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Condemns terrorist attack in Kalat PM vows to foil nefarious designs of country's enemies

Says cowardly acts cannot deter nation's resolve: Vows that immediate action will be taken against the perpetrators.



ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday strongly condemned the terrorists attack on unarmed civilians in Johan area of district Kalat, Balochistan,

The prime minister prayed for the elevation of ranks of those killed in the ardly attacks cannot incident and grant of courage to the bereaved families to bear the loss with equa-

In a statement issued by the PM Office Press Wing, the prime minister directed to provide best medical facilities to those injured in country

He also ordered to take immediate actions against the people involved in the incident and give them exemplary punishment. Condemning the terror-

ists' cowardly attack on the innocent civilians, the prime minister said the elements involved in spreading unrest and insecurity in Balochistan were the enemies of the people and development of the province. Such despicable acts

cannot sĥake government's commitment to the development and prosperity of Balochistan, he said adding that the cowweaken the nation's resolve.

He vowed to crush the evil designs of the enemies of Pakistan saying that the government will continue its war till the complete eradication of the menace of terrorism from the



BAKU: Pak NDMA Chairman, Lt General Inam Haider Malik, held a sideline meeting with Mr. Jin Liqun, President and Chair of the Board of Directors at COP29.

NDMA chairman discusses climate challenges, resilience with Jin Liqun at COP29

BAKU, AZERBAIJAN natural disasters. (APP): National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Chairman Lt Gen Inam Haider Malik, on Saturday discussed crucial issues related to climate change and disaster resilience with Jin Liqun, President and Chair of the Board of Directors, during a meeting on the sidelines of COP29 in Baku in Baku,

Azerbaijan. During the discussion, both leaders emphasized the importance of climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies

They highlighted the need for robust support for resilient infrastructure to withstand the increasing frequency and intensity of

Liqun also talked about the climate impact on the financial resilience of countries. particularly those most vulnerable to climate change. They underscored the urgency of releasing funds from the Loss and Damage Fund to support nations in their recovery and rebuilding efforts.

A key point of the meeting was the creation of an enabling environment that encourages the inclusion of the private sector. Both leaders agreed that increasing private sector investment in disaster-resilient infrastructure is crucial for sustainable development and long-term resilience.

death of ANP's senior leader Lt General Malik and **Ilyas Bilour**

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has expressed grief and sorrow over the death of senior leader of Awami National Party (ANP) and former Senator Ilyas Ahmed Bilour.

In a condolence statement issued here on Satur-

day.
The Chief Minister prayed that may Allah Almighty rest the departed soul into Its eternal peace and grant enough strength and patience to the bereaved family members to bear the loss of his life.



QUETTA: Leaders of Different Political Parties sit on stage during All Parties Conference organized by Jamat-e-Islami (JI), held at Quetta Press Club.

believes in public service

too. He said that work is

continued on the historic

development projects in

short span of time. He said

that if he continued to en-

joy support and trust of the

people, he would change

the fate of the people and

egations thanked the Pro-

vincial Minister for the

steps being taken for devel-

opment of the area and

resolution of the problems

being faced by the people.

would continue to serve the

people in future as well.

They hoped that he

The members of del-

his area

Journey of development and prosperity not to be stopped, asserts Ali Madad Jatak

Independent Report

QUETTA: member of Central Executive Committee of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Provincial Minister for Agriculture, Ali Madad Jatak has stated that it is his top priority to resolve the issues of people. He said that journey of development and prosperity wouldn't be stopped in the province. He also said that every possible cooperation would be extended for well being of the people.

Āli Madad Jatak was speaking to different delegations who called on him at his residence on Satur-

He heard the issues of people and assured to address them.

PTI workers in May 9 vandalism cases innocent AHORE (INP): The em-The Provincial Minister maintained that the Peoples Party has always served the people and he

battled Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) got a huge relief on Saturday when the Joint Investigation Team (JIT), which was constituted to investigate May 9 vandalism, declared 16 PTI workers innocent.

JIT declares 16

Justice Manzar Ali Gill of the Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) Lahore heard the case where 39 PTI workers whose interim bails were expired, had appeared before the court.

The JIT submitted its investigative report to the court in which it termed 16 people innocent. In light of the JIT report, respondents' lawyers pleaded to withdraw pleas of interim bails of those termed innocent.

KARACHI: Preparations are underway for International Defence Exhibition and Seminar in Karachi

7 security personnel martyred in Kalat checkpost attack

personnel were martyred and 15 others injured in attack by unidentified armed men on check post in Shah Mardan Kalat. Unknown persons attacked check post in the Johan area of Kalat, Balochistan late

Friday night. Resultantly 7 security personnel were martyred and 15 others were injured. According to Levies sources the bodies and injured were shifted to Ouetta.

According to reports, the martyred personnel have been identified as naik Bakht Zameen, lance naik Ghulam Ishaq, lance naik Abdul Qadeer, sepoy Rizwan, sepoy Waqas, sepoy Ali Abbas and sepoy Sagib Rehman.

"Armed militants at-CM grieved over

QUETTA (Online): 7 Secu- tacked a Frontier Corps ers had targeted the paracheck-post in Shah Mardan, an area located 60 kilometers from Kalat city at midnight," Kalat's Deputy Commissioner Bilal Shabir said. Seven soldiers of the paramilitary force were

killed in the attack and 12 injured," he continued, sharing the details of the armed assault. "Subsequently, a security clearance operation was carried out the mountainous area." Asked how many attackers were killed in the sacrifice for the homeland.

skirmish, the deputy commissioner said authorities had not received information on that. In a statement issued on

Saturday, the banned separatist group Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) claimed responsibility for veyed heartfelt condolences the attack, saying its fight- to the bereaved families.

military post in Kalat.

Meanwhile the Chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has strongly condemned a terrorist attack on a checkpoint in Kalat and expressed profound sorrow over the martyrdom of seven security personnel in the tragic incident. In a Bilawal House communique, he paid tribute to the martyred personnel, honoring their ultimate

He remarked, "The brave soldiers, who laid down their lives for the defense of our motherland will forever be etched in the hearts of the nation."

He offered prayers for the departed souls and con-

Information minister urges courts to decide May-9 cases swiftly



LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar has called upon courts to expedite decisions regarding the May 9 inci-

Addressing a news conference on Saturday, he presented alleged evidence implicating senior Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf(PTI) leaders in orchestrating attacks on sensitive installations and memorials of national

He claimed that detailed video evidence, including CCTV footage from Lahore, Gujranwala, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, and other cities, directly linked the PTI leaders and members with violence. "The evidence is undeniable, and it is now up to the courts to ensure swift justice," he stated.

The minister accused the PTI leaders of being part of a "well-organised conspiracy" and said they received direct instructions to target key national sites. "They kept asking for evidence, and now it is in front of every-one," he added.

All set to hold bye-election on PB-8, Sibi cum Lehri today

Independent Report

QUETTA: All is set to hold bye-election on the provincial assembly's constituency, PB-8, Sibi cum Lehri today (Sun-

116,000 voters would use their right of franchise in the bye-election of PB-8. For the bye-election, a total of 124 polling stations have been set up in the constituency.

According to Returning Officer of the PB-8, over

Of these, 57 polling stations have been declared as The deployment of police, Levies and Frontier Corps has been made at the polling stations besides other sensi-

tive places in the constituency. It may be mentioned here that tough competition is likely between the Pakistan People Party (PPP) 's Sardar Kohyar Domki and independent candidate, Mir Asghar

The seat of PB-8 had fallen vacant due to the death of MPA Sardar Sarfraz Chakar Domki.



Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar listening problems of people during his visit to District Headquarter Hospital Killa Saifullah

Government rules out mini-budget following IMF's productive visit

"Purpose of IMF's visit was not to review economy but to build confidence," says finance minister

ISLAMABAD (Online): Finance Minister (FM) Muhammad Aurangzeb has termed the reports about any mini budget sheer speculations. "IMF mission was not

reviewing economy but it was enhancement in confidence building. talks remained constructive and meaningful. Tax recoveries will be improved through enforcement and administrative steps, he said this while talking to media men here Saturday.

He held we are not bringing any mini budget. Reports in this regard are sheer speculations.

He indicated that tax ecovery target amounting to Rs 12970 billion will be met. Tax recoveries will be improved through enforce-



He indicated Pakistan has fulfilled target of primary surplus successfully. National fiscal pact has been approved by cabinet. Now there is no need of NFC review in this regard.

Thanking Chief Minister (CM) Sindh particularly in approval of fiscal pact he said whenever any matter of national interest emerged he ment and administrative found KP on forefront.

PTI's protest call to derail country, says Nawaz Sharif

LONDON (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Nawaz Sharif said on Saturday that the protest call of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on November 24 was tantamount to derail the coun-

He was talking to media in London before leav-

ing for Pakistan. "PTI is doing propaganda against the country. The people of Pakistan will reject the protest on Nov

derail the country," the former prime minister said. The three-time prime minister was in London for last few days with his daughter and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam

> They also spent a couple of days in Switzerland where Maryam Nawaz underwent her medical checkup.

> It merits mention here that PTI has given a protest call for Nov 24 in Islamabad.



QUETTA: Chief Justice Balochistan High Court, Justice Hashim Khan Kakar along with others in meeting with lawyers during the Annual Election of Balochistan High Court Bar Association, held at High Court premises in

Bilawal terms tolerance as cornerstone of peaceful coexistence

ICC Champions

Trophy 2025

tour kicks off

in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (APP)

The ICC Men's Champi-

ons Trophy 2025 tour kicked off in Islamabad on

Saturday. According to details, the trophy was dis-

played at landmarks includ-

ing Pakistan Monument

The prestigious silver-

ware will journey across the

eight participating nations

during the tour, providing

unique experiences for fans.

tour will also head to other

iconic cities and venues in

Pakistan before leaving the

land of defending champi-

ons to embark on an exten-

sive international tour.

After Islamabad, the

and Faisal Mosque.

KARACHI (APP): Chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has emphasized the significance of fostering mutual respect, understanding, and compassion among diverse communities to build a harmonious society.

On the occasion of the International Day for Tolerance, he highlighted tolerance as a cornerstone of peaceful coexistence and a prerequisite for the development of an inclusive and progressive nation.

The Chairman of PPP reiterated party's commitment to promoting values that uphold equality, justice, and respect for all individuals irrespective of their faith, ethnicity, or cultural background. "Tolerance is not merely an act of endurance but an acknowledgment and celebration of our shared hu manity.

BHC takes prompt notice of kidnapping of child from Quetta; seeks progress report from concerned high ups

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Balochistan High Court (BHC) has taken prompt notice of the kidnapping of a boy child from Quetta and ordered to the Additional Chief Secretary Home and Deputy Inspector General of Police to supervise the investigation of case under their supervi-

the concerned high ups to keep abreast the court about progress in the case. The BHC ordered this during hearing of the petition submitted for recovery of 10-year Muhammad ing.

The BHC also ordered

Musawwir by one Raz Muhammad son of Nooruddin here on Satur-The Court comprising

Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Muhammad Hashim Khan Kakar, Mr. Justice Muhammad Kamran Mullakhail and Mr. Justice Muhammad Aamir Nawaz Rana converted the petition for recovery of the child into a constitutional petition. Besides this, the Court directed Additional Chief Secretary Home to submit progress report about establishment of forensic science laboratory in next hear-

ANP senior leader Ilyas Bilour passes away

President, PM express grief over death of former Senator

ISLAMABAD (APP): Awami National Party (ANP) senior leader and former senator, Ilyas Ahmad Bilour, has passed away in Peshawar on Saturday.

According to a private news channel, ANP leader Samar Haroon Bilour posted the news of his death on social media site X. The former lawmaker was suffering from a kidney disease and had been receiving treatment at a hospital in Peshawar for sev-

eral months.

He died at the age of 84. Online adds: President Asif Ali Zardari has expressed grief and sorrow over the death of former



Senator and Awami National Party leader Ilyas Ahmed Bilour. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has also expressed grief and sorrow over the death of Senator and Awami National Party leader Ilvas Ahmed Bilour.

In his condolence message, he commended the services of Ilyas Ahmed Bilour for the public wel-

Pakistan to join hands with provincial govts to safeguarding children from impacts of climate change

to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam on Saturday made a significant commitment on behalf of Pakistani government to join hands with provincial governments to safeguarding its children from the devastating impacts of climate

"Recognizing the vul-nerability of the youngest and most marginalized populations to climate-induced disasters, today we have has pledged to prioritise child-centric climate adaptation and resilience measures in its national strategies," she made these remarks after a crucial MoU signing ceremony between Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination and UNICEF held at Pakistan

BAKU (INP): Coordinator Pavilion on the sidelines of Romina Khurshid Alam reconference.

Top key representatives of government of Pakistan along with the Sindh, Punjab, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial governments affirmed their commitment to collaboratively protect the rights and interests of children embroiled in the quagmire of the impacts of climate crisis.

Federal Secretary Ministry of Climate Aisha Humera Moriani and UNICEF Deputy Executive Director signed the Declaration on Children, Youth and Climate Action, a pledge by champion governments to uphold priorities identified by children and youth across the world

Addressing the event,

the COP29 global climate marked that enhancing access to education, health, and nutrition services in climate-affected areas as well as investing in sustainable infrastructure to protect schools and communities from extreme weather events is top priority of the present government.

She also emphasised that recognising the importance of empowering children as key drivers of climate action is vital to involving them in climate action programmes, fostering a generation of climate-conscious leaders.

Pakistan also emphasized the importance of integrating children's voices into policy decisions and fostering community-based initiatives to empower young people as active participants in climate action.



QUETTA: Senator Manzoor Khan Kakar inaugurating water supply scheme and road drain in Killa Gul Muhammad

PTI founder, others could not be indicted in GHQ attack reference for third time

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI founder and others could not be indicted for even third time in May 9 GHO attack case on Satur-

May 9 related GHQ attack case came up for hearing in Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) led by judge Amjid Ali Shah.

The counsels for Sheikh Rashid Ahmad, Amjid Khan Niazi, Umar Tanvir Butt, Maj (Retd) Tahid Sadiq, Umar Ayoub Mehmood Qureshi from and others gave arguments Lahore. He will be provided

in the court. The prosecutor while objecting over giving arguments by the lawyers without power of attorney said only those lawyers should give arguments who have filed power of attorney in

Public prosecutor Zahir tack case.

Zahid Suleman meets MirAsadullah **Independent Report**

Shah said lawyers of 102 KARACHI: Suleman, senior leader of persons accused in the case BNP's public district Kech, ave no power of attorney. met with Mir Asadullah He requested the court Baloch, a member of the to appoint state counsel to Balochistan Assembly, at pursue the cases of the achis residence in Karachi today. The meeting aimed to Counsels for Shireen Mazari, Shakil Niazi and discuss various issues, including Balochistan's politiothers completed their arcal and economic chal-Later arguments were lenges, regional and international affairs, and the given by the prosecution.

opment. Asadullah Baloch

stressed the importance of unity among all political

parties to safeguard Balochistan's rights and

promote its progress.

The meeting demon-

strated a commitment to

addressing Balochistan's

pressing concerns and find-

province's backwardness. Ahead of hearing court had summoned Shah Mir Asadullah Baloch emphasized the need for a strong and transparent government system in Balochistan to effectively copies of challan. Court had issued call address the province's isup notice to chief minister sues and ensure robust pub-KP Ali Amin Gandapur in

connection with indictment lic representation. He highlighted that de-125 accused including PTI founder were likely spite being rich in natural to be indicted Saturday resources, Balochistan during hearing of GHQ atstruggles with poverty and unemployment, urging the federal government to prioritize the province's devel-

Imam, Waleed score centuries as Quaid-e-Azam trophy 4th round ends

Rawalpindi and Bahawalpur shook hands after an exciting day four which saw both the teams in contention for a win at some point as the fourth round of the Quaid-e-Azam trophy 2024-25 came to an

Cricket Rawalpindi were set a target of 302 in the remaining 56 overs. In pursuit of the target Rawalpindi were 140-1 before they slipped to 166-6. After a flurry of wickets, Atif Khan and Aqib Shah faced a combined total of 76 balls to negate the odds of Bahawalpur further making inroads. Êarlier, Bahawalpur faced 33 overs at the start of day four, taking their overnight score of 258-4 to 392-7.

