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Vol. XIV No. 272 Reg. mails-B / ID-445 Friday November 22, 2024, Jamaadi ul Awwal 19, 1446 A.H. Ph: 2158688, 2158997 Pages 4: Rs. 12

President of Belarus to undertake official visit to Pakistan

from Nov 25-27

ISLAMABAD (APP): At the invitation of Prime Minister Muhammad She Baz sharif,

President of the Republic of

bilateral cooperation and en-

Prime

gagement.

Foreign Office.

At least 40 killed in gun attack on passenger vans in Kurram district

SHO says 25 people injured; Kurram DC says two separate convoys were of members of the Shia community; President Zardari, KP CM condemn attack.

least 40 people were killed and several others injured when unidentified gunmen opend fire on passenger vehicles in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa's (K-P) Kurram district on Thurs-

day.
The convoy, which was en route from Parachinar to Peshawar, came under heavy fire in the Ochut area, a remote part of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province.

According to police, the gunmen targeted the convoy from surrounding hills, hitting several vehicles with automatic gunfire.

Authorities reported that the attack left 40 dead, including a woman, while several of the wounded are in critical condition, raising

nar-24 at Expo Center

RAWALPINDI (APP):

General Sahir Shamshad

Mirza, NI (M), Chairman

Joint Chiefs of Staff Com-

mittee (CJCSC) on Thurs-

day visited the 12th Inter-

national Defence Exhibition

and Seminar (IDEAS-24)

and held wide-ranging talks

rate meetings with numer-

ous officials including De-

fence Ministers, Com-

manders of Armed Forces

and other important offi-

cials from different coun-

tries, including Turkiye,

Azerbaijan, South Africa,

Argentina, Malaysia, UAE,

Cambodia, Kingdom of

Eswatini, Gambia, Brunei,

Maldives and Malawi, said

a news release issued by

Inter Services Public Rela-

tions (ISPR).

The CJCSC held sepa-

on the sidelines.

may increase.

Soon after the incident, medical teams quickly responded, transferring injured passengers to nearby

The provincial government has deployed additional security forces to the region, while officials confirmed a perimeter has been established around Ochut as search operations continue for the attackers.

The motivations behind the ambush remain place in Kurram district tarunclear, and no group has yet claimed responsibil-

Mohsin Naqvi, while condemning the incident at a Islamabad, confirmed that mane act.

KARACHI: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Sahir

Shamshad Mirza visiting 12th International Defence Exhibition and Semi-

CJCSC visits IDEAS-24, holds wide-ranging

talks with officials of different countries

tioned meetings, key as-

pects of the defense and

security relationship were

discussed. All parties re-

bilateral security and coop-

eration, especially in de-

pressed a strong interest in

deepening their engagement

with Pakistan's defense

keynote speech at a semi-nar, titled "Pakistan's De-

fence Production and Po-

tential: Challenges and Way

emphasized that Pakistan's

force behind equipping the battle-hardened Armed

Forces of Pakistan.

forward'

The dignitaries ex-

The CJCSC also gave a

The Chairman JCSC

fense production.

During the aforemen-

KURRAM (Agencies): At concerns that the death toll 38 people were martyred in the gun attack.

Following the incident, Naqvi contacted Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur to discuss the growing terrorist attacks in the province. Both agreed to enhance cooperation in the fight against ter-

Meanwhile President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday strongly condemned the incident of firing took geting the passengers ve-

The president, in a Interior Minister statement, expressed grief over the loss of precious lives in the incident and press conference in called it a coward and inhu-

He further said that

solutions

through superior R&D and

using innovative and cost-

Pakistan's defence indus-

country's essential defence

requirements but also ex-

ploring avenues of col-

laboration in the interna-

tional defence market

He noted that the plat-

form of IDEAS is an ideal

opportunity for publi-

cizing Pakistan's well-

developed Defence Indus-

trial Complex to the inter-

national community.

global standards.

effective

flected on various areas of tries are not only fulfilling



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif chairing a review meeting of the Public

PM for ensuring third party validation in all government procurements

Prime Shehbaz Muhammad Sharif on Thursday directed the relevant authorities to ensure third party validation including quality insurance in all the govern-

here to review good gover-nance and public procurements, the prime minister also directed to bring re-forms in Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) and purge the authority of any type of in-

mittee, separate from the procurement agency, to address complaints related to

He also stressed to appoint qualified, professional, and experienced experts at PPRA on merit.

The prime minister instructed all government departments to use e-Pro-curement (e-PADS) besides establishing special procurement cells in government departments for purchasing and acquiring ser-

Transparency in government affairs is essential for national development,

During the meeting, the prime minister was informed that the review of the PPRA Ordinance and related rules and regulations

Big blow to PTI

IHC bars protests, urges interior minister to engage PTI for peaceful dialogue

Monitoring Desk ISLAMABAD: In light of recent legislative developments surrounding public protests, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) has issued a directive prohibiting demonstrations, rallies, and sit-ins that violate the new

law on public gatherings. However, the court has instructed Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi to initiate peaceful negotiations with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to ensure that future protests are conducted

within constitutional limits. Chief Justice Aamer Farooq issued a five-page written order in response to PTI's petition challenging the restrictions on public

Interior Secretary to form a

PTI founder's jail

statement reflects

growing anxiety,

frustration: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP)

Federal Minister for Infor-

mation Broadcasting, Na-

tional Heritage and Culture

Attaullah Tarar on Thurs-

day said that the PTI

founder's statement from

jail, seeking release to de-

lay protests, reflected his

growing anxiety and frus-

on the PTI founder's state

ment, Attaullah Tarar said

that the statement, "If you

release me from jail, I will

postpone the protest," was

an admission of the

prisoner's frustration and

been proven that the call for

chaos on November 24

was aimed at securing a

ECP strips Adil

Bazai of NA

membership

over floor-crossing

ISLAMABAD (APP)

The Election Commission

of Pakistan (ECP) on

Thursday officially stripped PML-N MNA

Adil Bazai of his National

Assembly membership for

representing NA-262 Quetta-I due to floor-cross-

The ECP issued its ver

dict on the disqualification

references filed against

Bazai and subsequently re-

leased a notification declar-

ing the constituency vacant

under Article 634(4) of the

Constitution

Tarar stated that it has

In a striking comment

committee, either under the protest. leadership of the Interior Minister or a suitable official, to facilitate dialogue with PTI's leadership.

The committee will also brief PTI leaders on the

security sensitivities linked the Belarusian President's upcoming visit, stressing the need for peaceful proceedings.

The Chief Commissioner of Islamabad was also directed to join the committee, as the court expressed confidence that this outreach would foster some likely progress.
The IHC order clarifies

that PTI must submit a formal request to the Deputy Commissioner of Islamabad protests on Thursday. Commissioner of Islamabad at least seven days in advance if it intends to hold a then.

Approval will allow PTI to carry out the demonstration legally. The Interior Minister has been tasked with conveying this procedural requirement to TI leadership.

The court's order further instructs the Interior Ministry to prioritise resolving the issue through dialogue. If talks fail to yield a breakthrough, the government and relevant authorities are urged to take steps to maintain peace and order in Islamabad.

The IHC has requested that the Ministry of Interior provide an update on the situation and the progress of negotiations by November 27. The hearing has been adjourned until



Naqvi in a meeting with British Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State Hamish Falconer.

Amir Muqam condemns terrorist attack on innocent civilians in Kurram

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for States and Frontier Regions Engineer Amir Muqam on Thursday strongly condemned the terrorist attack on the convoy of innocent civilians including women and children in district Kurram.

In a statement, he expressed grief over the loss of precious lives in the incident and called it a coward and inhumane act.

He instructed the authorities concerned to take perpetrators of the attack on innocent citizens to the

He extended his symvictims, affirming a com-



community during this difficult time.

