productivity. Hammad Amjad provided a comprehensive guide on building a startup from scratch in the "Startup Foundry" workshop, targeted at our pre-incubation members. Ghayas Uddin from Valeem equipped founders with advanced strategies for creating a standout online presence in the "Digital Brand Building

In a virtual session, NIC Hyderabad partnered

Masterclass"

and fostering work-life bal- Karachi to bring entrepreneurs an exclusive masterclass with Cheryl Edison, a renowned strategic business advisor. The online event provided startups with invaluable insights into international market strategies, business model innovations, and the nuanced art of building a global presence.

Community spirit shone through at the VR Startup Cricket League, where competitive pitches were replaced with cricket bats, creating lasting bonds among participants. The "Karobar Katchup" proved to be more than just a networking event, sparking genuine connections and

International News

Over 60 feared dead as Israel bombs homes in Gaza

Monitoring Desk CAIRO: The Israeli military bombed at least five crowded homes in northern Gaza early with many casualties buried beneath the rubble, Palestinian health officials said, as troops deepened an incursion along the territory's northern edge. Rescue operations were under way in the northern Gaza town of Beit Lahiya, medics said. Hamas media put the number of fatalities at 66, most of whom it said

had not been recovered. Hussam Abu Safiya, director of Kamal Adwan Hospital in Beit Lahiya, one of three medical facilities barely operational in the besieged northern area, said at least 200 people lived in the residential district that was bombed in Beit Lahiya and that many people remained missing. Abu Safiya said medics were recovering injured people and treating them on-site because they had no ambulance vehicles to move

Even if the injured trapped with no safe place

Monitoring Desk

BEIJING: China's defence

ministry blamed the United

States' stance on Taiwan for

its minister not meeting his

US counterpart during a

gathering this week in Laos.

Wednesday.

Defence Minister

China blames US policy

on Taiwan for defence

leaders not meeting

then die because of a lack of medical supplie and specialised surgeons after most of the medical staff, Abu Safiya said. Israeli operations in Gaza have folaid siege to three major towns and ordered residents to flee. Residents in the three Lahiya and Beit Hanoun said Israeli forces had destroved hundreds of houses in since they began the lat-

est offensive on Oct 5. Palestinians say Israel appears determined to depopulate the area permanently to create a buffer edge of Gaza, which Israel denies. Philippe Lazzarini, the head of the UN Agency (UNRWA), said on Thurs-Gaza Strip is now high-risk, with many people increas-ingly desperate. "They are

make it to hospital, many to go. In northern Gaza. because of insecure routes.

zone along the northern aid groups disagreed. Addfor Palestinian Refugees ing to spiralling prices of esday that 80 per cent of the flour. The price of a 25kg

people remain under a tight siege. They run for their lives in vicious circles and Israel detained or expelled have been deprived of humanitarian aid for more than 40 days now," he said in a post on X. "Across Gaza, cused for weeks on the the delivery of the little aid northern edge of the terri- allowed in has become tory, where the military has overly complex including he added. The administration of US President Joe towns - Jabalia, Beit Biden last month told Israel it had 30 days to improve the flow of aid to Gaza or risk consequences to US military assistance. On Nov 12, Washing-

ton said it had concluded that Israel had made progress and was not impeding aid to Gaza. Many ing to the challenges, armed gangs have stepped up looting of aid trucks, contributsential food items such as sack of flour, if available, has risen to 700 shekels (\$186) from 50 shekels (\$13) over the past week.

