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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 fi- prime minister of Pakistan nancial and diplomatic support to Pakistan, nation will break any hand tached no strings or prewarned that any venomspitting against such a brotherly country was an unforgivable crime and called for the national unity to counter such anti-state elements.

addressing the inauguration of the Restoration of augurating the project that Kachhi Canal damaged by 2022 floods, said whether it was the Kashmir issue, and revive life in the area 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-

venom-spitting is an unforgivable crime. I as the want to announce that the trying to undermine the conditions to its support Pakistan-Saudi friendship. This is not a joke. The allegation is beyond understanding. The largest national interest is being 'slaughtered" to serve the had already been signed. The prime minister, short-term political interest," he remarked after inwill irrigate over 715,000 acres of land in Balochistan

floods. The prime minis-

ter told the ceremony also

attended by federal min-

isters Attaullah Tarar,

and

Leghari

"Despite this, such Chief Minister Maryam the nuclear tests in 1998 in Bugti, that during the last 77 years, Saudi Arabia at-

to Pakistan and the current leadership had also asked its administration to invest in Pakistan as MoUs worth billions of dollars Commenting on a

statement by the spouse of PTI founder regarding Saudi Arabia, he said: "There can be no animosity to Pakistan bigger than turned barren after the this" and explained that such people were naive to the magnitude of the damage through their "venomous" words. Prime Minis-Ahsan Iqbal, Awais ter Shehbaz recalled the Dr Kingdom's support to Musaddik Malik, Punjab Pakistan after it carried out

Nawaz, and Balochistan the form of a free-of-charge Chief Minister Sarfaraz oil facility as well as financial support.

He told the gathering that the feasibility study of the Kachhi Canal Project was started in 1998 during Nawaz Sharif's tenure and was completed in his second tenure after suffering a lot during Pervez

Musharraf time. He appreciated the WAPDA and Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal and their respective team for accomplishing the repair project and assured the federal government's allout support for the second phase. Prime Minister Shehbaz also appreciated the Balochistan chief minister for reviving the meritbased order and launching the solarisation of tube-

Similarly, he also spoke highly for the Punjab Chief Minister for launching the project of a cancer hospital, free tractor scheme for farmers to bring about the agricultural revolution and

cation and health sectors.

Earlier, in her address, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz said the canal project would bring about prosperity in Balochistan besides enhancing coordination and closeness among the provinces. She said the credit for all mega public welfare projects like motorways, youth scholarships, modern transport facilities including Orange Line, Metro or Speedo buses and student bikes went to the PML-N governments.



TAUNSA BARRAGE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif presses the button to open gates for flow of water from Indus River into Kacchi Canal.

Visits Peshawar:

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

RAWALPINDI (APP): ute to the Shuhada and ing national security. General Syed Asim Munir, Ghazis, the COAS empha-NI(M), Chief of Army sized the unparalleled sac-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 silience, inspiring and un- ority. held soon

vided a comprehensive enforcement agencies. briefing on the prevailing security situation and the progress of ongoing counter-terrorism operations (ISPR) news. Chief threats. He reiterated the sured. Minister KPK and field Army's firm resolve to discommanders were also mantle hostile terrorist net- rival, the COAS was represent at the occasion.

the defense of the mother-

these sacrifices served as a designs of inimical elecornerstone of national rewavering dedication of the The COAS was pro- armed forces and of law

The COAS commended the high morale, Enforcement Agencies operational readiness, and

Highlighting the collective determination of the rifices being rendered for nation and its security forces to combat terrorism, the COAS stressed that He remarked that thwarting the nefarious

ments remained a top pri-"Through synchronized and robust operations, Pakistan Army in collaboration with Law

(LEAs) will relentlessly unyielding commitment of hunt down the enemies of tions in the region, said an the troops in effectively peace to ensure lasting sta-Inter Services Public Rela- countering all forms of bility and security," he as-Earlier, upon his ar-





RAWALPINDI (APP): The ist. Security Forces on Friday tilled four terrorists in three separate engagements in

"An intelligence based peration was conducted in Awaran District on reported presence of terrorists. During the conduct of operation, after intense fire exchange, two terrorists were successfully neutralzed; both high value targets identified as Niaz @ Ghuman and Zareef @ Shah Jahan," said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release.