He also prayed for early recovery of the injured and emphasised the best pathies to the families of the victims, affirming a com-

No release, no reprieve; Imran Khan unyielding on Nov. 24 protest plans

RAWALPINDI (INP): Pa- despite Islamabad High kistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan has reiterated that his party's planned protest in Islamabad on November 24 will proceed, asserting that no assurances have been given for his release.

In a statement from Adiala Jail, Khan said that an offer was made through party leaders Ali Amin Gandapur and Barrister Gohar to suspend the protest, but his demands for the release of detained party members were not

Imran emphasised that the government's decision not to free him

Court (IHC) approving his bail, demonstrates a lack of sincerity in negotiations. He accused authorities

of attempting to extend his incarceration and thwart the protest. "We are left with no

choice but to protest like a living nation," Imran remarked, adding that the November 24 rally will see participation from Pakistanis abroad who enjoy freedom in other countries. He asserted that nego-

tiations would continue, though he expressed about doubts government's seriousness.



ment procurements. Chairing a meeting held

"Procurement of services and purchasing in all government institutions in a transparent way is the top priority of the government," the prime minister said adding that ensuring transparency in the government institutions' procure-ment would help building the foreign investors' con-

The prime minister di- proval.

had been completed, and the amendments would soon be presented to the

Mohsin Naqvi rules out talks with PTI founder

Govt to secure Red Zone during visit of Belarus' President; Interior ministry orders KP bureaucracy to ensure state resources not used; Section 144 in Rawalpindi till Nov 26

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has ruled out negotiations with the founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), stating that dialogue cannot take

place under threats. The Chairman JCSC Talking to the media also visited Pakistan Pavilafter appearing in the ion and lauded the efforts Islamabad High Court on of Tri-Services in showcas-Thursday, Naqvi emphadefence industry is the ing Pakistan's indigenous sized the government's fodefence related equipment cus on ensuring the safety manufactured at par with of the city and upcoming state events, as a high-level Belarusian delegation, including their president, is set to visit Pakistan next

> Naqvi revealed that stringent security measures, such as placing containers and potentially suspending mobile services, would be implemented to protect the visiting delegation and maintain order. "The safety of state guests is our top priority, followed by the security of Islamabad's residents. Protests during such crucial

times cannot be allowed," he asserted.

Addressing the PTI's recent protests, Naqvi criticized their timing, which he claimed often coincides with significant national events. He urged the public to evaluate the motives behind these actions. "Protests are not prohibited, but they must be confined to their own districts and provinces. Marching on Islamabad will not be permitted.

Responding to questions about potential negotiations with PTI, Naqvi clarified that no talks were underway with the PTI founder.

"I support dialogue, but it cannot happen under threats or conditions that disrupt law and order," he added. He also dismissed the notion of PTI setting deadlines for negotiations, urging them to seek resolutions through legal avenues like the

Murad urges federal govt to convene CCI meeting KARACHI (APP): Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad

Ali Shah on Thursday called on the federal government to convene a meeting of the Council of Common Inter-According to statement issued by CM House spokes-

man, CM Sindh called on the federal Government to convene CCI meeting under Article 154 (3) of the Constitu-



ISLAMABAD: Workers busy in placed heavy shipping containers near Faizabad flyover along Islamabad Highway for road block ahead of upcoming PTI protest, in the Federal Capital.

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf being briefed at a stall during

SCP summons IGPs, **Home Secretaries in** missing children case

ISLAMABAD (APP): tice Muhammad Ali The Supreme Court of Mazhar, Justice Syed Pakistan has expressed serious displeasure over tice Musarrat Hilali and the reports on the state of missing children and directed all provinces to submit a detailed report that how many children have been abducted and how many are being recovered.

The Court summoned Inspectors General of Police and Home Secretaries of all the four provinces for next hearing to be held on 28 this month.

The six member Constitutional Bench of the SCP, headed by Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan and comprising Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhial, Jus-

Hasan Azhar Rizvi, Jus-Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan was hearing a pe-

children in Pakistan. The petitioner informed the Court that the Committee for missing children constituted by the SCP has done nothing

tition regarding missing

Mandokhail, while referring to the abduction of a years old kid Muhammad Mussawir in Quetta a week ago, expressed disappointment over the failure of the law enforcement agencies despite continued protests in

CNS visits **IDEAS 2024 Independent Report**

CARACHI: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, visited the ongoing International Defence Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS) 2024 at Expo Centre, Karachi. During his visit, Admi-

ral Naveed Ashraf interacted with foreign military officials, industry representatives, and exhibitors; engaging in discussions on advancements in naval technology, global security trends, and potential areas for future collaboration. He also commended the innovative solutions on display and highlighted the importance of nternational partnerships in bolstering regional security.

Admiral Ashraf's visit to IDEAS 2024 underscores Pakistan Navy's commitment to enhancing its capabilities and fosteringcooperation with global partners.

Daily Aoice of Masse, Independent

Military option

Considering that Balochistan has been experiencing a steady wave of terrorist violence over the past few months, particularly involving Baloch separatist groups, it is no surprise that the state has decided to use armed force to quell the insurgency.

Using the platform of the Apex Committee, the civil and military leadership said on Tuesday that an operation would be launched to counter terrorism and separatist violence in the province, while Nacta would be revitalised under the vision of Azm-i-Istehkam. The meeting also announced that a National and Provincial Intelligence Fusion and Threat Assessment Centre would be created and a "whole-of-system approach" adopted.

It is clear why the state has to take firm action to restore peace in Balochistan. In August, terrorists launched a coordinated series of attacks in different parts of the province; such incidents have been occurring since then with disturbing regularity. They include the massacre of miners in Dukki in October, as well as the bombings in Mastung and at the Quetta railway station earlier this month. In fact, the railway station atrocity, in which a large number of civilians were martyred along with security personnel, may have played a decisive role in the state's decision to launch a military operation.

Apart from these incidents, there have been numerous grisly murders of non-Baloch workers, as well as the suicide bombing in October outside Karachi airport in which two Chinese nationals were killed. The latter incident threatened to imperil Pakistan's relationship with Beijing. All these violent acts have been linked to Baloch separatists.

Yet it should be remembered that although Balochistan has witnessed numerous military operations over the decades, they have largely failed to bring long-lasting peace to the province. This time, with Nacta on board, things could be different. While the state goes after terrorists, innocent people should not be hauled away and there must be transparency regarding the operations. If relatives of the insurgents, especially women and children, are targeted in the name of tackling terrorism, it will be counterproductive and breed more disaffection.

As this paper has said before, while restoring peace is essential, addressing Balochistan's socioeconomic deprivation is equally important as terrorists exploit poverty and underdevelopment in the resource-rich province to turn people against the state. Moreover, the state will need to keep channels open with the Afghan Taliban to ensure that Baloch insurgents are not able to find sanctuary in their country.

Better ties with Kabul can help thwart the malignant designs of the "hostile foreign powers' that the Apex Committee identified. Some regional states, such as India, are deepening relations with the Afghan Taliban. For peace in Balochistan and elsewhere in the country, Pakistan cannot afford to ignore these developments and must keep the lines open with Kabul.

Romancing the word

F.S. Aijazuddin

Could this space be better used than to pen a requiem to a fellow writer and columnist? Khaled Ahmed passed away last Sunday, in Lahore, just as the suffocating smog lifted, making life for those who have survived him livable.

Inevitably, memoir of a friend must begin with one's first encounter. I met Khaled in the winter of 1966. I had returned from London after qualifying as a chartered accountant. Khaled was still studying at Government College, Lahore. We were both invited by Farrukhnigar Aziz to perform in Anton Chekhov's heavy drama The Seagull.