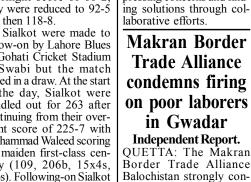
Quetta and FATA played out an exciting draw at Railway Cricket Ground in Haripur as only 17.2 overs of play was possible in last session on day four due to overnight rain. Quetta evaded an imminent innings loss when they managed to sneak away with 118-8 in their second innings and a 38-run deficit. After Ouetta continued from their overnight score of 66-2. they were reduced to 92-5 and then 118-8.

Blues any chance to further

dent the batting order.

follow-on by Lahore Blues at Gohati Cricket Stadium At Shoaib Akhtar in Swabi but the match icket Stadium, ended in a draw. At the start of the day, Sialkot were bundled out for 263 after continuing from their overnight score of 225-7 with Mohammad Waleed scoring his maiden first-class century (109, 206b, 15x4s, 3x6s). Following-on Sialkot managed 185-4 in 61 overs and a nine-run lead, with Mohsin Riaz (42 not out, 111b, 7x4s, 1x6) and Mohammad Waleed (19, 83b, 3x4s) defying Lahore

> Multan's Imam-ul-Haq scored his 13th first-class century against Peshawar as the game ended in a draw with only 51 overs bowled on day four and Multan 233-3 in their second innings at Ashfaq Cricket Ground Sirdheri.



laborers and truck drivers in Gwadar, terming it an unjust act. The alliance asserts that the government's increasing restrictions on their livelihoods are a deliberate attempt to harass the public. They demand the right to earn a living with dignity and within the law. "We will

not be silenced. We will not

be oppressed. We demand our right to lawful employ-

ment and dignity.'

سلک آرڈیننس2024 ایک سامراجی، آمرانداور

KARACHI: Members of Jammu Kashmir Community are holding protest demonstration to express solidarity with the people of Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) and condemn brutality of Indian Army in Kashmir, held at Karachi press club



Sharjeel Memon hosts dinner for Bilawaland Media house owners

Independent Report

KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon hosted a dinner reception in honor of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and media house owners last night. The event was attended by prominent figures, including Mian Aamir, Mir Ibrahim, Sultan Lakhani, Aalim Khan Durrani, Sultana Durrani, Athar Qazi, Ahmed Zuberi, Dr. Karim Rajpur, and Naz Afrin Seghal . Other notable guests included Shahryar Chishti, Ghulam Nabi Morai, Sofia Chishti, Shakil Masood, Senator Sarmad Ali, Ejazul Haq, Murtaza Wahab, Shazia Atta Mari, and Oasim Naveed.

As a senior member of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Sharjeel Memon has held various provincial ministerial positions, including Information, Transport, Mass Transit, Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics Control. His efforts to promote a positive relationship between the government and media are highly appreciated.

Gwadar delegation embarks on 10-day visit to China

Independent Report GWADAR: A 10-member delegation from Gwadar has arrived in China for a 10day visit, aimed at strengthening ties and exploring economic cooperation opportunities. Led by Gwadar Development Authority Director General Shafqat Anwar Shahwani and Deputy Commissioner Hamood-ul-Rahman, the delegation comprises officials, public representatives, business community members, academics, and

During their visit, the delegation met with Liu Jinsong, Director General of Asian Affairs at China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and toured the headquarters of China's staterun news agency, Xinhua News, and China Communication Construction

Company. This visit is part of efforts to enhance cooperation under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework, fostering stronger relationships between the two nations.

Farooq Abdullah calls for immediate restoration of statehood to IIOJK

JAMMU (INP): National Conference President Dr. Farooq Abdullah has once again called for the immediate restoration of full-fledged statehood to Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, expressing deep concern over the exploitation of local resources and job opportunities by outsiders.

According to Kashmir Media Service, speaking at a Sikh gathering in Jammu on the occasion of Guru Nanak's birthday, Farooq Abdullah highlighted the adverse effects of the influx of non-locals, saying they are taking away jobs, land and other vital resources that should rightfully belong to the local population.

The outsiders are taking away our lands, the jobs of our youth in factories, and exploiting local resources like sand and stones. Even contracts meant for the local people are being awarded to outsiders, leaving the locals to suffer,'

Governor Kundi vows to play role for bringing peace, prosperity in KP

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Saturday reiterated to continue his struggle for ensuring peace and prosperity in the province with bringing southern districts including Dera Ismail Khan on a par with developed areas of the country. He expressed these views while addressing a ceremony organized by the Institute of Medical Allied

(IMANS) here. Expressing concern over the province's security situation, Faisal Karim Kundi said, "The Governor, Chief Minister, and IG Police belong to this region, and we have to work collectively for the betterment of Dera Ismail Khan and the province as a whole."

and Nursing Sciences

Khvber The Pakhtunkhwa chief minister has focused processions and sit-inns by leaving the province at the mercy of militants, he added.

The governor emphasized that his focus was on changing the fate of the people of the province, as

government had badly failed to deliver on promises.

He also criticized Punjab for halting the supply of wheat, flour, and poultry to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa which was contributing to the state in the form of gas, oil, and electricity, it did not receive its fair share of resources. The governor expressed his gratitude to Prime Min-

ister Shehbaz Sharif, Chair-man Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the Federal Minister for WAPDA, and especially the Chairman of WAPDA, for allocating funds for the Lift Canal project, which will be inaugurated soon. He said that the mega project would bring a green revolution in the area. It would boost the agriculture sector, enabling the region to meet the country's food require-

He also mentioned that the work on a four-lane road project from Dera Ismail Khan to Dera Ghazi Khan and onward to Kashmor was underway. The portion of this project lying in Sindh province has already been completed.

He said that he was also making efforts to establish the campus of Air University in DI Khan, adding, he has talked with the authorities concerned of Higher Education Commission (HEC) and the Pakistan

He also highlighted several upcoming development projects, including the restoration of Dera Ismail han Airport

He added these projects would be inaugurated soon, making the region a hub of economic activities.

Moreover, he added that the work on laying down the gas pipeline in Korai and Kotla Seydan ar-

eas was also underway. He said that efforts were underway to build the Chakdara-Dir Road under the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) with the support of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, and this project will be inaugurated soon. Highlighting the increasing demand for skilled manpower in this field from various countries, the governor stressed the need to focus onproviding training that meets international standards.



Chairman Public Accounts Committee MPA Asghar Ali Tareen inspecting under construction flood water course in Khanozai

Pakistan, China need to share each other's experience for disaster response: Experts

ISLAMABAD (INP): viving Indus initiative, China and Pakistan, as which can bring hope and close neighbors with frequent natural disasters, must ensure that we learn from each other's experience, achieve technology transfer, and train machinery, equipment and skilled labor in the field of disaster response."

This was stated by Shoaib Kiani, Assistant Professor at the University demns the firing on poor of Karachi's Institute of Marine Science during an interview with Gwadar Pro

He believes that since the two countries have a lot in common in terms of topography and ecology, the right strategy implemented in one country is likely to bring good results in the

China's green organizations, especially those engaged in green technology, organic sustainable agriculture, sustainable aquaculture, ecological restoration, hydrology and the like, should be invited to Pakistan to actively explore opportunities to achieve the goal of a community with a shared future for mankind.

Meanwhile, Andersen, Executive Director of the UNEP stated that the prevailing situation of Indus River is extremely worrying and immediate steps are needed for properly managing it in order to save lives.

Pakistan has seen heartbreaking climate-induced disasters in recent years, causing destruction on a scale that no country can or should accept," Inger Andersen said, according to

Gwadar Pro. "It is therefore important to recognize and support projects like the Surresilience to Pakistan and the region, "he added. Shoaib Kiani added that

before Living Indus, there was no any comprehensive plan to manage the Indus. Without strong intervention, the river will soon degrade to such an extent

that it is doubtful whether it will continue to exist. "If we hope the Indus to continue flowing for the benefit of future generations, programs like Living

Indus are our only hope. Following devastating floods caused by climate change in 2022, Pakistan's parliament approved the Living Indus Înitiative and formally launched it at

The initiative recognizes the Indus River as a living entity with rights. It has been recognized as a World Flagship for Restoration, which is part of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and recognizes initiatives that help protect and restore the natural world.

Beside ensuring water supply for homes, farms and factories, the initiative aims to restore 40% of the Indus River basin in Pakistan, or about 25 million hectares of land, as well as create more than 200,000 green jobs by

At the latest figures, about 1.3 million hectares of land have been restored. But for sure, it doesn't go In the face of climate

change and environmental degradation, Living Indus has also reintroduced a technique called glacier

Australia edge Pakistan in second T20I to secure unassailable lead

Sports Desk

SYDNEY: Australia won T20I series 2-0 against Pakistan after defeating visitors by 13 runs in second match at Sydney Cricket Ground on Saturday.

Set to chase 148, Pakistan only managed 134 before being bundled out in the final

The visitors had a shaky start to the run chase as they lost star batter Babar Azam (three) and Sahibzada Èarhan (five) inside three overs with just 17 runs on the board.

S k i p p e r Mohammad Rizwan then joined hands with Usman Khan and launched recovery.

The duo, however, could add 27 runs to the total before Spencer Iohson removed Rizwan in the 10th over, which also saw the dismissal of Salman Ali Agha (0). Rizwan scored a scratchy 16 off 26 deliveries. Coming out to bat at

number 6 with the touring side reeling at 44/4 9.3 overs, Muhammad Irfan Khan registered a solid partnership with Usman and took the total past the 100-run mark.

The 58-run partner-ship had put Pakistan in a comfortable position but Usman's untimely dismissal, followed by the three quick wickets,

halted their progress.
Irfan fought valiantly until the final over but his efforts were not enough to steer his side over the line.

Usman remained the top-scorer for Pakistan with a gutsy 52 off 38 deliveries, laced with five boundaries including a six, followed by Irfan, who scored an unbeaten with a 28-ball 37, featuring as many boundaries.

Johnson was the standout bowler for Australia, courtesy of his five-wicket hauĺ. He was followed by Adam Zampa, who bagged two wickets.

Opting to bat first, Australian openers Jake Fraser-McGurk and Matthew Short came out all guns blazing and smashed Pakistan pacers for 48 runs in the first three overs.

with the ball, Pakistan captain Mohammad Rizwan's decision to introduce Haris Rauf proved beneficial as the right-arm speedster struck twice in his first dismissing Fraser-McGurk and skipper Josh Inglis (0).

Fraser-McGurk scored 20 off just nine deliveries with the help of three fours and

His opening partner Short, on the other hand, perished in the next over as Abbas Afridi reduced Australia to 56/3 in five overs.

Short remained the top-scorer for Australia with a 17-ball 32, laced with two fours and as many sixes.

Following the triple blow, all-rounders Marcus Stoinis (14) and Glenn Maxwell (21) looked to anchor the innings with a 30-run Johnson

partnership for the fourth wicket but their efforts were quashed by Sufiyan Muqeem, who removed both batters in his successive overs.

Haris continued to unsettle Australia as the right-arm pacer bagged two morė wickets – Tim David (18) and Xavier Bartlett (five) and registered magnificent match figures of 4/ 22 in his quota of four

Young pacer Abbas bowled an exceptional final over as he conceded only six runs and took two wickets to further dent Australia's chances of posting a commendable total.

Abbas returned bril-After a dismal start liant figures of 3/17 in his four overs, while Sufiyan claimed two

The third and final match takes place in Hobart on Monday.

Pakistan won the preceding one-day international (ODI) series 2-1 before a 29-run defeat in the rain-shortened T20 series opener. Pakistan XI

Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan (capt, wk), Sahibzada Èarhan, Úsman Khan, Salman Ali Agha, Irfan Khan, Abbas Afridi, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Haris Rauf, Naseem Shah, Sufiyan Muqeem Australia XI

Jake Fraser-McGurk, Matt Short, Josh Inglis (capt, wk), Glenn Max-well, Tim David, Marcus Stoinis, Aaron Hardie, Xavier Bartlett, Nathan Ellis, Adam

AJK President to visit

Kotli from Nov 20 on

mass contact drive

Muhammad Taj.

Sultan

ISLAMABAD (APP): :President Azad Jammu and

Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry will

visit Kotli district of AJK from Wednesday, Novem-ber 20, for two-days on mass-contact drive across

the AJK to meet the south-

ern area population of the

city of Mosques.

The decision to this

effect was taken during a

meeting at Jammu Kashmir

House in the federal me-

The meeting was attended by Presidential Adviser Chaudhry Muhammad Mehboob Ad-

During his two-day

visit, Barrister Chaudhry

would address a reception

ceremony being hosted in

his honour by Mayor of

tropolis on Saturday.

vocate and others.

Kotli

He is also scheduled to

address a ceremony being

held under the auspices of

District Bar Association

Kotli on Thursday, Novem-

ber 21 at 11 am and later at

12 noon, the president would address the fifth an-

nual convocation of the

University of Kotli.
President Barrister
Sultan Mahmood

Chaudhry will also meet various public delegations

during his visit to southern

city. Meanwhile, senior leader Pakistan People's

Party Azad Kashmir Sardar

Qamar Zaman had a detailed meeting with the President

Azad Jammu and Kashmir

Barrister Sultan Mahmood

Chaudhry. During the meeting, they discussed in detail the issues of mutual

India subjecting Kashmiris to worst form of state terrorism: APHC

ISLAMABAD (APP): All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has said on Saturday that the Indian government is subjecting Kashmiris to the worst form of state terrorism for demanding their internationally recognized right to self-determination.

According to Kashmir Media Service, leaders and organizations affiliated with the APHC, in their statements issued in Srinagar, emphasized that India, driven by expansionist ambitions, has illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir for the past 77 years.

The territory has become a site of extreme repression, with the only crime of the Kashmiris being their demand for a fundamental right, not only

tional community but also

The APHC leaders pointed out that the Modi government has transformed the occupied territory into a large prison, stripping Kashmiris of their fundamental rights.

India has imprisoned around five thousand individuals, including pro-freedom leaders, activists, journalists, religious scholars, lawyers, students, human rights defenders, and civil society workers, in jails and torture centers where they are deprived of basic facilities, including medical care.

They also condemned the Indian government's resolve the Kashmir disongoing military operations pute in accordance with its against the civilian popula-

promised by the interna- tion in the territory. "Indian troops, paramilitary forces, and police have been conducting unwarranted cordon and search operations, making the lives of Kashmiris unbearable"

The Hurriyat leaders reminded the Indian government that its brutality can-Kashmiris' desire for freedom. "Despite India's oppression, the morale of the Kashmiri people remains high, and they are committed to carrying forward the sacred mission of their martyrs to its logical conclu-

sion," they maintained. The APHC leaders appealed to the United Nations to pressurize India to



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Syed Ali Raza in a group photo with officers of the Dolphin Squad, Ababeel Squad, and Anti-Riot Unit

3,000 athletes to participate in PMUS Olympiad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Prime Minister Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan on Saturday said that as many as 3,000 athletes would participate in the Prime Minister's University Sports (PMUS) Olympiad scheduled to start on November 21.

Chairing a meeting of the vice chancellors of universities from across the country to review arrangements for the event, he said that the Olympiad was poised to be one of the largest student athletic events in Pakistan, aiming to promote physical fitness, sportsmanship and a sense of unity among the

Mashhood emphasized the event's importance in showcasing young athletes' talent and dedica-

Islamabad, observed World

Diabetes Day on Saturday

with an awareness event

organised by its Endocri-

nology Department to high-

light the rising prevalence

of diabetes and the impor-

prominent medical profes-

sionals, including Executive

Director Dr. Naeem Taj,

Head of Endocrinology Dr.