In another operation in Dera Bugti District, own troops effectively neutralised one terrorist, it

further said In yet another engagenent in Kech District, own troops, while conducting an intelligence based operation, killed another terror-

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The Chief Justice of Paki-

stan, Mr Justice Yahya

Afridi has underscored the

need for a just and equitable

criminal justice framework,

emphasizing that a humane

and efficient prison system

stated this while chairing a

consultative meeting con-

vened today at Peshawar.

The CJP appreciated the

prison management in KP,

noting that 1,289 prisoners

charged with minor of-

fenses had been released

through camp courts con-

ducted by judicial officers

over the past three months

and urged other provinces

to replicate these efforts to

The meeting was in

alleviate overcrowding.

The Chief Justice

forms its backbone.

were involved in numerous terrorist activities against security forces as well as the innocent civilians and were highly wanted by the law enforcement agencies,"

Meanwhile Security Forces killed three khwarij terrorists in an Intelligence based operation (IBO) in Bannu district. "In the early hours of

Friday, Security Forces conducted an intelligence based operation in Bannu District on reported presence of khwarij," said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release.

During conduct of the operation, own troops effectively engaged khwarij location, as a result of which, three khwarij were sent to hell while two khwarij got injured, it said.

tiated earlier this month by

the Chief Justice of Paki-

stan in Lahore and

Islamabad, aimed at formu-

lating a comprehensive National Jail Reform Policy.

The agenda focused on

prison reforms and inmate

welfare as key components

of a broader strategy to

modernize Pakistan's

Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim

highlighted the lack of re-

habilitation facilities for the

convicts in the province,

stressing the need to de-

velop a strong rehabilitation

system for absorption of

the convicts in the society.

He proposed sentence re-

missions to inmates who

achieve educational excel-

lence during their confine-

The Chief Justice PHC

criminal justice system.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Chief of 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.

Mohsin Naqvi launches housing scheme for Police welfare after 25 years

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi presenting plot

allotment letter to the widow of the police martyr.

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a significant move for the welfare of law enforcement personnel, Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has inaugurated a long-awaited housing scheme for the police, marking its first launch

in 25 years. The project, named NPFD One Capital Park City, was unveiled by Naqvi in a ceremony held in Islamabad, aimed at improving the living conditions of police officers, their families and the families of

Addressing the gathering, Naqvi highlighted that the housing scheme would offer plots to police personnel, families of fallen officers and those injured in the line of duty. "Under this initiative, police officers, martyrs' families and the injured will be granted the opportunity to own plots, Nagvi said. He also emphasized the government's ongoing efforts to take further steps for the police welfare under the National Police of the police force. Foundation.

The interior minister personally visited the seats of police employees from various provinces, presenting them with allotment letters for plots in recognition of their services. He congratulated the recipients, stressing the importance of supporting those who serve the nation with dedication.

The initiative has been made possible under the leadership of Managing Director Sabir Ahmed, whose efforts have been instrumental in revitalizing the National Police Foundation

in recent months. Nagvi praised the Foundation for generating profits through such projects, ensuring that these funds are directed toward enhancing the welfare

Naqvi also assured that the government is working towards securing sufficient funds for martyrs' families. emphasizing that every martyr's family should have adequate financial support. Additionally, he confirmed that the National Police Foundation is responsible for the ongoing care of injured police offic-

Looking ahead, the Interior Minister announced plans for a joint project between the National Police Foundation and the Capital Development Authority



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Yousaf Raza Gillani along with Mr. Manzoor Ahmed Kakar, Senator from Baluchistan visited National Emergencies Operations Center (NEOC) at NDMA Headquarters.

Imran defends Bushra Bibi's remarks, dismisses claims of Saudi involvement in his ouster

RAWALPINDI (INP): Former prime minister Imran Khan has come to the defence of his wife, Bushra Bibi, after her comments allegedly implicating Saudi Arabia in his government's

ouster sparked backlash. Khan claimed that Bushra's words were "taken out of context" to create unnecessary controversy around Pakistan's "broth-

erly" relationship with

Saudi Arabia. Khan further

highlighted Saudi Arabia's

support during a 2022 OIC

foreign ministers' summit in Islamabad, which he said demonstrated the Kingdom's loyalty to Pakistan.