Nawab Kalabagh languages enabled him to then governor West Pa-master Russian. He kistan) had banned plays being performed by men with women. Mixed students in Government College could not act together but the GC stage was available to host amateur actors. Farrukhnigar cobbled together a small group which christened itself

first of hopefully many). Shamim Ahmed (later Mrs Zafar Hilaly) played the lead role of Nina. Agha Ghazanfar (later Khaled's colleague reached the door of the in the Civil Service) played her love sick swain Konstantin. Khaled had a lesser role as the village doctor this." He then left as Dorn. With more ambition than talent, I played the lead role of the amorous

novelist Trigorin. I also

volunteered to design the

Russian costumes and

the sets The challenge came in finding a dead seagull in upcountry Lahore. I lier love — philology. He fabricated a facsimile in consorted with a harem

and bounced.

worked with Sohail Iftikhar (son of the Congress politician Mian Iftikharuddin). Sohail had established Nigarishat, with the aim of publishing Urdu translations of

historical classics. Khaled's bilingual talents were evident in its first publication — a translation into Urdu of Niccolao Manucci's Storia Do Mogor, Vol. 1: Or Mogul India; 1653-1708, an account of Mughal history under Shah Jahan and Aurangzeb.

Khaled often recalled Nigarishat's teething problems, of Sohail's oversize desk that got wedged on the staircase, forcing every visitor to clamber up or slide down. Khaled's facility with

served in Moscow under ambassador Jamsheed Marker. Khaled recalled Marker and himself being summoned to the Kremlin in the early hours one wintry morning. The Russians wanted to express their displeasure over the Indo-Pak conflict in December 1971. Ambassathe Alpha Players (the dor Marker and Khaled were made to wait for some time. Then they heard feet stride purposefully along a very long corridor. The sound waiting room. A senior Russian diplomat entered, looked at them, and said: "You will regret abruptly and slammed the door behind him. His footsteps resounded as he retraced his heavy tread along the cavernous cor-

In time, Khaled left diplomacy to its own devices. He rejoined an earcloth. It should have of words. He chose to worked, except that when live in his own world, one Konstantin tossed the in which suits and ties bird at Nina's feet, it and personal ambition bounced, and bounced, had no place. He pre-After graduating motor car. He wore guage, and for language' but before joining our shalwar-kameez long be- -- Courtesy Dawn

Foreign Service, Khaled fore and after Mr Z.A. Bhutto and Gen Ziaul Haq had made it mandatory.

He helped an upwardly mobile Pathan entrepreneur Rehmat Shah Afridi establish an English newspaper The Frontier Post, here in Lahore. Despite Khaled's editorial skills, the newspaper lost money by the bagful. Once, Rehmat Shah admitted that when he asked his co-Pathan sponsors in Peshawar whether they should not cut their losses, he was told: "Your job is to run the paper. Our job is to find the money for it." He added candidly: "We see it as an admission fee. How else can we penetrate the Punjabi upper

During his long career, Khaled jumped from one journalistic ice-floe to an--other — writing for whichever paper or journal could sustain his intellectual weight. He wrote inimitable articles and editorials, ending his career as consulting editor with the Pakistani edi-

tion of Newsweek. On a personal level, Khaled mentored my wife Shahnaz during her early days as a writer. He became a kind and perceptive reviewer of my books as and when they came out. We exchanged our publications as politicians trade un-pointed barbs, more out of professional respect rather than a venal rivalry.

Khaled's only son lives abroad. Khaled's lineal descendants though are his writings. His genealogy is traceable in his kinship with words. Khaled Ahmed has gone. He has left behind 20 books and a plethora of informed, often provocative, always thoughtful opinions. His enduring legacy though is that special aura, what the French philosopher Gaston Bachelard described as "a special kind of beauty ... ferred a motorcycle to a born in language, of lan-

Resource dilemma

Umer Farooq

Pakistan has turned to two US law firms to fend off Tehran's penalty claim over the delayed gas pipeline project with Iran. Does this sound familiar? It should if we recall Reko Diq. Just recently, Pakistan settled a lawsuit with Barrick Gold over the Reko Diq mining project. And here we are again, staring down the barrel of another costly legal showdown estimated around \$18 billion. Pakistan's most

profound lesson from history may be this: it seldom truly learns from it. The same mistakes are replayed like a broken record. The past seems to hold wisdom, but for some reason, we don't heed it, and then arrive at a point when the world's courts have to chase us down. Ac- may remain unchanged tion only begins when a summons arrives — until then, we're content to sit back and watch.

Pipelines have become synonymous with anti-climate pursuits, often cutting through indigenous lands and infringing on land rights. But the Pakistan-Iran about energy; it's a display of global power dynamics. Here, geopolitics takes centre stage,

overshadowing environmental concerns and indigenous rights. In 2009, Islamabad inked a deal with Tehran to import up to a billion cubic feet of gas daily via a cross-border pipeline. Fast forward to 2024, and Pakistan has yet to lay a single pipe on its side. The reason? Ostensibly the fear of American sanctions. Iran, having completed the pipeline at its end, is demanding that Pakistan fulfil its commitment or face a hefty \$18bn penalty. In response, Pakistan has enlisted two US-based management, be it explolaw firms to defend its ration or import of re- Courtesy Dawn

scores a decade of missed opportunities and geopolitical hesitamove beyond excuses and pipelines on paper.

pipeline project with taxpayer money on law-Iran is a reminder of suits. Western influence dictating local energy choices. Pakistan faces a massive gas supplydemand gap that is only growing wider. This pate a hard-line stance cross-border pipeline from the new Trump adcould deliver up to a billion cubic feet of gas per day to an energystarved nation, which is desperate for relief.

The winds change are blowing, and America is set to have a different administration; however, its Iran policy or even take a harsher turn compared to the one under the Biden administration. Hence, exthe Iran-Pakistan pipeline is not realistic.

As the global bal-

ance shifts from West to East — despite the elecgas pipeline isn't just tion of Donald Trump as the next US president the rules of the power change. Western hegemony is on the decline. Pakistan — and many other countries — may no longer have to navigate their energy needs transfer of power will not only alter the way international challenges are tic infrastructure for enaddressed but will also ergy redefine the very nature coupled with smart interof those challenges. Paits potential in abundant to navigate external presnatural resources and the sures without compropressing need to meet its own energy demands independently. Yet, we still

inaction. This legal sources. For a country of manoeuvring under- our size, meeting energy demands requires solid, well-thought-out plans. Major decisions must tions. As energy short- account for global conages persist, one won- sequences. Poor manders when Pakistan will agement will leave us vulnerable to court battles. In a dollar-The US threat of starved economy, we sanctions over this cannot afford to waste

> With Trump's reelection, Pakistan faces even greater urgency in addressing the pipeline issue. We must anticiministration, which is likely to increase the pressure on Pakistan to abandon projects that involve Iran, thus raising the stakes for our economy. Avoiding cost--ly fines and tensions with Iran requires immediate action.

Pakistan should explore alternative financing and partnerships for its energy projects, ones that align with global dypecting a different namics yet meet our critistance from the US on cal energy needs. By resolving this quickly, we protect economy from punitive measures and redirect funds to essential sectors rather than legal

battles. Looking forward, game are bound to Pakistan needs a strategic, long-term approach to energy and resource management. means establishing policies that leverage our natural under the shadow of sustainably while re-Western power. This maining adaptable to transfer of power will not geopolitical shifts. Develop-ing our domesindependence, national alliances, will kistan has come to realise better position Pakistan mising on economic sta-

It is time to prioritise lack effective policies re- a resilient energy stratlated to the resources egy that safeguards the country's future.