Sarwar Malik, and other

scribed diabetes as a global

health challenge and

stressed the need for pub-

lic education. "Our focus is

The event featured

tance of prevention.

Capital

CDA hospital hosts

World Diabetes Day

awareness event

In his keynote ad- event by reaffirming the

ss, Dr. Naeem Taj de- hospital's commitment to

Hospital,

He reiterated the government's commitment to supporting the youth of Pakistan in all fields, including sports, to help them reach their full potential.

"The Prime Minister's

University Olympiad is a significant initiative that brings together the brightest young athletes from across the country," said Rana Mashhood. "With 3,000 participants, this event will not only foster a spirit of healthy competition but will also serve as a platform for the youth to engage, excel, and represent their universities with

The meeting was also attended by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) Chairman, Mukhtar Ahmed Khan, who praised the collaborative efforts

on raising awareness and

encouraging preventive

measures to combat this

tailed the symptoms, types,

and significance of early di-

agnosis, emphasising the im-

portance of timely treat-

ment to prevent complica-

tions. Other speakers, in-

cluding Dr. Hina Inayat and

Dr. Maria Shafi, provided

practical advice on lifestyle

changes and advancements

offering education and pre-

ventive services to help re-

duce the community's dia-

betes burden.

Dr. Taj concluded the

Dr. Sarwar Malik de-

growing issue," he said.

between universities and government bodies.

He highlighted the crucial role of higher education institutions in organizing such large-scale events, which contribute to the holistic development of stu-

"This Olympiad celebrates athleticism, teamwork, and national pride. It is essential that we come together to ensure the smooth execution of this event, as it will leave a lasting impact on the students and the university sports culture in Pakistan," said Mukhtar Ahmed Khan.

With just days to go before the event kicked off, the organizing committees were working around the clock to finalize the logistics and ensure that the event ran smoothly.

ICT Police bust organized dacoit gang, four arrested

ISLAMABAD (APP) Islamabad Capital Territory Police's Anti-Robbery and Burglary Unit on Saturday successfully arrested four members of an organized gang involved in multiple

robbery incidents.

A Public Relations
Officer told APP that, the
suspects, identified as
Waseem Khan, Imran Khan,
Khurshid, and Ubaid-ur-Rehman, admitted to committing robberies at gun-

He said in most of the incidents, the dacoits used to tie the security guards (chowkidars) at gunpoint and snatch cash, motorcycles, mobile phones, cameras, and other items.

ISLAMABAD: An artisan crafting intricate designs

Chaudhry concern

on a pot during the 10-Day "Folk Festival Lok Mela 2024" at Lok Virsa in the Federal Capital.

DIG Raza directs patrolling units to enhance crime control efforts

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Syed Ali Raza on Saturday emphasized Islamabad Po-

lice commitment to eradicating crime during a briefing to the officers of the Dolphin Squad, Ababeel Squad, and Anti-Riot Unit During the briefing,

DIG Islamabad Syed Ali Raza tasked the officers with their respective duties and recognized the efforts of police officers who had performed exceptionally in recent days, awarding them commendation certificates and rewards, a public relations officer told.

tion and hard work will not foremost goal is the protecgo in vain. Together, we will

and its residents while eliminating criminal elements." Make all patrolling units more effective in curb ing crime," said DIG Syed Ali Raza

During checks at checking points, treat citizens with courtesy and perform your duties with honesty and integrity. Rewards will be given for good performance, while poor performance will lead to strict departmental action, DIG added.

DIG Raza stressed that providing citizens with a sense of security and controlling crime is the police's top priority.

He emphasized, "Any DIG Ali Raza assured lapse in this regard will not he tolerated tion of citizens' lives and

ensure the safety of this city property.' Arbitrary fee hikes by private medical colleges unacceptable: Senator

kistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader Senator Irfan Siddiqui Friday said that private medical colleges will not be allowed to arbitrarly increase fees and violate

"Senate Standing Committee on National Health is seriously looking into this issue," Siddiqui said during a meeting with a delegation of parents and students from İslamabad's medical colleges who met him in his office.

has been issued for a three-

Palwasha Khan, which will begin its work next week, he said.

The parents and students informed Senator Siddiqui about the issues they are facing, revealing that the colleges have unilaterally increased fees, which are now many times higher than last year.

They also mentioned that the private colleges are openly violating the PMDC's (Pakistan Medi-A formal notification cal and Dental Council)



ISLAMABAD: Art lover visitor admire a painting at the Opening ceremony exhibition PNCA & Nukta Art Studios present FUNKAR 01, during Talent Hunt Program Art Competitions at PNCA.

CDA Chairman pushes for swift completion of key Islamabad interchanges

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman, Capital Development Authority (CDA), Muhammad Ali Randhawa, conducted a detailed inspection of the ongoing construction projects at Serena Chowk and Jinnah Avenue interchanges.

During the visit, on Saturday, contractors, consultants, and CDA officials briefed the chairman on the progress of the construction and the relocation of service lines.

It was highlighted that various sections of the projects are advancing at a significant pace.

Chairman Randhawa

dite work by removing all obstacles

He stressed the need for 24/7 construction activity and instructed that work on multiple sections should proceed simultaneously to ensure timely completion. The chairman under-

scored the importance of maintaining high construction standards, noting that these projects are vital for enhancing Islamabad's road infrastructure.

He affirmed that their completion would play a key role in modernising and streamlining the capital directed officials to expe- city's traffic network.

ISLAMABAD: Artists performing during the 10-Day "Folk Festival Lok Mela 2024" at Lok Virsa in the Federal Capital.

Strong digital, AI infrastructure vital to enhance competitiveness in education, agri sectors: Castro

Vice President of the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF) Daniel Castro emphasized that a strong digital and artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure was crucial for Pakistan to enhance its competitiveness in agriculture, government services, education, and healthcare sectors.

Castro, also Director Innovation, and a promistan, engaging in various discussions on digital trans-

He is an expert on a variety of issues related to information technology and internet policy, including privacy, security, intellectual property, Internet gov-

Additional Secretary of the

Ministry of Education and

Professional Training,

Hassan Saglain, stated that

the government was taking

urgent steps to improve

access to quality of educa-

tion in the country.
He highlighted initia-

tives such as the provision

of free meals in educational

institutions, health and sani-

tation programs, the estab-

lishment of Early Child-

hood Education classrooms,

solar-powered schools, a

pink bus service for female

students, and the creation of IT and STEM labs

equipped with robotics and

hostels are being converted

into IT labs, and through

public-private partner-

ships, education experts are

being integrated into the

educational system to en-

hance its capacity and ac-

cessibility. He was address-

ing the policy dialogue on

"Investing in Education:

Bridging Financial Gaps and Optimizing Resource percent of GDP.

Additionally, unused

artificial intelligence.

with disabilities. Speaking on "The Economic Value of Internet Freedom" here he underscored the importance of investing in data infrastructure, creating diverse datasets, and fostering innovation to position Pakistan as a strong player in the tech landscape.

He noted that developing a robust AI ecosysof ITIF's Center for Data tem could help Pakistan leverage domestic data in new nent voice on information ways, suggesting that cultechnology and internet tural data creation and inpolicy, is currently in Paki- novation ecosystems could play a role in enhancing Pakistan's tech capabilities.

Drawing comparisons, he said that for countries like China, AI extends beyond tech, supporting industries such as genomics, solar energy, and electric vehicles. He proposed that ernance, e-government, and Pakistan could similarly a clear advantage.

Allocation," hosted by the Pakistan Institute of Education (PIE) in collabora-

tion with the Pakistan Coa-

lition for Education. The

goal of the dialogue was to

shed light on the financial

challenges facing education

and identify practical ac-

tions to ensure the provi-

sion of quality education for

all, in alignment with Article

25-A of the Constitution

and Sustainable Development Goal 4. At the start of

the policy dialogue, Direc-

tor General of Pakistan In-

stitute of Education, Dr.

Soroya, emphasized PIE's

commitment to finding col-

lective and innovative so-

lutions to bridge the educa-

tional funding gap. He pointed out that the educa-

tion budget for 2022-23 was only 1.5 percent of

GDP, which is significantly

lower than the 4 percent

target set by SDG-4. How-

ever, he acknowledged a

positive step forward, as allocations for 2024-25

Shahid

Mohammad

Adl. Secretary Education says:

Govt taking practical

steps to address financial

challenges in edu sector

accessibility for people utilize AI to make agriculture, government services, education, and healthcare more effective and competi-

> However, Castro highlighted connectivity as a critical component, stressing that Pakistan's ambitions in AI and digital policy could be hampered without reliable digital in-

As Pakistan seeks to xpand its exports from \$3.5 billion to \$25 billion within three years, Castro suggested strategic steps to build digital service capa-

He said in order to remain competitive, Pakistan needed to upskill Pakistan's workforce in AI, citing the CEO of NVIDIA's view that while AI won't directly replace jobs, workers proficient in AI tools will have

Two vehicle lifters held: stolen cars,

The Shahzad Town Police on Saturday apprehended two wanted members of a vehicle-lifting gang involved in multiple car and motorbike thefts, recovering two stolen cars and a motorbike from their possession. A Public relations officer told APP that the Shahzad Town Police, using technical and human intelligence, successfully arrested the suspects identified as Farhad Ud Deen and Ubaid Ur Rehman. He said police team also recovered two stolen cars and a motorbike from their possession. Cases have been registered against the accused and further investigation is under-

DIG Ali Raza directed all senior officials for effective crackdown against the accused involved in criminal activities and ensured the safety of lives and property of citizens on priority basis. Citizens are urged to report any suspicious individual or activity through the emergency helpline"Pucar-15" or via the ICTP-15 app.

bike recovered ISLAMABAD (APP):



Islamabad College for Boys G-6/3 in the Federal Capital.

road during cold weather after the first winter rain, in the Federal Capital. **British Council's Chief Executive Scott McDonald** concludes visit to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Executive of the Brit-Council, Scott McDonald on Friday wrapped up his visit to Pakistan, which took place from 11-15 November, marking a significant occasion as the organization celebrates its 90th anniversary of fostering global connec-

Throughout his visit, Scott engaged with various stakeholders, highlighting the British Council's enduring commitment to education, culture, and social development in Pakistan, said a press release issued here.

He attended a series of impactful events, including the launch of the second phase of the Pakistan UK Education Gateway, aimed at enhancing collaborative educational efforts between

the two nations. The event gathered numerous participants from higher education institutions across Pakistan, facilitating discussions on capacity building and improving the quality of teaching and research.

Going on ground with students was one of the first few activities and the Chief Executive played an active role in the administration of O Level, IGCSE, AS, A2, and A Level examinations at Dawood Public School in Karachi, overseeing the examination process and engaging with candidates and staff.

ISLAMABAD: People are getting themselves warm with wood fire along a

The visit was further enriched in the celebration of the Scotland Pakistan Scholarship Scheme at Punjab University, honouring a decade of empowering young women and girls through education.

The event highlighted the positive impact of the scholarship program, which has supported over 17,000 schoolgirls and more than 2,000 young women in universities since its inception.

Additionally, the visit included attending the British High Commission-funded GOAL programme, Khilo Aur Barho event which aims to improve educational outcomes for vulnerable children in Pakistan. The visit also included a celebration of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) funded Aawaz programme, showcasing the successes of community

engagement efforts in tackling issues such as child marriage and gender-based The Chief Executive met with key stakeholders

to discuss the programme's

impact and future direction.

17th Aalmi **Urdu conference** to enthrall Karachi from **Dec 5-81**

ISLAMABAD (APP) The 17th Aalmi Urdu Con ference is set to enthrall literature enthusiasts from December 5th to 8th at the Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi where event to brings together intellectu als, artists, poets, journalists and language experts from around the globe to celebrate the beauty of Urdu literature and promote cross-cultural understand-

In an exclusive Interview with a Private news channel, President Arts Council, Mohammad Ahmed Shah disclosed that with a legacy of hosting prominent personalities, including Wasi Shah, Bushra Ansari, Waseem Badami, Fahad Mustafa, Tabish Hashmi, Wasi Shah, Pir Zada Qasim, Sohail Waraich and Anwar Maqsood to be part of this event for their unforgettable experience, fostering engagement among youth and showcasing Pakistan's rich cultural diversity.

He said four-day con-ference will feature thought-provoking sessions, mesmerizing performances and literary discussions that will leave attend ees in awe.

Daily Soice of Masse, Independent

Sunday November 17, 2024

Agriculture tax

The Punjab government has taken the lead in amending its agricultural income tax law, bringing existing AIT rates for individuals and businesses at par with federal income tax

The bill, passed by the provincial assembly, also brought earnings from commercial or "income-generating" livestock into the ambit of AIT and rescinded exemptions, such as the ones enjoyed by farmers with landholdings of less than 12.5 acres and absentee landholders — unless their annual income is below the tax threshold of Rs600,000. The changes also propose stringent and hefty penalties for defaulters.

The amendments bring equity to the tax regime, do away with a big loophole for tax evasion, and meet the demand of economists, the corporate sector and other stakeholders to effectively tax farm incomes. Successive governments had baulked at the idea because of the clout of large landholders until the IMF made it a core component of its new \$7bn

"...[T]he provinces will take steps to increase their own tax collection efforts ... [on] agriculture income tax. ...[A]ll provinces are committed to fully harmonising their [AIT] regimes through legislative changes with the federal personal and corporate income tax regimes and this will become effective from Jan 1, 2025," said the lender, following the staff-level agreement with Pakistan in Inly Other provinces, especially Sindh, are expected to make the required changes in ance stemming from detheir farm income tax regime in cades of systemic political the next several weeks to meet nomic marginalisation and the IMF deadline.

That said, the passage of the amendments to the law was the easier part. The harder part is their implementation, which starts from the beginning of the | land of peace, harmony next fiscal year. For starters, the provinces — and even the FBR — have limited capacity to correctly assess farm incomes and collect tax accordingly. Besides, a large part of the agriculture market functions outside formal banking channels, and transactions are conducted in cash. Calculation of the true value of farm output will require capacity building of tax officials.

Second, the responsibility of farm income assessment and tax recovery is assigned to revenue officials like patwaris who are notorious for their corruption. The land revenue law of 1967 gives enormous powers to revenue officials to penalise and detain defaulting farmers for up to 40 days. Smallholder farmers, who hardly have taxable incomes, fear this could be used by revenue officials and politicians from ruling parties nance legacy of the preto twist the arms of their oppo-

The amendments made in the farm income tax law are crucial to make the system equitable in addition to boosting our abysmally low tax-to-GDP ratio of below 10pc. Nevertheless, it is critical to ensure that tax collectors are trained well and provided the tools to correctly assess farm incomes, build systems to plug loopholes for corruption and extortion, and prevent the use of political clout.

What Kamala's loss portends

Anis Shivani Much of the election post-

mortem predictably focuses on the mistakes made by Kamala Harris, but I want to take a step back for a bigpicture explanation of the Democrats' across-the-board ses in the 2024 elections.

No doubt Joe Biden and his quick-fix successor's missteps contributed to the wipeout, but the fundamental reason for the latest liberal setback against the ballooning hypernationalist threat is the political paralysis the declining empire confronts in its last days.