He reiterated that his wife is not involved in politics, and her message to the nation merely echoed his words in anticipation of the November 24 protest.

He described the event as a day to "break free from slavery," framing it as a pivotal moment for Pakistanis to choose between "the yoke of submission" or "the crown of freedom.

Six motorway sections to be closed for maintenance

ISLAMABAD (APP) National Highways and Motorway Police on Friday announced that six sections of the motorways would be closed from Friday night at 8 pm due to maintenance and repair works. According to Motorway police North Zone spokesman, Muhammad Saqib, M-1: Islamabad to Pesĥawar, M-2: Islamabad to Lahore, M-3: Lahore to Abdul Hakeem, M-4: Pindi Bhattian to Multan, M-14: Dera Ismail Khan to Hakla and M-11: Lahore to Sialkot would beclosed for maintenance.

continuation to the series of ment, aligning with broader nationwide discussions ini- rehabilitation goals. Muqam strongly condemns allegations against Saudia

CJP extends jail

reforms initiative to KP

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs Engineer Amir Muqam has strongly condemned the allegations against Saudi Arabia.

The minister said that Bushra BiBi made false allegations against Pakistan's friends which was an old tactic of PTI, said a press release issued here on Friday. He said Bushra Bibi has conspired to make Pakiunemployed stanis abroad.

"Earlier, Pakistanis in Saudi Arabia had become unemployed and imprisoned due to failed policies of PTI. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif appealed to the Saudi leadership and obtained forgiveness in the



past", the minister expressed.

Sometimes, he said they blame America and sometimes Saudi Arabia, these people have dominated Pakistan for four years. Those who received gifts, watches and jewelry from Saudi Arabia have once again proven that they are benefactors and forgetful of kindness, he added.

Imran's ouster Monitoring Desk

Bajwa denies

Saudi role in

LAHORE: Refuting Bushra Bibi's statement about Saudi government's role in the ouster of former premier Imran Khan, exarmy chief Qamar 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 sûmmit 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.

to KSA, Bajwa said Saudi Muhammad Bin Salman himself came to receive the former in Jeddah. "Shah Mehmood Qureshi and I were present at the dinner during the visit," said

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 nar-

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 Staff, Pakistan Air Force on Friday at Air Headquarters.

The meeting focused on matters of mutual inlaboration in the industrial laysia.

Detailing Imran's visit

The ex-army chief

domain, said a news release issued by Inter Services Public Relations

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

During the meeting, Chief of the Air Staff highlighted the robust bilateral terest, military coopera- defence ties that exist betion, joint training and col- tween Pakistan and Ma-

seas Pakistanis and Human

Resource Development En-

gineer Amir Muqam, Prime

Minister's Advisor Rana

Sanaullah, Speaker of the

Punjab Assembly Malik

Ahmad Khan, Senior Min-

ister of Puniab Marrivum

Aurangzeb, Khawaja Saad

Rafique, Jaffer Khan Mandokhel, and Bashir

PM constitutes committee to resolve PPP's concerns Minister of State for Over-

Muhammad Sharif on Friday constituted a committee to ensure cooperation in political and other matters, and to resolve the issues between Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP). The members of the committee include Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Defence Minister Kĥawaja Muhammad Asif, Minister

Ahmad Khan Cheema.

for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar, and Minister for Economic Affairs Other members include

Ahmed Memon.

According to a press release issued by the PM Office, the prime minister has tasked the committee with the responsibility of political cooperation and resolving issues after detailed consultations with the Pakistan Peoples

Daily Aoice 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 governments at the centre and 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 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

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

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.

underlying

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 violence is then both neighbours. -- Cour-

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.

Iqbal fosters the cre-

progress.

ation 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

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. He expressed this issues at Karachi Port. resolve while chairing a consultative meeting on Pakistan's merchandise flow into and out of port enhancing the efficiency of ports Karachi by improving hinterland

connectivity. Among others, the meeting was attended by Partnership Ministries of Maritime remainder at Port Qasim." Affairs, Communications, Railways.