Commerce News

Ethiopian embassy, TDAP agree to join hands for **Single Country Exhibition**

ISLAMABAD (APP): strategies to sensitize the had shown promising The Embassy of Ethiopia traders of both the results, addressing macro-Development Authority of business and trade pakistan (TDAP) on opportunities in each other creating ease of doing providing a providing a Thursday agreed to forge countries' major economic business and providing a collaboration for holding the Single Country Exhibition in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia during the next year in a successful

crucial collaboration came under discussion during a meeting between Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula, Special Envoy and and Zubair Motiwala, Chief Executive of the TDAP.

attended by Sheryar Taj, Secretary TDAP, Abdul Karim Memon DG TDAP, Exhibition. and Ibrahim Tawab, Honorary Consul to Ethiopia in Karachi.

During the meeting, the Home Grown both sides discussed Economic Reforms which

Wednesday hosted a

community was apprised

opportunities offered by

(RDA), a flagship programme of the State

Canadian-Pakistanis

briefed about Roshan

Trade countries about the economic imbalances, sectors agriculture and agro attracting the foreign direct processing, pharmaceutical, surgical

aluminum. They agreed to launch cities of the Islamic safe mobilize the business citizens. The meeting was also community for their in the Single Country

material, steel and

Jemal said the Government of Ethiopia has undertaken

including conducive environment for investment.

He said the capital items, automotive, city of Ethiopia—Addis Information Technology, Ababa—is a third Information Technology, Ababa—is a third leather and leather diplomatic hub hosting a products, construction number of international conferences every year including the African Union Summit. "This Ambassador Extraordinary a joint awareness shows the strategic of Ethiopia to Pakistan, campaign in all the major importance of Ethiopia and and Republic of Pakistan to environment for the global

> He said Ethiopia maximum participation offered a comparative advantage to the Pakistani investors in terms of Ambassador Dr. strategic location, cheap, clean and green energy, skilled labour, and on top of that full-fledged support from the Government.

Pak total

KARACHI (APP): The

"During the week ended on 15-Nov-2024, SBP reserves increased by US\$ 29 million to US\$ State Bank of Pakistan, informed in a statement issued here on Thursday. Meanwhile, net foreign reserves recorded as \$ 4,679.7

reserves held by the country, in the previous week ended on November 08, 2024, were \$



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a meeting with FBR officials to appreciate their performance for Sales Tax fraud

TAPI project crucial for meeting country's energy needs: Dr. Musadik

ISLAMABAD (APP): the TAPI initiative. Federal Minister for Petroleum, Dr Musadik Malik, Pakistan's determination to which the Minister complete the Turkmenistan-

Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline commended Pakistan's project, calling it crucial for meeting the country's energy needs. In a meeting Thursday with Turkmenistan's Ambassador to Pakistan, Atadjan Movlamov, the Minister expressed

gratitude

The ambassador invited Dr. Musadik Malik emphasized to visit Turkmenistan, warmly appreciated.

During the meeting, Ambassador Movlamov recent economic progress and highlighted an improvement in the financial country's situation.

He noted growing international investor interest in Pakistan, for attributing the credit to Turkmenistan's Prime Minister Shahbaz

unwavering commitment to Sharif and his team's efforts. **PCJCCI stresses establishing** 'Digital Silk Road'

LAHORE Pakistan-China Joint has become a core resource Chambers of Commerce and is crucial to and Industry (PCJCCI) has urged the government "The next leap for to take a lead in developing "Digital Silk Road" for create having maximum benefits out of the economic corridor to be constructed

Pacific region PCJCCI President Nazir Hussain stated this during a think tank session held here at PCJCCI Secretariat Thursday.

by China in the Asia-

He said the roads and railways are easy enough to build, but it is hard to cultivate mental harmony among people that holds more importance in regional

(APP): connectivity. Information international cooperation.

> regional connectivity is to Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway," he said. Infrastructure development

progressing steadily for the China proposed Belt and Road Initiative, but parallel with communication infrastructure network connecting Asia, Europe, and Africa, there is dire need of breaking the barriers of information among the connecting

nations, he added

PRA integrates e-IMS with PoS LAHORE (APP): The

Punjab Revenue Authority (PRA) is integrating its Invoice Electronic Monitoring System (e-IMS) system with the Federal Board of Revenue's (FBR) Points of Sale (PoS) system.

The integration of PRA's e-IMS with PoS system would simplify tax processes for taxpayers as they will not require integration with two separate system of two revenue organisations, according to spokespersons PRÁ Thursday.

Public hearings continue across LESCO region LAHORE (APP): On the

special instructions of the Ministry of Power Division, a series of Open Kachehry (public/ customers hearings) are being held in the LESCO region with the aim of solving the problems faced by the consumers in electricity bills and other matters immediately.

Chief Executive Engineer Shahid Haider said here Thursday that public/customers hearings are being conducted in all eight circles of LESCO. The public is also being informed about this in advance through the media.

All the SDOs along with their teams are ensuring regular holding of open kachehry in their subdivisions on a daily basis.

Pavilion" award at **Global Sourcing Expo** SLAMABAD (APP): In Pakistan's outstanding

Pakistan wins "Best

the visionary leadership of representation on the the Federal Minister for international stage. Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, Pakistan won the Expo, the largest exhibition 'Best Pavilion" Award at Global Sourcing Expo.

Pakistan, the country's pavilion was awarded the prestigious "Best Pavilion" award at the Global Sourcing Expo held at the Melbourne Convention Center from November 19 to 21, 2024, said a press release issued here on Thursday.

This achievement highlights leadership of Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal directives

The Global Sourcing for textiles, leather, and home textile products in the In a moment for Oceania region, featured exhibitors from major exporting nations, including China, India, Vietnam, Cambodia, and South Africa. Amid fierce competition, Pakistan's pavilion stood out for its superior design, engaging displays, and the exceptional quality of its showcased products.

This success is the result of Federal Minister Jam Kamal Khan's Khan, whose strategic forward-thinking ensured approach.



Kazakhstan, Alibek Bakayev, meets with Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain.

Sharjah-Pakistan Business Roundtable highlights shared vision for economic growth

in Sharjah) and the Pakistan Business Council Thursday.

ties and fostering bilateral investments between economic relations. Sharjah and Pakistan. "Pakistan, w

Speaking at the event, resilient Consul General Hussain Muhammad highlighted the historic and deeprooted relationship collaboration.

SHARJAH (APP): The between Pakistan and Sharjah FDI Office (Invest the UAE. He emphasized that

the bond between the two in Sharjah hosted the countries is built on shared Sharjah-Pakistan Business values, traditions, and a Roundtable here on collective commitment to progress. He further noted The event brought that the leadership of together over 200 investors Pakistan and the UAE and entrepreneurs to share mutual trust and explore opportunities for confidence and have a strengthening economic strong desire to expand political, trade, and

"Pakistan, with its resilient economy, workforce, and abundant natural resources, offers immense potential for

Bank of Pakistan (SBP) in collaboration Pakistani commercial banks. RDA allows oversees Pakistanis to have access to banking services within Pakistan without having to visit a consulate, embassy, or a bank branch.

organized in cooperation with the Bank of Punjab million individuals and State Bank of Pakistan to engage with the Pakistani diaspora across Canada. The panelists included Shah Faisal Kakar, Acting High

Digital Account's benefits OTTAWA (APP): The Commissioner; Syed Ali Pakistan High Raza, Head of Pakistan Commission, Ottawa, on Remittance Initiative (PRI) at the State Bank of webinar at which the Pakistan; Nofel Daud, Canadian-Pakistani Chief Digital Officer, Bank of Punjab; Salman Saeed, of the benefits and Head of

Remittances Division; the Roshan Digital Account Ishtiak Ahmed Akil, Consul General, Montreal; Khalil Ahmed Bajwa, Consul General, Toronto; Ghulam Hussain, Acting Consul General, Vancouver; and Altamash Janjua, Trade and Investment Counsellor, Canada. A press release of the High Commission said webinar highlighted the integral role of the Canadian-The webinar was Pakistani community comprising over half a

contributing significantly

to diverse sectors such as

finance, technology,

healthcare, and economic

development.

liquid foreign reserves near \$16 billion

total liquid foreign reserves of Pakistan stood at US\$ 15,967.7 million as of November 15, 2024 while the forex reserves held by the State Bank of Pakistan increased to \$ 11,288 million.