Adani shares rally in India after founder's

ter level between the two The failure to meet is "entirely the responsibility" of the US, the Chinese spokesperson said.

towards the island can re-

talks at the defense minis-

Dong Jun turned down US Defense Secretary Lloyd The spokesperson Austin's request to meet also urged the US to "imduring a gathering of Southmediately correct its miseast Asian Nations (ASEAN) defense ministakes" and strive to create favourable conditions for high-level military exters, US officials said on changes between the two

"The U.S. side can-China views demonot undermine China's cratically governed Taiwan core interests on the Taiwan issue while engaging as its territory, a claim that with the Chinese military Taiwan's government reas if nothing is wrong," a The U.S. is Taiwan's

ministry spokesperson most important internasaid in a statement on tional backer and arms Thursday. The remarks raised supplier, despite the lack of formal diplomatic recquestions over whether only a change in US policy

US charges **Monitoring Desk**

IEW DELHI: Shares in Indian billionaire Gautam Adani's conglomerate rallied on Friday to pare the previous day's frenzied sell-off sparked by US charges alleging the tycoon paid more than \$250 million in bribes to secure lucrative government con-

Wednesday's bombshell indictment in New York accused Adani and multiple subordinates of deliberately misleading international investors as part of the bribery scheme

Adani, once the world's second-richest man, is a close ally of Hindu nationalist Prime Minister Narendra Modi and critics have long accused him of improperly benefitting from their relationship.



Israeli strikes kill 47 people in eastern Lebanon, official says

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: Israeli strikes killed at least 47 people in eastern Lebanon, a Lebanese official said, pressing the campaign against the Iran-backed Hezbollah group as a US mediator sought to advance ceasefire talks in Israel.

US mediator Amos Hochstein, who said a ceasefire was "within our grasp" during a visit to Lebanon on Tuesday, met Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Israel Katz. There were no immediate statements.

Indicating there were still gaps to close, a senior Lebanese official told

Reuters that Beirut had sought changes to the U.S. ceasefire proposal, to include ensuring a speedier withdrawal of Israeli forces from south Lebanon.

The diplomacy marks the most serious attempt yet to end the conflict between Israel and the heavily armed, Iran-backed Hezbollah, part of the regional spillover of the Gaza war that erupted more than

Bachir Khodr, governor of Lebanon's Baalbek-Hermel province, said at least 47 were killed and 22 wounded in Israeli strikes in the Baalbek region.

Ukraine launches UK Storm Shadow cruise missiles into Russia, a day after using US ATACMS

Monitoring Desk KYIV: Ukraine fired a vol-

ley of British Storm Shadow cruise missiles into Russia the latest new Western weapon it has been permitted to use on Russian targets a day after it fired US ATACMS missiles.

The strikes were widely reported by Russian war correspondents on Telegram and confirmed by an official on condition of anonymity. A spokesper-

son for Ukraine's General Staff said he had no infor-

Moscow has said the use of Western weapons to strike Russian territory far from the border would be a major escalation in the conflict. Kyiv says it needs the capability to defend itself by hitting Russian rear bases used to support Moscow's invasion, which entered its 1,000th day this week.

10 killed in attack

in Afghanistan: interior ministry **Monitoring Desk** KABUL: Ten people were

on Sufi shrine

killed when a gunman opened fire on a Sufi shrine in Afghanistan's northern Baghlan province, an interior ministry spokesman told AFP on Friday.

"A man fired on Sufis taking part in a weekly ritual at a shrine in a remote area of Nahrin district, killing 10 people," the ministry's Abdul Matin Qani said.

A Nahrin resident, who knew victims of the attack, told AFP that worshippers had gathered at the Sayed Pacha Agha shrine on Thursday evening. They had begun a Sufi

chant when "a man shot at the dozen worshippers" he said on condition of ano-

nymity.

"When people arrived for morning prayers, they discovered the bodies," he added. Attacks regularly target Sufis during rituals or gatherings in Afghanistan, a country with a very large Muslim majority but where the Taliban authorities impose a strict interpretation of Islamic law, or Sharia, which is different from Sufism.

In April 2022, 33 people, including children, were killed in an explosion that targeted a Sufi mosque during Friday prayers in Kunduz province

Putin says Ukraine war is going global

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin said on

Thursday that the Ukraine war was escalating towards a global conflict after the United States and Britain allowed Ukraine to hit Russia with their weapons, and warned the West that Moscow could strike back.