Running with discredited neocons like Liz Cheney, refusing to let a Muslim American speak during the convention, and hoping to run on vibes and joy alone were terrible concessions to the consultant-driven politics of corporate empowerment, but why did the Democratic Party prefer selfmarginalisation rather than make any real effort to address economic pain and end

The scale of Donald Trump's resurgence is confirmation that his initial 2016 victory wasn't a fluke. Rather, the Obama era of strident identity politics plus pint-sized economic initiatives has received a definite rebuke. The 2024 election bears comparison to 1980 and 2000 for the working class's rejection of the very policies neoliberals thought would benefit them. I wouldn't describe it as realignment, which was mistakenly applied to 2004 and 2008 as well. This designation is thrown around by political operatives every few years, and except for 1968, in the wake of the Vietnam debacle and the South's

backlash towards civil rights

legislation, is rarely appli-

Trump will probably overreach in dismantling the administrative state as per Project 2025. The attempts to finish off the regulatory state in every sphere of life will cause unbearable pain. He will also try to impose stiff universal tariffs and implement mass deportations through administrative means and actual roundups. As these measures reignite inflation, his newly assembled coalition of working-class voters will shatter. By the next electoral cycle, they will be eager to move on, not that there will be any help forthcoming from the

De--m-ocrats in alleviating

their declining quality of life. Trump 2.0 is a different beast than the first incarnation. Inchoate isolationist tendencies — really, the desire of empire to terminate itself — have lately merged with the billionaire class's overt interest in returning to the pre-New Deal era of zero regulation, buttressed by the state's muscular punitiveness in keeping the working class in check

Trump arrives infinitely better prepared than the last time, with lovalists ready with det-ai-led plans to have an immediate go at everything that makes life worth living. Even accomplishing a fraction of these aims, particularly with respect to migration and tariffs, will cause an upheaval, lea-ding to another oscillation in political fortunes

Every election now seems to be a change election. The last time there was any substantive bip-artisan legislative progress was when Bill Clinton put in place the foundations of neoliberal globalisation, followed by George W. Bush's implementation of the surveillance state. Obamacare, a form of privatised medicine, vielded the Tea Party, and in part Trumpism. Each time there

upsurge, as with Ralph Nader in 2000 or Bernie Sanders in 2016 and 2020, the final result seems to be a massive rightward shift. The electorate has endorsed the same move this time.

Although much of the

criticism of Harris's loss will rightly focus on her unwillingness to offer any coherent economic message to alleviate the cost of living beyond bits and pieces, neither Biden nor Harris touted the progressive milestones they did achieve. It might sound surprising to praise Biden, but he was undoubtedly far to the left of Obama, and a down payment was made on clean energy, infrastructure rebuilding, industrial policy, and anti-trust regulation. Biden's precipitous slide in popularity began when he rightly followed through on withdrawing from Afghani-

The original Build Back Better plan, whose care economy components were mostly removed, seems like an impossible dream in the wake of Harris's rightward lurch. The Biden presidency can also be interpreted as a managed letdown from the peak of progressive enthusiasm, as social safety measures to soften the pandemic were abolished, but at least there was rhetorical fidelity to--w-ards strengthening worker rights.

Immigration rightly loosened up, to meet the enormous shortfall of workers, and the rate of growth of inflation, to which Trump's previous tariffs and immigrat---ion restrictions contributed as much as pandemic-era supply chain shortages, were down considerably. But why would Biden

and Harris never run on the

back of these initiatives? Why did Trumpian xenophobia and cultural paranoia, exemplified in the fear of transgendered people, so completely push Biden's legislative efforts to the background? I don't believe that the outcome of the election was inevitable, despite the ravages of inflation. Harris could have built on Biden's rudimentary economic progressivism, and offered young people hope for a financially sustainable future and a way out of the dual wars of choice. But she didn't, and it wasn't coincidental

There seems to be more soul-searching on the part of liberals than after 2004, and

certainly 2016, when it was all too easy to blame Trump as an outlier and his voters as deplorables, and then spend years trying to disqualify him and his movement as criminal enterprises.

But what do you do when large numbers of working people of all races gravitate towards the party whose tariffs and migration crackdowns will cause enormous economic disruption? Is there even a language that exists to speak to such voters about the benefits of openness, after four decades of the neoliberal zero-sum game pitting individual against individual? Perhaps

there is, but it wasn't tried. The healthiest outcome for the rest of the world would be for the MAGA movement to actually disengage from international link-

This is the fatal blow the empire seems determined to inflict upon itself and it ultimately explains why progressive initiatives, large or small cannot satisfy the rotten emptiness at the core. It was, finally, less a failure of strategy or tactics that doomed Harris than the downward trajectory of empire that now seems unstoppable -- Courtesy Dawn

No quick fixes in Balochistan

Rafiullah Kakar

The deadly terrorist attack in Quetta has reignited debates surrounding the security situation in Balochistan. Predictably, hawkish voices have sought to discredit advocates for political reconciliation. This knee-jerk reaction merits a nuanced

There is no question that the escalation of violence by Baloch separatists has resulted in appalling attacks against innocent civilians, notably labourers, coal miners, truck drivers and others. These acts warrant unequivocal condemnation, and it is imperative that we stand united in denouncing violence against citizens merely seeking to work and live in peace.

Nonetheless, during such tragic situations, we must also guard against those who push their agenda for intensified repression of the Baloch

gency is rooted in a deeply entrenched popular grievexclusion and socioeco-

exploitation. This grievance is pervasive, resonating across the spectrum of prostate Baloch leaders, nationalists, and insurgents alike. Baloch grievances have historically been met with a combination of political engineering — co-optation and installation of pliant political voices and coercion. This dual strategy may have produced an illusion of stability, but it has reinforced the underlying resentment and perception of disenfran-

The post-18th Amendment period presented a critical opportunity to foster political reconciliation and stability. Yet this opening was largely squandered. While the amendment was inadequate in its ability to address the underlying institutional drivers of Balochistan's marginalised status, it still represented a major step towards federal

chisement.

Through political and amendment briefly pacified tensions, as Baloch nationalists largely engaged in the parliamentary process with renewed hope. However. this optimism was short-

vincial level not only endured but expanded.

Indeed, political developments since the 18th Amendment have only amplified grievances. Over the past decade, the province has seen a rapid turnover of six elected chief ministers (excluding caretaker leaders). At least two exited through the threat of noconfidence votes, allegedly backed by powerful elements in the establishment. The irony is that, despite the frequent reshuffling, the principal actors have remained nearly the same. though the political parties involved have changed because this cohort of 'electables' shifts political allegiances every five years at the behest of the state. This cycle of political musical chairs has left governance and public service delivery in a shambles, with

little accountability. Public procurement, jobs, and development funds have become prime fiscal decentralisation, the conduits for rent-seeking and corruption. Street-smart politicians have adopted a simple formula for securing and retaining the chief minister's post: the development budget is

shares allocated to key ministers, heads of coalition partners, and non-elected 'notables'. This approach has proven so effective that MPAs have often disregarded party lines to support the treasury benches. even when in opposition. Hence an elite class of evergreen politicians, along with their allies in the military and civil bureaucracy, have allegedly accumulated wealth and influence.

In the past, my critique of the corruption and misgovernance Balochistan has been used by some to argue against the 18th Amendment and the seventh NFC Award. However these issues are not a failure of decentralisation per se. Rather, the situation is an indictment of elite capture perpetuated primarily by state-sponsored political engineering.

The practice of political engineering has only intensified. The current provincial government, brought to power after the widely criticised elections of February 2024, arguably stands as one of the least legitimate coalitions in the last three decades This persistent installa-

the eyes of citizens. At the same time, state heavy-handedness has grown more pronounced: enforced disappearances of Baloch students and activists, mistreatment of peaceful protesters, and the recent strong-arming of BNP-M senators have fuelled distrust. What state officials

fail to realise is that such tactics serve only to bolster the Baloch insurgents' narrative, who adeptly exploit these actions to portray the federal parliamentary system as ineffective and indifferent to Baloch grievances. Akhtar Mengal's resignation from parliament stands as a striking illustration of this unfortunate reality.

In light of these realities, any strategy for peace that fails to address the foundational grievances underlying the insurgency is bound to fail.

response appear to suffer calls the shots. from political amnesia. This hawkish stance has been the prevailing strategy for over two decades. The outcomes speak for lived. The establishment's effectively parcelled out to de facto power at the prode facto power at the proMPAs, with the largest eroded the legitimacy of ality is that insurgents were conducive. themselves. The bitter re- even if all other factors

parliamentary politics in have drawn strength from the very policies intended to curtail them.

Genuine political reconciliation, with few exceptions, has rarely been given a chance. One notable instance was the short-lived efforts of Dr Abdul Malik Baloch, whose tenure as chief minister saw an attempt a reconciliation undermined by the establishment. whose reliance on their Baloch protégés took precedence over fostering an authentic dialogue with Baloch nationalists

The oversimplified question posed by hawks 'how can one negotiate with those who don't want to talk?'— obscures a more complex reality. In the climate of alienation we may be approaching a point of no return. The situation has

been compounded further by the changed character of the Baloch insurgency, Secondly, those ad- where a younger, educated vocating a more aggressive and more radical cadre

The insurgency's increasingly urban and decentralised nature renders traditional reconciliation efforts insufficient.

A political touch

Balochistan was once the and brotherhood. The People of the land are peace loving, hospitable & resilient in nature and have strong affiliation with their land and culture. Despite aggravating economic and security situation they adhere to their land. Over the last two decades the people of Balochistan have experienced the worst in terms of security, economy and governance.

The security situation in Balochistan is highly volatile, there is never a day passes with peace. Each day some unpleasant happens, neither people nor law enforcement personnel feel save and protected.

The ever-aggravatsituation Balochistan poses a far greater challenge for the Government, adding on to this, the poor govervious Government especially since 2008 has made the situation more com-

The current government with a dynamic Chief Minister, who has the understanding of the complexity of the problem and also has a resolve to fix it, is a ray of hope for the peace-loving people of Balochoistan. The approach of the Chief Minister towards engaging with the people with remorse and dressing their wounds is evident.

He opens himself up

to the public and trying and establishment. to reach out to as many people as possible. His constant efforts to engage with the public and working out on solution for restoring peace in the province are quite serious. Nonetheless, the peace in the province is

still a far-fetched dream.

The disillusionment of the young Baloch with the system and mistrust on the Government and the state is unfathomable. The educated minds are drifting away and resorting to militancy to gush out their anger and frustration. Their intoxication with the so-called freedom struggle and alluring terrorists is horren-

The time necessitate

to apply minds and handle this delicate issue with a holistic approach. Most of the people take it as an outcome of a mix of issues, like lack of development, unemployment, sense of deprivation, foreign powers, exploitation of resources ment with the people who etc. Are these issues new one for Balochistan, of ones need to be isolated course not. There have by inviting dialogue unbeen serious attempts to conditionally with those, address these issues but it did not work. We need to precede diagnosis before the treatment.

youth got polluted through constant feeding of misinformation about the historical facts ending conviction, belike merger of Balchistan cause it would not be an with Pakistan, putting easy and quick solution blame of their backwardness and injustice on fed- cessantly will end up eral Government, Punjab

Undoubtedly Balochistan never be treated fairly by the federal Government but this premise is so unfairly exploited by the local leaders, that people developed strong sense of hatred towards Federal Government and even with the people of other provinces especially Punjab.

This hatred and misinformation gradually shaped into militancy and freedom struggle among the educated youth. Neither any of the Provincial nor Federal Government has taken this issue seriously. Continued meddling of establishment in forming and deforming Governments and disenfranchising the people of their right to choose their government has put fuel

There is a need to

limit the use of guns and force by improvising Governance and working out a political engageare unarmed. The armed who furthering their agenda politically and through peaceful struggle. The things will The minds of the improve not by unleashing force but by engaging political thinkers and workers and with an unbut knocking the door in-

with an open door.

Mothers in prison

Rida Tahir Incarcerated mothers constitute a rapidly increasing segment of the prison population in Punjab. According to data released by Punjab Prisons, as of last month, the total number of female prisoners stood at 1,218. Of these, 137 are mothers with children and 104 are under trial. The total number of children living in prisons with jailed mothers is 159, including 68 boys and 91 girls.

In 2022, the total number of mothers in Punjab's prisons was 83. This data shows an increase of 65 per cent in their population across the province from 2022 to

Children living with incarcerated parents, as well as those left behind when a parent is imprisoned, are among the most at-risk populations. They face social stigma and isolation, with a long-lasting impact on their intellectual growth and emotional development. Despite these challenges, they are not recognised as a vulnerable group and no special initiatives are being initiated to protect their

best interests. Existing prison facilities across Pakistan were designed primarily for male prisoners during the colonial era. However, the number of female prisoners has increased over the years. Prison facilities do not cater to the gender-specific needs of female prisoners, such as pregnancy. Additionally, women are the primary caregivers of children in Pakistani society. Prisons lack the necessary capacity and mechanisms for the adequate educational, health, and psychological development of children.

The primary legislation governing the Punjab prison system includes the Prisons Act of 1894,

the Prisoners Act of 1900, should be made available and the Pakistan Prison Rules of 1978. The PPR contains specific provisions for the management of female prisoners. Unfortunately, these laws are rooted in colonial-era practices and a retributive approach, lacking sufficient focus on the rehabilitation and welfare of incarcerated mothers and their innocent children. The laws are not in line

The 'UN Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders', also called the 'Bangkok Rules' are universally recognised standards regarding the treatment of female offenders and prisoners, and were adopted

with Pakistan's interna-

tional legal obligations.

by the UN in 2010. Rule 326 of the PRP allows women prisoners to keep their children with them in jail until they turn six. However, as per Rule 52 (1) of the Bangkok Rules, the decision regarding when a child is to be separated from its mother is to be based on individual assessments and the child's best interests.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child was ratified by Pakistan in 1990. Article 3(1) of the convention provides that "in all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration"

The Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2011 emphasised that in "sentencing parent(s) and primary caregivers, non-custodial sentences should ... be issued, in lieu of custodial sentences, including in the pre-trial and trial phase.

with full consideration of the likely impacts of different sentences on the best interests of the affected child(ren)"

Therefore, courts should collect data on the number of dependent children of parents involved in legal conflicts and then take a balanced view weighing the best interests of the affected children against the severity of the parent's of-

Additionally, it is crucial to ensure that "non-custodial sentences for pregnant women and women with dependent children shall be preferred" for non- violent crimes, in line with Rule 64 of the Bangkok Rules. Puniab has an effec-

tive Probation and Parole Service. Several strategic initiatives have been taken to enhance the effectiveness of the service. This includes the Offender Management Information System to centralise and streamline the tracking of offender information. Release on bail at the pre-trial stage along with probation and parole should be utilised as alternatives to imprisonment. The Puniab Legal Aid Agency has also been established under the Puniab Legal Aid Act. 2018. However, it is not effectively working for the protection of the rights of prisoners.
Punjab should estab-

lish a provincial hu--man rights commission similar to Sindh's, which is empowered by the Sindh Pro-tection of Human Rights Act. 2011. The Sindh Human Rights Commission raises awareness, inspects jails, recommends improvements. and investigates human rights violations by public servants. A similar body in Puniah would enhance prison conditions - Courtesy Dawn

KP Governor for calling APC on law, order situation

Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Saturday announced to spearhead efforts for an 'All Parties Conference' (APC) to discuss and resolve law and order issues in the province.

Talking to media persons here at the Dera Press Club, the KP governor said that all stakeholders including political parties would be invited to share their respective suggestions for resolving the grave issue of law and order in the prov-

He lamented that the provincial government had completely failed to resolve the law and order problem, as it had neither convened a cabinet meeting nor initiated any serious discussions in the provincial assembly on the matter.

Rather, the governor said the provincial government was focusing on protests, rallies, and entertainment activities, which were only exacerbating issues.

The governor also remarked that the current actions of the provincial government will not resolve the political challenges being

be able to control the ongoing crisis in the province.

He said the employees of various provincial departments were protesting on roads over delayed salaries, stressing that the provincial government needed to take urgent steps to resolve these issues.

He was of the view that the non-payment of salaries to employees, especially teachers, had caused public anger, which was also affecting law and order in the province. He noted that under

the 18th Amendment, law and order had become the responsibility of the provincial government, but the provincial government's failure prompted him to sent a letter to the Prime Minister as federal representative in this regard.

The governor also pointed out that 26 out of 34 universities in the province currently lacked Vice Chancellors, and assured that he would not allow the sale of any university land.

He stated that if the PTI founding chairman's wife, Bushra Bibi, had been released by an independent

the founder of PTI would also come through the courts rather processions.

He underlined the need for a united front to discuss provincial rights with the federal government.