11,288.0 million," the held by commercial banks were

Total liquid foreign 15,965.5 million.

Maryam meets NDU delegation, briefs participants on Punjab development initiatives

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif Thursday met the participants in the 26th National Security Workshop of the National University

She gave the accountability. The participants a two-hour journey of development performance. The head of the National Security Workshop delegation said that it was a blessing to come to Punjab, where sincerity and effort for the people is clearly visible. 'By coming to Punjab, we have come from darkness to light," he added.

overall situation in Punjab possible. Positive effects mega achievement.

Information Technology.

delegation from the United

Nations Office on Drugs and

Crime (UNODC) Pakistan,

comprising Syed Arslan

Malik and Fatima Raza,

along with Executive

Director of the Youth

Development Foundation,

Shahid Rehmat held an

important meeting with

Provincial Minister for

Minorities Affairs Ramesh

Singh Arora and Secretary

of Human Rights and

Minority Affairs Punjab

discuss UNODC's

Ali Bahadur Qazi.

CITY UNIVERSITY

PESHAWAR: Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam

Chaudhry and President City University Sabur

Sethi awarding degree to a graduate student at the

13th Convocation of City University of Science and

UNODC delegation

calls on Minister Arora

The meeting was held term strategies for

ongoing projects in Punjab minority communities.

and explore opportunities

for collaboration with the

department to further

strengthen initiatives for the

welfare and development of

minority communities. The

meeting primarily focused on UNODC's efforts in the

region, especially those

aimed at promoting minority

rights, social inclusion, and

sustainable development.

The delegation emphasised

the need for aligning the

ongoing projects with the

Punjab government's long-

supporting marginalized and

Minority

provincial

provinces. recommendation in any the accountability. briefing on the government and prosperity gets affected due to political instability. Unfortunately

properly.' work that has a positive impact on the lives of 15 crore people is my priority. We want to bringing it down from 38 The CM said, "The control smog as soon as per cent to 7 per cent is a

the governments are not

LAHORE (APP): Punjab is better than other of government's measures are coming to light. People lose their lives due to lack sort of appointment has of health and treatment been made in Punjab. I do facilities. "We are all not pay heed to anyone on Pakistanis irrespective of the issue of merit. Every our political affiliations. (NDU), who gave her the title of 'Super CM'.

die issue of ment. Every our pointed arimations. Our aim is to promote decline due to lack of patriotism. Inflation is low decline due to lack of patriotism. Inflation is low The and foreign exchange reserves are increasing in Pakistan. The stock market has broken all records; IT exports are increasing With increasing exports allowed to function dependence on foreign aid decreases, we will be able She added, "Every to live our lives with pride and dignity." Maryam Nawaz said, "Controlling Nawaz said, "Controlling hill took inflation is an uphill task,

Kundi condemns attack on passenger vehicles in Kurram

PESHAWAR Governor Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, strongly condemned the attack the passenger in Lower vehicles Kurram district on Thursday expressed his deep

more than 30 precious He prayed for the elevation of the deceased's ranks and offered his heartfelt condolences sympathy to the grieving

families, wishing them

sorrow over the loss of

patience and strength. Governor Kundi described the firing as an extremely heinous act and expressed grave concern over the incident, especially considering it occurred despite the presence of

convoy. emphasized that the ruthless perpetrators, responsible shedding the blood of innocent passengers, should receive leniency.



with a delegation of Parliamentary Leader of PPP Punjab Assembly, Syed Ali Haider Gillani, and MNA, Syed Ali Qasim Gillani in Governor House.

PPP is not in favor of bill to impose agricultural tax on farmers: Governor

Independent Report LAHORE: Parliamentary Leader of Pakistan People's Party in Punjab Assembly, Syed Ali Haider Gillani, and Member of National Assembly, Syed Ali Qasim Gillani met with Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan in Governor House Lahore. During the meeting, various

were discussed. Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that the country's economy depends on agriculture. Farmers play an important role in the country's economy. He said that Pakistan People's

issues faced by the farmers

voice in favor of farmers. Governor Punjab said that People's Party is not in favor of the bill to impose agricultural tax on farmers. He said that Pakistan People's Party walked out during the presentation of the recent bill of imposing agricultural tax on farmers in the Punjab Assembly. Governor Punjab said that the support price of wheat was announced at Rs 3900 by the government, but it was sold in the market at a much lower price. Governor Punjab said that fertilizers and seeds are very expensive. He said that the farmer is already perturbed over inflation, adding that

45% agricultural tax is Party has always raised its injustice to the farmers. **Azma Bokhari says:** PTI's 90pc members

Information Minister Azma Bokhari has said that 90 per cent of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) members are opposed to the protest scheduled for November 24.

In a statement, issued on Thursday, she said that by chanting the slogans of 'Al-jihad Al-jihad', the PTI had proven itself the political wing of TTP
(Tehrik-e-Taliban
Pakistan). She said that

Members in the assessed adding that Aliya Kha
Sher Afzal Marwat.

against Nov-24 protest LAHORE (APP): Punjab activists of the jihadist party had themselves with weapons, shells, slingshots, glass and rubber bullets, etc. She said Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa chief minister was being used as a pawn against the

federation. The minister

said Imran Khan's wife

Bushra Bibi's authoritarian

and demeaning attitude had

caused a rift among her

members in the assembly,

adding that Aliya Khan and

FBR officer shot dead a citizen over 'monetary issue'

PESHAWAR (APP): A man was killed by an officer of FBR in front of Customs House here Thursday, said SP Cantt Aitzaz Árif.

He said the Additional Commissioner In-land Revenue FBR identified as Irfan Ullah, resident of Swat presently residing in Shaheen Muslim Town here shot dead a citizen, Abdur Rehman which the police said was probably a result of some monetary dispute. However, in a prompt action by Town Police, the accused was arrested and a double barrel gun was recovered from him. Police said the accused seemed to be mentally disturbed.

Man killed. son injured in road accident FAISALABAD (APP): A

man was killed and his son suffered injuries in a road accident near Gatwala on Wednesday night.

According to police, Tahir Nadeem (51), along with his son Zeeshan (20) was going on motorcycle Gatwala Sheikhupura road when they collided with another motorbike coming from the opposite side. Meanwhile, a speeding car ran over Tahir from the rear side. As a result, Tahir Nadeem died on the spot. and submit a detailed report. across the province.

Governor Kundi to convene APC to address security, governance issues in KP

(APP): unfortunately Khyber Governor Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday expressed grave concern over the deteriorating security situation in the province and announced to All-Parties convene Conference (APC) in early December to address security and governance issues in the province.

In a video message released here by the Governor Secretariat, he criticized the provincial government over its negligence in addressing the

Governor recalled that he repeatedly took up the KP's issues with the Prime Minister with and the President but

provincial government had failed to take meaningful steps to ensure the safety of its citizens. They are busy in organizing protests in

Islamabad or seeking the release of their party's founder, while the province is left at the mercy of terrorists. The government has completely failed to protect the lives and property of the people," he

He said the APC would bring together all political parties in the province to discuss solutions for security challenges, allocation, and KP's issues federal government



ers Association are holding protest demonstration for demanding protection, in Hyderabad.