Russia, Putin said, had responded to the use of US and British missiles by firing a new kind of hypersonic medium-range ballistic missile at a Ukrainian military facility. More could follow, Putin warned.

He said civilians would be warned ahead of further strikes with such weapons. After approval from the administration of President Joe Biden, Ukraine struck Russia with six US-made ATACMS on Nov 19 and with British Storm Shadow missiles and

US-made HIMARS on Nov "From that moment,

as we have repeatedly underscored, a regional conflict in Ukraine previously provoked by the West has acquired elements of a global character," Putin said in an address to the nation carried by state television.

The United States, Putin said, was pushing the world towards a global conflict. "And in case of escalation of aggressive actions, we will also respond decisively and in a mirror man-

ner," he said. Putin said the Ukrainian missile attack with ATACMS had failed to inflict any serious damage. But the Storm Shadow attack on Kursk region on Nov 21 had been directed at a command point and led to deaths and injuries,

At least 150 people killed in violence in Haitian capital in past week: UN

Monitoring Desk GENEVA: Soaring violence in Port-au-Prince since last week has left at least 150 people dead, bringing the number of deaths in Haiti this year to over 4,500, the United Nations said Wednesday.

"The latest upsurge in violence in Haiti's capital is a harbinger of worse to come," UN rights chief Volker Turk warned in a statement. "The gang violence must be promptly halted. Haiti must not be allowed to descend further

into chaos. Violence has intensified dramatically in Port-au-Prince since November 11, as a coalition of gangs pushes for full control of the Haitian capital.

Well-armed gangs control some 80 percent of the city, routinely targeting civilians despite a Kenyan-led international force that has been deployed to help the outgunned police restore some government order.

"At least 150 people have been killed, 92 injured

and about 20,000 forced to flee their homes over the past week," Turk's statement said.

In addition, "Port-au-Prince's estimated four million people are practically being held hostage as gangs now control all the main roads in and out of the capital".

The Haitian capital has seen renewed fighting in the last week from Viv Ansanm, an alliance of gangs that in February helped oust former prime minister Ariel Henry.

Turk said that at least 55 percent of the deaths from simultaneous and apparently coordinated attacks in the capital resulted from exchanges of fire between gang members and

He also highlighted reports of a rise in mob lynchings. Authorities said Tuesday that police and civilian self-defence groups had killed 28 gang members in Port-au-Prince after an overnight operation as the government seeks to regain some control.

Ahsan for timely completion of all ongoing PSDP projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Friday chaired a meeting to assess the progress of projects being executed under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) during the current fiscal year.

Senior officials of the Ministry of Planning provided a detailed briefing on the allocation, releases and expenditure of funds for PSDP projects across the country, a news release

Addressing the meeting, the minister directed the ministry to develop a comprehensive strategy to ensure the timely completion of all ongoing PSDP

Reviewing road infra-structure projects of the Planning Ministry to Balochistan amounting to Rs400 billion, Ahsan Iqbal directed that these projects must be completed within three years.

He said the government was committed to prioritizing development initiatives in Balochistan, including Balochistan three ter, particularly for projects of N-25 dualization of the Khuzdar-Kuchlak section of National Highway, the dualization

and rehabilitation of the Karachi-Quetta-Chaman road from Karachi- Karoro & Wadh- Khuzdar and the dualization of Kararo-Wadh Sectionand Kuchlak-Chaman Section at a total cost of Rs224 billion.