Regarding developmental projects in the area, the governor mentioned that the Chashma Lift Canal project would soon be inaugurated in Dera Ismail Khan. He also stated that to address the issue of low gas pressure, five new TBS (Turbine Booster Stations) were being installed, and work was ongoing on the gas pipeline in Kotla Syedan and Korai areas.

Governor Kundi also regretted that the political FIR lodged against Jamiat Ulema Islam Fazl (JUI-F) leader Kafeel Ahmed Nizami, stating that such political maneuvers were unacceptable.

He said that despite political differences, such retaliatory actions should not be supported. Earlier, the governor

also condoled with Dera Press Club President Yasin Qureshi over the sad de-



Punjab Governor says: Police should took effective steps to ensure safety of people's lives & property

Independent Report LAHORE: Inspector General Police Punjab, Dr. Usman Anwar called on Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan. Law and Order situation of the province was discussed in the meeting

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that maintaining law and order and protecting the life and property of the people is the responsibility of the government. He said that the police should took effective measures to their lives in the war against

people's lives and property and to prevent crimes. Governor Punjab emphasized that police station culture should be changed and police should help the people in real sense. He said that there will be no compromise on law and order in the province. Governor Punjab strongly condemned the recent incidents of terrorism in the country. He said that the whole nation pays tributes to the personnel of security forces who are laying down

ensure the safety of terrorism. He said that there is a need to work together to control the worsening smog situation in the prov

On this occasion, IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar said that the maintaining law and order in the province is a priority. He said that in view of the recent incidents of terrorism in the country, security has been put on high alert in the province. IG Police said that strict implementation of the SOPs issued by the government regarding smog will be

Islam commands tolerance, good behaviour; says CM **Murad on Tolerance Day**

Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Saturday said that Islam has always commanded tolerance and good behavior

In his message on the occasion of International Day for Tolerance observed every year on November 16, he said that accepting human rights, freedom and respecting each other's point of view was tolerance.

He siad, 'Tolerance is prominent in our culture, that is why all religions and

of different thoughts live with brotherhood in Sindh.' The chief minister

said, we have to respect every religion and ideology. Murad said that doing justice and fairness was tolerance despite differences in religion, civilization, culture, language or color and

He said we want scholars and writers to play their role to further promote tolerance in the

We have capable officers: Tessori

KARACHI (APP): The Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori on Saturday said we have capable officers and youth in the country. He said that Pakistan will have progress and development and we have to move forward. While addressing the Under-training officers of the National Institute of Management, the Governor said that they could play an effective role in the development of the country. He also hoisted flag at the National Institute of Management and planted a sapling.

(APP): Professor Dr. Naseeruddin, Provincial Minister for Agriculture Muhammad Sajjad Barakwal, Member National Assembly Shahid Khan Khattak, Member Provincial Assembly Khurshid Ahmed Khattak, professors and students.

able position among comity The ceremony was of nations by prioritizing

cellor of the university, sources for the purpose **Philippine CG visits** Sundas Foundation,

visited the Sundas Foundation here on Saturday, where he met with patients suffering from thalassemia

expressed his commitment

care to individuals with Sheikh reaffirmed his strong commitment to supporting and assured that he would scale. He committed to supporting the foundation in exploring ways to attract which will help sustain and expand vital services for



LAHORE: DG Khana-e-Farhang Iran Dr. Asghar Masoudi, Vice Chairman of Islamic Culture and Relations Organization Dr. Hussainpour, Mian Anjum Nisar and Saeed Kamrani are inaugurating the exhibition, on the occasion of International Day of Islamic Art organized by Khana Farhang Iran at

Sialkot's Motra area incident culprits to be brought to justice: Hina

of the Provincial Assembly and Chairperson of Punjab Women Protection Authority, Hina Pervaiz Butt, on Saturday stated that those involved in Sialkot's Motra area incident will not only be brought to justice but there is also an urgent need to change societal atti-

here that in Sialkot's Motra area, three suspects involved in the gruesome murder of a pregnant been arrested. A few days ago, the police received information about a woman named Zara who had gone society.

LAHORE (APP): Member missing from her in-laws' house. Under the leadership of DSP Daska and SHO Motra, the police apprehended the culprits within 24 hours and recovered dismembered parts of the victim's body, which the suspects had disposed of in a drain. According to the police, all the accused including the mother-inlaw, sister-in-law, and the sister-in-law's son — have

confessed to their crime. Reacting to this tragic incident, Hina Pervaiz Butt woman by her in-laws have remarked that this sorrowful event in Sialkot exposes the growing intolerance and tendency for violence in our

Punjab govt providing right to emergency care to all citizens

LAHORE (APP): On the tary of Emergency Services World Day of Remem- Department Ziaullah Shah brance for Road Traffic paid rich tribute to emer-Crashes (RTC), Minister Emergency Services & Health Khawaja Salman Rafiq expressed solidarity with the victims of road accidents and said that the provincial government was providing right to emergency care to all citizens through timely provision of emergency ambulance, fire & rescue and motorbike rescue services, patient transfer services and air ambulance. At the same time, motorbikes are requested to wear properly strapped helmet, reduce speed as 83 per cent road traffic victims are associated with motorbikes. He also appealed to tractortrolleys drivers to avoid parking at roadsides and use appropriate light to prevent deaths due to trolley acci-

Parliamentary Secre-

gency services and acknowledged the tireless efforts of Rescuers in providing immediate rescue services to victims of road traffic crashes. He emphasized

KARACHI: Director Coordination DEPO (IDEAS 2024), Brig Ali Adil, ad-

dresses a press briefing about presentation of International Defense Exhibi-

herence to traffic laws. In his message he also expressed concern over the high involvement of motorcycles in road accidents. stating that over 83pc of incidents include motorcycles. "Always keep your motorcycle speed below 50 km/h, drive in extreme left lane, use back mirror and securely fasten your helmet strap," he advised.

on the importance of re-

sponsible driving and ad-

On this occasion, Secretary Emergency Services Dr. Rizwan Naseer appreciated rescuers for providing emergency services to 4.8 million road traffic crashes victims.



PESHAWAR: Chairman's Challenge Donor Feature, Dr. Neil Wetzig along with others addresses to media persons during press conference held at Peshawar press club.

Salman visits PDMA, says efforts intensified to combat smog

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister and Chairman Cabinet Committee on Khawaja Salman Rafique has said that the Punjab government is taking all possible measures to combat smog. During a visit to the Punjab Disaster Man-Authority (PDMA) office on Saturday, he emphasized the importance of public cooperation in addressing the envi-

ronmental challenge. Speaking to the media, the minister highlighted the government's efforts to raise awareness through print, electronic, and social media. "Smog can be avoided by taking precautionary measures, and citizens are urged to follow the advised lockdown for their Khawaja Salman Rafique assured that the provincial government is working on long-term policies to eliminate smog, focusing on sustainable solutions to address the recurring issue. During the visit, the minister toured the PDMA control room to review the smog situation. PDMA Director Zaheer Liaquat provided a detailed briefing on the current levels of fog and smog, informing the minister that the situation is expected to persist for the next few days. The PDMA is actively conducting public awareness campaigns to educate citizens on preventive measures against smog. The minister reiterated the government's commit-

ment to protecting public

health and urged citizens to

adhere to safety guidelines.

Governor expresses condolence over demise of Bilour

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Saturday expressed his profound grief and sorrow over the death of former Senator Ilyas Ahmad Bilour.

In a statement, the Governor extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, offering his deepest sympathies during this difficult time. "The death of Ilyas

Ahmad Bilour is an immense loss, not only to his family but to the entire province." said Governor Kundi. 'His contributions to society and politics will always be remembered, and his legacy will continue to inspire future generations."

Judges inspect district jail in Muzaffargarh

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): Additional District and Sessions Judge Chaudhry Muhammad Asif, accompanied by Senior Judge Chaudhry Imran Ali, visited the District Jail.

The judges inspected various barracks, including the juvenile ward, where they inquired about cases involving children and facilities provided to them, expressing their satisfaction. They also visited the jail kitchen to evaluate food quality, which they commended, and inspected the jail hospital to check on the health of incarcerated pa-

The judges examined the Public Call Office (PCO) to assess telephone facilities available to in-

One falls to death in well

BUREWALA (APP): A man died and another sustained serious injuries when they fell into a well while stealing wires and other goods from a tube-well in 245/EB village.

According to details, wo drug-addicts, later identified as Muhammad Tayyib and Muhammad Faheem, attempted to steal power cables and other items from a tube-well when they fell into the well. As a result, Tayyib died and Faheem sustained injuries.

On being informed by locals, Rescue-1122 reached the spot and brought out the body and the injured person from the well.

Chief Secretary chairs important meeting on polio eradication tus of polio vaccination

LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Health and Emergency Services Khawaja

Salman Rafique being briefed by Secretary 1122 Dr. Rizwan Naseer regard-

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Nadeem Aslam Chaudhary, presided over a critical meeting on polio eradication in the province the other day that was attended by Commissioners of D.I. Khan, Kohat, and Peshawar Divi-

sions, the Director General of Health, and provincial and federal officials working on polio eradication. Representatives from international organizations, including Deputy Director Polio Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, representatives of UNICEF, and the

The meeting aimed at evaluating strategies and measures to combat polio in light of the recent cases reported in the province.

WHO, also participated in

the meeting

Health officials provided a comprehensive briefing on the current situation, including details about affected children, sta-

campaigns in union councils, and overall challenges. During the session, participants discussed the recent surge in polio cases in specific areas and devised strategic decisions to reassess and enhance the eradication strategy. Emphasis was placed on garnering increased public support to address this critical public health challenge effectively. Addressing the participants, Chief Secretary

Nadeem Aslam Chaudhary stressed the importance of public cooperation, involvement, and awareness in the fight against polio. He directed divisional and district authorities to take further proactive steps to ensure community engagement. "Public cooperation has been pivotal in our polio eradication efforts so far, and it remains indispensable until the complete elimination of the virus," he



RAWALPINDI: Residents of a private housing society are protesting outside the RDA office due to non-availability of facilities.

ing preventing road accidents during his visit to 1122 Head Office. Two killed, several injured in road mishap

PESHAWAR (APP): At least two youths were killed and several others were injured when two motorcycles collided headon in Nowshera district on Saturday morning.

According to a police spokesman, the mishap occurred in the Shedoo area of Nowshera district, where two speedy motorcycles collided head-on. As a result, two youths, namely Waqar and Hashir Shahid were killed on the spot while two others were in jured. Rescue workers shifted the deceased and in jured to a nearby hospital.

Cleanup operation intensified in Multan

MULTAN (APP): A largescale anti-encroachment operation is in full swing, as the Municipal Corporation has taken significant steps to clear encroachments in various areas, including Vehari Road, Hussain Agahi and Ghanta Ghar, Shalimar Colony and Chugi Number 9 here on Saturday. During these operations, the municipal corporation teams removed encroachments and goods from public spaces. According to a spokesman, Commissioner Multan Marvam Khan instructed the authorities concerned to adopt a zero-tolerance policy towards encroachments.He warned that strict action would be taken.

tolerance, respect, harmony in society Chief Minister Maryam Azam Muhammad Ali Nawaz Sharif has empha-Jinnah. "Educational instisized the immense importutions must teach the valtance of tolerance, respect, ues of tolerance, respect, and love to the younger generation," she stated. and harmony in society. In her message on International Day for Toler-Hatred and prejudice only

equally and with respect,

emphasizing that Pakistan

must strive to become an

ance being celebrated on weaken societies, she men-Saturday, the CM noted that the Holy Prophet CM Maryam Nawaz Muhammad (PBUH) set further stressed that the exemplary standards of tolideal society is one that enerance throughout His life, sures equal opportunities and it is imperative for us and rights for all citizens. to follow His teachings. 'We must accept differences and promote mutual "Tolerance, respect, and understanding form the respect, tolerance, and digfoundation of a successful nity. Pakistan should be a and peaceful society," the beacon of peace, tolerance, CM said. The world is a and brotherhood," she mix of diverse beliefs, culadded. The CM reiterated the need for a society where tures, and ideologies, and it is essential to respect all of all individuals are treated

CM Punjab stresses

them, she added. The chief minister also highlighted the impor-



VEHARI: Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani attended "Rasm-e-Qul' of political figure, late MNA Noor Muhammad Khan Bhabha, at Dera Noor Khan Bhabha in Mauza Malku of Tehsil Mailsi.

Govt. working to align education with needs of modern era: Minister

PESHAWAR Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Higher Education Meena Khan Afridi has said that the provincial government was making tireless efforts to align education with the needs of the modern era and to produce market oriented best man-

He expressed these views while addressing the inaugural ceremony of newly constructed building of Khushal Khan Khattak University Karak as the

chief guest on Saturday. also attended by Vice Chan-

The provincial minister said that it was a good that literacy rate in Karak district was very encouraging and added that there was still a need to popularize re-search culture. We can only progress and achieve respect-

education and utilizing re-

pledges support LAHORE (APP): Fahdel about the foundation's ef-

and hemophilia. During the visit, Fahdel Sheikh toured the facilities and reviewed the various services provided by the foundation. He distributed gifts and sweets to the patients and pledged ongoing support. He also

blood disorders. Fahdel the foundation's mission play an active role in promoting its work on a global further international aid, thalassemia and hemophilia patients in Pakistan.



Al Hamra Art Council of the provincial capital.

It is worth mentioning

Pak unveils first National **Carbon Market Policy to** attract green investment

BAKU (APP): Coordinator industries to adopt cleaner to monetise its emissions to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam, has said that Pakistan is now actively exploring the development of carbon markets as a key strategy to meet its climate goals, attract green investments and transition toward a low-carbon economy as a part of efforts geared towards achieving environmental sustainability and climate resilience in the country.

'Let me say this confidently that Pakistan is now ready to lead, innovate, and collaborate with local private sector as well as international partners for the development of carbon markets to attract investments in green initiatives for achieving climate goals under the Paris climate pact," she announced while addressing a high-level event 'Launch of Pakistan's Carbon market Policy & Panel on Coordinated Access to Net Zero Development Financing Through Paris-Aligned Carbon Markets' held here at Pakistan Pavilion on the sidelines of COP29 global climate con-

such markets, Pakistan can mitment to the Paris Agreeincentivize businesses and ment, enabling the country kets."

technologies and practices, reductions while support-

Carbon markets provide a platform for trading carbon credits, which represent a reduction or removal of climate-altering greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. These markets operate on the principles of "cap-and-trade" systems or credit-based mechanisms, allowing entities to buy, sell or offset their emis-

"This launch is just the beginning. The government of Pakistan is fully committed to supporting the development of this market, ensuring it becomes a cornerstone of our climate strategy and a catalyst for sustainable development," she told the participants of the launching ceremony, which was attended by members of international civil society organisations, delegation members of different countries, academia, researchers, policymakers

The PM's climate aide also said that the intended establishment of a robust carbon market mechanism would align By participating in well with Pakistan's com-

ISLAMABAD: People are selecting and purchasing second-hand warm clothes from Landa Bazaar at Zia Masjid Stop along Expressway.

On his part, Ambas-

Chamber's ongoing collabo-

ration with the Consulate

General of Pakistan in New

York and thanked Jaffe for

his support and interest in

Pakistan's recent 5th Inter-

national Textile and Leather

Exhibition (TEXPO) 2024,

held in Karachi last month

Chamber to participate in

the upcoming 4th Engineer-

ing & Healthcare Show

scheduled to take place in

Lahore in April 2025. Dur-

ing the meeting, the Ambas-

sador highlighted the piv-

otal role of Pakistan's Spe-

cial Investment Facilitation

He also invited the

for the

Pak envoy to US, Greater NY

Chamber of Commerce chief

discuss boosting investment

Chamber of Commerce, sador Sheikh expressed ap-

preciation

head of Greater New York

Mark Jaffe, Friday ex-

pressed strong interest in

Pakistan's textile, leather,

surgical, and IT sectors in a

meeting with Pakistani

Ambassador to the US,

Rizwan Saeed Sheikh, at

which they discussed ini-

tiatives aimed at boosting

New York-Pakistan bilat-

eral trade and investment,

according to a embassy

press release. Jaffee, who

is president and Chief ex-

ecutive officer of the Cham-

ber, also outlined efforts to

promote trade and invest-

ment between New York

and Pakistan and assured

his commitment to dissemi-

ing sustainable development and climate action through investment in various adaptation and mitigation-related initiatives.