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

global average of 44 with approximately two-Authority, besides senior thirds managed at Karachi's

He pointed out that operations Aviation rail access to Karachi Port scheduling freight truck Division and Commerce was underutilized, with movements to reduce 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.

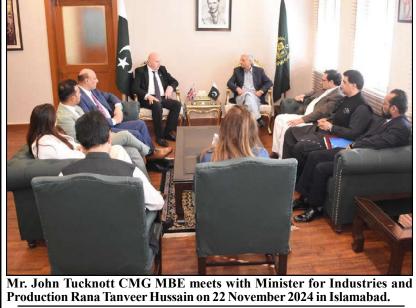
Karachi Port faces significant road congestion to address cross-cutting due to ban on trucks movement from 6 a.m. to He highlighted that 11 p.m., affecting traffic trade as a percentage of areas. Port Qasim, on the GDP stood at 26 percent, other hand, benefits from significantly lower than the better 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 congestion.

Shipping activity at **Port Qasim**

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 Thursday.

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

A total of thirteen ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them five ships, X-Press Salween, Jaru Bhum, Navios Tempo, Kualalumpur and Izumo Hermes are left the port on today morning, while five



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.

SBP injects Rs2.37 trillion in the market

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

KARACHI (APP): The tenor

Rs2,220.5 billion. The central bank received 18 bids for 7-day central bank at 15.04% rate.

7-day and 28-day tenors and accepted total 25 bids

cumulatively amounting to

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

Increase in fish production imperative to meet food

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.

discuss to increase coop. in industrial, agri sectors ISLAMABAD (APP): Advisor for Trade and

PBBC chairman, Rana

Chairman of Pakistan-Britain Business Council (PBBC) John Tucknott CMG MBE on Friday met with Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain and discussed ways and means emphasized that both to increase cooperation in countries should increase diverse fields including industry and agriculture.

During the meeting, the two sides also agreed to work together to further 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

Government Relations Saima Amjad, Director of Trade and Investment Wagar Ullah and Chief Coordinator for UK and Pakistan Umaimah Riaz. Rana

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

weekly inflation, measured Indicator (SPI), went up by 0.67 percent for the centres and 51 essential 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.

ISLAMABAD (APP): The increase of 4.92 per cent. The weekly SPI with by the Sensitive Price the base year 2015-16 =100 covers 17 urban

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

Business community is the backbone of the country's economy Lahore (Online): Governor indicators of the country

Punjab Governor says:

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 Punjab Sardar Saleem are lying outside in 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 warehouses which are likely to spoil. Governor Punjab said that our

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

industries are currently

Meanwhile six more

more ships, Milaha Ras.

cumulatively 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-

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

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 Governor said that he has the experience of alliance informed his leadership President of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari about the pected that the PML-N Ali Zardari and Bilawal situation in Punjab. He said that as per tradition Chief Minister should have visdressing participants of ited the Governor, adding and consultative meetings, National Security Work- that he broke that barrier shop 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

He gave the details re-

2022 monsoon floods.

strategies.

International Federation of ongoing recovery programs

Red Cross and Red Cres- and proactive measures.

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.

Saturday November 23, 2024

Punjab Governor said that Bilawal Bhutto Zardari played a key role in getting the 26th Constitutional Amendment Punjab Governor said that with the PML-N in the past was a bitter experience. He would have learnt lessons from the past. He said that despite written agreements 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

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

Programme'

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.

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

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 preneurs.

journey from idea to impact, inspiring the next generation of entrepreneurs in the audience.

The "Queens of Commerce" panel, moderated by Shahzana Memon, brought together powerhouse female founders Laraib Fatima from Brand Craft Studio, Kanwal Aftab from Cloves and Cardamom, Nadia Patel from Femprow and Amneh 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-

In collaboration with the State Bank of Pakistan, NIC Hyderabad celebrated Women Entrepreneurship Day. Chief Manager Adeel 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 tech-

10 killed in attack

on Sufi shrine

in Afghanistan:

interior ministry

Monitoring Desk

KABUL: Ten people were

killed when a gunman

opened fire on a Sufi shrine

in Afghanistan's northern

Baghlan province, an inte-

rior ministry spokesman

taking part in a weekly

ritual at a shrine in a remote

area of Nahrin district, kill-

ing 10 people," the

ministry's Abdul Matin

who knew victims of the

attack, told AFP that wor-

shippers had gathered at the

Sayed Pacha Agha shrine

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 im-

pose a strict interpretation

on Thursday evening.