Other projects of M-8 include the construction of the Hoshab-Awaran-Khuzdar Section-II and Hoshab-Awaran-Kiwzer Package-I, Construction of the Gwadar-Ratodero road project and construction of Wangu Hills Tunnel at a total cost of Rs96 billion. and two projects for the dualization & Improvement of existing N-50 from Yarik-Sagu-Zhob Bypass at Rs. 76 billion cost; and Rehabilitation & Upgradation of long Awaran-JhaliJao Road worth Rs7 billion.

ensure the timely utilization of funds by other ministries under the development budget. He also stressed the

importance of coordinating with ministries regarding their financial requirements for the next quarprojects funded by external assistance to avoid any delays in fund disburse-

راکیگارہ۔ پارم چنار میں شیعیان علی کے قتل عام کے ذمّہ داروفاقی حکوہ صوبائی حکومت اور سیکیورٹی ادار ہے ھیں۔

KARACHI: Shiite Muslims chant slogans during a protest to condemn the

sectarian killing by unidentified gunmen open fire on vehicles arrying Shiite

Muslims in Parachinar, Kurram, a district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa prov-

and encouraging public engagement in the

missioner directed all

concerned depart-

ments to enhance

their preparations to

ensure the event's

success. The Expo,

scheduled for January

25-26, 2025, in

Matiari, aims to pro-

mote opportunities

for growth in agricul-

ture, livestock and

handicrafts sectors.

The Deputy Com-

Preparations underway for first

agro livestock and handicraft

expo 2025 in Matiari

HYDERABAD (APP): smooth arrange-The Deputy Commisments, providing fa-sioner Matiari cilities to participants

event.

Muhammad Yousif

Shaikh chaired a key

meeting at the DČ

Secretariat to review

arrangements for the

inaugural Agro Live-

stock and Handicraft

The meeting was attended by officials

from various depart-

ments, representa-

tives of relevant orga-

nizations, farmers

and other stakehold-

ers. Discussions fo-

cused on ensuring

Expo 2025.

مِلِينَ وَدَارُت مِنْ اللَّهِ عَلَيْنَ يَاكِتُ مَانَ كَارِي دُورُنَ (مَلع شرق)



KARACHI: Governor of Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori hosted a meeting at Governor House with the Consul General of Oman, Eng Sami Abdullah Al Khanjari, accompanied by a six-member delegation of investors.

Sindh Governor invites Oman investors to explore opportunities in Sindh

KARACHI (APP): The ment and trade including workforce as a significant downforce of Sindh the IDEAS 2024 exhibitance asset for prospective in-Kamran Khan Tessori tion. hosted a meeting at Governor House with the Consul General of Oman, Eng Sami Abdullah Al Khanjari, accompanied by a six-member delegation of investors

The discussion revolved around enhancing Pakistan-Oman bilateral relations, boosting invest-

Science, Art

exhibition holds

in Girls college

Larkana

LARKANA (APP): A sci-

entific exhibition was held

Degree College in Larkana

on Friday, in which the

handmade projects related

to "Science, Information

Technology, Engineering,

Art and Mathematics were

Deputy Commissioner

Larkana Dr. Sharjeel Noor

Channa said that after the

college level, district level,

regional level and then pro-

vincial level, such an exhi-

bition will be organized by

the college education de-

partment, the purpose of

which is to highlight the

ing up this kind of exhibi-

tion, the students will get

ersity of Larkano Prof.

Muhammad Usman kerio,

Director Regional Colleges Larkana Prof. Altaf Hussain

Abaro, Additional Director

Larkana Region Ijaz Ali

Jamali, College Principal Prof. Nafis Ansari and large

number of girls students

were participated and vis-

ited the exhibition where the

students presented their

handmade models.

Colleges

They said that by put-

In the Science exhibition Vice Chancellor Uni-

skills of the students.

maximum benefit.

Inspection

On this occasion.

present

The Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori extended an invitation to Omani investors to explore investment opportunities in Sindh, emphaasset for prospective investments. He further expressed Pakistan's keen interest in strengthening trade ties with Oman.

Omani Consul General Eng Sami Abdullah Al Khanjari conveyed the support Pakistan's economic strength and defense. He also praised IDEAS 2024 as a testament to Pakistan's capabilities and potential.