Explaining about the nature of possible carbon markets in Pakistan, the PM's climate aide told the event participants that Pakistan aims to accelerate clean technology deployment and attract investment in sectors and projects with significant emissions reduction potential, including energy, agriculture, waste management, and forestry.

Inviting local, regional

and international potential partners interested in development of carbon markets in the country, Romina Khurshid Alam said,"We are also ready to work together with partners and collaborators interested in jointly setting up carbon markets to make this national carbon market policy not just functional but transformative, pavsustainable and resilient future and win-win situation for the country and those interested to constructing the carbon mar-

Gold price

down by

Rs. 300

per tola

LAHÔRE (APP): Gold

price in Lahore and across

the country saw marginal

losses on Saturday, with

24-karat gold being hover-

ing at Rs. 267,400 per tola.

cal Sarafa Market Associa-

tion reveals bullion moved

down in international and

local markets on last day of

The price of gold per ounce dropped by \$3, set-

tling at \$2,562 in the global

bullion market. Meanwhile

the price of 24-Karat gold

plunged by Rs. 300, bring-

ing the cost of one tola to

Rs. 267,400 while price of

10 grams of gold decreased

by Rs. 258, reaching Rs.

LESCO's

1,933 feeder

declared load

shedding free

,933 out of the total of

According to LESCO

2,221 feeders as load-shed-

spokesman here Saturday,

the Chief Engineer (Opera-

tions) Abbas Ali has re-

leased new categories of the

feeders. Out of 2221, he

added, 1933 feeders were

declared load shedding free.

ries, 1601 feeders with zero

to 10 percent line losses

have been placed under cat-

egory one; and 332 feeders

with 10 to 20 percent line

losses placed under cat-

egory two. No load shed-

ding is being done on the

feeders included in the first

As per the new catego-

the week

229,252.

ding free.

Data shared by the lo-

down Rs. 300 per tola.



Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, SVP FPCCI and Mr. Abdul Ali Khan, DG Explosives, are presiding over the session on the issues of petrochemical sector at Federation House, Karachi. Mian Zahid Hussain, Chairman FPCCI-PAB and prominent chemical importers, traders and industrialists were also present

Indonesian Embassy hosts networking event to strengthen Pak-Indonesia economic ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): In- Expo Indonesia (TEI), donesian Embassy in Islamabad organized a highprofile Hi-Tea networking event at local hotel here Saturday to strengthen Indonesia-Pakistan economic collaboration following successful expos in Jakarta and CEOs Summit Bali

This gathering celebrated the success of three pivotal business events in Indonesia: the 39th Trade Expo Indonesia (TEI), the Indonesia-South and Central Asia Business Forum (INASCA), Tourism Bali and the CEO Summit 2024, held in Jakarta and Bali from October 7 to 16,

The event brought together distinguished Pakistani businessmen who had participated in these key events, alongside prospective traders eager to explore opportunities with Indone-

It served as a critical olatform for feedback, follow-up, and exploring ways to strengthen economic ties between Indonesia and Pa-

A central focus of the evening was the 39th Trade which showcased Indonesia's leading products, innovations, and investment opportunities.

The event attracted a record 229 Pakistani participants, positioning Pakistan as the 9th-largest group of attendees, according to Indonesia's Ministry of

The Indonesia-South and Central Asia Business Forum (INASCA) brought together influential business leaders, policymakers, and investors to discuss trade, investment, and regional collaboration.

This forum underscored the untapped potential for economic cooperation between Indonesia and the South and Central Asian regions.

At the CEO Summit 2024 in Bali, top executives from Indonesia and Pakistan engaged in in-depth discussions on leadership, sustainability, and strategic partnerships, paving the way for robust business collaborations.

Mr Rahmat Hindiarta Kusuma, Chargé d'Affaires of the Indonesian Embassy in Islamabad, applauded

pation of Pakistani delegates. "For the first time in TEI history, a significant number of Pakistani business representatives attended major events in Indonesia, highlighting a new chapter of growth and collaboration. This is a testament to the strong and growing ties be-

tween our countries," he

stated Mr. Kusuma also emphasized the importance of science and technology exchange in addressing shared challenges such as environmental issues. He shared insights from Indonesia's success in combating haze issues in Sumatera, through innovative palm oil plantation management.

Dr. Ijaz Nisar, President of the CEO Club Pakistan, expressed gratitude to the Indonesian Embassy for facilitating these engagements.

He stressed the importance of structured, results-oriented efforts, with an eye toward the upcoming 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Indonesia and Paki-

Atif Ikram says: **Objections raised** on amendment in petroleum Act 1934

Independent Report

ARACHI: Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, has apprised that Mr. Abdul Ali Khan, Director General of Explosives, has visited FPCCI Head Office and met with the representatives of chemical importers, traders, industrialists and trade bodies. We have been receiving complaints from importers for the past many months that after the amendment carried out in the Petroleum Act 1934 on August 5, 2023 – introducing Clauses A, B and C pertaining to categorizing petrochemicals – there have been numerous anomalies, discrepancies and misunderstandings in the applicable category of chemicals, he added

Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh explained that there are thousands of industrial chemicals in the world; which are used as industrial raw materials; and, not all chemicals required to be handled like inflammable petroleum products. The challenges to comply with the new amendment becomes starker for small and enterprises (SMEs) due to their lack of infrastructure and size of resolve the most pressing their industrial units, he

Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, SVP FPCCI, stressed that due to unnecessary and complicated conditionalities in licensing. storage and transportation of petrochemicals, there is a growing concern of shortage of chemicals used industrial raw materials. There will a very negative and debilitating effect on industrial production and exports of the country, he

SVP FPCCI said that FPCCI recommends that the introduction of Clause B & C Chemicals through last year's amendment in Petroleum Act should be withdrawn or sus-pended – until and un-less the issue has been resolved. It is counterproductive for ease of doing business for multiple industries, including textiles, he added.

Mr. Magoon expressed his satisfaction that the explosives department is willing to exempt, on a case to case basis on FPCCI's recommendations, the specific chemicals from Clause B & C on genuine reasons. This will help the industry to and urgent issues, he



ISLAMABAD: People are selecting and purchasing second-hand shoes from Landa Bazaar at Zia Masjid Stop along Expressway.

30pc cash withdrawal facility to be available through Kisan card

MULTAN (APP): Secre- through online. tary Agriculturé Punjab Iftikhar Ali Sahu chaired a Sahu said that the Punjab meeting at the CM has introduced a spe-Commissioner's Office here cial package aimed at proto discuss strategy for moting wheat cultivation. boosting wheat cultivation across the region.

The meeting was attended by Special Secretary Agriculture South Punjab Sarfraz Hussain Magsi, Commissioner Multan Maryam Khan, Additional Secretary Task Force Shabbir Ahmed Khan, and other key officials, with Deputy Commissioners from Khanewal, Vehari, and

Lodhran participated

Secretary Iftikhar

The package included the free distribution of 1,000 tractors and as many laser

land levelers through balloting draw. He emphasized that every possible resources were being utilized to achieve the wheat cultivation target, with a goal of sowing wheat on 1.82 million acres in the Multan division. So far, wheat has been cultivated on over 9,37,000 acres.

UAJK organizes expo to guide students career pathway

(APP): The Allied Health Society of the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK), in collaboration with Pakistan Army, marked the second day of the Allied Health Sciences Expo 2024 with an exciting blend of academic engagement, cultural exhibitions and skill-building sessions. Among the highlights of the day was an exclusive ses-

MUZAFFARABAD ered by Mubashar Naqvi, Public Relations Officer of

This impactful session focused on empowering students with the skills needed to craft professional and compelling resumes tailored to the needs of the modern job market. Speaking to a packed audience, Mubashar Naqvi emphasized the importance of a well-organized resume in sion titled "The Actual Art creating a strong first im-

KP Governor inaugurates development projects worth Rs 230m in DI Khan DERA ISMAIL KHAN would bring improvements

ISLAMABAD: Vendor displaying traditional items on his stall to attract

visitors during the 10-Day "Folk Festival Lok Mela 2024" at Lok Virsa in

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi inaugurated the newly completed

the Federal Capital.

development projects worth Rs 230 million in the LAHORE (APP): Lahore Electric Supply Company district here on Saturday. Addressing the inau-(LESCO) has declared

guration ceremony in the rural area of Diyal, the governor praised the Pakistan Red Crescent Society Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for

Khan Miankhel, District in health, education, and basic facilities in the region.

The ceremony was attended by various local leaders and officials, including Pakistan Peoples Party's Parliamentary Leader in the Khyber DHQ office and 16 BHUs Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, Ahmed Karim Kundi, Chairman of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Habib Malik Orakzai, PPP

Secretary Arshad Dival and other dignitaries. Governor

Karim Kundi highlighted that the Red Crescent team had successfully completed the renovation of the at a cost of Rs 60 million in just five months, alongside completing the solarization process

He said these projects

completing the projects, saying these initiatives Divisional President Qaizar would not only improve the area's infrastructure. of Resume Writing," deliv-pression with employers. Taxing tobacco vital to reduce consumption, saving lives: Experts LAMABAD (APP): industry to target consumtobacco products, a bench-products, given their growcies' health and economic

ISLAMABAD (APP): industry to target consum- tobacco products, a bench-Speakers at a seminar believed in commitment to leveraging taxation as a critical tool for public health economic

sustainability. The seminar titled Taxing Tobacco: A Path to Reducing Consumption and Saving Lives", was organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute, served as a pivotal forum to address the critical need for a robust and sustainable tobacco taxation policy in Pakistan, said a press release issued here on Saturday

Experts believe that the current two-tiered tobacco taxation system enables the tobacco industry to undermine the impact of tax increases. By preemptively raising prices ahead of budget announcements, the industry dilutes the intended public health benefits. The absence of taxation on smokeless tobacco products such as Naswar and the minimal regulation of nicotine pouches further exacerbate the issue, creating loopholes that allow the

channels. Against this backdrop, the seminar served as a call to action for developing a structured, long-term taxation policy that ensures equitable coverage of all tobacco products, reduces affordability, and mitigates health risks.

Drawing inspiration from the World Health Organization's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) and the MPOWER framework, discussions revolved around adapting global best practices to the Pakistani con-

Speakers underscored the importance of introducing health-specific taxes to fund public health programs, combating crossborder smuggling through regional collaboration, and expanding the track-andtrace system to include exports and smokeless to-

bacco products. The recommendations were aligned with the WHO's guideline of achieving a minimum 70% tax share in the retail price of

ers through alternative mark Pakistan has yet to

Syed Wasif Ali Naqvi, Senior Research Associate and Head of Policy Advocacy and Outreach at SDPI, reiterated that tobacco taxation is a proven tool for reducing tobacco use and generating revenue. He acknowledged the persistent challenges posed by a lack of long-term policies and industry interference.

Dr. Waseem Iftikhar Janjua highlighted the irrationality in the tobacco taxation system of Pakistan and emphasized the necessity of a progressive taxation policy to reduce the affordability of tobacco products while aligning with global health stan-

He highlighted the disparity between Pakistan's tobacco tax rate and the WHO-recommended benchmark, advocating for regular adjustments to account for inflation. Dr. Waseem also called for comprehensive policies governing nicotine pouches and smokeless tobacco

ing market share and the benefits.

absence of regulation. cigarette sales—a prevalent bacco stakeholders to enpractice among youth underscored the need for stricter enforcement to deter initiation and reduce affordability.
Asif Iqbal stressed the

importance of a stable 3-5year taxation framework to address the uncertainties and reactive measures that dominate annual budget cycles. He pointed to the widening tax gap between economy-tier and premium-tier brands as a critical area for reform, advocating for gradual increases in economy-tier taxes to minimize disparities. Additionally, he emphasized tackling illicit trade, noting that targeted enforcement measures have significantly reduced the prevalence of low-taxed cigarette sales in recent years.

Khurram Hashmi, Senior Technical Lead, Vital Strategies, focused on countering the tobacco industry's narrative by highlighting stringent poli-

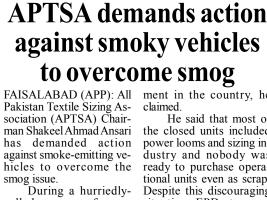
He called for a unified

His analysis of loose approach among anti-tosure consistent advocacy and influence during budget deliberations. He underscored the

goal of prioritizing public health over industry profits through equitable and effective taxation measures

Bringing together policymakers, public health experts, economists, and civil society representatives, the event emphasized the urgency of evidencebased taxation measures to curb tobacco consumption and improve public health outcomes. Pakistan's current taxation framework for tobacco products remains inconsistent and heavily influenced by political dynamics rather than strategic planning.

The seminar aimed to consolidate civil society's recommendations for the upcoming budget, fostering collaborative efforts to counter the tobacco industry's pervasive influ-



nating information about Council (SIFC) in fostering Pakistan's upcoming trade investment opportunities

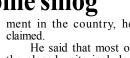
events to the Chamber's ex- across multiple sectors.

hicles to overcome the smog issue.

During a hurriedlycalled press conference against the demolition of industrial units in Faisalabad, he said that 60% industrial units had already been closed down due to political instability and high tariffs of electricity. The anti-industry steps of the Environment Protection Department (EPD) would not only disturb the pro-

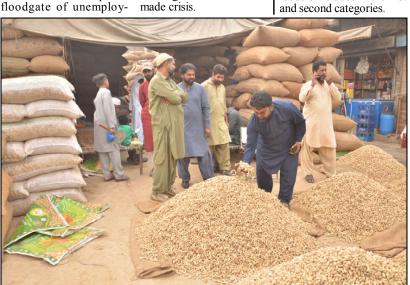
He said that most of industrial units.

He termed smog as a curse of nature and said that duction but also open a



the closed units included power looms and sizing industry and nobody was ready to purchase operational units even as scrap. Despite this discouraging situation, EPD steps are tantamount to harassing the business community by razing sizing industrial units under the garb of smog, he alleged and urged industrialists to take a joint stand to stop the demolition of

we must seek mercy of Allah to get rid of this man-



FAISALABAD: Citizens buying groundnut Ghallah Mandi in the city.

Hamas says 'ready for ceasefire' as Israel presses Gaza campaign

Monitoring Desk JERUSALEM: A senior Hamas official said on Friday (Nov 15) that the group is "ready for a ceasefire" in Gaza, urging United States President-elect Donald Trump to "pressure" Israel as it continued to pound the Palestinian territory.

It comes nearly a week after Qatar, which hosts much of the Palestinian group's political bureau, announced it was suspending its role as a mediator in the war and urging all parties to show "seriousness".

"Hamas is ready to reach a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip if a ceasefire proposal is presented and on the condition that it is respected" by Israel, Dohabased Hamas political bureau member Bassem Naim told AFP.

"We call on the US administration and Trump to pressure the Israeli government to end the aggression." "Hamas informed the mediators that it is in favour

Gaza Strip, allowing the overnight strikes. return of displaced people, a serious deal for a prisoner exchange, the entry of humanitarian aid and reconstruction," Naim added.

The demands are the same ones Hamas has made in successive rounds of ceasefire negotiations since the start of the war.

On Saturday, Qatar announced it was suspending its role as a mediator in indirect talks towards a ceasefire and hostage release deal in the Gaza war Hamas' Oct 7, 2023 attack that has ground on for more than a year.

"Qatar would resume parties show their willingness and seriousness, Doha's foreign ministry spokesman Majed Al Ansari said in a statement. Friday's announcement by

of any proposal submitted residents of the central city to it that would lead to a of Deir el-Balah searching definitive ceasefire and mili-through the rubble of their tary withdrawal from the destroyed homes after

> "I woke up to the bombing at 2.30am and was surprised by the rubble and glass falling on me and my children," said Mohamed Baraka, one of the residents, adding that the strike "resulted in three martyrs and 15 injuries". "Put an end to this war ... because there are innocent people who are losing defenseless children who have nothing to do with this," he said.