KP CM condemns armed attack on passenger vehicles in Kurram

Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, has strongly condemned the armed attack on passenger vehicles in the Uchaat area of Kurram

district on Thursday. Expressing sorrow over the tragic loss of lives in this heinous incident, the chief minister has tasked a delegation comprising the provincial law minister, the local MNA, MPA, and the Chief Secretary to visit Kurram, assess the ground realities

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Furthermore, the chief minister has instructed the reactivation of a previously held tribal jirga to help stabilize the situation in the area. Ali Amin Gandapur emphasized that the provincial government, police and all relevant institutions are making concerted efforts to improve law and order in the region. As part of these measures, he directed the concerned authorities to expedite the establishment of a Provincial Highways Police to ensure

the safety of all major routes

International News

ICC issues arrest warrants for Israel's PM Netanyahu, Gallant

Monitoring Desk THE HAGUE: The International Criminal Court (ICC) on Thursday issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former defence Minister Yoav Gallant, as well as Hamas's military chief Mohammed

"The Chamber issued warrants of arrest for two individuals, Benjamin Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant, for crimes against humanity and war crimes committed from at least October 8, 2023, until at least May 20, 2024, the day the prosecution filed the applications for warrants of arrest," the Haguebased ICC said in a stateadded in a separate state-

The arrest warrants had been classified as "secret", to protect witnesses and to safeguard the conduct of the investigations, the court said. "However, the Cham-

ber decided to release the suspicion of war crimes and information below since conduct similar to that addressed in the warrant of arrest appears to be ongoing," the tribunal said.

"Moreover, the Chamber considers it to be in the

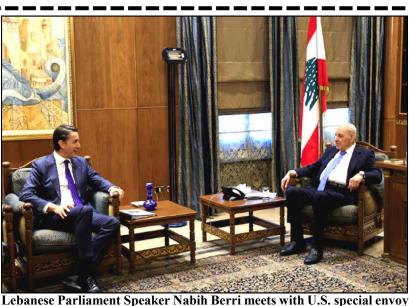
ICC chief prosecutor Karim Khan in May re-

been issued for Deif, it rest warrants for Netanyahu and Gallant over alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza. Netanyahu sacked

Gallant as defence minister

on November 5. Khan also sought warrants against top Hamas leaders, including Deif, on

crimes against humanity. dropped the application for former Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh on August 2 "because of the changed circumstances caused by Mr interest of victims and their Haniyeh's death" in Tehran families that they are made on July 31, the ICC earlier aware of the warrants' ex- said in a statement. According to Israel, Deif was killed by a strike on July 13 in



Amos Hochstein in Beirut, Lebanon.

Hezbollah says Israel 'cannot impose conditions' for truce

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: Hezbollah's leader delivered a defiant speech on Wednesday (Nov 20) saying Israel cannot impose its conditions for a truce, as US envoy Amos Hochstein headed from Lebanon to Israel to try to end the

Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar, in a near-simultaneous statement, said any ceasefire deal must ensure Israel has the "freedom to act' against Hezbollah. Hochstein

nounced in Lebanon that

Wednesday to try to seal a ceasefire agreement in the war in Lebanon, which escalated in late September after nearly a year of deadly exchanges of fire across Israel's northern

Israel expanded the focus of its operations from Gaza to Lebanon, vowing to secure the north and allow tens of thousands of people displaced by the cross-border fire to return home. It has also intensified

strikes on neighbouring Syria, a key conduit of weapons for Hezbollah from its backer Iran.

Bangladesh ex-PM Khaleda Zia makes first public appearance in 6 years

Monitoring Desk DHAKA: Bangladesh's illness-stricken opposition leader Khaleda Zia made her first public appearance in six years on Thursday, months after her release from house arrest following the ouster of longtime foe Sheikh

The ferocious rivalry between the two former premiers — born in blood and cemented in prison has defined politics in the

Zia was jailed in 2018 for graft but was released August, hours after Hasina fled to neighbouring India when a student-led national uprising brought an end to her 15 years of iron-

Her presence on Thursday at a reception to mark the country's Armed Forces Day marked her first public appearance since her

Russia, North Korea agree to boost charter flights after

trade meeting

Monitoring Desk

SEOUL: North Korea and Russia have signed a protocol on cooperation after meetings covering trade, the economy, science and technology in Pyongyang, North Korean state media KCNA said on Thursday. There were few details

in the KCNA report, but Russia's TASS news agency said on Tuesday that the countries agreed to increase charter flights following the meeting, citing Russia's ministry of natural resources. Between January and September, the number of tourists travelling between Russia and North Korea amounted to over 5,000 people, with more than 70% travelling by air, it said. The increased charter flights are expected to take off not only from Russia's eastern region close to North Korea, but also from major Russian cities in other areas, TASS said, citing the ministry. KCNA said on Thursday that the Russian delegation led by natural resources minister Alexander Kozlov, which met North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Monday. had now departed from Pyongyang. During the delegation's visit, zoo animals were transferred to North Korea as gifts from Russian President Vladimir Putin.

No hostages-for-prisoners swap deal with Israel unless Gaza war ends: Hamas

Monitoring Desk Hayya said in remarks broadcast on Wednesday that there would be no hostages-for-prisoners swap deal with Israel unless the war in the Palestinian enclave ended.

"Without an end to the war, there can be no prisoner swap," Hayya said in a televised interview with the group's Al-Aqsa television channel, reiterating the group's position on how to bring the war to an end.

"If the aggression is not ended, why would the resistance and in particular Hamas, return the prisoners (hostages)?" he said. "How would a sane or an insane person lose a strong card he owns while talks.

the war is continuing?'

Efforts to negotiate truce for Gaza have stalled, and the US on Wednesday vetoed a UN Security Council resolution calling for an unconditional permanent ceasefire. Washington's UN ambassador said the US would only support a resolution that explicitly calls for the immediate release of the Israeli hostages as part of a

Hayya, who led the group's negotiating team in talks with Qatari and Egyptian mediators, blamed the lack of progress on Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who in turn holds the Islamist group responsible for the stalled

US again vetoes **UNSC** attempt for Gaza truce

Monitoring Desk JNITED NATIONS: The United States on Wednes-

day vetoed a UN Security Council resolution for a ceasefire in Gaza, drawing criticism of the Biden administration for once again blocking international action aimed at halting the 13month conflict.

The 15-member council voted on a resolution put forward by 10 non-permanent members that called for an "immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire" and separately demanded the release of Israeli prisoners.

Only the US voted against, using its veto as a permanent member to

block the resolution. Robert Wood, deputy US ambassador to the UN, said Washington had made clear it would only support a resolution that explicitly calls for the immediate release of prisoners as part of a ceasefire.

Robert Wood said the US had sought compromise, but the text of

the proposed resolution would have sent a "dangerous message" to Hamas that "there's no need to come back to the negotiating table" Israel has killed nearly

44,000 people in Gaza. Members roundly

criticised Washington for blocking the resolution put forward by the Security Council's 10 elected members: Algeria, Ecuador, Guyana, Japan, Malta, Moza-mbique, South Korea, Sierra Leone, Slovenia and Switzerland.

"It is deeply regretted that due to the use of the veto, this council has once again failed to uphold its responsibility to maintain international peace and security," Malta's UN Ambassador Vanessa Frazier said after the vote failed, adding that the text of the resolution "was by no means a maximalist one".

"It represented the bare minimum of what is needed to begin to address the desperate situation on the ground," she said.

ment. A warrant had also quested the court issue ar-Chief adviser of Bangladesh's interim government

Muhammad Yunus with former premier and Bangladesh Nationalist Party chairperson Khaleda Zia at a reception in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

UN nuclear chief welcomes Iran's 'concrete step' on uranium stockpile

Monitoring Desk VIENNA: UN atomic watchdog chief Rafael Grossi on Wednesday welcomed Iran's "concrete step" on agreeing to cap its stockpile of highly enriched uranium after Tehran implemented preparatory steps to stop adding to its inventory. "I think this is ... a concrete step in the right direction—we have a fact which has been verified by us," Grossi told report-

ers in Vienna. "I attach im-

portance to the fact that for the first time... since the distancing of Iran from its past obligations, they are taking a different direction," he said But he said he could "not exclude" that Iran's commitment might falter "as a result of further developments" The comments by Grossi came after Western powers submitted a resolution censuring Iran for its poor cooperation with the International Atomic Energy.