Following the meeting. Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori, alongside the Omani Consul General and the investment delegation, visited Quaid-e-Azam's Mauso-leum to pay their respects.

Sweden envoy calls on DPM Dar ISLAMABAD (APP):

Ambassador of Sweden to Pakistan, Alexandra Berg von Linde Friday called on the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and discussed matters of mutual interests.

In the meeting, the deputy PM welcomed the Ambassador and conveyed best wishes on her assignment

He expressed appreciation for the positive trajectory in bilateral relations between Sweden and Paki-

He stressed the importance of enhanced collaboration in trade, investment. education, and people-to-people exchanges.

3rd International **Kidney Transplant** Symposium today

KARACHI (APP): The two-day Third International Kidney Transplant and Glomerulonephritis Symposium organized by Dow University of Health Sciences will commence on Saturday, November 23rd, at a local hotel.

According to a news release on Friday, the event will feature renowned experts from France, including transplant specialist Prof. Lionel Rostaing and Dr. Fritz Kurt Herbert Diekmann

The doctors will include clude Dr. Akbar Mehmood from UK, Dr. Madhu Mati Shahani, Dr. Noreen Izhar from the UK along with notable experts from Pakistan.

Abid Receives Lifetime **Achievement** Award for **Disability** Rights Advocacy

HYDERABAD (APP) Abid Lashari, President of the National Disability and Development Forum (NDF) Pakistan, has been honored with the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award by The Shine Welfare Foundation during the Provincial Conference on Disability of Punjab, held in Lahore. The award, presented by Dr Khalid Jamil, also known as 'Big Brother," recognizes Lashari's invaluable contributions to advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities (PWDs) and his dedicated efforts in providing rehabilitation services, particularly for children with intellectual disabilities

The event was orga nized by The Shine Welfare Foundation with support from the Coalition for Inclusive Pakistan (CIP) and Trust for Democratic Education and Accountability (TDEA) Islamabad. The conference brought together disability rights activists, policy makers and community leaders to discuss and advance inclusive policies.

Expressing his grati-tude, Lashari stated, "This recognition is not just a personal honour but a testament to the collective efforts of all who work tirelessly for the empowerment of persons with disabilities.

Bushra's allegations against Saudi Arabia nothing but failed attempt to save PTI's diminishing politics: Asif ISLAMABAD (APP): inheritance". Bushra Bibi

Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif Bibi's allegations leveled against Saudi Arabia were nothing but a failed attempt to save the PTI's diminishing politics, terming them 'regrettable' and dirty acts.'

Addressing a press conference here, the minister said Pakistan has a historical, religious and economic relations with Saudi Arabia adding that she always helped Pakistan in difficult times.

Over 2.8 million Paki-

stanis are working in Saudi Arabia who send billions of dollars remittances to Pakistan every year, he added.

The minister said, 'Our cordial and friendly relationship with Saudi Arabia should not affect due to someone's personal political gains. Such a controversial statement is an effort to save PTI's sinking ship," he added.

He said, "There is a conflict between the sisters-in-law; the family [PTI founder's] is em-

has claimed the political inheritance of founder of on Friday said Bushra PTI. Our politics has never witnessed such a low, he said, adding Bibi has started her projection and the people would realize the reality shortly, he added.

The minister said that the founder of PTI was accused of taking a gift, selling it, depositing a small amount with Toshakhana and keeping the rest for

Regarding law and order in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), he said that there was a poor security situation in the province. "Even yesterday, there was bloodshed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, yet the chief minister attacks the federal government or Punjab every other day," he

He said that the CM KPK did not make any efforts to curb terrorism in the province.

Regarding the current political situation in the Centre, he said that the November 24 protest call broiled in a dispute over would be a "third attack"



HYDERABAD: Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM-P) Leader, Sabir Hussain Qaimkhani addresses to media persons during press conference, at Hyderabad press club.