The war erupted with on Israel which resulted in 1,206 deaths, mostly civilians, according to an AFP those efforts ... when the tally of Israeli official figures. Israel's retaliatory campaign has killed 43,764 people in Gaza, most of them civilians, according to figures from the Hamas-run territory's health ministry Hamas came as Israel con- that the United Nations



Daughter of the late killed civil rights leader Malcolm X, Ilyasah Shabazz, speaks alongside attorney Ben Crump and legal team during a news conference to announce a lawsuit against government agencies and the New York City Police Department for the alleged assassination and concealment of evidence surrounding Malcolm X's murder in New York Citv.

Ukraine slams Scholz after first call with Putin in two years

Ükrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky accused firmed the call between Germany's Olaf Scholz Scholz and Putin, which on Friday of playing into it said was held at the inthe hands of Russian President Vladimir Putin after the chancellor spoke by phone to the Kremlin chief for the first time in almost two years.

In the call, Scholz "condemned Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and called on President Putin to end it and withdraw troops", the chancellor's spokesman Steffen Hebestreit

The German leader approach, their promise "urged Russia to show willingness to negotiate Zelensky said in an interwith Ukraine with the aim view with Ukrainian meof achieving a just and dia outlet Suspilne.

Spy world vexed by Trump choice of Gabbard as **US** intelligence chief lasting peace", Hebestreit

Monitoring Desk The Kremlin con-WASHINGTON: Presiaccused firmed the call between dent-elect Donald Trump's choice of Tulsi Gabbard as US intelligence chief has vitation of the German sent shockwaves through the national security establishment, adding to con-Separately Zelensky said Friday that cerns that the sprawling in-Russia's war against his telligence community will country will "end sooner" become increasingly politithan it otherwise would cized.

have done once Donald Trump's nomination Trump becomes US of Gabbard, a former president next year. Democratic congress-"It is certain that the woman who lacks deep intelligence experience and is war will end sooner with the policies of the team seen as soft on Russia and that will now lead the Syria, is among several White House. This is their high-level picks that suggest he may be prioritiztheir citizens," ing personal allegiance over competence as he assembles his second-term dependent experts.

Malcolm X's family sues US law enforcement agencies over his assassination

Monitoring Desk NEW YORK CITY: The family of Malcolm X, a militant civil-rights leader who was assassinated almost 60 years ago, filed a \$100-million federal lawsuit on Friday that accuses the FBI, CIA and New York Police Department of allowing his murder to be carried out.

The lawsuit, brought by Malcolm X's daughter Ilyasah Shabazz and other family members, alleges the law-enforcement agencies concealed evidence that they had known of the plot to kill him but did nothing to stop it.
"We believe that they

all conspired to assassinate Malcolm X, one of the greatest thought leaders of the 20th century," Ben nounced last year

Crump, a civil rights attorney who is representing the family, said at a press con-

The wrongful-death lawsuit was announced at a memorial centre on the site in New York City where Malcolm X was killed. It seeks to answer

questions surrounding the assassination, and paint an accurate history of the events, Crump said.

It is also intended to bring reparations to the fam-

A spokesperson for the New York Police Department was not immediately available for comment, but the department previously told Reuters it would not comment on the litigation when it was an-

team. Among the risks, say current and former intelligence officials and in-All primary schools shut in

New Delhi due

to smog

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: India's government banned non-essential construction in New Delhi, the world's most polluted capital, and urged residents to avoid burning coal for heating, to combat worsening air quality that has disrupted flights and obscured the Taj Mahal. The new measures, which include sprinkling water with dust suppressants on mechanised sweeping that would help settle dust, will come into effect from Friday morning. Delhi's Chief Minister Atishi, who uses only one name, also directed

all primary schools to shift



An official of the fire brigade speaks to the media near the retirement home that caught fire.



Police officers examine the damaged neonatal intensive care unit after a fire broke out at the Maharani Laxmibai Medical College in Jhansi district, in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, India.

Gaza aid access 'at a low point', UN official says

Monitoring Desk GENEVA: Aid access in Gaza is at a low point with deliveries to parts of the besieged north of the enclave all but impossible, a UN humanitarian official said on Friday (Nov 15).

The remarks run counter to a US assessment earlier this week that Israel is not currently impeding humanitarian aid for the Gaza Strip, avoiding restrictions on US military aid. Israel has said it has worked hard to assist the humanitarian needs in Gaza.

"From our perspective, on all indicators you can possibly think of in a humanitarian response, all of them are going in the regrouping.

wrong direction," said Jens Laerke, spokesperson for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, in response to a question at a Geneva press briefing about whether humanitarian access had improved. "Access is at a low point. Chaos, suffering, despair, death, destruction, displacement are at a high point," he added.

Laerke voiced concern about north Gaza where residents have been ordered to head south as Israeli forces' more than monthlong incursion continues. Israel says its operations there are designed to prevent Hamas fighters from

Fire kills 10 people in **Spanish retirement home**

Monitoring Desk VILLAFRANCA EBRO: Ten people were killed after a fire broke out in a retirement home in the northern Spanish town of Villafranca de Ebro early on Friday, authorities said.

The blaze started in one of the rooms, Fernando Beltran, the federal government's top official in Aragon region, told reporters.

All the victims were elderly people living in the Jardines de Villafranca residence, a care home for people with mental health issues, Aragon regional president Jorge Azcon told reporters.

One person was in a "critical condition" and another in a "serious condition". Azcon said. The fire started at

around 5am (0400 GMT) and it took about two hours for firefighters to extinguish it, a spokesperson for the regional government said.

Firefighter Eduardo Sanchez told reporters the fire was contained to the room where it started and that the fataliinhalation.

Elon Musk met Iran's UN ambassador, NYT says

Monitoring Desk YORK: Elon Musk, the tech billionaire closely allied with US president-elect Donald Trump, met Iran's ambassador to the United Nations in a bid to defuse tensions between Tehran and Washington, The New York Times reported.

The newspaper quoted anonymous Iranian sources as describing the meeting between the world's richest person and Ambassador Amir Saeid Iravani as "positive".

Former Taiwan president Tsai to visit Canada next week

Monitoring Desk TAIPEI: Former Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen is planning to visit Canada next week, two diplomatic sources told Reuters, in a highly watched visit for a senior Taiwan politician who has become a symbol of the island's defiance against China's military threat.

Canada, like most countries, has no official diplomatic ties with Chinese-claimed Taiwan, but the economic and political exchanges between the two sides have increased as Beijing ratchets up military ties were caused by smoke | threats against the democratic island



Pro-Palestinian protesters hold a demonstration in front of the City Hall in Orlanda, Florida, a cop tries to extinguish flames after a man set himself on fire during a protest near the White House in Washington, DC.

Trump is already testing **Congress and daring** Republicans to oppose him

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: After a resounding election victory, delivering what Presidentelect Donald Trump and Republicans call a "mandate" to govern, an uneasy political question is emerging: Will there be any room for dissent in the U.S. Congress?

Trump is laying down a gauntlet even before taking office challenging the Senate, in particular, to dare defy him over the nominations of Matt Gaetz, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and other controversial choices for his

Cabinet and administration positions. The promise of unified government, with the Republican Party's sweep of the White House and GOP majorities in the House and Senate, is making way for a more complicated political reality as congressional leaders confront anew what it means to line up with Trump's agenda. "This is going to be a red alert moment for American democracy," Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., said on CNN after Trump tapped Gaetz for attorney general

Philippines braces for typhoon Man-yi as Usagi weakens

Monitoring Desk MANILA: Typhoon Usagi weakened sharply on Friday after bearing down on the Philippines' northern towns, blowing away houses in its path as authorities brace for another storm that could hit the capital

Manila over the weekend. Usagi, known locally as Ofel, intensified into a super typhoon as it made landfall in the town of Baggao in Cagayan province on Thursday afternoon. Philippine meteorological agency Pag-asa said that Usagi has since weakened and is now headed to-

wards Taiwan. Usagi is the 15th cyclone to hit the Philippines the storm.

this year. Officials are already bracing for another typhoon, Man-yi, which could hit eastern towns and the capital region over the weekend as it continues to intensify in the western

Man-yi could become a supertyphoon on early Sunday, Pag-asa said.

No casualties have yet been reported from Usagi, even as thousands of families living in vulnerable communities fled ahead of its

Rueli Rapsing, head of the Cagayan disaster relief office, said town officials are still probing the extent of the damage from

China seeks to build Moon base with lunar bricks

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: China is seeking to push forward in its quest to build the first lunar base, launching an inspace experiment to test whether the base's bricks could be made from the Moon's own soil. A cargo rocket carrying brick samples blasted off on Friday for the Tiangong space station, part of Beijing's mission to put humans on the Moon by 2030 and build a permanent base there by 2035. "China launched the cargo craft Tianzhou-8 from the Wenchang satellite launch

Schools empty as smog persists in New Delhi **Monitoring Desk**

NEW DELHI: Residents in India's capital again woke under a blanket of choking smog on Friday, a day after authorities closed primary schools and imposed measures aimed at alleviating the annual crisis.

New Delhi and the surrounding metropolitan area, home to more than 30 million people, consistently top world rankings for air pollution in winter.

The smog is blamed for thousands of premature deaths every year and is an annual source of misery for residents, with various piecemeal government initiatives failing to measurably address the problem.

critical in hospital fire in **India's Uttar Pradesh**

Monitoring Desk UTTAR PRADĔSH: A fire at the neonatal unit of an Indian hospital killed 10 newborns, authorities said on Saturday, with another

oxygen machine. Building fires are common in India due to shoddy construction and a routine disregard for safety regulations. The fire broke out at about 10:30pm (5pm GMT) on Friday night at the Maharani Lakshmibai Medical College in Jhansi, around 450 kilometres south

16 clinging to life after a

of the capital New Delhi. Footage from the scene showed charred beds and walls inside the ward as a crowd of anguished families waited outside.

"My child has gone as she clutched her head in atmosphere.

10 newborns killed, 16

Babies rescued from the fire, all only days old, were laid side by side on a bed elsewhere in the hospital as hospital staff hooked up their arms to intraveblaze blamed on a faulty nous drips.

"Ten infants have sadly died," Uttar Pradesh deputy chief minister Brajesh Pathak told report-

"Seven bodies have been identified. Three bodies haven't been identified

Another 16 infants who were rescued were undergoing medical treatment, police superintendent Gyanendra Kumar Singh

He also said the fire likely started in a piece of machinery used to enrich forever," one mother wailed the level of oxygen in the

Iran backs Lebanon in ceasefire talks, seeks end to 'problems'

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: Iran will back any decision taken by Lebanon in talks to secure a ceasefire with Israel, a senior Iranian official said on Friday (Nov 15), signalling Tehran wants to see an end to a conflict

that has dealt heavy blows to its Lebanese ally Hezbollah. Israel launched airstrikes in the Hezbollahcontrolled southern suburbs of Beirut, flattening buildings for a fourth consecutive day. Israel has stepped up its bombardment of the area this week, an escalation that has coincided with signs of movement in USled diplomacy towards a ceasefire. Two senior Lebanese political sources told Reuters that the US ambassador to Lebanon had presented a draft ceasefire proposal to Lebanon's parliament speaker Nabih Berri the previous day. Berri is endorsed by Hezbollah to

Iranian official Ali Larijani

negotiate and met the senior

ference whether he had come to Beirut to undermine the US truce plan, Larijani said: "We are not looking to sabotage anything. We are after a solution to the problems.

"We support in all circumstances the Lebanese government. Those who are disrupting are Netanyahu and his people," Larijani added, referring to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Hezbollah founded by Iran's Revolutionary Guards in 1982, and has been armed and financed by Tehran.

One major sticking point is Israel's demand to retain freedom to act should Hezbollah violate any agreement - a demand Leba-

non has rejected. Israel launched its offensive against Hezbollah after almost a year of crossborder hostilities ignited by the Gaza war, declaring it wanted to secure the return home of tens of thousands of people forced to evacuon Friday. of people forced to evac Asked at a news con-

Chinese and Philippine forces again avoid a clash in a fiercely disputed shoal under a rare deal

Monitoring Desk MANILA: The Philippine navy transported food and other supplies to a territorial ship outpost in a shoal in the South China Sea without any confrontation with Chinese forces guarding the disputed area, officials said

The Philippine delivery of supplies and military personnel on Thursday to the Second Thomas Shoal was the third such trip that did not lead to any confrontation since July, when both sides signed a rare deal to stop an alarming spike in violent confrontations.

"The Armed Forces of the Philippines continues to uphold its mandate of safeguarding Philippine sovereignty and ensuring the welfare of its stationed personnel in the West Philippine Sea," military

spokesperson Col. Xerxes Trinidad said, using the Philippine name for the South China Sea.

"There were no untoward incidents during the mission," Trinidad said. The Philippines occu-

pied the shoal by permanently beaching a navy ship in its shallows in 1999 prompting China, which also claims it, to surround the atoll with its coast guard and naval forces in what has been a continuing territorial standoff.

Called Ayungin by the Philippines and Ren'ai Jiao by China, the shoal had been the most dangerous flashpoint in the South China Sea and became the scene of increasingly violent confrontations starting last year that alarmed other governments, led by the United States.

Call for judicial coalition of 'most vulnerable countries' to push for climate finance

Monitoring Desk BAKU: A panel discussion organised at the Pakistan Pavilion on Thursday — on the sidelines of the COP29 summit — underscored the importance of the judiciary in the quest for climate justice, arguing the judicial bodies can help address the urgent environmental challenges with socioeconomic and developmental challenges, particularly in the Global South.

The session, titled 'Judicial Pathways Towards Climate Justice: Judicial Approaches for Addressing Climate Change Through Global Analysis' featured Supreme Court judges Syed Mansoor Ali Shah and Ayesha Malik, as well as Lahore High Court judge Jawwad Hassan and Senator Sherry Rehman, alongside other climate ex-

The panel, which featured prominent judges and legal experts from around the world, explored how judicial systems could play a pivotal role in advancing

climate justice. Speaking at the event, Prime Minister's Coordinator for Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam emphasised the need for

vulnerable countries to come together and unite in the fight for climate justice, said a statement issued by the climate ministry.

She said it was basically her initiative to establish a platform for international judges dedicated to climate justice as a part of Pakistan's push for climate finance for the Global She highlighted the

growing importance of judicial systems in the face of escalating climate impacts, noting that courts have become vital spaces for addressing climate justice. These judicial bodies

are tasked with balancing the urgent environmental challenges with the socioeconomic and developmental needs, particularly in the Global South, where such issues are especially pressing, she added.

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, who chaired the session, emphasised that climate finance was now a fundamental human

He lauded the PM aide for organising a panel discussion on judicial approaches to addressing climate change in the Asia-Pacific region.

UNICEF joins hands with Pakistan to protect children from climate risks

BAKU (APP): Coordinator kistan along with the Sindh, to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam on Saturday made a significant commitment on behalf of Pakistani government to join hands with provincial governments to safeguarding its children from the devastating impacts of climate

change.
"Recognizing the vulnerability of the youngest and most marginalized populations to climate-induced disasters, today we have has pledged to prioritise child-centric climate adaptation and resilience measures in its national strategies," she made these remarks after a crucial MoU signing ceremony between Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination and UNICEF held at Pakistan Pavilion on the sidelines of the COP29 global climate

Punjab, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial governments affirmed their commitment to rights and interests of children embroiled in the quagmire of the impacts of climate crisis.