A Nahrin resident,

They had begun a Sufi

"A man fired on Sufis

told AFP on Friday.

Qani said.

and fostering work-life bal- Karachi to bring entrepreance. 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"

neurs 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 niques for managing stress with the US Consulate potential collaborations.

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

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. 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

towns - Jabalia, Beit Biden last month told Is-Palestinians say Israel zone along the northern aid groups disagreed. Add-

make it to hospital, many to go. In northern Gaza. 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 because of insecure routes. he added. The administration of US President Joe rael 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, contributfor Palestinian Refugees ing to spiralling prices of essential food items such as day that 80 per cent of the flour. The price of a 25kg sack of flour, if available, has risen to 700 shekels (\$186) from 50 shekels (\$13) over the past week.

Israeli strike in the Beit Lahiya area of Gaza, 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.

People search for survivors in the rubble of a building hit by an overnight

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

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

Monitoring Desk

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-

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.

US-made HIMARS on Nov **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 Mos-

cow 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

"From that moment, as we have repeatedly un-

Putin says Ukraine

war is going global

derscored, 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 manner," 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

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 con-

into chaos.

trol 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.

China blames US policy on Taiwan for defence leaders not meeting

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.

Defence Minister Dong Jun turned down US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin's request to meet during a gathering of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) defense ministers, US officials said on Wednesday. "The U.S. side can-

not undermine China's core interests on the Taiwan issue while engaging with the Chinese military as if nothing is wrong," a ministry spokesperson said in a statement on Thursday.

The remarks raised questions over whether only a change in US policy

towards the island can retalks at the defense minister level between the two

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

The spokesperson also urged the US to "immediately correct its mistakes" and strive to create favourable conditions for high-level military exchanges between the two

China views democratically governed Taiwan as its territory, a claim that Taiwan's government re-

The U.S. is Taiwan's most important international backer and arms supplier, despite the lack of formal diplomatic rec-

Adani shares rally in India after founder's **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.

in the Baalbek region.

KYIV: Ukraine fired a vol-

Moscow has said the

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

PM directs implementation as IT ministry presents action plan on \$25bln IT exports

The Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication on Friday presented a detailed action plan to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif aimed at boosting the country's IT exports to \$25 billion in five

The prime minister, who had tasked the IT ministry with the said target, chaired a review meeting here and appreciated the action plan, and instructed to ensure its implementation, according to a PM Office press release.

The action plan featured measures to bring reforms in different IT-related sectors and address the is-

In his remarks, the prime minister said that there was no dearth of capable manpower and resources. The effective use of resources and skill training of the manpower could take the IT exports even beyond the targeted \$25

He asked all the relevant departments for collaborative efforts to address the challenges in the IT sector reforms and informed would personally oversee ments. the implementation pro-

The prime minister instructed the Higher Education Commission to de-

vise an action plan for youth's education and skill training of international

Calling for implementing the proposals to meet the Gulf countries' demand for IT experts, he asked the IT ministry to define the targets and their timelines to enhance exports. In this regard, he also directed to constitute a committee to ensure the implementation of the reforms and carry out necessary collaborathe participants that he tion with different depart-

> In the briefing, the prime minister was told that his decision to prioritise the IT sector led to a 34% increase in IT exports dur-

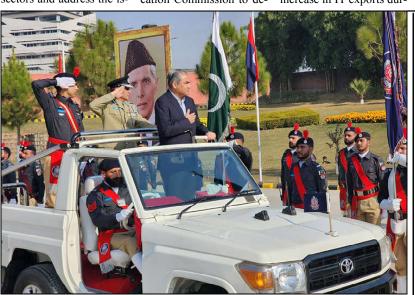
Pakistan's IT ranking improved from 79 to 40, egovernance ranking by 14 points, and 2500 new IT companies were regis-

The participants were informed that for the next five years, a \$15 billion target has been set for IT sector exports, \$10 billion for digitization, and \$1 billion telecom exports.