IDEAS elevated Pakistan's name globally in defense sector: Faisal

KARACHI (INP): The added that Pakistan is play-President of the North Karachi Association of Trade and Industry (NKATI), Faisal Maiz Khan, expressed his appreciation for the successful organization of the IDEAS exhibition, congratulating tion Organization (DEPO), and all the organizers of the

event He stated that IDEAS has elevated Pakistan's name globally in the defense sector, and its successful execution has stunned anti-Pakistan elements, showcasing Pakistan's positive and peaceful image worldwide. He further said that the Army Chief's commitment to a strong Pakistan is the resolve of the entire nation. The IDEAS exhibi-

tion proved that Pakistan's defense capabilities are unmatched and commendable. Faisal Maiz Khan

ing a responsible role in promoting global peace, with its defense products competing in the interna-tional market. Pakistan's defense industry continues to grow, and exports of defense goods will strengthen the Chief of Army Staff the national economy. He General Syed Asim Munir, also mentioned that the inthe Defence Export Promoternational defense exhibition and seminar are significant regional events, offering an opportunity to align the global defense industry and collaborate in business. It is encouraging that more than 550 exhibitors from around the world participated in the IDEAS exhibi-

He highlighted that IDEAS serves as a platform for cooperation and knowledge exchange in the field of defense, providing an opportunity for experts high-level policymakers to meet and

promote defense industry projects.



LARKANA: Members of Sindh Youth Alliance are holding protest demonstration against building new canals to draw additional water from the Indus River, anti-people policies decisions and amending the Irsa Act held at Jinnah Bagh in Larkana.

Green, Sustainable **Chemistry Poster Exhibition held at SALU**

Green and Sustainable Chemistry Poster Exhibition with aim to create Public Awareness for safe, clean and green environment event, was held at the Institute of Chemistry, Shah Abdul Latif University (SALU) Khairpur on Friday.

The event was organized jointly by the American Chemical Society, Shah Abdul Latif University (ACS-SALU) International Student Chapter and the Institute of Chemistry, SALU Khairpur. The inauguration cer-

emony was graced by Prof. Dr. Mushtaque Ahmed Jakhrani, the Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences.

The event featured poster presentations and scientific model exhibitions by undergraduate students from the Institute of Chemistry, SALU Khairpur, and

SUKKUR (APP): The Begum Nusrat Bhutto Women University Khairpur. Additionally, students from local schools, including Government English Medium School in Cambridge System Sukkur, Azad Public School Bhiria Road, and Tahira Public School Zawarabad, also participated. Over forty-two post-

ers and twelve scientific models were presented, with students from the participating schools also showcasing their scientific models. The presentations

were highly informative, and the posters sparked indepth discussions with delegates and experts, exchanging new ideas and sharing insights

The event carried a powerful message about the importance of keeping our environment safe, clean, and green

sizing the province's atdelegation's interest in investing across various tractive sectors. He highlighted Sindh's well-edusectors in Sindh. He accated, experienced, and hardworking youth knowledged Oman's longstanding priority to Complainants put issues

in pile before Ombudsman

office in 'Open Kachehri' KARACHI (APP): The and other federal government departments. The DC Wafaqi Mohtasib (Ombudsman) Secretariat Karachi on Friday received a number of complaints in an 'Open Kachehri' held on the premises of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Cen-

tral Office, Karachi. The complainants including males and females raised issues being face by them before the Senior Advisor (In-Charge), Regional Office Wafaqi Mohtasib (Ombudsman) Secretariat, Syed Anwar Haider and implored to get them resolved by the authorities concerned.

They put their complaints against KW&SB for not supplying water, in-flated electricity bills by K-Electric, negligence and failure by NADRA to respond to the public issues, as well as complaints against BISP

Central, representatives of K-Electric, NADRA, and other government offices were also present in the open kachehri. A female complainant

said that she was a lady health worker and was facing water issue as they were not being supplied tap water in their home by KW&SB. She said that they could not afford to pay for water-tankers as they were poor. She urged the Regional Ombudsman Office to ask the officials concerned to resolve the water issue in New Karachi.