Hamas denies he is dead. Chinese defense minister declines meeting with Pentagon chief

southern Gaza, though

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: China's defense minister declined a

meeting with US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin during a meeting of defense leaders in Laos, a move the Pentagon chief said on Wednesday was unfortu-Multilateral gather-

ings of national security officials in Asia have been used in the past for meetings between US and Chinese defense leaders, but China declined a meeting request by Austin during this week's Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-Plus defense ministers meeting.
"It's unfortunate. It

affects the region because the region really wants to see us, you know, two significant players in the region, two significant powers, talk to each other," Austin told reporters. "I don't think that it

has any sort of implications

for the future.

fisted rule.

Increased productivity, quality, innovation 'instant solution' to economic challenges: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Thursday mentioned increased productivity, quality and innovation (PQI) as the 'instant solution' to the economic difficulties faced by the country in the absence of the required investment volume. "These [PQI] are the basic pillars on which the national competitiveness of any country depends," he said while addressing the inauguration session of the two-day National Productivity, Quality and Innovation (PQI) Summit-2024.

The summit, titled "Driving Growth Through Excellence in Productivity, Quality, and Innovation, has been organized by the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, with PQI identified as key drivers for achieving sustainable economic growth and enhancing Pakistan's global competitiveness.

Narrating success stories of developed countries that attained economic prosperity, the Planning minister said they first adopted key drivers of progress: productivity in the 1970s, quality in the 1980s and innovation in the 1990s, all triggered by the knowledge explosion."

"Competitiveness is not what you do with what you have inherited; competitiveness is all about what you are capable of creating," Ahsan Iqbal quoted Michael E. Porter, considered the Father of Competitive Strategy.

He regretted that Pakistan was ranked 110th in the National Competitiveness Index out of 140 countries, as reported by the World Economic Forum, adding, "Unfortunately, we stand nowhere."

The Planning minister stressed the need to improve capabilities and follow international trends and principles "if we want to cost of its 'political capibe included in the leading

ISLAMABAD: Chief guest Rana Mashood, Chairman of the Prime Minister's

Youth Program and Van Nguyen, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP

Pakistan in a group photo with percipients during a market-driven vocational

and technical skills training program concluded ceremony organized by Gov-

ernment of Japan, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and

Pakistan's future leaders

shine at PM's University

Olympiad 2024: Chairman

entrepreneurship, he high-

Youth Programme, Rana government's focus on qual-moting IT education, in-

Mashhood Ahmad Khan ity education and sports spiring a new generation of

tives like the Pakistan Edu-

cation Endowment Fund,

Punjab Information Tech-

Danish Authority, which

education, adding, the fore-

front of this progress is the

Pakistan Education Endow-

provide educational oppor-

tunities to children nation-

nology Board and Pakistan

He also praised initia-

Khan

Thursday unveiled the opportunities, both domes- innovators.

economies of the world.' He urged the summit participants to explore ways for all sectors including public, private, industry, agriculture and services to move forward in line with the principles of enhanced PQI.

"The key to tackling the economic challenges is export-led economic growth, which can open the door to success for Pakistan by increasing exports from the current \$30 billion to \$100 billion," he remarked.

Ahsan Iqbal informed the audience that friendly countries, especially Gul States including Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Oatar had an overall investment portfolio of \$29 billion in diverse fields in Pakistan.

turning around due to the difficult decisions taken by the current government of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), at the



She said Pakistan on several occasions have shared with Afghan authorities concrete evidence

terror groups in Afghanistan, she added. She hoped the Af-

ghan authorities will consider terrorism as a serious threat not just to the region but to their own secu-

The spokesperson regretted the result of last night's vote at the UN Security Council and its in ability to reach consensus on the resolution calling for ceasefire in

She reiterated Pakistan's call for an immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire, unhindered access to humanitarian assistance and full support to UN Relief and Works Agency and its mandated humanitarian activities.

Court initiates process to declare Gandapur as absconder

ISLAMABAD (APP): An Anti-Terrorism Ćourt (ATC) on Thursday initiated process to declare Chief Minister KP Ali Amin Gandapur as proclaimed offender and ordered to summon him through advertisement.

The ATC Judge Tahir Abbas Sapra heard the ter rorism case against PTI leaders registered in I-9 Police Station. During hearing, the court rejected the one time exemption from attendance requests of accused Faisal Javed and Wasiq Qayyum, and also canceled their surety bonds or bails.

The court also initiated the process to declare Ali Amin Gandpaur as absconder on his continuous disappearance in the

IRSA releases 96,800 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP) Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Thursday released 96,800 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 49,600

According to the data eleased by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1505.41 feet and was 107.41 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 22,900 cusecs and 49,000 cusecs respec-

tively.

The water level in Mangla River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1165.60 feet, which was 115.60 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet.

The inflow and out flow of water was recorded as 5,900 cusecs and 27,000

cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was cusecs respectively. Simi larly, from River Kabul,

recorded as 50,000, 50,200, 36,700 and 6,000 total of 12,700 cusecs of water released Nowshera and 3,000 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala

PM announces Rs5 mln award for FBR officer to identify massive sales tax fraud

ISLAMABAD (APP): Expressing satisfac-Prime Minister Shehbaz tion over the positive out-Sharif on Thursday an- comes of FBR reforms, the nounced a Rs5 million award and gave away a commendatory shield to an FBR officer Ijaz Hussain who identified a sales tax fraud worth trillions of ru-

The prime minister, talking to the officer, who called on him at the PM House, appreciated his du-tifulness and honesty.

The act of the FBR

capable legal team

In the briefing, it was
told that the credentials of

prime minister's ongoing drive for FBR reforms and

prime minister called for tightening the noose around the tax-evaders and their facilitators and strictly punishing them.

He instructed the FBR to thoroughly investigate the identified tax fraud and take the perpetrators to the task by engaging an highly

officer is the outcome of the an 80 years old lady was used for the sales tax fraud which was pointed out by



curbing the tax evasion, according to a PM Office this year. press release.

there was no dearth of du-transferred initially which tiful and competent offic- was being recovered as a ers but they needed to be

Ijaz Hussain on March 4

It was told that under In the meeting, the the sales tax fraud, prime minister said that Rs370 million were also main culprit has already

Dr Zia for enhancing Pakistan's int'l reputation in health, education sectors

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ex- Cell of Khyber Medical (HEC) Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum has emphasized the importance of sustained efforts to enhance Pakistan's international reputation in health and education sectors.

While acknowledging the challenges in ensuring quality at all levels, he has emphasized that higher education is crucial for socio-economic develop-

He made these remarks during a ceremony organized here yesterday by Quality Enhancement

ecutive Director of Higher University (KMU) to Education Commission strengthen quality assurance mechanisms in its affiliated and constituent institutions.

The event aimed to expand KMU's quality enhancement measures, originally implemented in line with HEC Quality Assurance Agency guidelines, to its medical, dental, nursing, and allied health sciences institutions Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum

urged stakeholders to view quality assurance as a shared responsibility rather than an obligation imposed by HEC.

Maintaining peace and tranquility in capital utmost priority; DIG

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Deputy Inspector General of Police DIG Syed Ali Raza has instructed the police officials to be highly alert and ready all the time to deal with any emerging law and order situ-

"Will take every possible necessary measure to protect the lives and property of citizens as well as private and commercial property and ready to any elements" DIG Syed Ali Raza said while addressing the police officials on Thursday, a public relation officer told APP.