The meeting was briefed on the Labor Management System aimed at capacity building of the workforce in collaboration with the educational institutions, using the demand data of the industries.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting regarding reforms in Information Technology sector.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi reviewing parade during the passing out ceremony of ASPs of 50th STP at National Police

NA body on Parl. affairs lauds Ministry's performance

The National Assembly Standing Committee on Parliamentary Affairs on Friday commended the performance of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs during its meeting chaired by Rana Iradat Sharif Khan.

The Committee recommended further improvements in the mechanism to ensure faster resolution of public grievances.

The Prime Minister's Public Affairs and Grievances Wing briefed the Committee on its opera- fered prayers for the detions. The Wing focuses on parted souls.

addressing concerns of nondigitally enabled citizens and Pakistan's diaspora, aiming to provide relief and resolve their issues efficiently. The Committee urged the Ministry to enhance the Wing's visibility through advertising campaigns, ensuring that more people can access and benefit from its services.

Extending condolences to the victims of the recent tragic gun attack on a passenger van in Parachinar, which claimed 42 lives the committee of-

ourt issues written order on declaring Gandapur proclaimed offender

ISLAMABAD (Online): Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) Islamabad while declaring Chief Minister (CM) KP Ali Amin Gandapur proclaimed offender in the case registered against him in police station I-9 has issued written order on this count. Judge Tahir Abbas

sued written order'

has been separated from emption plea for absenting other accused after declar- accused.

Sipra of ATC Islamabad is-

ing Ali Amin Gandapur ab-

The order said the non bail-able arrest warrants of accused Raja Arshid, Wasiq Qayyum, Raja Khurram Nawaz, Faisal Javed and Umar Tanvir were issued during the hearing while Sardar Masroof, Murtaza Toori and Zahid Bashir who are counsels for all The order said case absenting accused filed ex-



ISLAMABAD: Workers of Capital Development Authority (CDA) busy in planting new plants on a green belt along Srinagar Highway for beautification of the Federal Capital.

PCP stresses fact-checking, responsible reporting to combat fake news

The Press Council of Pa- was underscored, along kistan (PCP), as part of with its function as a its commitment to combating fake news, underscored the importance of responsible reporting and the need for meticulous fact-checking before sharing information.

sively organized for jour-

nalists on Friday and chaired by PCP Chairman Arshad Khan Jadoon here Friday, brought together members of the journalist community from Islamabad and Rawalpindi to discuss strategies for countering fake news and misinformation. During the session, the participants were provided with a detailed briefing on the PCP's structure and its pivotal role in safeguarding against misinformation, slander, and unethi-

cal reporting. to function efficiently in The PCP's commitment to protecting both semination of information.

ISLAMABAD (APP): media and public interests shield for journalists, ensuring their rights and shielding them from undue external interference. Chairman Arshad Khan Jadoon shared insights into the complaints re-The session, exclu- ceived over the past nine months of his tenure and their resolution as per legal standards. He elaborated on the operations of the inquiry commission and the mechanisms for addressing complaints, highlighting the council's renewed efficiency following the appointment of its chairman after a fiveyear hiatus. The post of Chairman PCP had remained vacant for the past five years. The incumbent government made a formal appointment to the position, enabling the Council

Search and combing operation conducted at **PS Tarnol**

jurisdiction SLAMABAD (APP) slamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police conducted a grand search and combing operation at the Tarnol poice station jurisdiction on

Å public relation officer told APP that, under the supervision of SP Sadar Zone Khan Zaib, a grand search and combing opera-tion was conducted in different areas of Tarnol police station by Islamabad Police, CTD, FC, and lady police teams.