A male complainant said that they were receiving inflated bills of electricity in spite of paying their bills. He said that they had made complaints in this regard to KE but their issues were not being resolved.



HYDERABAD: Torchbearers NGO's activists hold a Torch rally in connection with the Tolerance March held.

SFA sealed 2 hotels in moro for using adulterated Milk

Independent Report KARACHI: The Vigilance Team of Sindh Food Authority led by Food Safety Officer Mehboob Bhatti inspected a warehouse located in Mehran Town, District Korangi, and identified serious breaches of food safety regulations.



During the inspection, large quantities of expired raw materials were discovered, including chocolate flavor (15 liters), vanilla flavor (25 liters), cocoa flavor (22 liters), cheese flavor (25 liters), mango flavor (10 liters), orange flavor (15 liters), pista flavor (10 liters), pineapple flavor (15 liters), peach flavor (15 liters), and strawberry flavor (20 liters). Expired Poly Sucralose weighing 125 kg and expired Fructodan weighing 75 kg were also found on the premises. Additionally, short-expiry products were properly stored alongside fresh items, and tampering of manufacturing and expiry dates was observed on food products. The inspection revealed damaged products and a lack of pest management in the warehouse, further endangering food safety standards.



Universal Diabetic day observed in CMC Larkana

HYDERABAD: Residents of Nawabshah are hold-

ing protest demonstration against high handedness

influent people, at Hyderabad press club.

(APP): Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Medical University (SMBBU) observed a World Diabetic Day in Chandka Medical College Larkana Auditorium Hall on Friday.

An awareness walk started from Diabetes Ward to Chandka Medical College, in which more than two hundred diabetic patients also participated in the walk, and they attended the awareness seminar.

On this occasion, Professor Dr. Hakim Ali Abro said, "Only two years ago, Pakistan was the seventh largest country in the world in terms of diabetes, and we expect that Pakistan will reach the fourth number in diabetes in 2030, but unfortunately, today it has become the third largest country in the world. Diabetes affects all parts of the body, from fingernails to feet.

Dean Professor Dr. Bashir Ahmed Shaikh said, Every fourth person in Pakistan is currently suf-

fering from this disease: this disease can be controlled with proper awareness, proper treatment, and exercise.

Principal Chandka Medical College Professor Dr. Zamir Ahmad Soomro said, "Diabetes leads to diseases like heart disease and diabetic foot, which we can control by lifestyle

Mujeeb

Rahman, Head of Diabetic and Endocrinology, said, 'There are more than three crores and 30 lacs diabetic patients in Pakistan, while in the whole world there are 51 crores of patients with diabetes, while 14 thousand patients are registered in our department, and more than three hundred patients are seen daily in OPD, who are given free medicines and

Medical Superintendent of Chandka Medical College Dr. Niaz Ahmed Dahar said, "Anxiety and depression are the major causes of diabetes; diabetic patients can lead a healthy life with proper precautions.'

Hyderabad police arrests street criminal, recovers stolen motorcycle, mobile phone

HYDERABAD (APP) Hyderabad Police have arrested a street criminal involved in various incidents and recovered a stolen motorcycle, mobile phone and a weapon, according to a police spokesperson.
The B-Section Police

conducted a raid based on secret information and apprehended the suspect Hameed Bhatti, who was active in theft and snatching cases. The suspect was reportedly involved in stealing a Honda CD 70 motorcycle (Registration No. MPA-4185) from Imran Qureshi in Únit No. 5, Latifabad, and snatching a mobile phone at gunpoint from Muhammad Yasir Arain in Unit No. 9 Latifabad.

Police recovered the stolen motorcycle, the snatched mobile phone and a pistol with ammunition from the suspect's possession

dressing a press conference at press club.