DIG Ali Raza said that all the officers are putting their best efforts to maintain the law-and-order situation in the capital. "Islamabad Police will never allow anyone to disturb the peaceful environment of the city and will take all necessary steps to protect the lives and property"



ISLAMABAD: Rector COMSATS University Islamabad, Prof. Dr. Sajid Qamar awarding degree to a graduate student during the 35th and 36th Convocation at Convention Center.

COMSATS holds 35th, 36th convocation ceremony ISLAMABAD (APP): CUI with pride and to face

Islamabad (CUI) cel- termination. The cerebrated its 35th and 36th emony featured the preconvocation at the Convention Centre on Thursday, honouring 2,629 graduates. According to the press release, this group included 76 PhDs, 775 MS degrees and 2,193 BS degrees. The ceremony featured two sessions with 1,261 graduates including 29 PhDs in the morning and 1,368 graduates including 47 PhDs in the evening.

Professor Dr. Sajid Qamar, Rector of CUI congratulated the graduates and their families, expressing appreciation for the faculty's dedication.

He emphasized the importance of knowledge and urged graduates to embody the teachings of the Holy Quran in their lives, promoting truthfulness Islamabad Campus, Procarry forward the legacy of wide.

COMSATS University future challenges with desentation of degrees across various disciplines including Bioinformatics, Physics, Economics and Business Administration. The Minister of Sci-

ence and Technology, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui served as the Chief Guest for the morning session, awarding 34 Gold Medals, 33 Silver Medals and 24 Bronze Medals to highachieving students. In the evening session, Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria addressed the graduates, highlighting the importance of focusing on industry, innovation and technology in higher education.

COMSATS University Islamabad established in 1998, is recognized for and integrity. Incharge of its contributions to research and education in fessor Dr. Sohail Asghar, Pakistan and has expanded encouraged graduates to to seven campuses nation-



ISLAMABAD: The Minister for of Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal inaugurated the National Productivity, Quality, and Innovation (PQI) Summit 2024, This two-day event revolves around the theme "Driving Growth Through Excellence in Productivity, Quality, and Innovation".

Afghan administration should stop its land from being used for terrorism: FO spokesperson

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan while expressing concern over support being provided to terror groups in Afghanistan has said Afghan administration should stop its land from being used for terrorism. "Terrorism is grave threat both of the countries. There should be immediate ceasefire in

Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch in her weekly news briefing here

regarding the terror groups. We have grave concerns over safe havens of

rity and fulfill their obligations under various international agreements including Doha agreement.

CAS visits 12th edition of IDEAS-2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): Air Chief underscores the im-Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force on Thursday made a comprehensive visit to the 12th edition of the International Defence Exhibition IDEAS-2024 at Karachi

Expo Centre. This event showcases latest advancements in defence and aerospace technology, attracting both diverse array National and International audience, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release. The visit of Air portance of technological collaboration and innovation in enhancing national defence capabilities. During the visit, the Air Chief visited various stalls within the National Aerospace Science & Technology Park pavilion, which is prominently showcasing cutting-edge technologies in Space, Cyber, Artificial Intelligence, Electronic Warfare, Aerospace Designing, Sensors and Simulators domains, engaging in detailed discussions with

national partners.

ISLAMABAD: Van Nguyen, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Pakistan viewing skills during a market-driven vocational and technical skills training program concluded ceremony organized by Government of Japan, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and Sarhad Rural Sup-

Health ministers urge parents to prioritize polio vaccination amid rising misinformation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Rafique announced that de-Ministers on Thursday appealed the parents to safeguard their children against polio through vaccination, as misinformation about polio vaccines spreads rapidly. They emphasized the critical role of standardized polio awareness drives in remote areas and routine immunization in controlling the disease. Ministers from three provinces while talking to PTV news channel have joined forces to stress the importance of collective

action in eradicating polio. They urged parents to safeguard their children against this debilitating disease through vaccination, amidst the alarming spread of misinformation about

Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman

spite only one reported case of polio in the province, the situation remains under control thanks to the government's proactive measures. To further combat the disease, the government is taking all necessary steps to enhance Expanded Programme (EP) coverage and launch standardized awareness drives.

Punjab Minister also emphasized the importance of taking polio drops seriously and urged parents not to compromise on their children' s health. Bakht Muhammad Kakar, the Provincial Minister of Health in Balochistan has emphasized the importance of improving sanitation and hygiene systems, addressing parental refusal and boosting routine immunization.



The accused were identified as Ishfaq and Aman. Police team also recovered the snatched cash and police uniform from their possession. Cases were registered against the nabbed accused and further investigation is underway.

The police were alerted about these robberies by a citizen who was targeted by the two accused while they were wearing police uniforms. The criminals approached the victim in front of his house, where they robbed him of his purse and cash. The victim immediately called the emergency helpline "Pucar-15" and reported the incident. Following the citizen's prompt report, the police took swift action and launched a dedicated effort to apprehend the criminals. With relentless hard work, the police successfully arrested the two suspects involved in the



safer digital environment for the youth. She said that Australia has enacted legislation to regulate children's use of social media, while the United

event aimed to foster a

States has approved laws flourishing focused on online child

provide educational opporfree education to countless tunities and promote innochildren, empowering them to shape their destinies. Responding a question, he shared the remarkalso uncovered talented in-Pakistan's exceptional able strides PML-N led dividuals like Arshad government has made in Nadeem, he added.

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a tion, skill development and

Prime Minister's Univertically and internationally.

Sarhad Rural Support Program.

foster unity. In an exclusive interthrilling event, bringing touniversities nationwide to compete in various sports.

major boost to Pakistan's

of the Prime Minister's

sity Olympiad 2024 a na-

tional platform for univer-

sity students to showcase

their athletic prowess and

sports landscape, Chairman lighted.

sportsmanship and skill, he

The Olympiad emment Fund, established to

view, Khan promised an gether 3,000 athletes from young talent will take center stage, showcasing

bodies the government's

commitment to empowering youth through educa-

ISLAMABAD: A group photo marking Chaudhary Yaseen Group's joins in the CDA Employees Union

Shaza Fatima calls for collaborative efforts for

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Thursday emphasized the need for strong collaboration at national and international levels to address the growing challenge of child online protection. "We must unite our efforts to combat online threats and safeguard our children's future. Every child deserves a safe and secure digital world where they can learn, grow, and thrive," the minister said while addressing the Youth Safety Summit Pakistan, hosted by TikTok in collaboration with the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA). The

The minister high lighted the importance of raising awareness about responsible social media content creation and reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensuring the digital safety of

Pakistan's youth. "In today's digital world, online threats are rapidly increasing, putting internet users—especially children and young people—at greater risk. Due to their curiosity and innocence, children are particularly vulnerable to online dangers. As we advance technologically, it is imperative to address these concerns to protect our

youth," Shaza Fatima said. She highlighted the government's efforts to enhance cybersecurity and improve Pakistan's digital ecosystem. "Our country is proud of its growing cybersecurity infrastrucincreasing teledensity, expanding broadband penetration,

Impersonator gang busted; cash, uniform recovered

He mentioned that the

The Pakistan Danish

Punjab Information Tech-

nology Board (PITB) has

Authority, born from the

Punjab Danish Authority

was another shining ex-

ample of progress. Its net-

work of Danish schools and

centers of excellence offered

Youth festivals have

Under the leadership

of Prime Minister Shehbaz

Sharif, Pakistan is prioritiz-

ing education. Initiatives

like the Pakistan Education

Endowment Fund demon-

strate this dedication.

said the been instrumental in pro-

SLAMABAD (APP): slamabad Police Sumbal police station team arrested two wanted members of the impersonator and snatcher gang involved in numerous snatching activities and recovered snatched cash and police uniform from their posses-

A police spokesperson told APP that the Sumbal police team used technical and human resources and succeeded in apprehending two wanted members of the imperson-

KARACHI: A view of Counter-terrorism exercise during ongoing International Defence Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS)2024,