He said during the picious persons, houses, shops, hotels and 104 motorbikes and ve-hicles were thoroughly checked while 100 suspects were shifted to the police station for further verifica-

10 outlaws arrested; weapons, drugs recovered

SLAMABAD (APP) Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police apprehended 10 outlaws involved in different criminal activities including drug peddling and possessing illegal weapons recovered drugs and weapons with ammunition from

their possession. A public relation of-ficer told APP that, the Islamabad Police Shalimar, Sumbal, Koral, Bhara Kahu, Nilore, Sumbal and Sihala police teams took legal acion against accused involved in possessing illegal weapons and drug peddling ictivities.

He said the police team also arrested 7 accused namely Zakariya, Sarfraz, Ayaz, Bilal Tariq, Zubair Qayyum, Adnan Aziz and Aqsa Norin and recovered three 30 bore pistols, two rifles, one dagger, 1,060grams hashish and 300grams ice from their pos-

IHC moved for revocation of bail of Bushra Bibi

SLAMABAD (Online) FIA has filed petition in slamabad High Court (IHC) for cancellation of bail of Bushra Bibi.

FIA has requested the court to revoke the bail of Bushra Bibi for not appearing in the court persistently.

Bushra Bibi and others have been made respondents in the peti-

The petition said the court wrote in the order Bushra Bibi will not misuse bail. Bushra Bibi is not appearing in most of the hearings after seeking bail. Therefore, court should cancel bail of Bushra Bib

National Police Academy ISLAMABAD (APP): showcasing the discipline and rigor instilled during their training.

National Police Academy hosted the prestigious pass-ing-out parade for the 50th The minister congratu-Common Assistant Super-intendents of Police (ASPs) lated the graduating officers, on Wednesday. Federal Interior Min-

Passing-out parade of

50th Common ASPs held at

ister Mohsin Naqvi graced the event as the chief guest, lauding the newly trained officers and sharing a vision for a more modern and efficient police force. The event commenced with Minister Naqvi in-

specting the parade and ad-

dressing the contingents. A

salute was presented by smartly dressed ASPs,

emphasizing their vital role in fostering trust and respect within communities. extend heartfelt congratulations to all the

passing-out ASPs. Your conduct and behavior will determine the respect you earn from the public," said Naqvi. He stressed the importance of empathy and service in the police force, urging officers to prioritize the needs of the underprivileged.

Petition against ban on VPN: **IHC** issues notice to interior secretary, PTA

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) while issuing notice to interior secretary and PTA in connection with petition against closure of VPN has sought reply from them. The petition filed against the Interior ministry orders regarding ban on VPN came up for hearing in IHC Friday.

The petition against closure of VPN came up for

petitioner argued that he is

2024-25 at Pakistan Sports Complex.

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The Centre for Strategic

Perspectives at the Insti-tute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a

roundtable discussion on

"Pakistan-U.S. Relations,"

with delegation from Cen-

tre for Strategic and Inter-

national Studies (CSIS),

comprising Senior Vice President Daniel Runde

and Senior Associate Am-

tended by practitioners,

academics, think-tank ex-

perts and researchers, said

a press release issued here

The event was at-

In his welcome re-

bassador Robin Raphel.

a citizen who has been affected directly due to order of closure of VPN. Complete ban has been imposed on social media website X.

The petitioner has requested the court to declare null and void interior ministry notification dated November 15. The notification be declared violation of basic human rights. The court while issu-

ing notice to interior secrehearing before Chief Justice
(CJ) IHC Aamer Farooq.
The counsel for the
The counsel for the adjourning the hearing of the adjourning the hearing the hearing before Chief Justice

The counsel for the adjourning the hearing of the adjourning the hearing of the adjourning the hearing the hearing before Chief Justice

The counsel for the adjourning the hearing of the adjourning the hearing of the adjourning the hearing t case for indefinite period.