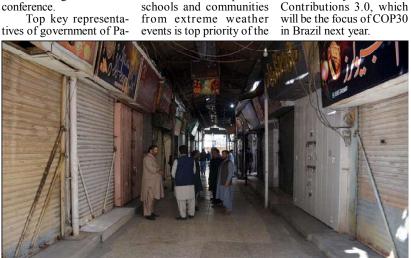
Federal Secretary Ministry of Climate Aisha Humera Moriani and UNICEF Deputy Executive Director signed the Declaration on Children, Youth and Climate Action, a pledge by champion governments to uphold prioriand youth across the

Addressing the event, Romina Khurshid Alam remarked that enhancing access to education, health, and nutrition services in climate-affected areas as well as investing in sustainable infrastructure to protect

present government. She also emphasised that recognising the importance of empowering children as key drivers of clicollaboratively protect the mate action is vital to involving them in climate action programmes, fostering a generation of climate-conscious leaders.

Pakistan also emphasized the importance of integrating children's voices into policy decisions and fostering community-based initiatives to empower young people as active participants in climate action.

She termed the signaties identified by children ture a significant step towards safeguarding the lives of 112 million children in Pakistan, who are vulnerable to climate-related disasters, displacement, and trauma. "We commit to integrate child rights and needs into Pakistan's climate policies and especially the Nationally Determined



QUETTA: A view of closed market during shutter down strike call by Sarafa Ùnion against kidnapping of school students.

Committee formed to review Jhalawan Medical College Khuzdar's project

Independent Report QUETTA: A four-member mit it's report to the Comcommittee was formed to missioner Kalat. The comreview the project of Jhalawan Medical College Khuzdar on Saturday.

The Commissioner Kalat, Muhammad Naeem Khan Bazai formed the cal College Khuzdar, on committee comprising Saturday. The meeting was committee comprising Deputy Commissioner attended by the Deputy Khuzdar, Yasir Iqbal Commissioner Khuzdar, Dashti, Additional Commissioner, Ejaz Ahmed tional Commissioner Kalat, Jaffar, Director Development, Khuzdar, Lutfur Rehman and Project Director Jhalawan Medical College, Nasir Barozai.

The committee would review the latest situation of the Jhalawan Medical

LAHORE (Online): PTI

vice chairman Shah

Mehmood Qureshi has said

he was standing with PTI

founder and is standing

I was standing. I was standing with PTI founder and

am still standing with him.

People should come out of

their homes on November

24 but they should stay

peaceful, he said this while

talking in Anti Terrorism

Court (ATC) Lahore Satur-

"I am standing where

College Khuzdar and submittee was formed during a meeting chaired by the Commissioner Muhammad Naeem Bazai about the Jhalawan Medi-Yasir Iqbal Dashti, Addi-Ejaz Jaffar, Principal of Jhalawan Medical College, Dr. Abdul Samad Gichki, Project Director of the College, Nasir Barozai, Director Development, Lutfur Rehman and other con-

cerned officials

" I was earlier in

"People should come

Adiala jail in cipher case and

I emerged victorious in this

case. Now I am in Kot

Lakhpat jail in connection

out of their homes on No-

vember 24 on the call of

with false cases.

Shah Mehmood Qureshi says:

I was, I am standing

with PTI founder

AHORE (APP): The 555th birth anniversary of Baba Guru Nanak Dev Ji concluded in Nankana Sahib on Saturday. Provincial Minister

for Minority Affairs Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora participated in the event alongside the Sikh community. Federal Minister Chaudhry Salik, Members of the Punjab Assembly, and Members of the Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee also took part in the spiritual ceremony.

Baba Guru

Nanak

anniversary

celebrations

conclude

During the event, a Nagar Kirtan procession was taken out from the Gurudwara Janam Asthan, which culminated at the Gurudwara Kiara Sahib. Sikhs from around the world, including from the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, and India, attended the procession in a large number. The Sikh pilgrims offered religious prayers and prayed for the prosperity and development of Pakistan.

India committing digital terrorism

PTI founder, he added. against He appealed to people to stay peaceful and not to Kashmiris, Sikhs take law into their hands. ISLAMABAD (INP): The

Peaceful protest is our con-International Kashmir Peace Forum, Europe, has said that the Indian government is committing digital terrorism against Kashmiris and Sikhs worldwide.

The leader of International Kashmir Peace Forum Europe, Zahid Iqbal Hashmi, in a statement said that the Indian government was campaigning against Pakistan's forces during digital terrorism.

He said the Bharatiya Janata Party government is following an anti-Kashmir Hindutva policy and brutally using military force to suppress the struggle of Kashmiris for their inalienable right to self-determination. He urged the international community to stop India from implementing its sectarian agenda in the internationally recognized disputed territory and take practical steps to resolve the Kashmir dispute as per the United Nations resolutions. Zahid Iqbal Hashmi said the sacrifices of the lakhs of mar-

securing a popular vote. "Incumbent coalition The President of Pa-AJK government can be dekistan Peoples Party Azad scribed transit arrangement acting upon 'Make Shift' Jammu Kashmir continued that India couldn't keep the policy", he observed.

Talking to reporters at

Kashmir is as slave force for a long time. Kashmiris as slaves by

lined.

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Chairman Senate Syedal Khan

Nassar in a group photo with a delegation of Spain

India can't keep Kashmiris as

slave by force for further long

time, says PPPAJK President

Balochistan Pavilion showcases rich cultural heritage at Lok Mela

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Balochistan Pavilion at Lok Mela, organized by Lok Virsa, is a vibrant representation of the province's diverse culture, artistry, and traditions. The pavilion, set up by the Balochistan Culture Department, has captivated visitors with its stunning display of Balochi culture, folk music, handi-

signed entrance reflects traditional Balochi architecture. Master craftsmen, including Sakina Bibi Naid Kasi and Arzi Khan, showcase their expertise in various crafts, such as embroidery, leatherwork, and woodcarvings. Exquisite Balochi embroidery by Sakina Bibi, a 56-year-old educated artisan. The Balochistan Pavilion is a must-visit destination at Lok Mela, offering a glimpse into the rich cultural



BAKU: Secretary Climate Change & Environmental Coordination Ministry Aisha Humera Moriani and UNICEF's Deputy Executive Director Kitty Van der Heijden sign the Declaration on Children, Youth and Climate Action, a pledge by champion governments to uphold priorities identified by children and youth across the world at the Pakistan Pavilion at COP29.

No indication Khan faces military trial, says UK foreign secretary

Monitoring Desk ONDON: British Foreign Secretary David Lammy has said that there are no recent indications from the Pakistani authorities that they intend to try former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan in a

military court

The UK Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs said this in his response to Kim Johnson MP's letter which he wrote to the British government on request of Zulfi Bukhari, Kĥan's adviser on international

Lammy MP said: "I have raised concerns about the potential use of military courts to try civilians, including Imran Khan. Such courts can lack transpar-

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa In-

formation Adviser Barrister

Saif said on Saturday that

the United States of

America (USA) will have to

play an effective role in

strengthening regional peace. Saif met US Consul

General Peshawar Shante

Moore in which matters of

mutual interest and overall

regional situation was dis-

work together for economic

prosperity and improve-

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP):

PPP AJK Chief and Mem-

ber Azad Jammu Kashmir

Legislative Assembly Chaudhry Muhammad

Yasin here on Saturday said

that his party, the PPP will soon establish government

in Azad Jammu Kashmir

The duo agreed to

US will have to play

role in strengthening

regional peace: Saif

(INP): ment in the fields of health

and education of KP while

exchanging views on pro-

have rendered great sacri-

fices in the war on terror.

Peace is prerequisite in

achieving economic progress," said Saif.

strong and economically

robust Pakistan was in the

interest of the USA, adding

that US would continue to

help Pakistan in meeting its

long-term economic goals.

Kashmir Press Club here he

recalled that Shaheed

Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto an-

nounced to fight for the free-

dom of Kashmir for a thou-

sand years since freedom is

the fundamental right of the

Kashmiri people of Jammu

and Kashmir, he under-

Moore said that a

The people of KP

moting bilateral relations.

assess compliance with international standards." 'We have no recent

indications from the Pakistani authorities that they intend to try Imran Khan in a military court, but my officials continue to monitor the situation closely," he Bukhari had arranged

a letter for the UK government from 20 MPs from all parties, a month ago. It had raised concerns about the changes in judiciary and the passage of 26th Amend-The foreign secretary

said: "While Pakistan's judicial processes are a domestic matter, we have been very clear that the Pakistani authorities need to act in line with their international obligations and with recourts can lack transparency and independent scrudoms, including the right to

tiny, making it difficult to a fair trial, due process and humane detention. This applies to Imran Khan as it does to all Pakistan's citi-

Lammy said: "Like you, I remain concerned by restrictions on freedom of expression and assembly, including in relation to the political opposition. In our engagements with the authorities, we continue to underline that the freedom to hold and express views without censorship, intimidation or unnecessary restriction is a cornerstone in a democracy. "The FCDO [Foreign,

Commonwealth and Development Office] minister responsible for Pakistan, Falconer, has raised the importance of upholding civil and political rights with Pakistan's Human Rights Minister Azam Nazeer

Sheikh Rashid criticises govt for soaring inflation in country

RAWAIPINDI (INP) Awami Muslim League Chief and former Federal Minister for Interior, Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, has criticised the government for its lack of concern over the soaring inflation in the country, stating that people are dying due to rising prices, yet no one seems to

Speaking to the media outside the Anti-Terrorism Court in Rawalpindi, Sheikh Rashid responded to questions about the planned protest on November 24, saying, "I can't comment on the protest call; let's focus on the real

11 passengers injured in smog-related accident

MULTAN INP): At least 11 passengers were injured after a bus skidded off the road and fell into a small nullah in thick smog near Awan Chowk, Head Muhammad Wala, here on Saturday.

According to rescue officials, a passenger bus was going to Khushab from Karachi, when it skidded off the road and fell into a small nullah

As a result, 11 passengers sustained injuries. Upon receiving the information, Rescue teams rushed to the spot and provided first aid to 10 people with minor injuries while one person was shifted to Nishtar Hospital.

HEC shuts down universities, colleges in Lahore, Multan

LAHORE (INP): The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has shut down universities and colleges in Lahore and Multan due to severe smog. According to the offi-

cial notification, all the universities have been directed to shift classes online to prioritize student safety.

HEC notification stated that schools across Punjab except Murree will remain closed until November 24. Additionally,

Punjab government has also imposed restrictions on outdoor activities to mitigate the smog's impact



COPAIR, NDRMF forge

Pakistan and International Relations (COPAIR) and the National Disaster Risk Fund standing (MoU) to collaborate on research, development, and training

programmes.

The MoU was signed by Bilal Anwar, CEO of NDRMF, and Amna Munawwar Awan, President of COPAIR.

The partnership aims to establish an innovative virtual lab and internship climate risk management, programme, connecting young entrepreneurs and students with industry

and green solutions, said a

Key areas of collaboration include coordination (NDRMF) have signed a on international climate fi-Memorandum of Under- nance and leveraging emerging technologies for climate mitigation and adaptation.

The initiative seeks to enhance climate resilience and promote sustainable development in Pakistan.

Moreover, the two organisations intend to build regional and global cooperation to strengthen ensuring a collaborative approach towards a sustainable and resilient future.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Science and Technology Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui called on Dr. Jemal Bekar Abdula, ambassador of Ethiopia at

May 9 related cases **ATC** issues written decision on acceptance of bail pleas of PTI founder

LAHORE (Online): Anti him. Terrorism Court (ATC) Lahore has issued written verdict on acceptance of bail plea of PTI founder in 4

Judge Arshid Javed of ATC Lahore has issued written order containing 5

It was said in court's decision PTI founder was not nominated in these cases. PTI founder was nominated in these cases in the light of witness statement. Allegations of encouraging only criminal conspiracy are leveled against before SC.

According to record police officials learned about this conspiracy but surprisingly police officials did not inform any of their senior officer about conspiracy.

Decision said the petitioner was arrested from Islamabad High Court (IHC) on May 9. The Supreme Court (SC) while taking notice of it announced verdict about the case pertaining to arrest. While PTI founder condemned May 9 incidents

Key commander among three terrorists arrested in Hangu: DPO

Hangu police on Saturday Orakzai and Hazrat Bilal, arrested three terrorists in- resident of Dar Samandar. cluding their key com-Two Kalashnikovs enter the district on a motorcycle. DPO Khalid Khan told media persons that on receiving information about the entry of ter-

rorists into the district, surveillance teams of the police and CTD were formed to arrest them. At a check post three people riding a motorcycle were signaled to stop and during their search arms, explosive and ammunition were recovered under their shawls.

The arrested terrorists were identified as Sabreen alias Haroon, resident of Mian Garhi Orakzai, Abid

PESHAWAR (APP): alias Saifullah, resident of

sive material, three pistols, a fake identity card, over 200 cartridges and mobiles phones were recovered from the arrested terrorists. During initial investi-

gation, it was confirmed that Hazrat Bilal was working as a key facilitator for the terrorists. The government had also placed hefty headmoney on two of the arrested terrorists. DPO Khalid Khan said the arrested terrorists confessed to their involvement in terror activities in Orakzai, Kohat, Hangu and Kurram and remained in contact with TTP leadership.



are holding protest demonstration against the abduction of Student Muhammad Maswar, the son of a businessman, held in Quetta.

PRCS chief meets President **Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society** on sidelines of CoP29 in Baku

ber 16 (APP): :Chairman of tarian work across Pakithe Pakistan Red Crescent stan, particularly the Society (PRCS) Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari met President of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society, Dr Novruz Aslanov, at the National Headquarters of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society in Baku on Friday.

According to a press release issued by PRCS AJK Chapter, Afaq Huseynzada Coordinator to Karabakh Regional Centre and Ms Jeyhun Mirzayev, Sajjad Ali Kandhir and Ms Maryam were also present on the occasion, it added. The meeting marked

the first-ever interaction between the two National Societies, symbolizing a significant milestone in fostering stronger ties.

Both leaders expressed their enthusiasm for this inaugural engagement and discussed the potential for collaborative initiatives aimed at addressing humanitarian challenges in their respective countries.

Chairman Laghari briefed Dr. Aslanov on

MIRPUR (AJK): Novem- PRCS's extensive humaniorganization's response to the devastating monsoon floods of 2022

> He highlighted the onoing recovery programs, which include shelter provision, livelihood support, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) services, and cash assistance for floodaffected families.

> Expressing his delight at the meeting, President Novruz Aslanov praised the impactful work of PRCS under Chairman Laghari's leadership, particularly in responding to natural disasters and crises.

> He reaffirmed the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society's strong commitment to humanitarian causes and emphasized the importance of enhanced collaboration between the two National Societies. To mark the occasion, Chairman Laghari presented a commemorative shield to President Dr. Aslanov as a gesture of goodwill and mutual re-

QUETTA: Lawyers are casting their vote during

the Annual Election of Balochistan High Court Bar

Association, held at High Court premises.

Lahore ranks second most polluted city in world

of smog and fog continues in various cities of the country, including the provincial capital, that is still the second most polluted city in

Due to smog, universities and colleges will remain closed in Lahore and Multan. Universities and colleges have been moved to online classes. All districts except Murree schools will remain closed until November 24.

In the city of gardens, the average rate of smog was recorded at 766, the air

quality index of the DHA

area reached 1324, the AQI

of the Syed Maratab Ali

Road area was 1210, while

the air quality index of vember 24.

LAHORE (APP): The reign Ghazi Road Interchange

was recorded at 850. Meanwhile, due to increasing air pollution, the scope of green lockdown has also been expanded.

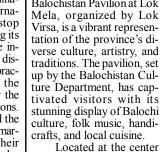
rants in Lahore and Multan will work only until 4p.m. Restaurants in both cities will be allowed to take away from 4p.m. to 8p.m. After 8pm, restaurants will be completely closed.

Holidays of doctors, nurses and paramedical staff in Lahore and Multan have also been cancelled. All hospitals and OPDs in both cities will work until 8pm.

Due to smog, restau-

tyrs, who sacrificed their precious lives, those who migrated to Pakistan.

Meanwhile, Rescue 1122 will assist smog-affected patients, until No-



of the Mela grounds, the



LORALAI: Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar visiting District Headquarter Hospi tal Loralai