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme, Rana

Mashhood Ahmed Khan posing group photo with the handball winner UP team

during the closing ceremony of the Prime Minister's University Sports Olym-

piad 46th All Pakistan Intervarsity Athletics Men and Women Championship

ISSI hosts roundtable on Pak,

US ties with CSIS delegation

think-tank, particularly in

shaping the discourse and

influencing U.S. policy. He

noted that the timing of the

visit was crucial, as it coin-

cided with the conclusion

of the U.S. Presidential and

Congressional elections and

the time of Cabinet forma-

tion before the new Admin-

istration takes office in

January 2025. With global

attention focused on what

Trump would mean for

America and the rest of the

world, Ambassador Sohail

marks, DG ISSI Ambassa-dor Sohail Mahmood em-of Pakistan-U.S. rela-

phasized the significance of CSIS as a renowned U.S. tions—alternating between engagement and estrange-

need

ment. He emphasized the

sustainability and stability,

including through efforts to

broaden the relationship's

scope that would benefit

both nations. He also high-

lighted the vital importance

of economic relations with

the U.S. for Pakistan, sug-

gesting that besides the tra-

ditional areas of bilateral

trade and investment atten-

tion should be focused on

new areas of cooperation

such as energy, IT, and cli-

mate change. These were

vital for evolving a more

rounded relationship be-

yond the historical focus on

security and strategic

for long-term

Bushra's allegations against Saudi Arabia nothing but failed attempt to save PTI's diminishing politics: Asif has claimed the political in-

Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Friday said Bushra 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

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 Pakistanis 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

conflict between the sis ters-in-law; the family [PTI founder's] is em broiled in a dispute over inheritance". Bushra Bibi

heritance of founder of 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 himself.

Regarding law and or-Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), he

province. "Even yesterin Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, yet the chief minister attacks the federal government or Punjab every other

day," he remarked. 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 would be a "third



ISLAMABAD: Laborers are busy in laying the foundation of pillars during the construction work of interchange at Sarena chowk as this is the project of CDA following the mission of Make the Capital

Commodore Ateeq ur Rehman promoted to rank of Rear Admiral

KARACHI (APP): Com-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 Pakistan Navy in 1995.

The Flag Officer is a graduate of Pakistan Naval Academy, Karachi, Naval War College, USA, and Royal College of Defence Studies, UK, said a press release issued by Directorate General Public Relations (Pakistan Navy).

The Flag Officer has completed various professional courses from national and international institutes. He has done International Security and Strategic Leadership UK, Naval Staff Course pointments.



from USA, Pakistan Navy

Course from PN War College Lahore and National Security and War Course from National Defence The Admiral has an il-

lustrious career covering vast experience of various Studies Course from Command and Staff ap-

'PTI's politics of intimidation no longer be tolerated': Danyal

Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Danyal Chaudhry Friday condemned Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for employing intimidation tactics, emphasizing that the government would no longer tolerate such ac-

In a recent interview with a private news channel, Danyal Chaudhry lambasted PTI's protests, asserting that they disproportionately harm Pakistan's most vulnerable populations, including the poor

ISLAMABAD (APP): and farmers, rather than tar-

geting the government. The government will not tolerate any disruptions to peace and will not give in to blackmailing tactics," Danyal Chaudhry cautioned.

Danyal also made it clear that there would be no National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO) for Imran Khan until he takes responsibility for the May 9 riots.

Responding a query, he said, "Pakistan will only prosper under democratic rule, not anarchic politics.



ISLAMABAD: A large numbers of passengers stands at a bus station at Faizabad in the Federal Capital. Islamabad authorities have announced strict security plans for November 24 due to a planned PTI protest at D-Chowk. All entry and exit points to the city will be sealed, and transport services will

Mahmood dilated on the **IWMB** says: Margalla Viewpoint master plan approved

Management Board (IWMB) said on Friday that the master plan for the eco-restoration of the Margalla Viewpoint

project has been unanimously approved by the 5th Implementation Com-This significant devel-

opment marks a milestone in the efforts to transform the Margalla Hills into a thriving ecosystem and a popular tourist destina-According to IWMB

spokesperson, the master

plan, prepared by architect

Imrana Tiwana collaborat-

ISLAMABAD (APP): ing with Architect DB Stu-The Islamabad Wildlife dio based in Islamabad, is the result of meticulous planning and collaboration amongst all stakeholders. The plan envisions a

green space that not only restores the natural beauty of the Margalla Hills but also provides a unique recreational space for residents and tourists.

Key Features of the Master Plan includes promenades and walking Trails, reflecting pool and Eco-display area, open air amphitheatre, play area for children, sitting areas for elders, prayer area, visitor information centre, office spaces and parking areas.

remain shut.